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Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

Resolution adopted on 30 September 2005 during the ninth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(48)/RES/12 on "Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities",
- (b) Bearing in mind that the objectives of the Agency as stated in Article II of the Statute are "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to ensure that the assistance provided by it is not used "to further any military purpose",
- (c) Recalling that one of the statutory functions of the Agency is to "encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world",
- (d) Considering that the strengthening of technical co-operation activities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and its practical applications will substantially contribute to the well-being and help enrich the quality of life of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency,
- (e) Stressing the importance of the transfer of nuclear technology to the developing countries for sustaining and further enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby contributing to socio-economic development,
- (f) Aware of the significant number of approved projects without financing (including footnote-a/ projects) in the technical cooperation programme,
- (g) Conscious of the great potential of nuclear power for meeting increasing energy requirements in a number of countries, and of the need for sustainable development, including climate protection,

- (h) Also conscious of the need for the internationally recognized standards of safety to be applied in all uses of nuclear technology in order to protect mankind and the environment,
- (i) Recalling previous resolutions favouring innovative educational partnerships like the World Nuclear University involving academia, government, and industry; and confident that such initiatives can, with Agency support, play a valuable role in promoting strong educational standards and building leadership for an expanding global nuclear profession, and also recalling the successful first World Nuclear University Summer Institute in Idaho Falls in July 2005;
- (j) Desiring that the Agency's resources for technical co-operation activities be assured, predictable and sufficient to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute,
- (k) Recalling the decision of the Board of Governors in July 2003, which was endorsed by the 47th General Conference, that from 2005 onwards the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) targets shall be negotiated taking into account the voluntary nature of the contributions to the TCF, based on the changes in the Regular Budget and the price adjustment factor in the corresponding years,
- (l) Recognizing that the TCF target should be set at an adequate and realistic level,
- (m) Noting the decision of the Board of Governors to recommend that for 2006 the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF shall be set at US\$ 77 500 000 and that the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) for 2007 and 2008 shall be no less than US\$ 78 500 000,
- (n) Endorsing the Board's decision, contained in GOV/2004/46, to replace Assessed Programme Costs (APCs) by National Participation Costs (NPCs) which will be assessed at 5% of the core funding of the national technical cooperation projects, with effect from the 2005-2006 technical cooperation programme, as well as its decision to review the functioning of the NPC mechanism in June 2006 on the basis of an analytical study to be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with Member States,
- (o) Recalling the obligation of Member States in regard to NPCs,
- (p) Taking note of the subsequent results of the Rate of Attainment mechanism as established by resolution GC(44)/RES/8,
- (q) Recalling that the financing of technical cooperation should be in line with the concept of "shared responsibility" and all members share a common responsibility towards financing and enhancing the technical cooperation activities of the Agency,
- (r) Expressing appreciation to those Member States which have contributed to the TCF their full TCF target shares in a timely manner,
- (s) Recognizing in this context the necessity for the Secretariat strictly to apply the due account mechanism to Member States,
- (t) Expressing concern that some Member States do not contribute their full TCF target shares or do not contribute to the TCF at all,
- (u) Emphasizing the continuing need to provide adequate financing for the Technical Cooperation Programme and at the same time to ensure an appropriate balance between the promotional activities and other statutory activities of the Agency,
- (v) Emphasizing the importance of the technical cooperation activities of the Agency, the financing of which should be guaranteed by, inter alia, results-based budgeting and the appropriate use of the Regular Budget in supporting and implementing those activities,

- (w) Recognizing that human resources development, expert services, fellowships, training courses and appropriate equipment supply continue to be important components of technical cooperation activities to ensure impact and sustainability,
- (x) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat in implementing the Technical Cooperation Strategy, including holding regional meetings for planning purposes, carrying out Country Programme Frameworks and Thematic Planning, efforts to ensure that projects meet the national priorities of Member States, and encouraging technical cooperation activities, particularly through technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and regional resource centres, partnerships in development, greater outreach, and in-house coordination, in line with the Technical Cooperation Management Principles (SEC/NOT/1790: Annex 1),
- (y) Stressing that Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) are non-legally binding documents and recalling that they are developed by the Member States in cooperation with the Secretariat with the objective of facilitating an understanding of the real needs of developing Member States and of promoting TCDC,
- (z) Reiterating the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities and to continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Technical Cooperation Programme according to the requests and needs of Member States,
- (aa) Appreciating that these programmes contribute to the achievement of national goals for sustainable development in TC-recipient Member States, particularly in developing countries and the least developed ones,
- (bb) Also recognizing that national nuclear and other entities are important partners in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes in Member States and promote the use of nuclear and related technologies for achieving national development objectives,
- (cc) Taking note also with appreciation of the activities being developed by the Agency in the field of nuclear knowledge management, and particularly of the initiatives being emphasized by the Technical Cooperation Programme in assisting national nuclear and other entities to enhance the basic infrastructure in this field, including safety aspects, and to further improve their capacity for self-reliance and sustainability,
- (dd) Taking note of the efforts, through the Technical Cooperation Programme, towards the voluntary reduction and return of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) fuels of nuclear research facilities, and
- (ee) Noting the restructuring efforts in the Technical Cooperation Department and project cycle management improvement initiatives;
1. Requests the Director General to resume and to further develop and facilitate cost-sharing and other forms of partnership in development by reviewing and amending or simplifying, as appropriate, relevant financial and legal procedures and by developing a model arrangement and agreement for these partnerships, to assure that their objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Timely (SMART);
 2. Requests the Secretariat to continue working with Member States, within relevant regional groups, in identifying regional resource centres, and formulating guidelines for the use of such centres and in developing and refining SMART partnership mechanisms in the context of enhancing TCDC;

