

# Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

## Objective

*To contribute to sustainable social and economic benefits in Member States and their increased self-reliance in the application of nuclear techniques.*

The Agency, through its technical cooperation programme, aims to promote tangible socioeconomic impacts in its Member States, by supporting the use of appropriate nuclear science and technology to address major sustainable development priorities at the national, regional and inter-regional levels. The programme concentrates on six thematic areas — human health, agricultural productivity and food security, water resources management, environmental protection, physical and chemical applications, and sustainable energy development, together with a cross-cutting thematic area, safety and security — and supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## Strengthening the Technical Cooperation Programme

In 2008, Member States approved the technical cooperation programme for 2009–2011. Consisting of 551 core funded projects in 129 countries and territories, the programme identifies human health, nuclear safety, and food and agriculture as the top three areas of Member State concern, with radioisotope production and radiation technology in fourth place. Projects related to nuclear power have increased in Europe and Asia and the Pacific, while increases in projects concerning food and agriculture and isotope hydrology are evident in the Latin America region. In Africa, meeting basic human needs remains the main priority. Funding for regional projects has increased to over 40% of the TCF.

The 2009–2011 programme was developed over the year, taking into account the central criterion of government commitment and using Country

Programme Frameworks (CPFs) as the basis for cooperation. To maximize efficiency, Member States were invited to submit fewer projects — which were screened at both the concept and design phases — and all projects were reviewed for conformity with the Agency's Statute, INFCIRC/267<sup>1</sup> and relevant decisions of the Agency's Policy-Making Organs and the United Nations Security Council. Lastly, the projects underwent a quality assessment to ensure that they met predefined quality standards.

## Programme Cycle Management Framework

Project classifications were simplified during 2008, with the former classifications of 'new', 'extension' and 'continuation' becoming simply 'new' and 'ongoing'. This change was implemented in

the preparation of the 2009–2011 technical cooperation programme. New projects were presented separately from ongoing projects and related budgetary amounts that had previously been approved by the Board of Governors, thus simplifying the programme documents produced for the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee and the Board. In practice, the new classifications mean that all projects are now approved by the Board for the full life cycle of the project without the need for reapproval. Further improvements to the system were also made in the areas of reporting.

## Country Programme Frameworks

Six new CPFs were signed in 2008, by Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Indonesia, Madagascar, Montenegro and Uganda, with Bangladesh, the Central African Republic and Montenegro signing CPFs for the first time.

<sup>1</sup> *The Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency* (1979).

## Fellowship Issues

The Agency participated in the biennial meeting organized by the United Nations for those agencies, programmes and offices that have fellowship programmes or that play a key role in reviewing and determining the entitlements of fellows. Recognizing the Agency's active engagement and commitment, the meeting participants unanimously elected it to chair the 17th Senior Fellowship Officer Meeting, which was held in November 2008.

## Regional Programming

Regional programming strengthened over the course of 2008 as the various regional frameworks for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America were used to guide the submission and selection of regional project concepts for the 2009–2011 technical cooperation programme cycle. European Member States also agreed on a Common Position Paper in relation to the preparation of a regional technical cooperation strategy, recognizing that regional cooperation is the best mechanism to promote effective and open exchange of know-how and experience.

In Latin America, linkages between regional and national activities were strengthened by comparing the regional profile with national CPFs. This was particularly true in the area of environmental management. For example, a project on the 'Use of Nuclear Techniques to Address the Management Problems of Coastal Zones in the Caribbean Region' is fostering collaboration between 12 Member States and with UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, as well as with France, Italy and Spain.

## Environmental Considerations

Following the recommendations of an internal focus group, regarding the development of a systematic approach to environmental issues in the technical cooperation programme, criteria for selecting projects requiring environmental screening and an environmental checklist were drafted and tested on a pilot basis. The checklist will be used during project assessments a year after project implementation. Counterparts will now be formally required to report on progress and the results achieved through the Programme

Cycle Management Framework, including relevant environmental information.

