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Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

Resolution adopted on 23 September 2011 during the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC (54)/RES/9 on “Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities”,
- (b) Recalling the Brussels Declaration on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the 2011-2020 Programme of Action of the Fourth UN Conference of the LDCs and the “Istanbul Declaration on Least Developed Countries: Time for action”, and taking into account that the technical cooperation programme of the Agency (the TC Programme) is needs-based,
- (c) Further recalling the Board of Governors’ requirement in GOV/1931 of 12 February 1979 that all Member States receiving technical assistance from the IAEA should have signed the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) concerning the provision of technical cooperation by the IAEA,
- (d) 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”,
- (e) 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”, and acknowledging that for developing countries, including LDCs, the TC Programme is a major vehicle for executing this function,
- (f) Recalling that the Statute and the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency as contained in INFCIRC/267 are the Agency’s established guidelines for the formulation of the TC Programme, and also recalling other directives from the General Conference and the Board of Governors relevant to the formulation of the TC Programme,

- (g) Considering that the strengthening of technical cooperation activities in the fields of - inter alia - food and agriculture, human health, water resource management, environment, industry, knowledge management, and nuclear energy programming, planning and production 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, including the least developed ones,
- (h) Aware that the TC Programme contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and also to the achievement of national goals for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,
- (i) Expressing appreciation of the Directors General's initiative in selecting water as a key focus areas in 2011, and aware of the role of TC projects in strengthening national capacities in water resource management, particularly in the developing countries,
- (j) Conscious of the potential of nuclear power for meeting increasing energy requirements in a number of countries, and of the need for sustainable development, including environment protection,
- (k) 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,
- (l) Welcoming the Secretariat's response to the need of Member States to assess the extent and the possible impact of the releases of radioactivity from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the marine environment in the Asia and the Pacific region, commending the Agency on the rapid initiation of the corresponding regional TC project and supporting its implementation, and welcoming the immediate response and flexibility of Member States in supporting this project with significant extrabudgetary resources,
- (m) Recalling previous resolutions favouring innovative educational partnerships – like the World Nuclear University – involving academia, government and industry, and confident that such initiatives can, with the Agency's support, play a valuable role in promoting strong educational standards and building leadership for an expanding global nuclear profession,
- (n) Stressing the importance of nuclear knowledge sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries for sustaining and further enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby contributing to their socio-economic development,
- (o) Noting that the *InTouch* communication platform is aimed at responding to Member States' requests for greater use of available institutional capacities in all regions and at facilitating and streamlining the management of the human resource component of the TC Programme,
- (p) Stressing that the Agency's resources for technical cooperation (TC) activities should be sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and noting that in 2007 the Director General issued a report entitled "TC Programme Resources – Sufficient, Assured and Predictable",
- (q) Aware of the significant number of approved projects that remain unfunded (footnote-a/ projects) in the TC Programme,
- (r) Recognizing that the number of countries and territories requiring technical support reached 129 in 2010, and that the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) target should be set at an

adequate level taking into account not only the growing needs of Member States but also funding capabilities,

(s) Stressing the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency, and taking note of the decision of the Board, which – inter-alia – notes that the synchronization of the TC Programme cycle with the budget cycle provides a framework beginning in 2012, to consider appropriate increases to the resources for the TC Programme, including the TCF target where such adjustments would take into account the changes in the level of the regular operational budget from 2009 onwards, the price adjustment factor and other relevant factors as contained in document GOV/2009/52/Rev.1, and taking note of the decision of the Board on the “split contribution system” as one of the measures to protect the purchasing power of the fund as contained in document GOV/2009/52/Rev.1,

(t) Noting the decision of the Board of Governors (GOV/2011/37) to set the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF at the level of US \$ 88.75 million in each of the years 2012 and 2013 , and that the Indicative Planning Figures for the biennium 2014-2015 should be approximately US \$ 90 million per year,

(u) Considering the request to the Secretariat (included in decision GOV/2011/37) to reassess the application of the due account mechanism with a view to its possible future strengthening, to continue its efforts to further enhance the effectiveness, efficiency as well as transparency of the TC Programme,

(v) Noting further the decision of the Board of Governors as contained in document GOV/2011/37, in which, in light of the synchronization of the regular programme and budget and the TCF cycle, it was recommended that one working group dealing with both the level of the Regular Budget and the TCF target be launched beginning in 2013,

(w) Recalling the obligation of some Member States in regard to National Participation Costs (NPCs), noting with appreciation the good record of an increasing number of Member States in their payments of NPCs, which demonstrates the strong commitment of recipient Member States to the TC Programme, and recognizing the need to take into account the fact that Member States’ national financial regulations and budgetary and fiscal schedules differ,

(x) Taking note of the subsequent results of the Rate of Attainment mechanism as established by resolution GC(44)/RES/8, noting that the Rate of Attainment at the end of 2010 had decreased from 94% to 92.3% relative to 2009, noting with appreciation that Member States continue to exceed the minimum Rate of Attainment of 90% set by the Board of Governors in 2004, and looking forward to reaching the rate of 100%, which is central to reconfirming the commitment of Member States to the Agency's TC Programme,

