

# General Conference

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Item 15 of the agenda  
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# Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

**Resolution adopted on 24 September 2010 during the eleventh plenary meeting**

### The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(53)/RES/12 on “Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities”,
- (b) Recalling the Brussels Declaration on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the 2001-2010 Programme of Action of the Third UN Conference of the LDCs, and taking into account that the technical cooperation programme of the Agency (the TC Programme) is needs-based,
- (c) Further recalling the Board of Governors’ requirement in GOV/1931 of 12 February 1979 that all Member States receiving technical assistance from the IAEA should have signed the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) concerning the provision of technical assistance by the IAEA;
- (d) Bearing in mind that the objectives of the Agency as stated in Article II of the Statute are “to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world” and to ensure that the assistance provided by it is not used “to further any military purpose”,
- (e) Recalling that one of the statutory functions of the Agency is to “encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world”, and acknowledging that for developing countries, including LDCs, the TC Programme is a major vehicle for executing this function,
- (f) Recalling that the Statute and the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency as contained in INFCIRC/267 are the Agency’s established guidelines for the formulation of the TC Programme and also recalling other directives from the General Conference and the Board of Governors relevant to the formulation of the TC Programme,

- (g) Considering that the strengthening of technical cooperation activities in the fields of – inter alia - food and agriculture, human health, water resource management, environment, industry, knowledge management, and nuclear energy programming, planning and production will substantially contribute to the well-being and help enrich the quality of life of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency, including the least developed ones,
- (h) Conscious of the potential of nuclear power for meeting increasing energy requirements in a number of countries, and of the need for sustainable development, including environment protection,
- (i) Also conscious of the need for the internationally recognized standards of safety to be applied in all uses of nuclear technology in order to protect mankind and the environment,
- (j) Recalling previous resolutions favouring innovative educational partnerships - like the World Nuclear University - involving academia, government and industry, and confident that such initiatives can, with the Agency's support, play a valuable role in promoting strong educational standards and building leadership for an expanding global nuclear profession,
- (k) Stressing the importance of nuclear knowledge sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries for sustaining and further enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby contributing to their socio-economic development,
- (l) Stressing that the Agency's resources for technical cooperation (TC) activities should be sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and noting that in 2007 the Director General issued a report entitled "TC Programme Resources – Sufficient, Assured and Predictable",
- (m) Aware of the significant number of approved projects that remain unfunded (including footnote-a/ projects) in the technical cooperation programme,
- (n) Recognizing that the number of countries and territories requiring technical support reached 125 in 2009, and hence 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,
- (o) Noting the decision of the Board of Governors to set the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF at the level of US \$85 million in each of the years 2009 and 2010 and \$86 million for the year 2011, and that the Indicative Planning Figures for the years 2012-2013 shall be approximately, but not less than, US \$87 million,
- (p) Stressing the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency, and taking note of the decision of the Board, which - inter-alia - notes that the synchronization of the TC programme cycle with the budget cycle provides a framework beginning in 2012, to consider appropriate increases to the resources for the TC programme, including the TCF target where such adjustments would take into account the changes in the level of the regular operational budget from 2009 onwards, the price adjustment factor and other relevant factors as contained in document GOV/2009/52/Rev.1, and taking note of the decision of the Board on the "split contribution system" as one of the measures to protect the purchasing power of the fund as contained in document GOV/2009/52/Rev.1,
- (q) Recalling the obligation of some Member States in regard to National Participation Costs (NPCs), noting with appreciation the good record of an increasing number of Member States in

their payments of NPCs, which demonstrates the strong commitment of recipient Member States to the TC programme, and recognizing the need to take into account the fact that Member States' national financial regulations and budgetary and fiscal schedules differ,

(r) Taking note of the subsequent results of the Rate of Attainment mechanism as established by resolution GC(44)/RES/8, noting with appreciation the 94.0% Rate of Attainment level at the end of 2009, and looking forward to reaching the rate of 100%, which is central to reconfirming the commitment of Member States to the Agency's TC programme,

