

**Statement at the meeting of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC)
of IAEA on the Agency's proposed program for 2010**

(23 November 2009)

My delegation would like to thank the Director-General for the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2010 as contained in document GOV/2009/65 and its Addenda. We would also like to thank the Deputy Director-General for Technical Cooperation, Ms. Ana María Cetto, for presenting this agenda item. We also wish to thank the Department of Technical Cooperation for preparing the meeting's documents and giving briefings on the relevant issues, which my delegation finds very useful.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement of the G-77 and China under agenda item 2 delivered by H.E. Ambassador Eugenio María Curia, Permanent Representative of Argentina.

My delegation attaches great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities as the main statutory instrument of transferring nuclear technologies for peaceful uses to developing countries. As stipulated in INFCIRC/267, "the provision of technical assistance constitutes a major, high-priority function of the Agency, and responsibility for its success devolves on all Departments of the Secretariat".

It can truly be said that the Technical Cooperation programme makes a tangible contribution to socio-economic development of its recipient Member States, including their implementation of Millennium Development Goals. What makes it unique is its combination of such tools as the provision of equipment, consultation services and capacity building of national staff. Mongolia is one of the many countries benefiting from such cooperation and assistance.

My delegation notes the need to adhere strictly to the guiding principles and general operating rules for the provision of technical assistance set out in INFCIRC/267, including its request-based nature framed in the guideline 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".

Needless to say, it is absolutely essential that the Secretariat continue to develop the TC programme in a professional, impartial and non-discriminatory manner, based on Member States' needs, in line with the Agency's Statute.

It is gratifying to note that the proposed programme for 2010 provides that its core programme's largest share be devoted to human health (25.7%). The importance of this field for developing countries can hardly be overestimated. We are also pleased to see that human health

is followed by nuclear safety and food and agriculture in terms of allocations from the core budget.

My delegation notes with concern the observation made in document GOV/2009/65 that TC programme implementation, measured in financial terms, has been falling in recent years.

Mongolia shares the view that the Country Programme Framework (CPF) should serve as the overall guidance for the programming process, without restricting Member States' requests for technical support. It should remain flexible so as to accommodate their evolving needs and priorities.

- In conclusion, as much as we advocate increasing the impact of TC projects, it is yet to be clarified whether this ultimate goal can be achieved through suggested inter-regional project INT/0/085 on "Strengthening Member States' institutional capacity for the application of Results-based Management across programme cycle". We would like to receive more detailed information from the Secretariat on how this proposed project is going to be implemented.

Hence, with these comments my delegation supports the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme for 2010 as contained in document GOV/2009/65 and its Addenda. However, we would be inclined to agree with G-77 and China that decision on inter-regional project INT/0/085 ought to be deferred until more information is provided.