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Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

Resolution adopted on 19 September 2024 during the seventh plenary meeting

A.

Strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities

1.

General

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(67)/RES/9 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 developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs), consider the technical cooperation (TC) programme as the major vehicle through which they benefit from 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 the allocation

of its resources, and further recalling other directives from the General Conference and the Board of Governors relevant to the formulation of the TC programme,

(f) Recognizing the sovereign rights, national circumstances and national ownership of Member States while developing and implementing the TC programme,

(g) 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,

(h) Further recalling the Board of Governors' requirement, in light of the document GOV/1931 of 12 February 1979, and stressing the importance of the Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA (RSA),

(i) Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noting the report by the United Nations (UN) Secretary General entitled The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, in which it recognizes, inter alia, that "progress has ground to a halt or been reversed across multiple fronts",

(j) Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution 78/167, which inter alia reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and urged developed countries to continue providing support to developing countries to better harness science, technology and innovation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the global South by 2030 and further stressing, in this regard, the relevance of IAEA's assistance to its Member States in advancing the peaceful uses of atomic energy through the Agency's TC Programme,

(k) Recalling the Brussels Declaration and the Istanbul Declaration on the LDCs and the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 (DPoA) adopted during the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

(l) Stressing the importance of the Agency's TC programme continuing to be needs-based and implemented in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner,

(m) 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",

(n) Mindful of the increasing number of Member States requesting TC projects, which requires adequate resources for the Agency to meet these demands,

(o) 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, and further noting efforts of the IAEA in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy,

(p) 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,

(q) Mindful of the shared responsibility of all Member States towards supporting and enhancing TC activities of the Agency,

- (r) Recalling 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 in meeting their socio-economic development priorities, and also welcoming with satisfaction that the Conference participants recognized the benefits derived by Member States from the TC programme, and
- (s) Welcoming the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges held in Vienna in November 2018, and its Ministerial Declaration, in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to the Agency’s objectives and functions, and recognized the important role of science, technology and innovation in addressing the current challenges and meeting the common goals of achieving sustainable development,
1. Requests that the Secretariat, when formulating the TC programme, should adhere strictly to the provisions of the Statute and the guiding principles and policies as contained in INFCIRC/267 and to the 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,
 2. Calls upon all Member States receiving technical cooperation to sign an RSA and implement its provisions;
 3. Requests the Secretariat to continue to assist Member States in the peaceful, safe and secure application of nuclear science and technologies;
 4. Encourages the Secretariat to strengthen TC activities in Member States with the aim to promote the peaceful use of atomic energy to accelerate achievement of the SDGs; and
 5. Welcomes the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme to be held on 26-28 November 2024, encourages Member States to participate at ministerial level and requests the Secretariat to continue close consultations with Member States on its preparation and on follow-up Ministerial Conferences, with a view to convening one every four years.

2.

Strengthening technical cooperation activities

The General Conference,

- (a) Considering that the strengthening of activities in all fields of TC, in particular, food and agriculture, human health, water resource management, biotechnology, nanotechnology, environment, industry, knowledge management, and nuclear energy programming, planning and production will substantially contribute to 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) Stressing the importance of the development of nuclear technology and know-how and its transfer to and among Member States for peaceful uses in order to sustain and enhance their scientific and technological capabilities,
- (c) Recognizing that the TC programme continues to contribute to the achievement of national and regional goals for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,

- (d) Further recognizing the growing contribution of the TC programme to the achievement of the SDGs,
- (e) Looking forward to the Agency's continued support to Member States, in particular through the TC programme, in realizing the SDGs in line with the principle of national ownership,
- (f) Acknowledging that many Member States assign importance to climate change adaptation and mitigation through the use of nuclear power and nuclear applications and receive support from the TC programme, and recognizing the role of the Agency in this regard,
- (g) Recognizing the importance of nuclear science and technology innovations to enhance food safety and security, as reflected in the Scientific Forum during the 68th General Conference in 2024, and further recognizing the role of TC projects in strengthening national and regional capacities in this regard,
- (h) Conscious of the potential of nuclear power for meeting increasing energy requirements in a number of countries, 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 guidance 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,
- (i) 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,
- (j) Noting international cooperation through the Agency in providing support to Member States, upon request, in response to radiation overexposure accidents with a view to building their national capacities in this regard,
- (k) Noting the Agency's support to Member States, upon request, in response to natural disasters, outbreaks and emergency situations, primarily through the TC programme,
- (l) Welcoming the provision of assistance to Member States and non-Member States¹, upon their request, through the interregional TC project INT0098: Strengthening Capabilities of Member States in Building, Strengthening and Restoring Capacities and Services in Case of Outbreaks, Emergencies and Disasters, and expressing appreciation to Member States for their extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions enabling the implementation of this project,
- (m) 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 extrabudgetary 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,
- (n) Recognizing that human health, mainly cancer, remains the top priority for Member States over several TC programme cycles, as stated in GOV/INF/2019/2,

¹ In accordance with GOV/2810 and GOV/2818.

- (o) Recognizing the important role of the Agency in supporting Member States in comprehensive cancer control, including through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, and noting that the establishment of a unified approach for the Agency's cancer control should contribute to strengthening and facilitating enhanced programmatic delivery to Member States, through, inter alia, enhancing coordination and systematic implementation of the Agency's cancer control related activities,
- (p) Recognizing the importance of protecting the marine ecological environment as well as the need to enhance the technical capabilities of Member States, upon their request, in monitoring marine pollution and its impact on human health; and appreciating the valuable results of regional projects under the TC programme in this regard, in areas such as, including but not limited to, microplastics and radioactive pollutants,
- (q) Recalling 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), and noting the provision of assistance through the TC programme to LDCs,
- (r) 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,
- (s) Welcoming the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of all women, throughout the TC programme, including the support shown to the International Gender Champions initiative, and encouraging 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, taking into consideration SDG5, and
- (t) Welcoming the development of the strategic frameworks for the TC programme by Member States in different regions,
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 continue to strengthen the Agency's TC activities, in consultation with Member States, through development of effective, efficient and outcome-oriented programmes aimed at promoting and improving the scientific, technological, research and regulatory capacities and capabilities of the Member States implementing projects, with account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned, by continuing to assist them in their peaceful, safe and secure applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques;
 3. Requests the Secretariat, in close coordination with Member States, to continue its efforts to further advance gender mainstreaming and gender balance, including among experts and lecturers, in the TC programme and encourages Member States to cooperate closely with the Secretariat in this regard;
 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 DPoA as

adopted at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2022 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. Calls upon the Secretariat to continue to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, on climate change adaptation and mitigation through the use of nuclear power and nuclear techniques, including through the TC programme;

6. 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;

7. 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;

8. Requests the Secretariat to continue to support interested Member States, through the TC programme, in enhancing their technical capabilities for monitoring the impact of marine pollution, such as, including but not limited to, microplastics and radioactive pollutants, and to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices among Member States in this regard;

9. 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, also requests the Secretariat to continue to address this matter and to report accordingly in the Technical Cooperation Reports;

10. Requests the Secretariat to implement the unified approach to cancer control as outlined by the Director General in his report GOV/INF/2019/2, in a manner that enables Member States to continue receiving robust support in maintaining, expanding and improving their cancer control capacity by integrating medical uses of ionizing radiation into a comprehensive cancer control programme that maximizes its effectiveness and public health impact;

11. 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, the difficulties experienced and concerns of Member States, including the lack of adequate training, equipment and IT infrastructure in developing countries, particularly in LDCs; and

12. Calls on the Secretariat to continue to enhance the resilience of the TC programme, based on the lessons learned and experiences gained during the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure its effective delivery with the least possible disruption in the face of similar challenges in the future.

3.