(y) Recalling that the financing of TC should be in line with the concept of shared responsibility and that all members share a common responsibility towards financing and enhancing the TC activities of the Agency, and recognizing the increase in the number of recipient Member States contributing through government cost-sharing,

(z) Expressing appreciation to those Member States which have contributed to the TCF their full TCF target shares in a timely manner,

(aa) Recognizing that the effectiveness of the due account mechanism depends on its consistent application to all Member States, and taking note of the Director General’s report on the application of the mechanism as contained in document GOV/INF/2008/6,

- (bb) Emphasizing the importance of the TC activities of the Agency, the financing of which should be guaranteed by, inter alia, results-based budgeting and appropriate use of the Regular Budget in supporting the implementation of those activities,
- (cc) Stressing the importance for the Agency of regular internal and external evaluations (as performed by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the External Auditor, respectively) in order to achieve more effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, as well as results, of the TC Programme,
- (dd) Recognizing that human capital planning, the development of human resources through scientific visits, fellowships and training courses, expert services and appropriate equipment supply continue to be important components of TC activities to ensure impact and sustainability,
- (ee) 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 (CPFs) and thematic approach to ensure that projects meet the national priorities of Member States, and encouraging technical cooperation activities, inter alia 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),
- (ff) Stressing that CPFs are non-legally-binding documents and are subject to revision as Member States' priorities evolve, and recalling that they are developed by Member States in cooperation with the Secretariat with the objective of facilitating an understanding of the real needs of developing Member States and of encouraging technical cooperation between Member States through triangular mechanisms and, where applicable, among developing countries through TCDC,
- (gg) Noting that interested Member States making their CPFs available to potential partners on a voluntary basis could facilitate additional cooperation,
- (hh) Reiterating the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities and to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency as well as the transparency of the TC Programme in accordance with the requests and needs of Member States with a view to strengthening their national programmes, and emphasizing that all measures taken in this regard should also preserve and enhance the ownership of TC projects by recipient Member States,
- (ii) Noting the report of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence of November 2006, which proposed the establishment of a "Delivering as One" approach for the development, financing and delivery of country programmes by all UN system organizations which may have a possible impact on the TC Programme in many areas, including resource mobilization, while noting the relationship between the Agency and the UN system and the nature, character and specificity of the TC Programme, and noting that there are pilot countries implementing this exercise on a voluntary basis,
- (jj) Noting the substantive outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference relating to the Agency's technical cooperation activities,
- (kk) Recognizing that national nuclear and other entities are important partners in the implementation of TC programmes in Member States and in promoting the use of nuclear, radiation and radiotracer technologies for achieving national development objectives, and

recognizing also in this regard the role of the National Liaison Officers, the Permanent Missions to the IAEA and the Programme Management Officer (PMO),

(ll) Taking note with appreciation of the activities being developed by the Agency in the field of nuclear knowledge management, education and training and particularly of the initiatives being emphasized by the TC Programme in assisting national nuclear and other entities to build and enhance the basic infrastructure and regulatory framework in this field, and to further improve their technical capacity for ensuring sustainability,

(mm) Taking note also of the efforts, through – inter alia – the TC Programme, towards the voluntary reduction and return of highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuels of nuclear research facilities,

(nn) Noting with satisfaction that the UN General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/65/131 of 15 December 2010 entitled “Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster”, noted with satisfaction the assistance rendered by the Agency to the most affected countries on remediation of agricultural and urban environments, cost-effective agricultural counter-measures and the monitoring of human exposure in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster and invited States to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts of those countries to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and

(oo) Noting the use of the Programme Cycle Management Framework and emphasizing the need for assessing its impact on, inter alia, enhancing coordination, programme planning and the quality of programme delivery as well as increasing the implementation rate, and also noting the Secretariat’s statement that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) would have no negative impact on the delivery and implementation of the TC Programme,

1. Requests the Secretariat to continue to facilitate and to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology and know-how among Member States for peaceful uses as embodied in the Agency’s TC Programme, taking into account specific needs of developing countries, including those of LDCs;
2. Stresses the need for the Secretariat to continue to work, in consultation with Member States, towards establishing means, including mechanisms, that would achieve the goal of making TC resources sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP);
3. Looks forward to the implementation of the decision of the Board of Governors (as contained in document GOV/2011/37) that one working group should deal with both the level of the Regular Budget and the TCF target in 2013, taking into account the synchronization of the two cycles;
4. Requests the Secretariat to continue working with Member States, within relevant regions and regional cooperative agreements, in identifying regional resource centres or other qualified institutes, and formulating guidelines for the use of such centres and in developing and refining Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Timely (SMART) partnership mechanisms in the context of enhancing regional and interregional cooperation;
5. 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;
6. Urges Member States to pay in full and on time their voluntary contributions to the TCF, encourages Member States to pay their National Participation Costs (NPCs) on time, and requests those which are in arrears in the Assessed Programme Costs (APCs) to meet this obligation;