## Coordination with Other United Nations Organizations

Participation during 2008 in the United Nations 'Delivering as One' initiative<sup>2</sup> has demonstrated that the process for Agency engagement in the dialogue is complex. Some of the challenges the Agency faces include: lack of representation at the national level; a gap between the policy approach of the United Nations and the Agency's project focus; and the specialized nature of the Agency's mandate and its limited participation in the development debate. The Secretariat's main role in the pilot countries at present is to: continue monitoring the process; promote Agency activities, particularly technical cooperation activities; share information with the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) on Agency programmes and activities in order to identify synergies; and engage in dialogue.

The United Republic of Tanzania is one of the pilot countries for the 'Delivering as One'

initiative. The Agency is actively monitoring developments at the country level, and is participating in other relevant activities with the UNCT. Following the exchange of information on the technical cooperation programme for that country, the Agency provided inputs for the capacity assessment exercise conducted by the UNCT, participated in the exercise to outline Agency technical cooperation projects in the United Republic of Tanzania and indicated existing linkages with priorities identified under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

## Financial Highlights

Pledges and payments against the 2008 TCF totalled \$75.9 million against the target of \$80 million, with the rate of attainment at the end of 2008 standing at 94.7% (Fig. 1), reflecting unpaid pledges of slightly less than \$0.1 million.

<sup>2</sup> *Delivering as One: Report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment*, A/61/583, United Nations, New York (2006).

For the programme as a whole, new resources stood at \$91.5 million (including assessed programme costs and national participation costs). Implementation, measured against the adjusted programme for 2008, reached a rate of 72.9%.

## Communication and Resource Mobilization

A modular communication strategy was conceptualized in 2007, and the strategic approach was piloted over the course of 2008. The approach focused on the development of key messages and the establishment of a suite of information products that were used to reach out to major stakeholders in the United Nations system (especially UNDP and United Nations coordinators in Agency Member States), the European Commission, the African Development Bank and selected bilateral development agencies, to advance the establishment of formal partnerships. Negotiations with the European Commission to significantly increase extrabudgetary contributions to Agency programmes were advanced during the second half of 2008.

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## Legislative Assistance

During 2008, the Agency intensified its legislative assistance activities.

In particular, the Agency organized seven international and regional workshops and seminars both at Agency Headquarters and abroad. Further, the Agency provided country specific bilateral legislative assistance — by means of written comments and advice in drafting national nuclear legislation — to 23 Member States.

At the request of Member States, individual training on issues related to nuclear legislation was also provided to individuals, notably through short term scientific visits organized at Agency

Headquarters and long term programmes where fellows gain practical experience in international nuclear law.

The Agency continued to take part in academic activities orga-

nized at the World Nuclear University and the International School of Nuclear Law by providing lecturers and funding for participants through appropriate technical cooperation projects.

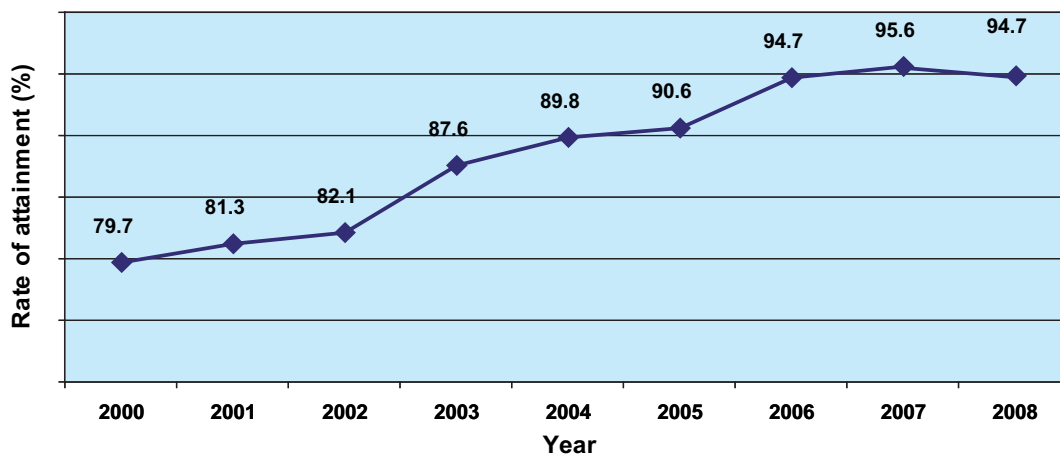


FIG. 1. Rate of attainment of the TCF between 2000 and 2008.