

**IAEA Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee Meeting November 26-28, 2012**

**Agenda Item 2**

**Technical Cooperation: The Agency's Proposed Program for 2013**

**U.S. Statement**

**Robert Wood**

**Chargé d'affaires**

**U.S. Mission to the IAEA**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its preparation of the 2013 Technical Cooperation (TC) program. We extend our gratitude to Deputy Director General Aning, who provided strong leadership, especially in regard to implementing the current TC cycle and preparing the 2013 TC program. The proposed program reflects the needs of Member States, while simultaneously taking into account safeguards, security, and safety concerns, which are essential for enabling the fullest possible cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

I would also like to express our support for approval of the two new "footnote-a/" projects for Palau, which seek to improve the medical diagnosis of patients through improved X-ray diagnostic imaging and to improve the quality and quantity of fruits and vegetables for local consumption and for external markets, with low pesticide residues. These projects demonstrate the benefits of the TC program for all IAEA members, and highlight the Agency's unique ability to address broad Member State priorities.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States views the TC program as a critical element of the IAEA's work, and U.S. support for the program has been significant and long-standing. This year, the United States made a voluntary contribution of nearly 22 million dollars to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF); we sent approximately 500 experts to participate in IAEA technical meetings; and we pledged over four million dollars in additional funding toward training, fellowships, and cost-free experts. These contributions reflect our history of strong support for the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities, and we remain firmly committed to continuing such strong support in future years.

In addition to our support for the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities, the United States has now contributed over \$21 million to the IAEA's Peaceful Uses Initiative. All U.S. extrabudgetary contributions, including through the PUI, are made in addition to our ongoing support to the TCF, and we continue to emphasize to potential contributors that the PUI complements, but in no way replaces, the traditional mechanism of support through the TCF. Despite the global financial situation, it is important for all countries to meet their TCF obligations, which provide critical stability into the TC planning and implementation processes.

Furthermore, it is important that countries pay their National Participation Costs on time to facilitate timely project implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States is not alone in our support for the PUI and its goals, and I would like to recognize the 12 other countries that have already contributed to projects through the initiative, while also commending the many states that provide significant extra-budgetary support to the IAEA's peaceful uses programs in other areas. This support has not only provided the IAEA with additional resources to address high priority Member State needs, but has also provided the Agency with additional flexibility to respond to unanticipated needs, such as sustained drought in the Sahel region, and a project to monitor radioactivity in the marine environment from the

Fukushima accident.

Mr. Chairman,

While we appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat, the United States has strong reservations over the continuation of Syrian TC project "SYR/0/020" conducting a technical feasibility study and site selection for a nuclear power plant given Syria's failure to cooperate with the IAEA. Our concerns voiced in 2008 are now greater following the June 2011 Board resolution finding Syria in noncompliance with its obligations under its Safeguards Agreement and the Director General's assessment that the building at the Dair Alzour site was very likely a nuclear reactor and should have been declared by Syria pursuant to its safeguards agreement. As agreed in 2008 by the Board, we strongly urge the Secretariat to monitor the project closely and report to the Board as appropriate.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, I would like to commend the staff members of the TC Department and the broader Secretariat, whose dedication and professionalism continually meet the demands of administering the TC program. The United States will be pleased to join consensus in recommending the Agency's proposed program for 2013 as contained in document "GOV/2012/52" to the Board of Governors for approval.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.