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

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

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

(v) Emphasizing the importance of the TC activities of the Agency, the financing of which should be guaranteed by, inter alia, results-based budgeting and the appropriate use of the Regular Budget in supporting the implementation of those activities,

(w) Recognizing that human capital planning and development of human resources, expert services, fellowships, training courses and appropriate equipment supply continue to be important components of TC activities to ensure impact and sustainability,

(x) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat in implementing the Technical Cooperation Strategy, including holding regional meetings for planning purposes, carrying out Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) and thematic approach to ensure that projects meet the national priorities of Member States, and encouraging technical cooperation activities, inter alia through technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and regional resource centres, partnerships in development, greater outreach, and in-house coordination, in line with the Technical Cooperation Management Principles (SEC/NOT/1790: Annex 1),

(y) Stressing that CPFs are non-legally-binding documents and are subject to revision as Member States' priorities evolve, and recalling that they are developed by Member States in cooperation with the Secretariat with the objective of facilitating an understanding of the real needs of developing Member States and of encouraging technical cooperation between Member States through triangular mechanisms and, where applicable, among developing countries through TCDC,

(z) Noting that interested Member States making their CPFs available to potential partners on a voluntary basis could facilitate cooperation,

(aa) Reiterating the need to strengthen technical cooperation activities and to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency as well as the transparency of the TC programme in accordance with the requests and needs of Member States with a view to strengthening their national programmes, and emphasizing that all measures taken in this regard should also preserve and enhance the ownership of TC projects by recipient Member States,

- (bb) Appreciating that the TC programme contributes to the achievement of national goals for sustainable development in TC-recipient Member States, particularly developing countries,
- (cc) Noting the report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on System Wide Coherence of November 2006, which proposed the establishment of a "Delivering as One" approach for the development, financing and delivery of country programmes by all UN system organizations which may have a possible impact on the TC programme in many areas, including resource mobilization, while noting the relationship between the Agency and the UN system and the nature, character and specificity of the TC programme, and noting that there are pilot countries implementing this exercise on a voluntary basis,
- (dd) Notes the substantive outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference relating to the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities,
- (ee) Recognizing that national nuclear and other entities are important partners in the implementation of TC programmes in Member States and in promoting the use of nuclear, radiation and radiotracer technologies for achieving national development objectives, and recognizing also in this regard the role of the National Liaison Officers and the Programme Management Officer (PMO),
- (ff) 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,
- (gg) Taking note also of the efforts, through – inter alia – the TC programme, towards the voluntary reduction and return of highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuels of nuclear research facilities, and
- (hh) Noting the use of the Programme Cycle Management Framework and emphasizing the need for assessing its impact on, inter alia, enhancing coordination, programme planning and the quality of programme delivery as well as increasing the implementation rate, and also noting the Secretariat's statement that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) would have no negative impact on the delivery and implementation of the TC programme,
1. Requests the Secretariat to continue to facilitate and to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology and know-how among Member States for peaceful uses as embodied in the Agency's TC programme, taking into account specific needs of developing countries, including those of LDCs;
  2. Urges Member States to make every effort towards facilitating the process for setting the TCF targets in accordance with the decision of the Board as contained in document GOV/2009/52/Rev.1;
  3. Stresses the need for the Secretariat to continue to work, in consultation with Member States, towards establishing means, including mechanisms, that would achieve the goal of making TC resources sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP);
  4. Looks forward to the implementation of the decision of the Board of Governors of 11 June 2010: "to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities this year after the General Conference to address the issue of TCF resources. Besides a comprehensive review of the nature of TC resources, discussions would include making the TCF sufficient, assured and predictable and the relationship between the levels of the overall Agency budget and the TCF. The Board expects that this would be a meaningful dialogue with substantive outcomes for Board action that would facilitate the budget and TCF discussion on 2012-2013.";

