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Keynote Address: *IAEA's Technical Co-operation Programme and its Role in Assisting Member States in the Safe Utilisation of Nuclear Power*

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According to its Statute, the IAEA's objectives are «to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world» and to «ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.» Thus, the Agency does more than just promote nuclear power and nuclear safety; it is more than a just watch-dog for nuclear activities around the world and it is concerned with more than just safeguards. The Agency is also concerned with many broad areas of nuclear applications and provides assistance in these applications to countries from Jamaica to Paraguay, from Sierra Leone to Madagascar and from Cyprus to Vietnam, with the purpose of contributing to the well-being of the population in its recipient Member States. The Agency can and does assist with the introduction and application of technologies that could have a significant impact in sectors as varied as agriculture, human health and industry. In addition to all this, the technologies that are within the realm of competence of the Agency are not only development-oriented, but also environment-friendly, which makes them even more attractive in a world that has become aware of the damages that are being caused to the environment. Nuclear power is obviously one of the best known environment-friendly technologies for today's energy needs and a solution for the future. The Agency has wide ranging programme related to the introduction and safe and reliable use of nuclear power.

A country can, however, benefit from the transfer of a new technology such as nuclear power if it corresponds to a real need and if it solves a problem.

The Agency is aware of this and therefore acts in response to the needs of its Members States. The activities and projects that it assists are expected to be national endeavours, that are supported by the government and counterpart institutions in the country. National support is considered to be essential to the success of the projects assisted by the Agency.

Project planning and preparation are important aspects to a project's success. The Agency's TC programme attempts to provide assistance to projects with well defined objectives, expected results, and previously identified target beneficiaries with a view to maximizing impact and success. In recognition of the need to have well designed projects, and where there is evidence reflecting insufficient planning, the Agency provides assistance at the project preparation stage through various established mechanisms, such as pre-project missions, country programming review missions and ad hoc advice that is provided to counterparts whenever possible. These mechanisms provide opportunities for IAEA staff and local authorities to discuss and prepare plans that are effective and can be successfully executed. The Agency is thus a participant, a partner, and a contributor to projects in which it and Member States share a vital interest.

The Agency's TC programme is a most welcome mechanism for the transfer of nuclear technology, and to developing countries it is certainly the most attractive side of the Agency, since it is through this programme that the IAEA can contribute to the solution of their problems through the provision of know-how, technology and training.