Effective execution of the technical cooperation programme

The General Conference,

- (a) Reiterating the need to strengthen TC activities and to further enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and sustainability of the TC programme, specifically 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 (OIOS) 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 2026–2027 cycle, on the basis of TC quality criteria, in particular the central criterion of the logical framework approach (LFA),
- (d) 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, in line with the principle of national ownership, 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,
- (e) Recognizing the efforts of the Secretariat on outcome monitoring of the TC programme in an effective and efficient manner,
- (f) 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, and
- (g) Considering that the expanded use of the IAEA official languages would increase the universality of the TC programme, and recalling in this regard the 2023 report by the Director General on Multilingualism at the IAEA (GOV/INF/2023/16),
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. Also requests the Secretariat to give due consideration to qualified experts nominated by all Member States, particularly developing countries and LDCs, for participation in TC expert missions;
 4. 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;
 5. 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;
 6. 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 through electronic PPARs and, in this regard, requests the

Secretariat to continue to provide necessary guidance to Member States on improving their reporting, as appropriate;

7. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement outcome monitoring in the TC programme, including, where appropriate, through the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs);
8. Requests the Secretariat, when applying the two-step mechanism in monitoring the quality of TC projects, to reflect on the relevant findings in the annual TC report in this regard, as appropriate;
9. 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;
10. Requests the Secretariat to continue providing updates on the progress of TC programme implementation in between the annual TC reports;
11. Stresses that the regular work of OIOS and the External Auditor should, within resources allocated to these offices from the Regular Budget, be consistent across all Major Programmes, further stresses that, in this context, OIOS should evaluate TC projects on the basis of specific outcomes achieved in relation to objectives outlined in the relevant CPF or national development plan, and further requests the External Auditor to report the results to the Board of Governors; and
12. Encourages the Secretariat to continue to seek to carry out each TC project in the IAEA official language chosen by the beneficiary Member State, where possible.

4.

Technical cooperation programme resources and delivery

The General Conference,

- (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 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 (GOV/2014/49) and the recommendations contained therein, as well as the subsequent Progress Reports on the Secretariat's Implementation of the Recommendations of the WGFAA as contained in GOV/INF/2015/4 and GOV/INF/2016/7,
- (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/2023/32, to set the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF at the level of €96 000 000 in 2024 and €98 000 000 in 2025, and that the Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) for 2026 shall be €98 000 000 and for 2027 shall be €98 000 000,
- (e) Recalling 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 recognizing the important contribution of its work through the TC programme in support of

Member States, including in the attainment of the SDGs, and aware of the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources,

- (f) Aware of the increasing and 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 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 decision contained in GOV/2019/25 regarding the application of the due account mechanism with a view to guaranteeing the maximum quality of all national, regional and interregional TC projects as well as the TC programme,
 - (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 2023, which was 97.5%,
 - (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 strictly apply the due account mechanism in line with all the elements contained in GOV/2019/25 with a view to guaranteeing the maximum quality of all national, regional and interregional TC projects as well as the TC programme;
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, within available resources, to continue its support to Member States' development efforts, including the attainment of the SDGs;
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 extrabudgetary contributions announced by Member States, including the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative, which is designed to raise extrabudgetary contributions for Agency activities, encourages all Member States in a position to do so to make contributions to meet this goal, encourages the Secretariat to coordinate more resources to enhance support to the development efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, including in the attainment of the SDGs, 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. Calls upon the Agency to continue to take the necessary actions on the recommendations made by the WGFAA including to examine the ways and means to render resources for the TCF sufficient, assured and predictable, as contained in GOV/2014/49, GOV/INF/2015/4 and GOV/INF/2016/7.

5.

