



## European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors  
Vienna, 4-8 June 2012  
Agenda item 4: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation  
activities**

Final

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Acceding Country Croatia<sup>\*</sup>, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>\*</sup>, Montenegro<sup>\*</sup>, Iceland<sup>\*\*</sup> and Serbia<sup>\*</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, associate themselves with this statement.
2. The EU wishes to thank Director General Amano for his Report contained in document GOV/2012/20 in response to the General Conference Resolution GC(55)/RES/11. We also thank DDG Kwaku Aning for the technical briefing held on 11 May 2012, as well as for his introductory remarks.
3. The EU and its Member States would like to reaffirm their support to the Technical Cooperation Programme. We particularly commend the Agency for its activity in promoting a responsible, sustainable, safe and secure development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, industry, water resources and the environment, and nuclear energy, including nuclear and radiation safety in participating Member States.
4. In this regard, we would like to stress the importance of the responsibility of the Agency in ensuring increased attention to nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear security, and safeguards requirements, assisting Member

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\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

\*\* Iceland remains an EFTA country and member of the European Economic Area

States in building appropriate and effective infrastructures and enabling Member States to fully benefit from TC activities. We continue to support the 'one house approach' developed by the Secretariat in order to ensure the coherent application of the IAEA's Statute and policies in all phases (design, review and finalization) of the TC Programme cycle.

5. The EU and its Member States would like to request the Secretariat to continue to ensure that Agency assistance is provided in line with all the necessary safeguards, safety, and security requirements only to countries which have signed a Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA, as required by the Statute of the IAEA and by INFCIRC 267. In that respect, in appreciating the efforts of the Agency which have resulted in a higher number of RSA's being concluded in 2012 (119) compared to 2011(115), we note with serious concern that there is still a considerable gap between Member States receiving assistance from the IAEA and those who have concluded an RSA.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We particularly recognize the clear contribution of the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, with particular attention to research, technology and knowledge transfer, relevant to addressing the challenges of human health, climate change, food insecurity and sustainable land and water management.
7. We are grateful to the Secretariat for promoting the UNDAF joint programming in the last few years, as, by the end of 2011, 24 UNDAFs had been signed, and we encourage the Agency to continue improving the interaction with the United Nations System in the field, in order to make better use of limited resources and to increase the sustainability and the impact of TC projects. As the External Auditor pointed out in his last audit report to the Financial Statement, presented to the PBC in document GOV/2012/12, with the DG being a member of the UN System Chief Executive Board, we also believe that in the long term the Agency should strive towards joint programming with other UN Organizations.
8. In welcoming the current 67 valid CPFs, we encourage the Agency to further promote the signature of Country Programme Frameworks which should allow a better understanding of national development plans, country specific assessments and lessons learned from past cooperation as well as useful linkages with the UNDAFs. The signature of CPFs can ensure the better integration of Agency projects with existing development projects and plans of a Member State.
9. The EU and its Member States also attach particular importance to respect for TC project quality criteria, namely project relevance, Member States' ownership and commitment, sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency, and good management according to the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) of the TC Programme. We therefore would like to thank

the Secretariat for the introduction of a two step mechanism to assess the quality of a sample of projects submitted in the 2012-13 cycle. Noting with concern that the results of the first review registered incomplete compliance with TC project criteria in the sample, we encourage the TC Department to further this useful exercise in order to promote the continuous improvement of the TC Programme.

10. We recognise the significant work carried out by the TC Department in improving the management of the TC Programme, especially streamlining the number of projects, closing in 2011 244 projects, and having a further 80 in the closing phase. However, we believe that there is scope for a further reduction in the number of small size projects by the Secretariat in order to better monitor the quality and respect the LFA in the management of the TC Programme.
11. As pointed out in the last External Auditor Report, the effectiveness and quality of the TC Programme would benefit from improving NLOs and PCs capabilities and knowledge regarding the Agency's procedures and establishing contacts with Resident coordinators and UN Country Teams. We encourage the Agency to find ways to do this without adding additional administrative burdens.
12. We would like to express appreciation for the high number of recommendations of the OIOS (148 out of the outstanding 166) which have been implemented and closed by the end of January this year. We particularly value the OIOS reports as a tool for promoting better management in the Agency including of the TC Programme. In line with the increasing transparency provided by the Agency on the TC Programme, we would like to have in future reports more details on the way in which the TC Department is implementing the OIOS recommendations. We would also kindly request the Secretariat to organise a briefing by the OIOS on the recommendations implemented on the TC programme before the upcoming TACC session of the BoG (26-28 November 2012).

Mr. Chairman,

13. The EU and its Member States take note that, despite the international economic and financial crisis and important financial constraints affecting Member States, a rate of attainment of around 89,3% has been reached in 2011, acknowledging also the significant amount of extra-budgetary resources collected by the Agency.
14. The EU takes this opportunity to recall the initiatives it has supported over the past years, with more than € 94 million extra-budgetary contributions pledged. Under the various EU instruments, support has been provided in the areas of nuclear safety and security, safeguards, radioactive waste management, emergency preparedness and response and decommissioning. In this respect, the EU would also like to refer to the

recently published INFIRC/830 on EU international cooperation in support of peaceful uses.

15. We firmly believe that it is important to ensure fair access to TC funds for all IAEA Member States in the most efficient way. We would therefore like to encourage the Secretariat to continue working in this direction, in order to facilitate the participation of least developed countries (LDCs) in the TC Programme.
16. We would also like to recall the importance of the timely and full payment of National Participation Costs (NPCs) through which countries concerned confirm their commitment towards the implementation of their TC projects.
17. The EU and its Member States would like to reiterate its appreciation for the Agency's TC Programme and to reassure the Secretariat of its continued support and cooperation. With these comments the EU takes note of document GOV/2012/20.
18. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing document GOV/2012/21 on the footnote project "Technical cooperation project on integrated and sustainable management of shared aquifer systems and basins of the Sahel region".
19. In recognizing the urgent need for a project to promote the more systematic collection of information for a regional strategic approach to the problem of the lack of available water in the Sahel region, we recognise the validity of the proposal and we would like to support the recommended actions contained in document GOV/2012/21.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.