



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY !

**Statement by Ambassador Barbara Žvokelj,
Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the IAEA,
at the meeting of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee,
Technical cooperation: The Agency's proposed programme for 2022-2023 (Agenda item 2),
22 November 2021**

Mr. Chairperson,

In addition to what has been said on behalf of the European Union, I would like to outline several national perspectives in this field.

Mr. Chairperson,

Firstly, I would like to flag that Slovenia highly values the IAEA's work and efforts pertaining to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). We appreciate the Agency's flexible approach to the implementation of activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Slovenia is committed to implementing and ensuring the highest possible quality of the TCP. Efficiency, effectiveness, results-based delivery and sustainability are elements of paramount importance for an excellent programme, designed to meet the needs of Member States.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Slovenian proposal for the next TC cycle is closely connected to national priorities, such as building radioactive waste disposal facility, environmental protection and water management. The projects, which were submitted for the 2022-2023 cycle match the priority areas determined in the currently valid Country Programme Framework and will be contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Over the years, Slovenia has hosted and organised a number of IAEA TC activities and is willing to do so in the future. Just recently, my country accommodated a regional workshop on reliable long-term operation of instrumentation and control systems at NPPs, which was the only one carried out in person in the last two years under the regional project Strengthening Nuclear Power Plant Lifetime Management for Long Term Operation.

There is no question that interregional and regional cooperation is of utmost importance for efficient and effective application of nuclear techniques in the countries of all four geographical regions. Therefore, I would like to underline that Slovenia will also participate in a number of regional projects that are of importance to my country.

By saying that I would like to conclude that Slovenia is willing to further provide its knowledge and expertise in the area of nuclear safety and energy, human health, rad-waste management and emergency response and preparedness to the countries in need.

With this, Mr. Chairperson, Slovenia supports the recommended actions, set out in the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2022–2023.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.