



**European Union**

**EU Statement on  
Agenda item 3: Technical Cooperation Report for 2020  
IAEA Board of Governors  
Vienna, 7-11 June 2021**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey<sup>§</sup>, The Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Iceland\*, Norway\*, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.
2. The EU and its Member States reaffirm their longstanding commitment and support for the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). We welcome that this year's report includes a special section on the IAEA's Covid-19 related assistance and commend the Secretariat for quickly adapting to the new pandemic realities while ensuring continued and uninterrupted implementation of the TC activities. The unprecedented level of extra-budgetary contributions amounted to € 44.1 million, out of which almost 2/3 were allocated for addressing the pandemic. This is an excellent example of international solidarity and effective multilateralism, demonstrating how peaceful nuclear applications can assist Member States in combatting global health crises.
3. We understand that due to Covid-19, a substantial part of the TCP focus had to be re-shifted towards the pandemic-oriented assistance and many other events and activities were moved into virtual format or cancelled, thereby resulting in a lower implementation rate, including in the European region. We consider it important to preserve a balanced TCP, responsive to the needs and priorities of Member States on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis. We therefore call upon the Secretariat to make its utmost efforts so that all approved TC projects within the 2020-21 cycle can be implemented in a timely and adequate manner.
4. We welcome the new Guidelines for the Planning and Design of the IAEA 2022-23 TC programme. This is a positive step towards enhanced quality assurance and a results-based approach. We encourage the Secretariat to further reinforce in-house cooperation and coordination and to advance gender mainstreaming and gender balance in all TC activities.

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<sup>§</sup> Candidate Country

\* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

\* Iceland and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

5. We also welcome the IAEA's continuous active involvement in the global dialogue on the 2030 Agenda, including the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and encourage the Agency to further align the TCP with the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Regarding the planning for the TC Programme for 2022-23, nuclear safety and security remain among the priorities for the EU. The TCP should give the necessary emphasis to these areas, especially in light of the growing demand for the use of nuclear technologies and applications.
7. We encourage the Secretariat to continue working closely with the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and address all TC-related findings and recommendations of their audits and evaluations.
8. Systematic evaluation of the TC Programme is key to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness and impact. It should be done through comprehensive outcome monitoring, based upon verifiable indicators to assess results and the sustainability of TC projects. The update of the TC project report processing system represents a positive development in this regard.

Madam Chair,

9. We support Agency's efforts to facilitate the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the TCP. We regret that neither the Report nor its Supplement include any additional detailed information on TCP disbursements in LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
10. We welcome the continued modernization of the Seibersdorf laboratories under the ReNuAL 2 project. We are pleased to see that the refurbishment and renovation of the remaining laboratories is scheduled to commence later this year with the aim of completing the project by 2023. We commend the Secretariat for its resources mobilisation efforts and encourage voluntary contributions.
11. Concerning the newly approved off-cycle TC project (INT5157) to support the Agency's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative, we renew our call to the Secretariat to provide more information on its implementation and the progress achieved so far, in line with the relevant General Conference resolution.
12. We encourage the Secretariat to continue enhancing partnerships with Member States, other UN entities, the private sector and civil society for the benefit of Technical Cooperation activities and within the broader framework of the international development agenda.
13. Our contributions amounted to 24% of the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) in 2020, along with substantial extra-budgetary contributions and in-kind support from the EU and its Member States. We therefore pay particular attention to the governance of the TC Fund, and welcome the financial overview provided in the TC Report supplement.

14. We note with appreciation that in this difficult year, the rate of attainment of voluntary contributions has remained at the average level of the previous years. We encourage all Member States to pay their voluntary target share, and to consider government cost sharing of their national projects.
15. We take note of the increasing reliance of the Agency on extra-budgetary contributions for a wide range of projects and initiatives. While acknowledging the drivers for such development, we are concerned about the limited capacities of Member States, and would like the Secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilise resources also from non-traditional donors.
16. With these comments, we take note of the reports under discussion.

Thank you, Madam Chair.