

**Statement at the meeting of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC)
of IAEA on evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2009**

(23 November 2009)

My delegation would like to thank the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2009, as contained in document GOV/2009/72. Such regular evaluation is, indeed, an indispensable tool.

Mongolia finds most of the recommendations made in the evaluation highly useful. Among many others, we strongly support the OIOS recommendation that the Secretariat coordinate the process to revise Article V of the Revised Supplementary Agreement concerning the provision of technical assistance by the IAEA (RSA) to include preventive maintenance contracts. We are equally supportive of Recommendation 9 in Annex 4 for the Secretariat regarding the continued support of projects to increase the educational level of medical physicists and strengthen quality assurance programmes among counterpart institutions.

Judging by the results of TC projects in my own country, Mongolia, I can say with confidence that by providing the necessary skills and equipment, TC projects make invaluable contribution to scientific progress and socio-economic development. This work must be continued.

At the same time, we agree that still a lot needs to be done to increase TC projects' socio-economic impact.

It goes without saying that the Agency is responsible for transferring nuclear technologies for peaceful applications. And it is doing this job well, transferring technology, equipment, expertise and promoting human capacity building. For their part, national stakeholders are responsible for carrying these assets through to the end user, for example by extending nuclear techniques for sustainable agriculture to farmers. Nevertheless, my delegation would welcome it if the Secretariat would be ready to come up, exclusively at the request of the recipient Member State, with ideas and suggestions on how to improve the socio-economic impact of this or that ongoing or completed projects.

It needs to be emphasized that by this we are not suggesting impact assessments on completion of every project, as proposed by Recommendation 4 in Annex 1. My delegation is fully aware that project impacts are only evident with time. We believe that it might prove useful if the Secretariat and the recipient Member State could discuss thoroughly what to do next after a project's completion, and how to make the best possible use of the newly transferred technology. And, again, such discussions should only be undertaken at recipient State's request. We believe that this way TC projects would not only fulfil their planned tasks but also help to produce long-term impacts.

With thee comments my delegation takes note of the evaluation report of TC activities in 2009 submitted for consideration by the Board of Directors.