Partnership and cooperation

The General Conference,

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

the Programme Management Officer (PMO), the Project Counterparts (PCs), the Technical Officers (TOs) and the representatives of the regional cooperative agreements, and the importance of coordination among them,

(d) Recalling previous resolutions favouring innovative educational partnerships 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,

(e) 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,

(f) Noting with appreciation the Agency's efforts in building relationships with international organizations, as well as bodies and agencies within the UN system, which also contribute to achieving the SDGs, including the participation of representatives of the Agency in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and

(g) Recalling the approval of the Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, as contained in document GOV/2015/35, noting the 2023 progress report of the Director General on the implementation of these guidelines contained in document GOV/INF/2023/15, and encouraging the Secretariat to ensure that future regular reports are published in the year immediately following the reporting year so that they are aligned with the budget cycle, while recalling the importance of keeping Member States regularly informed of developments in this regard,

1. Requests the Secretariat to continue to strengthen strategic partnerships and to work in close cooperation with Member States and other relevant partners with a view to assisting Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with their national priorities, and optimizing the impact and benefits of the Agency's support, and requests the Secretariat to report on the implementation of these partnerships;
2. Requests the Secretariat 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, both by concluding TC related partnership agreements and by participating in relevant UN processes such as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 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;
3. Notes the TC related partnership agreements concluded by the Agency in 2023;
4. Welcomes the Agency's participation and contribution with respect to South-South and triangular cooperation, which is an essential tool in addressing common challenges of developing countries efficiently and effectively, as well as fostering the exchange of best practices and encouraging networking, and in this regard, welcomes the Agency's cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and its participation, in consultation with Member States, in the relevant fora and conferences, including the 2nd High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation held in 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

5. 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 the Director General 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;

6. 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);

7. Notes the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 72/279 on 'Repositioning of the United Nations development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system' and requests the Agency to identify and inform Member States of its possible impacts on the TC programme in any area, 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

8. Requests the Secretariat to strengthen, as appropriate, its public communication, in all official languages of the Agency, as well as outreach events and activities, 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, and to regularly provide information to Member States in this regard.

6.

Implementation and reporting

The General Conference,

1. Requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its sixty-ninth (2025) regular session on the implementation of all the content 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 resolution GC(66)/RES/8.B, 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, there will be over 24 million new cancer cases and 13 million deaths a year globally, with 70% 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 that many Member States assign special priority to the Agency's work on cancer control, and in this regard, recognizing initiatives by Member States to promote the role of nuclear technology in the fight against cervical cancer, particularly in Africa, and battle against various forms of cancer including childhood and breast cancer,
- (e) Recognizing the growing importance of the Rays of Hope initiative, and that, since its launch on the margins of the 35th African Union Summit in February 2022, seven 'first wave' countries have benefitted, and more than 80 countries have requested support from the Agency through the initiative,
- (f) Taking note of the updates on the implementation of the Rays of Hope initiative presented during the September 2022 Scientific Forum entitled 'Rays of Hope: Cancer care for all' and the 2024 forum entitled 'Raising Rays of Hope for #CancerCare4All',
- (g) Noting with appreciation the Secretariat's support and coordination of regional and inter-regional efforts for the sharing of knowledge, expertise, experience and best practices under the Rays of Hope initiative,
- (h) Welcoming the provision of assistance to Member States upon their request, through the interregional technical cooperation project INT6066: Supporting Member States to Increase Access to Affordable, Equitable, Effective and Sustainable Radiation Medicine Services within a Comprehensive Cancer Control System, as well as the relevant national and regional technical cooperation projects,
- (i) Welcoming the inauguration of nine Rays of Hope Anchor Centres in Algeria, Argentina, Japan, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Slovenia, South Africa and Türkiye, which will serve as capacity building and knowledge hubs to advance cancer care, research and innovation regionally and globally, and will support the long-term sustainability of Rays of Hope,
- (j) Recognizing the Secretariat's efforts in coordinating with Member States to identify and establish additional Anchor Centres,
- (k) Recalling the 58th World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution on cancer prevention and control (WHA58.22) adopted in May 2005 and updated by the 70th WHA (WHA70.12) in May 2017, which, inter alia, recognized the support given by the Agency to combat cancer, and welcomed the establishment of PACT,
- (l) Noting the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the SDG target of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, including cancer, and emphasizing the important role the Agency plays in this regard,
- (m) Noting the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/73/2 (2018) on the Political Declaration of the Third High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, which expressed, among others, the high-level commitment of States to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and to scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 (A/RES/66/2/(2011)) and 2014 (A/RES/68/300(2014)) for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through ambitious multisectoral national responses and thereby contribute to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

- (n) Recalling the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020, which has been extended to 2030 by the WHA, including a comprehensive global monitoring framework and targets for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, in particular, the attainment of the global target of 25% reduction in premature mortality by 2030, the Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as a Public Health Problem, launched in 2020, and the Global Noncommunicable Diseases Compact, launched in 2022,
- (o) Expressing appreciation for the ongoing discussions between the Secretariat and the WHO, including the IARC, on strengthening the WHO–IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control,
- (p) Recognizing that PACT embodies the peaceful use of nuclear technology for civilian and humanitarian purposes, and that the timely implementation of the Agency's relevant activities, enables Member States, particularly LMICs, to develop capacities to fight cancer in a comprehensive way that will improve the health and development of all regions, and promote other statutory activities of the Agency,
- (q) Noting the report by the Director General on Agency-Wide Support to Cancer Control (GOV/INF/2019/2) and the 2017 Internal Audit Activity Report by the Director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) (GOV/2018/11), and further noting that all the OIOS recommendations have been closed,
- (r) Noting the PACT highlights in 2023 in the Technical Cooperation Report for 2023 by the Director General (GOV/2024/24),
- (s) Noting the continued work of the Division of PACT, in cooperation with the relevant divisions of the Departments of Nuclear Sciences and Applications and Technical Cooperation, in coordinating mobilization of resources and the delivery of projects to Member States for cancer control related activities,
- (t) Recognizing the need to mobilize resources to support the Agency's cancer-related activities in Member States, and noting the Agency's support for resource mobilization efforts, including the development of bankable documents upon request of Member States,
- (u) Acknowledging the value of sharing information about the needs identified by integrated missions of PACT (imPACT), upon the agreement of the Member State concerned, with the WHO and other partners in order to facilitate coordination and efforts to mobilize resources to respond to such needs,
- (v) Noting efforts to enhance internal coordination mechanisms among all relevant Departments of the Secretariat towards establishing a unified approach for cancer control, in line with the conclusion of the Ad Hoc Task Force on PACT², through which all cancer-related activities of the Agency to support Member States shall be planned and delivered in a coordinated manner,
- (w) Recognizing the increasing number of requests from Member States for assistance in projects related to cancer control, including capacity building in diagnosis, imaging and treatment of cancer, and infrastructure improvements,
- (x) Expressing appreciation for the financial and other contributions and pledges made by Member States and others in support of PACT and the Rays of Hope initiative,

² Established by the Director General in 2018 (GOV/INF/2019/2).

- (y) Recognizing that regional efforts, with the support of regional WHO offices, can assist Member States in developing comprehensive National Cancer Control Plans (NCCPs) suited to their requirements through knowledge and experience sharing and that integrate radiation medicine into comprehensive cancer control,
- (z) Recognizing the value of imPACT reviews 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 recommendations,
- (aa) 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
- (bb) Noting the need for the development of education and training materials on cancer, and further noting mechanisms such as the Agency's Human Health Campus organized by the Division of Human Health of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications to meet this need,
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 and urges the Secretariat to foster the development and deployment of cost-effective, affordable, accessible, quality and reliable systems for the diagnosis and radiation treatment of cancer patients through such partnerships;
 2. Calls on the Department of Technical Cooperation and its Division of PACT, in coordination with the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications and its Division of Human Health, 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; and in this context, requests the Division of PACT to undertake follow-up actions, in view of the expected conclusion of the WHO's Global Action Plan by 2030;
 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 non-communicable diseases, particularly cancer, including by assisting developing countries to adopt and implement a comprehensive approach to cancer control, as appropriate, and to continue its coordination with the WHO, IARC and other relevant stakeholders;
 4. Calls on the Secretariat to continue implementing its framework for collaboration, including joint project development and resource mobilization, with the WHO and the IARC, and to keep Member States informed of relevant developments;
 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, the relevant TC projects and the Rays of Hope initiative as one of the priorities of the Agency;
 6. Calls on the Division of PACT, in coordination with other relevant divisions, in consultation with the WHO and other partners, to harmonize its approaches to helping Member States to develop their financial proposals and relevant bankable documents to mobilize resources for establishing and expanding radiation medicine infrastructure for comprehensive cancer control;
 7. Requests the Division of PACT to continue to implement effective management systems including the relevant recommendations contained in GOV/2018/11;

8. Calls upon the Division of PACT, in coordination with other relevant divisions, and in consultation with other relevant Agency Departments and the WHO, as appropriate, to strengthen its support to developing Member States, upon request, in establishing integrated and comprehensive national cancer control plans, involving the full participation of other organizations and agencies in such a way as to facilitate and assist the activities of the Member States to achieve the SDG target of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, including cancer, by one third by 2030;
9. Notes the continuing need for sufficient human resources for the implementation of cancer control related projects using extrabudgetary funds and the provision of experts, welcomes the extrabudgetary and in-kind resources provided to date, and calls on Member States to continue providing support, funding and experts to adequately fulfil the needs of the Divisions of PACT and Human Health;
10. Calls on the Division of PACT to continue the development and implementation of joint projects within the framework of the WHO–IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control towards its effective implementation, noting that national integrated work plans on cancer control under this framework were developed or are currently under way for some Member States;
11. Recommends the continuous development, in consultation with Member States, of imPACT reviews 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 reviews and translate the recommendations into actions with sustainable impacts for Member States, and to inform Member States of relevant updates;
12. Calls upon the Division of PACT to continue to support Member States' access to safe, high-quality and affordable diagnostic and radiotherapy health technologies, as appropriate, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, and also calls on the Division of PACT to keep Member States informed of developments in this regard;
13. Welcomes the continued support provided by the Secretariat for the participation of health professionals working in LMICs, in training courses, workshops and fellowships on cancer control planning, medical physics, nuclear medicine, radiation oncology and radionuclide production, and calls on the Secretariat to continue facilitating such activities;
14. Notes the inclusion of cancer-related topics in the IAEA Human Health Campus, and requests the Secretariat to seek to make these training materials available for use by appropriate health professionals from all regions, including, in line with the importance of multilingualism;
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 a more effective development and implementation of country-level, regional-level and interregional-level cancer projects;
16. Notes the ongoing work of the Division of PACT in mobilizing resources, including resources mobilized by partners, for cancer-related technical cooperation projects, and urges the Division of PACT to work on and strengthen its programme strategy and planning, as well as its strategy for the mobilization of additional resources from traditional and non-traditional donors to support the implementation of cancer-related activities of the Agency, including the Rays of Hope initiative, as well as to support Member States in their resource mobilization efforts;
17. Welcomes the support provided by the Secretariat and calls for allocation of the sufficient technical and material resources to Anchor Centres to effectively play their role in capacity building in the field of cancer care under the Rays of Hope initiative;

18. Calls upon the Director General to ensure that the Division of PACT strengthens its 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;

19. Invites Member States, organizations, private foundations and other donors to provide adequate financial support for the implementation of PACT and the Rays of Hope initiative, and calls upon the Secretariat to keep Member States informed about progress in this regard;

20. Commends the Secretariat, especially the Division of PACT, for its efforts to highlight the active role of the Agency supporting Member States' efforts to address cancer through participation at key global health events, including the WHA; the World Health Summit; the African First Ladies Against Breast, Cervical and Prostate Cancer; the World Cancer Leaders' Summit; the World Cancer Congress; the WHO Regional Committee meetings; the London Global Cancer Week; the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC) International Conference on Cancer in Africa; and the relevant meetings of the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and United Nations General Assembly;

21. 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, including through the Rays of Hope initiative, as the first link in a chain that connects cancer diagnosis and treatment to the control of non-communicable diseases in international fora; and

22. 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-ninth (2025) and seventieth (2026) regular sessions.