3. Further requests the Director General to continue to take account of the views of the General Conference when requesting Member States to pledge and pay their respective shares of the TCF targets and to make timely payments to the TCF;
4. Urges Member States to pay in full and on time their voluntary contributions to the TCF, and requests those recipient Member States which are in arrears in APCs to meet this obligation;
5. Stresses the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities and to continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Technical Cooperation Programme according to the requests and needs of Member States in all areas of concern;
6. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that commencement of projects within the national programme will take place upon the receipt of at least the minimum payment of the NPCs and, in this regard, that preparatory activities will not be affected before this occurs and that, in the event of a failure to pay any second instalment falling due during a biennium, funding for a core project in the next biennium would be suspended until full payment is received;
7. Endorses the decision of the Board to request the Secretariat to inform it about the application of the due account mechanism to Member States;
8. Stresses the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities, including the provision of sufficient resources, and to continually enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes, and requests the Secretariat to continue to further refine the Technical Cooperation Strategy 2002 Review (GOV/INF/2002/8) in consultation with all Member States;
9. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of technical cooperation management.;
10. Requests the Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking resources to implement footnote-a/ projects;
11. Also requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the technical cooperation activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes aimed at promoting and improving the scientific, technological, research and regulatory capabilities of TC-recipient Member States, account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned, by continuing to assist them in their peaceful, safe, secure and regulated applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques in the fields of – inter-alia – (a) food and agriculture, human health, industry, water resource management, environment, knowledge management and biotechnology, and (b) nuclear energy planning and production for those States. pursuing nuclear power as a component of their sustainable energy mix in the 21st century, through relevant areas of importance as identified by Member States;
12. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure the coordination and optimisation of complementary activities;
13. Requests the Director General to help interested Member States to obtain relevant information on (a) the role of nuclear power in mitigating GHG emissions, guided by the objective of sustainable development, and (b) the role of radiation and nuclear technology in mitigating polluting gases (FGs and GHGs), in managing agricultural and industrial wastes and effluents, and in improving water security, with particular emphasis on the use of electron beams and isotopes, and, where appropriate and requested by Member States, to assist in the preparation of potential technical cooperation projects;

14. Requests the Director General to make every effort to ensure, where relevant, that the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme contributes to the promotion of key areas identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and further requests the Director General to keep Member States informed of the Agency's activities in this regard;
15. Emphasizes the need to understand the marketplace for nuclear technology and to further develop mechanisms and best practices for working with the private and the public sector;
16. Requests the Director General to promote, within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme, activities supporting the self-reliance, sustainability and further relevance of national nuclear and other entities in Member States, particularly in developing countries, including encouraging regional and interregional cooperation on this issue, and, in this context, notes the timely holding of the "Regional Meeting of Policy Makers on Overcoming Barriers to Sustainability of National Institutions" held in Malaysia from 25 to 29 July 2005;
17. Underlines the importance of consultations between the Secretariat and Member States on restructuring of the Technical Cooperation Department from the point of view of its impact, *inter alia*, on the support for and implementation of activities under regional cooperation agreements or other regional cooperation arrangements;
18. Encourages the Secretariat to continue to implement in phases the Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) and to assess its effectiveness, particularly in terms of programme delivery quality, and requests it to report on the lessons learned during its first year of operation;
19. Requests the Secretariat to consider, within available resources, supporting Member State requests for assistance to participate in programmes like the WNU Summer Institute; and
20. Requests the Director General and the Board of Governors to remain seized of this matter and further requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its fiftieth (2006) session on the implementation of this resolution under an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities".