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**Sixty-first regular session**

Item 17 of the agenda  
(GC(61)/25)

## Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

**Resolution adopted on 22 September 2017 during the ninth plenary meeting**

### **A.**

#### **Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities**

##### **1.**

##### **General**

##### The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(60)/RES/11 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, as stated in Article III of the Statute, is to “encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world”,
- (d) Acknowledging that for developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs), the technical cooperation (TC) programme is a major vehicle for executing this statutory function,
- (e) 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,

- (f) Recalling the Agency's relevant strategy for the coming years relating, inter alia, to providing effective technical cooperation, which was taken note of by the Board of Governors,
  - (g) Further recalling the Board of Governors' requirement, in light of the document GOV/1931 of 12 February 1979, that all Member States receiving technical assistance from the Agency should have signed a Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency,
  - (h) Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 (A/RES/70/1),
  - (i) Recalling the Brussels Declaration on the LDCs and the 2011–2020 Programme of Action of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action,
  - (j) Taking into account that the TC programme of the Agency is needs-based,
  - (k) Stressing that INFCIRC/267 states, inter alia, that “the nature, extent and scope of technical assistance to be provided to the requesting State or group of States shall be defined by the Government or Governments concerned, and the assistance actually provided shall be in conformity with the Government's request and shall be given only to or through Governments”, and that “if requested, the Agency shall help the Government or Governments concerned in defining the nature, extent and scope of the technical assistance being sought”,
  - (l) Mindful of the increasing number of Member States requesting TC projects, which requires adequate resources for the Agency to meet these demands,
  - (m) Noting the substantive outcomes of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons relating to the Agency's TC activities,
  - (n) Recognizing that Member States and the Secretariat continue to work to promote transparency and accountability in project formulation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the TC programme,
  - (o) Mindful of the shared responsibility of all Member States towards supporting and enhancing TC activities of the Agency, and
  - (p) Welcoming the success of the International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond – Contributing to Development held in 2017 as part of the Agency's initiatives to strengthen the TC programme and, inter alia, to highlight the achievements of the TC programme in supporting Member States over the last six decades in meeting their developmental priorities through the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology and also welcoming the recognition by Conference participants of the benefits derived by Member States from the TC programme,
1. 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, and welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that TC projects are consistent with the Agency's Statute; and
  2. Stresses the importance of the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) and encourages all Member States receiving technical cooperation to sign a RSA Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency and implement its provisions.

2.

**Strengthening technical cooperation activities**

- (a) Considering that the strengthening of technical cooperation activities in the fields of — inter alia — food and agriculture, human health, water resource management, biotechnology, environment, industry, knowledge management, and nuclear energy programming, planning and production will substantially contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development and help improve the quality of life and the well-being of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency, including the least developed ones,
- (b) Recognizing that the TC programme continues to contribute to the achievement of national and regional goals for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,
- (c) Further recognizing that the TC programme has contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),
- (d) Looking forward to the Agency's continued support to Member States, in particular through the TC programme, in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- (e) Expressing appreciation of the Directors General's initiative in selecting nuclear techniques in human health as a key focus area in 2017, as reflected in the Scientific Forum during the 61st General Conference, and aware of the role of TC projects in strengthening national and regional capacities in the application of radiation techniques in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of major diseases, including cancer and cardiovascular conditions, particularly in the developing countries,
- (f) 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 environmental protection, and of the need for the application of the Agency's safety standards and nuclear security guidelines to be applied in all uses of nuclear technology in order to protect humankind and the environment, and noting the Agency's support aimed at human resources and nuclear power infrastructure development,
- (g) 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,
- (h) 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, and expressing appreciation for the extra budgetary contributions of some States, as well as in-kind contributions such as, inter alia, experts, training courses and infrastructure, that make those TC activities possible,
- (i) Recognizing that the integration of PACT into the TC programme contributes to strengthening and facilitating the programmatic delivery of PACT in close cooperation and coordination with all relevant stakeholders,
- (j) Welcoming the report by the Director General entitled *Addressing the Challenges Facing Least Developed Countries in the Peaceful Application of Nuclear Energy through the Technical Cooperation Programme* (GOV/INF/2016/12), which was published in

October 2016, and noting the provision of assistance through the Technical Cooperation Programme to LDCs over the past 15 years and the Agency's efforts in this regard,

(k) Recognizing the need for furthering the work of the Agency in promoting nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses, and their delivery to Member States through the Agency's TC programme, and the role of convening regular ministerial conferences,

1. Requests the Secretariat to continue to facilitate and to enhance the development of nuclear technology and know-how and its transfer to and among Member States for peaceful uses as embodied in the Agency's TC programme, taking into account and emphasizing the importance of specific needs of developing countries, including those of LDCs in line with Article III of the Statute, and encourages Member States to contribute in sharing knowledge and technology in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
2. Requests the Director General to strengthen the Agency's TC activities, in consultation with Member States, 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;
3. Welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to promote gender equality throughout the TC programme, including the recent support shown to the *International Gender Champions* initiative, and encourages the Secretariat, in close coordination with Member States, to continue its efforts to further advance gender balance, including among experts and lecturers, in the TC programme;
4. 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, as well as the Agency's adoption of the 'technical cooperation among developing countries' (TCDC) modality in assisting 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 internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs, and further requests the Director General to keep Member States informed of the Agency's activities in this regard;
5. Requests the Secretariat to continue, within the framework of the TC programme, to work actively to provide assistance and support services to Member States to identify and implement the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident;
6. 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;
7. Requests the Secretariat to continue examining in depth the specific characteristics and problems of the LDCs with respect to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and, in this regard, and also requests the Secretariat to continue to address this matter and to report accordingly in the Technical Cooperation Reports;
8. 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; and

9. Requests the Secretariat to initiate consultations with Member States on the preparation of the 2018 Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses, and their delivery to Member States through the Agency's TC programme, while highlighting their future contribution to sustainable development.

### 3.

#### **Effective execution of the technical cooperation programme**

- (a) Reiterating the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities and to further enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the TC programme, in accordance with Member States' requests, based on their needs and national priorities and emphasizing that all measures taken in this regard should also preserve and enhance the ownership of TC projects by recipient Member States,
  - (b) 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), which contribute to achieving more effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and sustainability of the TC programme, with a view to having a positive impact on results,
  - (c) Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat in continuing to apply a two-step mechanism of quality assessment and review of the project designs for the 2018–2019 cycle, on the basis of TC quality criteria, in particular the central criterion of the Logical Framework Approach (LFA),
  - (d) Noting that the key lessons from the review process carried out by the Secretariat in 2011 showed that consideration should be given to moving towards more focused and comprehensive projects, and that a differentiation in LFA treatment should be made between large, complex projects and small, simple ones,
  - (e) Recognizing the growing number of Member States and their increasing demands on the TC programme, as well as the Agency's role in supporting Member States to achieve the SDGs, and the importance of enhancing within available resources the capacity of Agency staff to meet the needs of Member States, so as to effectively service Member States in line with the Agency's statutory requirements, in particular Articles II and III of the Statute, and further recognizing the valuable contribution of general service staff,
  - (f) Recognizing the efforts of the Secretariat to introduce outcome monitoring to the TC programme, through a number of pilot projects in the 2016–2017 programme cycle, and
  - (g) Recognizing that the Secretariat will continue to promote to the extent possible gender equality and equitable geographical representation in the Agency, especially at managerial levels, and recalling that the recruitment and retention of staff of the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence and integrity are essential for the success and impact of the Agency's programme,
1. Urges the Secretariat to continue to work, in close cooperation with Member States, to strengthen TC activities, including the provision of sufficient resources, in accordance with Member States' requests based on their needs and national priorities, inter alia through ensuring that the components of TC projects, training, expertise and equipment are readily available to the Member States that have made such requests;
  2. Requests the Secretariat, within available resources, to enhance TC project implementation capacity by ensuring that staff are adequately and appropriately assigned at all levels;

3. Welcomes and further encourages the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to optimize the quality, the number and the impact of TC projects and to create synergies among them, whenever feasible, and in coordination with the Member States concerned;
4. Requests the Secretariat to continue to provide Member States with adequate information and training on project development, including through e-learning, according to the LFA sufficiently in advance of their consideration by the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee and the Board of Governors;
5. Recognizes the importance of regular reporting on the implementation and outcomes of TC projects, urges Member States to adhere to all the requirements in this regard, welcomes the progress achieved and encourages further progress by Member States in the submission of their Project Progress Assessment Reports (PPARs), including submission of electronic PPARs. In this regard, requests the Secretariat to continue to provide necessary guidance to Member States on improving their reporting, as appropriate;
6. Requests the Secretariat to keep Member States informed of the results of the efforts to implement outcome monitoring in the TC programme and to report on the implementation of outcome monitoring in the pilot projects on human health and nutrition, including the associated potential human and financial resource implications;
7. Requests the Secretariat, when applying the two-step mechanism in monitoring the quality of TC projects, to reflect on the findings in the TC annual report in this regard, as appropriate;
8. Encourages the Secretariat and Member States to enhance adherence to the central criterion and all the TC requirements, and calls upon the Secretariat to guide Member States in this regard;
9. Requests the Secretariat to continue providing updates on the progress of TC programme implementation in between annual TC reports; and
10. Requests the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the External Auditor, in the course of their regular work and within resources allocated to these offices from the Regular Budget, to evaluate TC projects on the basis of specific outcomes achieved in relation to objectives outlined in the relevant Country Programme Framework (CPF) or national development plan and further requests the External Auditor to report the results to the Board of Governors.

#### 4.

#### **Technical cooperation programme resources and delivery**

- (a) Recalling that the financing of TC should be in line with the concept of shared responsibility and that all Member States share a common responsibility towards financing and enhancing the TC activities of the Agency, and welcoming the contributions made by Member States, on a voluntary basis through government cost-sharing,
- (b) Stressing that the Agency's resources for TC activities should be sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and welcoming, in this regard, the *Report of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA)*, including to examine the ways and means to render resources for the Technical Cooperation Fund sufficient, assured and predictable, as approved by the Board of Governors in September 2014 (GOV/2014/49) and the recommendations contained therein,
- (c) Recognizing 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, and mindful of the increasing number of Member States requesting TC projects,

(d) Noting the decision of the Board of Governors, as contained in document GOV/2017/27, to set the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF at the level of €85 665 000 in 2018 and €86 165 000 in 2019, and that the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for 2020 shall be €86 165 000 and for 2021 shall be €86 165 000,

(e) Recalling the decision of the Board of Governors, as contained in document GOV/2016/29, which, inter alia, recognized “the statutory objective of the Agency to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, and the important contribution of its work in support of the SDGs”, and through which the Secretariat was “requested to place the appropriate emphasis on the activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs during the preparation of the Programme and Budget Proposal 2018–2019”, and aware of the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources,

(f) Aware of the significant number of approved projects that remain unfunded (footnote-a/projects) in the TC programme,

(g) Also aware that the existence of a significant number of such projects also results in an increased workload on the Secretariat in terms of project planning and design review,

(h) 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,

(i) Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat to respond to Member States’ request (included in decision GOV/2011/37) to reassess the application of the due account mechanism with a view to its possible future strengthening, and noting the approval by the Board of Governors of document GOV/2017/27 in which the Chairperson of the Board of Governors was invited to continue consultations on the proposed changes to the due account mechanism with a view to submitting it for the Board of Governors’ approval as soon as possible and its application as of the 2020–2021 TC cycle, and recognizing that the effectiveness of the due account mechanism depends on its consistent application to all Member States,

(j) Stressing that Major Programme 6 should be funded appropriately through the Regular Budget, and recalling the decision GOV/2011/37 that recommends — inter alia — one Working Group dealing with both the level of the Regular Budget and the TCF target,

(k) Expressing appreciation to those Member States which have paid in full their TCF target shares and their obligatory National Participation Costs (NPCs) in a timely manner, noting the improvement in the number of Member States paying their NPCs and thus their strong commitment to the TC programme, and noting the Rate of Attainment of 2016, which was 92.9%, including the deferred or additional payments made by Member States, and looking forward to reaching the rate of 100%, which is central to demonstrating the commitment of Member States to the Agency’s TC programme,

- (l) Encouraging Member States in a position to do so, to consider contributing on a voluntary basis through government cost-sharing to future national and regional TC projects, while recognizing that government cost-sharing is a sovereign decision,
- (m) Noting the use of the PCMF 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
- (n) Recognizing that the Agency requests that shipments of radioactive materials in the framework of the TC programme are carried out in compliance with the Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material,
1. 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;
  2. Urges Member States to pay in full and on time their voluntary contributions to the TCF, encourages Member States to pay their NPCs on time, and requests those which are in arrears with Assessed Programme Costs (APCs) to meet this obligation;
  3. 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 without affecting the preparatory activities and that, in the event of a failure to pay any second instalment during a biennium, funding for a core project in the next biennium will be suspended until full payment is received;
  4. Requests the Secretariat to make every effort to strictly apply the due account mechanism to all Member States equally, efficiently and effectively, and to further consult with Member States, in a timely manner, regarding specific guidelines for its application, and its approval by the Policy-Making Organs of the Agency;
  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. Requests the Secretariat, when presenting the draft Budget Update for 2019, to inform Member States on how this update gives effect to the Board's decision in GOV/2016/29 to place the appropriate emphasis on the activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs during the preparation of the Programme and Budget Proposal 2018–2019;
  7. While cognizant of the diverse nature of export control regimes, urges Member States to work in close cooperation with the Agency to facilitate the transfer of necessary equipment for TC activities, in accordance with the Statute, in order to ensure that TC project implementation is not delayed by denials of necessary equipment supply to Member States;
  8. Requests the Secretariat to continue to actively seek resources to implement footnote-a/ projects;
  9. Encourages Member 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;
  10. Welcomes all extra budgetary contributions announced by Member States, including the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative, which is designed to raise extra budgetary contributions to Agency activities, and encourages all Member 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;

11. Encourages Member States to make full use of the tools to share voluntarily their CPFs and footnote-a/ project details, via the electronic search engine;

12. 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

13. Welcomes the Progress Reports on the Secretariat's Implementation of the Recommendations of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA), including to examine the ways and means to render resources for the Technical Cooperation Fund sufficient, assured and predictable, as contained in GOV/INF/2015/4 and GOV/INF/2016/7 and calls upon Member States and the Secretariat to continue to take the necessary actions on the recommendations made by the Working Group.

## 5.

### Partnership and cooperation

(a) Noting that interested Member States making their CPFs available to potential partners on a voluntary basis could facilitate additional cooperation and improve understanding of how TC projects respond to the needs of Member States,

(b) Considering that the 'Delivering as One' approach for the development, financing and delivery of country programmes by all UN system organizations 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,

(c) Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents another opportunity for partnership building and resource mobilization for the benefit of Member States,

(d) Appreciating the increase in the number of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) signed by the Agency, resulting in higher synergies with the activities of other UN organizations, including towards the implementation of the SDGs, while emphasizing that, by virtue of their specialized technical focus, some aspects of TC projects may not fit within UNDAFs, which should not be a requirement for TC projects,

(e) 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 science, technology and innovation for achieving national development objectives, and recognizing also in this regard the role of the National Liaison Officers, the Permanent Missions to the Agency and the Programme Management Officer (PMO),

(f) Recalling previous resolutions favouring innovative educational partnerships — such as 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,

(g) Appreciating the work done by the Agency in promoting partnerships with relevant partners and donors, including regional and multilateral organizations, as well as development agencies, and other entities, as appropriate, and recognizing that such partnerships can play a key role in further disseminating the contribution of the Agency in nuclear applications for

peaceful uses, health, and prosperity; maximizing the impact of TC projects; and integrating TC activities into relevant international development frameworks,

(h) Noting that one of the objectives of the *International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond — Contributing to Development* was to strengthen partnerships with Member States, UN and regional organizations, financial institutions and non-traditional donors and the private sector, for enhancing TC programme delivery,

(i) Noting the Agency's efforts in building relationships with international organizations within the UN system, which also could contribute to achieving the SDGs, including the participation of representatives of the Agency in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, held in New York in July 2017, and

(j) Noting the approval of the Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, as contained in document GOV/2015/35, and looking forward to the report of the Director General in 2017 on the progress made in applying these guidelines, while recalling the importance of keeping Member States regularly informed of developments in this regard,

1. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions with interested States, the competent organizations of the UN system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure the coordination and 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;

2. Requests the Director General to promote, in close consultation with Member States, TC activities supporting the self-reliance, sustainability and further relevance of national nuclear and other entities in Member States, particularly in developing countries, and, in this context, requests him to continue and further enhance regional and interregional cooperation by (a) encouraging activities under and seeking complementarities between national projects and regional cooperation, including regional cooperation agreements, (b) identifying, utilizing and strengthening established regional capacities and resource centres or other qualified institutes, (c) formulating guidelines for the use of such centres and (d) strengthening guidance for partnership mechanisms; and in this regard to keep Member States informed of the Agency's activities;

3. 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 for these partnerships, to ensure that their objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART); and

4. Requests the Agency to strengthen, as appropriate, its public communication, in all official languages of the Agency, on the impact of the TC activities, with a view to showcasing the contribution of atomic energy, including to sustainable development, and to reaching out to new partners.

## 6.

### **Implementation and reporting**

1. Requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its sixty-second (2018) 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”.

## **B.**

### **Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy**

#### The General Conference.

- (a) Recalling Part B of resolution GC(59)/RES/11, on the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and previous resolutions requesting the Secretariat to undertake activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in cancer control,
- (b) Concerned about the suffering of cancer patients and their families, the extent to which cancer threatens development, particularly in developing countries, and the alarming growth in cancer incidence, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), as reported by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which estimates that by 2030 cancer will cause 13 million deaths a year globally, with 69% of these deaths occurring in LMICs,
- (c) Also concerned that the economic impact of cancer is significant and increasing and recognizing the importance of adequate funding for cancer control programmes, especially in developing countries,
- (d) Noting the continued special priority on cancer control assigned to the Agency’s work programme by the Director General, including through the organization of the 2010 Scientific Forum on “Cancer in Developing Countries: Facing the Challenge”, and taking note of its discussions and conclusions,
- (e) Recalling the 58th World Health Assembly resolution on cancer prevention and control (WHA58.22) adopted in May 2005, which, inter alia, recognized the support given by the Agency to combat cancer, and welcomed the establishment of the Agency’s Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy;
- (f) Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDG target of reducing premature mortality from Non-communicable diseases, including cancer, by one-third by 2030,
- (g) Noting the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/300(2014) on the Outcome Document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Comprehensive Review and Assessment of the Progress Achieved in the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, and noting also that it took stock of the progress made in implementing the roadmap of national commitments for the prevention and control of cancer and other non-communicable diseases included in A/RES/66/2(2011),
- (h) Aware of the adoption of the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases 2013–2020, including a comprehensive global monitoring framework and targets for the prevention and control of NCDs,
- (i) Welcoming the adoption of the resolution on “Cancer Prevention and Control in the Context of an Integrated Approach” (A70/A/CONF./9) in May 2017 by the Seventieth World Health Assembly,

- (j) Welcoming the ongoing discussions between the Secretariat, the WHO and the IARC on strengthening the WHO–IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control,
  - (k) Aware that PACT embodies in a clear way the peaceful use of nuclear technology for civilian and humanitarian purposes, and that the timely implementation of PACT, enabling Member States to develop capacities to fight cancer in a comprehensive way, will impact the health and development of all regions, and promote the other statutory activities of the Agency,
  - (l) Welcoming the Secretariat’s policy of continuing to develop an Agency-wide strategy for the implementation of PACT, and taking note of the PACT Highlights in 2016 in the Director General’s report on Technical Cooperation, as contained in document GOV/2017/17,
  - (m) Welcoming the upgrade of the PACT Programme Office (PPO) to a Division in 2014 (hereinafter referred to as the Division of PACT) with a view to enhancing the performance of PACT and to making optimum use of the synergies between TC and PACT activities,
  - (n) Noting the continued work of the Division of PACT, in coordinating a single unified programme for fundraising and the delivery of projects to Member States for cancer control-related activities, making use of — inter alia — available Agency information, identified resources, and synergies and interactions across all relevant departments, as well as raising funds from extra budgetary sources,
  - (o) Recognizing the delivery of activities under the auspices of PACT, in close coordination with the TC programme and relevant technical Divisions of the Secretariat, and the increasing number of requests from Member States for assistance in projects related to cancer control, including capacity-building and radiotherapy infrastructure improvements,
  - (p) Expressing appreciation for the financial and other contributions and pledges made by Member States and others in support of PACT,
  - (q) Recognizing that regional efforts can assist Member States in developing comprehensive national cancer control plans (NCCPs) suited to their requirements through knowledge and experience sharing,
  - (r) Recognizing the value of integrated missions of PACT (imPACT) as a tool for comprehensive assessment and their usefulness in the planning of integrated cancer control programmes, and noting the importance of follow-up activities to support the implementation of imPACT mission recommendations,
  - (s) Noting with concern the increasing difficulty of retaining qualified medical professionals in LMICs, and recognizing the need for these trained professionals, along with facilities and equipment, for sustaining adequate cancer care capacity, and
  - (t) Recognizing the potential of the Virtual University for Cancer Control (VUCC) as a cost-effective and sustainable approach to education and training,
1. Commends the Secretariat for the continued progress made in the establishment of partnerships with Member States, other international organizations and private entities, taking into consideration the relevant UN General Assembly resolutions as updated by A/RES/68/234 (2013), A/RES/70/224 (2015), as well as UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/243 (2016) and urges the Division of PACT to foster the development and deployment of cost-effective, affordable, accessible, quality and reliable systems for the radiation treatment of cancer patients through such partnerships;
  2. Calls on the Division of PACT to continue to harness the benefits that may be derived from the WHO–IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control, particularly in terms of accelerated programme

delivery to Member States, strengthened public health approaches to cancer control and increased resource mobilization potential;

3. Calls on the Secretariat to follow up on the outcomes and the recommendations of the high-level meetings on the prevention and control of NCDs, particularly cancer, including by assisting developing countries to adopt and implement a comprehensive approach to cancer control;

4. Calls on the Secretariat to continue to develop a more integrated and actionable framework for collaboration, including joint project development and resource mobilization, with the WHO and the IARC;

5. Requests the Director General to continue advocating and building support for the Agency's work on cancer control, including by mobilizing resources for the implementation of PACT as one of the priorities of the Agency;

6. Welcomes the progress in the work done by the Division of PACT, through the TC programme, in collaboration with international partners and donors, to strengthen Member State capabilities to fight cancer, and requests the Secretariat to continue, following a "one house" approach, planning and implementing PACT's activities and projects in Member States;

7. Calls on the Division of PACT, under the Department of Technical Cooperation, in consultation with the WHO and other partners, to harmonize its approaches to helping Member States to develop their financial proposals to mobilize resources for establishing and expanding radiation medicine infrastructure for comprehensive cancer control;

8. Recommends that the Division of PACT, under the Department of Technical Cooperation, with other relevant Agency Departments and the WHO, as appropriate, continue working to assist developing Member States in establishing integrated and comprehensive national cancer control plans, involving the full participation of other organizations and agencies;

9. Notes the continuing need for sufficient human resources in the Division of PACT for the implementation of projects using extra budgetary funds, welcomes the extra budgetary and in-kind resources provided to date, and calls on Member States to continue providing support and funding to adequately fulfil the needs of the Division of PACT;

10. Notes the developments in the PACT Model Demonstration Sites (PMDSs) which show synergies for effective cancer control planning and implementation, and calls on the Division of PACT to build on the success of PMDS activities and continue the development and implementation of joint projects within the framework of the WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control, noting that national integrated work plans on cancer control under this framework were developed or are currently underway for some Member States;

11. Recommends the continuous development, in consultation with Member States, of imPACT missions as an Agency service available for Member States and calls on the Division of PACT to focus on follow-up activities that build on the findings of imPACT missions and translate the recommendations into actions with sustainable impacts for Member States;

12. Takes note of the progress made by the Advisory Group on Increasing Access to Radiotherapy Technology in Low and Middle Income Countries (AGaRT), and further notes the transformation of this Advisory Group into a series of regular thematic expert meetings to support Member States to enhance access to safe, quality and affordable radiotherapy health technologies;

13. Welcomes the continued support provided by PACT for the participation of health professionals working in cancer control in LMICs in training courses on cancer control planning, medical physics,

radiation oncology, and cancer registries, and calls on the Division of PACT to continue facilitating such training courses;

14. Welcomes the significant progress made in the operation of the Virtual University for Cancer Control (VUCC) in sub-Saharan Africa, and calls for the expansion of the VUCC to other countries in the region, including, in line with the importance of multilingualism, the translation into French and adaptation of its content to the academic environment of francophone Member States, and the replication of the VUCC in other regions;

15. Requests the Director General to continue seeking, strengthening and facilitating the Agency's involvement in international partnerships, to further pursue, develop and implement PACT, and requests the Director General to continue formalizing, where feasible and appropriate, PACT's collaboration with partners for the more effective development and implementation of country-level PACT projects;

16. Commends the ongoing work of the Division of PACT in mobilizing resources to support its activities, notes that between July 2015 and June 2017 PACT's resource mobilization efforts secured or facilitated the mobilization of voluntary contributions, pledges, grants, and cash contributions valued at US \$2.4 million, and encourages the continued implementation of PACT's fundraising and resource mobilization strategy;

17. Calls upon the Director General to ensure that the Division of PACT, under the Department of Technical Cooperation, retains capacities and mechanisms to facilitate and support cancer control-related resource mobilization, its existing competence and its access to relevant technical expertise required to optimize the Agency's efforts in cancer control;

18. Invites Member States, organizations, private foundations and other donors to provide adequate financial support for the implementation of PACT, and requests the Secretariat to keep Member States informed about progress in this regard;

19. Commends the Secretariat, especially the Division of PACT, for its efforts to highlight the crucial role of the Agency in cancer control in the global health community, including through dedicated cancer control sessions and exhibitions on the Agency's work in cancer control at the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, and the World Cancer Leaders' Summit and World Cancer Congress in Paris, France;

20. Calls on the Secretariat to continue to raise awareness about the global cancer burden and the role of radiation medicine in cancer diagnosis and treatment as the first link in a chain that connects cancer diagnosis and treatment to the control of non-communicable diseases in international fora; and

21. Requests the Director General to report in the annual Technical Cooperation Report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Conference at its sixty-second (2018) and sixty-third (2019) regular sessions.