5. Requests the Director General to resume and to further develop and facilitate cost-sharing, outsourcing and other forms of partnership in development by reviewing and amending or simplifying, as appropriate, relevant financial and legal procedures and by developing a model arrangement and agreement for these partnerships, to ensure that their objectives are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Timely (SMART);
6. Requests the Secretariat to continue working with Member States, within relevant regions and regional cooperative agreements, in identifying regional resource centres or other qualified institutes, and formulating guidelines for the use of such centres and in developing and refining SMART partnership mechanisms in the context of enhancing regional and interregional cooperation;
7. 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;
8. 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 recipient Member States which are in arrears in Assessed Programme Costs (APCs) to meet this obligation;
9. Stresses the need to strengthen TC activities and to continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC programme in accordance with the requests and needs of Member States in all areas of concern in accordance with the elements of the logical framework methodology;
10. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that the commencement of projects within a national programme will take place upon the receipt of at least the minimum payment of the NPCs and, in this regard, that preparatory activities will not be affected before this occurs and that, in the event of a failure to pay any second instalment falling due during a biennium, funding for a core project in the next biennium will be suspended until full payment is received;
11. Further requests that the Secretariat continue exploring, in consultation with Member States, the possibility and practicability of paying NPCs in kind and, in this context, that it find efficient ways of accurately valuing in-kind contributions pending the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
12. Requests the Secretariat to make every effort to apply the due account mechanism to all Member States equally and efficiently and to inform the Board about the application of the mechanism to Member States as appropriate;
13. Stresses the need to strengthen TC activities, including the provision of sufficient resources, and to continually enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programmes and their management, and requests the Secretariat to revise the Technical Cooperation Strategy (GOV/INF/2002/8) in consultation with all Member States, taking into consideration the increasing number of Member States requesting TC projects;
14. 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;
15. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of TC management by, inter alia, ensuring that the components of TC projects, e.g. training, expertise and equipment, are readily available to Member States requesting them and meet international quality standards;

16. Requests that the Secretariat provide Member States with adequate information on project development according to the logical framework methodology sufficiently in advance of their consideration by the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee and the Board of Governors;

17. Requests the Secretariat to explore ways of giving an update on the progress of TC programme implementation in between annual TC reports;

18. Requests the Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking resources to implement footnote-a/ projects;

19. Welcomes all extrabudgetary contributions announced by Member States, including the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which is designed to raise US\$ 100 million over the next five years as extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA activities, encourages all states in a position to do so to make additional contributions, and also encourages those states to show flexibility in the use of their contributions in order to enable the implementation of more footnote-a/ projects;

20. Also requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the TC activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes with well-defined outcomes aimed at promoting and improving the scientific, technological, research and regulatory capabilities of TC-recipient Member States, account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned, by continuing to assist them in their peaceful, safe, secure and regulated applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques in the fields of – inter alia – (a) food and agriculture, human health, industry, water resource management, environment, knowledge management and biotechnology, and (b) nuclear energy planning and production for those States pursuing nuclear power as a component of their sustainable energy mix, through relevant areas of importance as identified by Member States;

21. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and other relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure the coordination of optimization of complementary activities, and to ensure that they are regularly informed, where relevant, about the developmental impact of the TC programme, while aiming at achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC programme;

22. Requests the Director General to help interested Member States to obtain relevant information on (a) the role of nuclear power in mitigating GHG emissions, guided by the objective of sustainable development, and (b) the role of radiation and nuclear technology in mitigating polluting gases (FGs and GHGs), in managing agricultural and industrial wastes and effluents, and in improving water security, with particular emphasis on the use of electron beams and isotopes, and, where appropriate and requested by Member States, to assist in the preparation of potential TC projects;

23. 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 States, particularly developing countries and LDCs, contributes to the promotion of key areas identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and further requests the Director General to keep Member States informed of the Agency's activities in this regard;

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

25. Requests the Director General to promote, within the framework of the TC programme, activities supporting the self-reliance, sustainability and further relevance of national nuclear and other

entities in Member States, particularly in developing countries, including encouraging regional and interregional cooperation on this issue;

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

27. 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;

28. 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

29. Requests the Director General and the Board of Governors to remain seized of this matter and further requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its fifty-fifth (2011) 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”.