



## **IAEA Board of Governors – 3 June 2024**

### **Agenda item 4 – Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities**

#### **Technical Cooperation Report for 2023**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

---

Mr. Chair,

Switzerland thanks the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report 2023. We also thank DDG Liu for his introductory remarks. I would like to highlight the following 3 points.

First, Switzerland reiterates its strong support and commitment to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). The TCP is the main instrument for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It plays a key role in the implementation of Article IV of the NPT, and in assisting countries to achieve their national development goals and the SDGs. Through its technical cooperation activities the Agency promotes the use of nuclear science and technology to address key sustainable development priorities at the national, regional and inter-regional levels. In this context, Switzerland would like to underline the importance of the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme to be held in November this year. This Conference will be an opportunity to raise awareness at the political level about the importance of the Agency's TCP and its many activities in the field of nuclear applications.

Second, we note that 131 Member States, including 19 Least Developed Countries, have fully or partially paid their TCF target. Switzerland strongly supports the Agency’s TC activities and we therefore strive to pay our

contribution to the TCF always in full and on time. We encourage all Member States to fulfil their commitments, as demonstrated by their pledges at last year's General Conference.

Third, Swiss institutions cooperating with the Agency in the field of nuclear sciences and applications also support the Agency's TC activities through capacity building, which is a very efficient route to stimulate and intensify the North South exchange. One of our Collaborating Centres, the Spiez Laboratory, is currently starting the process to be redesignated for a third term, and we are glad for this very fruitful collaboration with the Agency. Another fruitful collaboration is the one between the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology and the Agency's Isotope Hydrology Section which aim to improve the availability and sustainability of freshwater resources through science-based, comprehensive water resource assessments. We strive towards intensifying this collaboration in the coming years.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.