



International Atomic Energy Agency

**IAEA STATEMENT IN CLUSTER III:
Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy
NPT Preparatory Committee
18 April 2002**

by

Tariq Rauf
Head

*Verification and Security Policy Coordination
Office of External Relations and Policy Co-ordination
Offices reporting to the Director General*

In my opening statement, last Tuesday, I have introduced the three pillars of the IAEA activities: nuclear technology; nuclear safety; and nuclear verification and security. In my statement today, I would like to make some brief additional comments on the activities in the nuclear technology and nuclear safety pillars and add some comments on nuclear security as well.

Technical Co-operation

The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference affirmed that the Treaty fosters the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing a framework of confidence and cooperation within which those uses can take place. Indeed, the Agency facilitates the peaceful uses of nuclear technology while at the same time through its safeguards system providing assurance against the misuse of such technology for weapons purposes. The NPT Conference commended the IAEA for its efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its technical cooperation programme, and acknowledged the importance of the Agency as the principal agent for technology transfer.

There are many ways in which the IAEA contributes to technical cooperation with and technology transfer to and among its Member States. To a large extent those activities are financed from the Technical Cooperation Fund. The target for that Fund in 2001 was \$73 million. According to the latest figures payments for last year just reached the 80% mark that was set by the General Conference in 2000 as the minimum Rate of Attainment. In monetary terms this is about \$ 59 million. To reach the Rate of Attainment of 85% for 2002 will require a special effort.

Since a number of countries joined the IAEA in recent years as Member States, the number of recipient countries of the Agency's Technical Co-operation (TC) programme has increased to over a 100. By securing Government level agreement with so called Country Programme Frameworks, the Agency underlines the great importance it attaches to the fact that its activities fit well in the overall development goals of the country concerned.

Most TC projects in 2001 were in the areas of human health (23%), food and agriculture (17%) and nuclear safety (20%). One highlight of the TC Programme last year included the launching of the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in October. This reflected a partnership between the IAEA and the Organisation for African Unity and

represented an important milestone in the progress of applying the sterile insect technique to the area wide eradication of the tsetse fly in Africa.

This example also illustrates that nuclear science and technology has important contributions to make to sustainable development - in agriculture, food safety, public health, industrial techniques, water resources and electricity generation – and the Agency intends to contribute actively to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August.

Nuclear Safety

Nuclear and radiation safety are prerequisites for the use of nuclear techniques. The Agency has been working since 1995 with a large group of Member States under a so called model TC project to upgrade the radiation protection infrastructure in the countries concerned. Most States have now made the first set of major milestones under this project, but further progress is necessary.

The 2000 NPT Conference encouraged the efforts of the IAEA in the promotion of safety in all its aspects and welcomed the Agency's activities in strengthening nuclear safety in operating power and research reactors. In his introductory statement to the March 2002 session of the IAEA Board of Governors, the Director General, Dr. ElBaradei, stated: "Nuclear safety continues to improve at power plants worldwide. Yet public demands for reassurance on safety issues, with calls for greater transparency and accountability, are widely voiced in many countries. The need, therefore, for a more effective and transparent international safety regime continues to be a high priority." In the Agency's view, the international community will be much better served by focusing its efforts on the development of one comprehensive set of internationally accepted standards and on the harmonization of the various approaches that can be used in the implementation of these standards. The solution to an effective worldwide safety regime is clearly through the establishment of one global system rather than a set of disparate regional systems.

During 2001, the Agency provided more than 50 preparatory, full-scope and follow-up missions to 35 Member States in areas covering operational safety, probabilistic risk assessment, accident management, research reactor safety, regulatory functions and radiation protection. These services are available to all Member States.

Safety Standards: The Agency has been active since its creation in establishing a body of internationally accepted safety standards for nuclear installations, radiation protection, management of radioactive waste, and for the safety of transportation of radioactive material. Over the past few years, the Agency has worked assiduously to update, complete and improve the quality and visibility of safety standards covering the entire range of nuclear activities. The IAEA provides a range of safety services for nuclear installations to its Member States. These include safety review missions carried out by the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) and assistance in nuclear regulatory practices by the International Regulatory Review Team (IRRT). Furthermore, the Agency offers design safety review services, such as fire safety, safety related software, instrumentation and control systems, and review of overall design safety. Some 25 research reactors in various Member States benefit from the Agency's Integrated Safety Assessment Service for Research Reactors (INSARR).

Nuclear security

Nuclear activities should not only be carried out in a safe, but also in a secure manner. Nuclear material should be physically protected so that it cannot fall in the wrong hands. As we stated last week, following the tragic events of last September, at the request of the Board, the Agency reviewed its activities and programmes with a view to strengthening its work relevant to preventing acts of terrorism involving nuclear and other radioactive materials. I have emphasized last week that the activities proposed in the recently completed review of our work in this area, are not a substitute for national measures, nor can they diminish the primary responsibility of the State on all matters of security; rather they are designed to supplement and reinforce national efforts in areas where international co-operation is indispensable to the strengthening of nuclear security. With the approval of the proposals by the IAEA Board of Governors in March and with the first pledges of voluntary contributions, be it well below the requested \$12 million, the IAEA Secretariat has started to implement the proposals. Priorities include an increase in the number and scope of IPPAS missions (International Physical Protection Advisory Services) which produce recommendations how better protect nuclear material and installations, and efforts to improve the security of radioactive sources.

Conclusion

The IAEA remains active in fostering international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies and in transferring these technologies to developing countries - but adequate investment and continuing innovation are essential to ensure that nuclear technologies remain viable. The Agency is continuing to press for a comprehensive and effective nuclear safety regime and to improve nuclear security - but, again, such a regime will be effective only if States adhere to it and invest in its necessary infrastructure.