7. Requests the Director General to resume and to further develop and facilitate cost-sharing, outsourcing 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 ensure that their objectives are SMART;
8. Urges the Secretariat to strengthen TC activities and to continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC Programme, in accordance with the requests, needs and national priorities of Member States, and taking into account the elements of the logical framework methodology;
9. Welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat to rationalize the number of TC projects in order to increase programme efficiency and create synergies among projects, whenever feasible, and in coordination with the Member States concerned, while also ensuring that such rationalization will support programme delivery;
10. Encourages Member States that have not yet started to use the *InTouch* communication platform to do so as soon as possible and requests the Secretariat to take into account the observations of Member States in improving this tool;
11. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that the commencement of projects within a 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 will be suspended until full payment is received;
12. Further requests that the Secretariat continue exploring, in consultation with Member States, the possibility and practicability of paying NPCs in kind and, in this context, that it find efficient ways of accurately valuing in-kind contributions;
13. Requests the Secretariat to make every effort to apply the due account mechanism to all Member States equally and efficiently and to devise specific guidelines for its application, in consultation with Member States, and for further approval by the policy-making organs of the IAEA;
14. Stresses the need to strengthen TC activities, including the provision of sufficient resources, and to continually enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programmes and their management, with due account, and in close consultation with Member States and the Secretariat, of the recommendations of the OIOS and the External Auditor;
15. Requests the Secretariat to update the Technical Cooperation Strategy (GOV/INF/2002/8) in consultation with all Member States, taking into consideration the increasing number of Member States requesting TC projects and the Agency's Medium Term Strategy 2012-2017;
16. Stresses that, when formulating the TC Programme, the Secretariat should adhere strictly to the provisions of the Statute and the guiding principles and policies as contained in INFCIRC/267 and to relevant directives from the General Conference and the Board of Governors;
17. Stresses the importance of the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) and encourages all Member States receiving technical cooperation to sign an RSA Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA;
18. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of TC management by, inter alia, ensuring that the components of TC projects, e.g. training, expertise and equipment, are readily available to Member States requesting them and meet international quality standards;

19. Requests that the Secretariat provide Member States with adequate information on project development according to the logical framework methodology sufficiently in advance of their consideration by the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee and the Board of Governors;
20. Requests the Secretariat to explore ways of giving an update on the progress of TC Programme implementation in between annual TC reports;
21. Requests the Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking resources to implement footnote-a/ projects;
22. Encourages States in a position to make voluntary contributions to show flexibility as regards their use in order to enable the implementation of more footnote-a/ projects;
23. Welcomes all extrabudgetary contributions announced by Member States, including the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which is designed to raise US\$ 100 million by 2015 as extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA activities, and encourages all States in a position to do so to make contributions to meet this goal, and requests the Secretariat to continue to work with all Member States in matching contributions to Member States' needs;
24. Requests the Secretariat to develop a formal process for Member States to share voluntarily their CPFs and footnote-a/ project details, via a searchable electronic format, with other Member States in order to facilitate cooperation and extrabudgetary contributions, while giving at the same time due consideration to the protection of confidentiality of the information contained in CPFs and footnote-a/ project details;
25. Requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the TC activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes with well-defined outcomes aimed at promoting and improving the scientific, technological, research and regulatory capabilities of the Member States implementing projects, 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, through relevant areas of importance as identified by Member States;
26. 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 of optimization of complementary activities, and to ensure that they are regularly informed, where relevant, about the developmental impact of the TC Programme, while aiming at achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC Programme;
27. 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 TC projects;
28. Requests the Director General to make every effort to ensure, where relevant, that the Agency's TC Programme, taking into account specific needs of each Member State, particularly developing countries and LDCs, contributes to the implementation of the principles expressed in the Istanbul Declaration, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

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;

29. Requests the Secretariat to continue, within the framework of the TC Programme, to work actively to render assistance and radiological support to the most affected countries in mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster and rehabilitating the contaminated territories;

30. Requests the Secretariat to examine in depth the specific characteristics and problems of the developing countries and LDCs with respect to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to present its conclusions on this matter to the Member States;

31. Requests the Director General to promote, within the framework of the TC 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 by utilizing and strengthening established regional capacities and resource centres;

32. Underlines the importance of consultations between the Secretariat and Member States on the support for and implementation of activities under national projects and regional cooperation agreements or other regional cooperation arrangements, and emphasizes also the need for complementarity between projects under the regional cooperative agreements and regular regional projects;

33. Encourages the Secretariat to continue implementing the Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) in phases, and to make it simpler and user-friendly so that Member States may use the tools effectively, and to take into account, in designing and implementing subsequent phases, difficulties experienced and concerns of Member States, including lack of adequate training, equipment and IT infrastructure in developing countries, particularly in LDCs;

34. Requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this resolution that are not directly related to the implementation of TC projects be undertaken subject to the availability of resources; and

35. 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 fifty-sixth (2012) regular session on the implementation of this resolution, highlighting significant accomplishments of the prior year and indicating goals and priorities for the year to come under an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities".