Permanent Mission of India

Vienna

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Technical Assistance & Cooperation Committee Meeting

November 2026

Agenda Item No. 2

Technical Cooperation: the Agency's Proposed Programme for 2027

Statement: India

Delivered by Dr. Pranesh Sengupta

Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to IAEA, Vienna

Mr. Chair,

India associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to make the following additional remarks in its national capacity.

India attaches the high priority to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which is the primary vehicle for fulfilling the IAEA's statutory mandate of promoting peaceful use of atomic energy.

For the TCP to respond effectively to the growing and evolving needs of Member States, its resources must be sufficient, assured and predictable. The increasing number of national TCPs, unmet requests for assistance, rising costs and the substantial unfunded components of projects underscore the need for resources commensurate with the Programme's mandate and ambitions. **It is equally important to ensure that available resources are deployed in an effective, cost-conscious and sustainable manner, with a view to delivering need-based, demand-driven outcomes that respond to the needs and priorities of Member States.**

Mr. Chair,

Technical Cooperation is a shared responsibility of the Agency and Member States, and close consultation with national authorities is essential at every stage.

India's expertise in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and applications align closely with the developmental priorities of the TCP. As a TC donor country, **but one of the few developing countries that is not a recipient of TC funding,** India attaches high priority to addressing the needs and aspirations of the Global South. We encourage the Agency to make full use of India's expertise and institutions in support of the Programme, including its flagship initiatives. **INFCIRC/267 states that the technical assistance actually provided "shall be in conformity with the Government's request and shall be given only to or through Governments." Accordingly, we request the Secretariat to keep the Permanent Mission of India informed of all promotional activities involving India and Indian experts.**

India also believes that the effectiveness of the Programme must be measured by tangible, sustainable and transformative outcomes on the ground. We encourage a qualitative assessment of project implementation and impact. Projects should, wherever appropriate, move beyond capacity building and small-scale demonstration activities towards creation of relevant infrastructure and facilities that benefit local communities.

In this regard, transparent, digitally enabled and inclusive procurement and tendering processes can improve cost-effectiveness, quality and timely delivery. We continue to encourage the Agency to review its traditional approach of adhering to a limited number of vendors and specialists, and to look for appropriate technology and expertise wherever it is available. **In this regard, countries like India are uniquely well positioned to provide both technological solutions and domain expertise, combining cost-effectiveness with uncompromising standards of quality. We stand ready to contribute our expertise as well as technology through the Agency's TCP in support of our partners in the Global South.**

Mr. Chair,

India has developed considerable expertise in non-power applications of nuclear science and technology. These include radiation technologies for developing improved crop varieties, crop protection and post-harvest management; nuclear medicine, radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy, particularly for cancer care; safe drinking water; radiation-based waste treatment; and environmental monitoring. We stand ready to share this experience with other Member States.

We see considerable scope for strengthening cooperation with the Agency under Atoms4Food, including through improved crop varieties and practical solutions to post-harvest losses and food wastage. As an IAEA Rays of Hope Anchor Centre, India's Tata Memorial Centre continues to provide a valuable platform for cooperation in cancer care, including training, research and access to advanced technologies. Through our cooperation with the IAEA, including training under the MoU with the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, India has supported the development of scientific and technical capacities in other Member States.

Reaffirming its commitment to partnership-driven regional cooperation and the peaceful applications of atomic energy, India assumed the Chairmanship of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) in 2026. During its tenure as RCA Chair, India sought to further strengthen avenues for collaboration among Member States and advance RCA programmes across key areas, including healthcare, agriculture, isotope hydrology, radiation technologies, environmental applications and human resource development.

We remain committed to further strengthening our multifaceted partnership with the Agency.

Mr. Chair,

With these remarks, India takes note of the recommended actions contained in document GOV/2026/55.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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