

GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN OF THE IAEA 2009–2011 TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Over the past few years, the Secretariat has worked closely with Member States to increase the quality and impact of the technical cooperation (TC) programme in accordance with the results-based management approach. In particular, the formulation of Country Programme Frameworks (CPF) has led to the identification of projects, which are in line with areas of national priority for Member States. Consistency with the CPF is a key element for the Secretariat during the review of project concepts for pre-qualification (Phase I). Similarly, for regional projects the link to regional cooperation frameworks and other regional priorities is considered essential.

A. Criteria for selection of “project designs” during Phase II of the TC Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF)

1. The next TCP cycle 2009-2011 will exceptionally have a three-year duration in order to synchronize future biennial TCP cycles with those of the Agency’s Regular Programme as of 2012. Member States are requested to design a limited number of high priority, large-scale projects providing solutions to key developmental problems. This will ensure that the limited technical cooperation resources are used for a programme with high potential for achieving its outcomes and which creates impact and enjoys sustainability.
2. The emphasis on results-based programming within the Agency has led to the design of more comprehensive projects, many of which are planned with a duration of four years or more. In recent years, this has meant that a good portion of the Agency’s future funding for TC projects is already committed. Even without adding new projects, some Member States will already have a sizeable programme in the next cycle. The Secretariat aims to present, in principle, no more than six projects per country, including new ones, continuations and extensions of ‘old’ projects, for the 2009–2011 TC programme to the Board for approval. All project designs submitted will be reviewed by the Secretariat before inclusion in Member State programmes.
3. The IAEA uses the Logical Framework as a standard tool for design of TC projects. From 2008 onwards, standardized reporting (6-monthly progress reports and a final report) will enable the monitoring of project performance against outcome performance indicators. It is therefore essential that baseline data be given for these indicators, so that progress achieved through the project can be compared with the situation at the outset of the project.
4. The quality criteria that have been identified during Phase I will continue to be applied in Phase II. These relate to:
 - **Relevance** to national policies and development priorities (link with the CPF), country level alignment with the UN system or with regional priorities, and links with regional strategic framework and regional agreements.
 - **Government commitment** by Member States: Proposed projects should be linked to a national programme enjoying strong government commitment with evidence of significant support through, for example, government cost-sharing and in-kind contributions.
 - **Sustainability**, which is ensured through the organizational, technical and managerial capacity of the proposed Member State counterparts and their ability to reach beneficiaries in order to achieve outcomes and to sustain them after closure of the project.
 - **Special attention should be paid to** avoiding negative environmental impact and taking gender issues into account.

Following results-based management principles, there needs to be shared responsibility between the respective government and the IAEA for the implementation of a project. This means a clear

indication of objectives, outcomes and outputs linked with performance indicators and related monitoring and reporting mechanisms on progress in achieving results.

Project work plans and budgets should include all future years for the total planned duration of the project, each with recognized milestones aligned with outputs to be produced and outcomes to be achieved and a clear indication of who is responsible for which task. Realistic work plans and budgets are key factors for successful project management.

5. The afore-mentioned selection and quality criteria also apply to national components within regional projects, and the responsibility for their implementation lies with the respective Member States.
6. Interregional projects have to comply with the same quality criteria as national and regional projects. In addition, they need to fulfil the criteria of the Interregional Programme Policy (http://pcmf.iaea.org/docs/UsefulLinks/Proposal_INT_Policy_20070128.pdf).
7. Member States should be aware that if project concepts are to be developed for the footnote-a/ category, there should be strong prospects of funding, for example, a likely donor already identified.
8. It is important to take into consideration the assistance being provided by other international organizations and bilateral donors, as well as other programming processes, such as the UN Common Country Assessment/UN Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) and the World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP). Partnerships should be established with other UN Agencies having country programmes in complementary areas (e.g. food, health, and energy) whenever necessary for effectiveness and sustainability purposes.

B. Other issues that should be considered

1. IAEA delivery will focus on the provision of inputs related to nuclear technology. It is expected that non-nuclear inputs, which may be required for the integrity of the project, will be delivered by the Government and/or through partnerships.
2. Member States are encouraged to consider commitments made by their Governments in relation to the regional and international development frameworks, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
3. Ongoing projects for which extensions are sought need to be critically examined to identify the reasons why they have not been able to meet their objectives to date and whether the extension is justified.

C. Available Information

1. In analysing ongoing projects, Member States can consult the TC-PRIDE website <http://tcpride.iaea.org/Default.asp> as a reference. This site provides updated financial and other information on all ongoing and completed TC projects. Access is restricted to registered users in Member States and may be requested from the Secretariat.
2. Counterparts in Member States are requested to use the PCMF website of the IAEA TC programme under <http://pcmf.iaea.org> to design their projects. The website contains explanatory documents under the 'Help' tab to assist users and provide guidance during the process. The project concepts that have been submitted by Member States and commented on by the Secretariat are available on-line under 'My Concepts' (Phase I) for reference and use during this phase.

D. Obligations of Member States

1. Member States should be aware that when proposed projects involve the supply of radiation sources or radioactive materials, the Secretariat will take into account the adequacy of health and safety standards, as well as the country's status regarding its radiation safety infrastructure and the implementation of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (Safety Series No. 115, IAEA, Vienna 1996). In the Africa region, projects aiming at the achievement of milestones 1 and 2 will be preferably dealt with in a national project context.
2. Member States are reminded that the cooperation with the Agency is based on the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) concluded between the parties. Those Member States that have not yet signed the RSA are encouraged to do so.
3. In accordance with the terms of the RSA, Member States are reminded that they are responsible for obtaining the release from customs of goods and equipment supplied under the TC programme. This includes the payment of taxes, where applicable; the transportation of equipment from the port of entry to the project site; any incidental handling, storage, or other related expenses; its insurance; and its installation and maintenance.
4. Member States must pay national participation costs (NPCs) equivalent to 5% of the estimated core funding of the approved new projects, of which at least 2.5% have to be paid before commencement of the programme.
5. Therefore, the project start date should be realistic, and not automatically set to 1 January 2009.