



## European Union

### EU Statement on Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee 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 and Georgia.
2. The EU and its Member States welcome the early consensus reached on the Programme and Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) targets for 2022-2023. This is a concrete sign, in these particularly challenging times, of the support of all Member States for the Agency's important work across the fields of its mandate. We warmly thank all who have contributed to this result, particularly the Director General, the Secretariat and the Working Group Co-Chairs and their teams.
3. We underline our continued commitment to a sufficiently and sustainably resourced, effective and efficient IAEA, able to meet its legal obligations, statutory tasks and the increasing demands of Member States. We reiterate the priority we attach to the Agency's work in safeguards, nuclear security and nuclear safety, notably in light of the growing membership and use of nuclear technologies and applications, with an associated increase in the amount of nuclear and radioactive materials in the world. We also recognise the importance of the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and especially in the attainment of the SDG's.
4. We recall that the search for sustainable efficiencies that can be achieved without reducing effectiveness or negatively impacting services provided to Member States must remain an ongoing exercise, and good practises identified should be implemented across the Secretariat as far as possible.
5. We reaffirm our longstanding and strong support for the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. At the same time, affordability must be the prime factor in setting the TCF targets. Effective TC management and the full use of all available funding sources remain key. We reiterate that there is, and should be, no link between the Regular Budget and the TCF figures. We cannot agree to automatic increases. We

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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.

accept the proposed figures for the biennium but do not consider that they set a precedent for the coming years.

6. We reiterate our support for a Budget document consistent with a results-based approach, in line with para 16 of GOV/2021/25, to ensure that the Secretariat has the necessary flexibility to manage its resources so as to best implement the programmes. We also urge all Member States to pay their Regular Budget contributions in full and on time.
7. The issue of funding After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) and mitigating associated costs remains important. We recall the comments we made in the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) and expect further discussions on this matter.
8. We welcome the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to help increase the Agency's accountability and transparency. We encourage the Secretariat to apply a results-based approach and to closely follow the audit's recommendations to improve project governance and strengthen management tools and decision-making processes. The EU also commends the work of the Chief of Ethics and welcome the three significant enhancements applied to the conflict of interest disclosure programme in 2020.
9. With these remarks, and recalling the four statements delivered during the PBC, the EU and its Member States support the recommendations made by the PBC.

Thank you, Madam Chair.