



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 15-20 June 2020
Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], The Republic of North Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland^{*}, Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Liechtenstein^{*}, Norway^{*}, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. The EU continues to be committed to a sufficiently resourced IAEA, able to meet its legal obligations, statutory tasks and the demands of Member States. We attach priority to the Agency's work in safeguards, nuclear security and nuclear safety and also recognise the importance of the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the attainment of the SDG's through an effective technical cooperation.
3. At the same time, we reiterate the need for the Secretariat to continue to seek efficiencies and productivity gains, including in the HR field, which represents a significant part of IAEA's budget, and to fully achieve results-based management. We welcome the continuing efforts being made in this regard and underline that this must be an ongoing exercise in light of the budgetary constraints of many Member States, including of the European Union, coupled with rising demand for IAEA activities. These budgetary constraints will only increase in light of the current pandemic, as many states, including of the EU, will be confronted with new and at the moment not predictable financial challenges and consequences. In this regard, we appreciate the commitment of the Director General to taking these circumstances fully into account in the preparations for the 2022-2023 budget proposal.
4. We reiterate our support for a Budget document consistent with a results-based approach, in line with para 36 of GOV/2019/25, to ensure that the Secretariat has the necessary flexibility to manage its resources so as to best implement the programmes. We also urge all Member States to pay their Regular Budget contributions in full and on time.
5. With these remarks, and recalling the fuller statement prepared for the PBC, the EU and its Member States are ready to accept the 2021 draft budget and equally approves the recommendations made by the PBC on the other items on its agenda.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

^{*} Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.