

## **IAEA Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee**

**18. November 2024**

### **Item 2 - Technical cooperation: the Agency's proposed programme for 2025**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

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Mr. Chair,

We thank the Director General for his report, and DDG Liu for his introductory remarks. In the interest of time, I will address both agenda items 2 and 3 with one statement.

On Item 2: The IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) programme is a central vehicle for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and thus plays a vital role in the implementation of Article IV of the NPT and the achievement of the SDGs. As a strong supporter of the TC programme, Switzerland consistently pays its shares in full and on time, and we urge all Member States to do the same as part of our shared responsibility.

We welcome that the overall budget for the 2025 portion of the 2024–2025 Technical Cooperation programme remains consistent with the agreed figures. This aligns with our national budget projections for the coming years. We also underscore the Secretariat's responsibility to ensure the

efficient and effective use of financial resources to meet the programme's objectives.

We highly value the IAEA's efforts in applying isotopic methods to assess aquatic systems. This work plays a vital role in assisting member states to develop effective management schemes to ensure safe drinking water and to promote the sustainable use of water resources with a forward-looking approach.

On Item 3, Mr. Chair,

We greatly value the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and thank Director Manning for his report. It is essential that TC projects are implemented efficiently, effectively, and achieve their intended outcomes. Switzerland welcomes the findings of the Regional Country-Level Evaluation and Audit (CLEA-R) of the Agency's work in Africa. We appreciate that this exercise, combining audit and evaluation methodologies, offers a comprehensive assessment of the Agency's performance in the region.

We acknowledge the cross-cutting findings, such as the overall success in scientific knowledge creation and the transfer of nuclear technologies in areas like food safety, mutation breeding, and insect pest control. We also recognize the high efficacy in strengthening laboratories focused on these

areas and the effective dissemination of knowledge through fellowships and scientific visits — Switzerland regularly hosts such fellowships.

We note, however, that further progress is needed to ensure the systematic mainstreaming of gender considerations in projects, and we also note the identified areas for improvement in project management.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we thank OIOS for its insightful conclusions and recommendations and encourage the Secretariat to implement them promptly.

Thank you.