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Chairman: Mr. UMAR (Nigeria)

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**/ GC(XXVIII)/730.

THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME FOR 1985-86 AND BUDGET FOR 1985 (GC(XXVIII)/715 and Mod.1, GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/32 and Add.1, GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/33) (continued)

1. Ms. PARKIN (United Kingdom) said that, as near-zero real growth had been provided for in the budget, her delegation supported the revised total of US \$95 025 000. It also supported the recommended 1985 target of \$26 million for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.
2. She did not believe that, as had been stated by some speakers, a zero-real-growth budget would have a detrimental effect on technical assistance; the management element of the technical assistance and co-operation programme, which was funded from the Regular Budget, would not suffer - in fact, there was provision for 5% real growth. Most resources for technical assistance fell outside the Regular Budget, and they were increasing despite zero real growth in the Regular Budget.
3. Her delegation would have no difficulty in supporting the draft resolutions concerning the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/32) and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the Agency's technical co-operation (GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/33). However, as the JIU report had not been formally submitted to the Board, she proposed that the preambular paragraph of the draft resolution concerning that report be amended to read:

"Having noted that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (document JIU/REP/84/9), to which the Director General referred in his statement to the General Conference, has been distributed by him to all Member States".
4. Mr. BUCKLEY (Canada) supported the programme for 1985-86 and budget for 1985, which were balanced, coherent and responsive. He commended the Secretariat and the Director of the Division of Budget and Finance on the improved format and noted with approval that the real growth provided for in the 1985 budget was virtually zero.
5. Although a distinction between safeguards and technical co-operation might be useful for analytical purposes, the two were closely interwoven. For example, his country made substantial contributions in support of the Agency's

technical co-operation activities, but it also benefited through the increased experience thereby acquired; similarly, as a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it submitted all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards, but at the same time it benefited from the enhanced security created by NPT. The world needed both the safeguards system and the technical co-operation activities of the Agency.

6. He supported the programme for 1985-86 and the budget for 1985 and also the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom representative to the draft resolution on the JIU report.

7. Mr. BAŞSOY (Turkey) supported the programme for 1985-86 and the budget for 1985 but expressed some concern regarding priorities.

8. In his view, the Department of Technical Co-operation had too small a staff and he doubted whether it could function effectively under a zero-real-growth budget. In view of the importance of Agency technical assistance to the many developing countries that had started preparations for the introduction of nuclear power, the Department should be strengthened.

9. Mr. BASTRUP-BIRK (Denmark) expressed approval of the programme for 1985-86 and budget for 1985 and of the recommended \$26 million target for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund. He was happy to note that zero real growth was provided for in the budget and that priority had been given to safeguards, technical co-operation and nuclear safety. However, he had some reservations about the preliminary estimates for 1986 and asked the Secretariat to ensure zero real growth in that year by continuing to seek economies. He suggested that a presentation be made to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and to the Board on the results of efforts to achieve flexibility and step up activities in such fields as safeguards. In his delegation's view the Agency's budgets should be drawn up for periods of two or three years and the basis for their preparation should - as far as possible - be made clear.

10. He supported the two draft resolutions submitted to the Committee.

11. Mr. LOZADA (Philippines), recalling that in the Committee of the Whole in 1983 the representative of India had stressed the importance of a continuous dialogue between the Secretariat and Member States during the

preparation of the budget^{1/}, noted with appreciation that there had been a continuous dialogue during preparation of the draft budget for 1985 and expressed the hope that the practice would continue. Also, he welcomed the new format of the Agency's budget document, which gave a better composite picture of the Agency's activities.

12. He pointed out that the zero-real-growth approach to the budget had originally been intended for implementation during difficult economic periods and that continuous adherence to zero real growth in a period of strong recovery in the industrialized countries might adversely affect important programmes of the Agency. Also, a reduction in the back-stopping of technical assistance activities by Professional staff in the Department of Research and Isotopes and the Department of Nuclear Energy and Safety would adversely affect the Agency's technical co-operation programme. His Government strongly supported the activities of the technical Departments of the Agency.

13. The Philippines would soon have a nuclear power plant in operation and had been greatly helped by a visit of an operational safety review team (OSART) from the Agency to review the safety standards of the new power plant; a second OSART mission would be requested before the plant came into full operation.

14. His Government supported both the recommended target of \$26 million for the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1985 and the recommended Regular Budget for 1985.

15. Mr. BESROUR (Tunisia) said his country attached great importance to the Agency's activities relating both to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to the prevention of the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. Like all countries in the Group of 77, it considered that the Agency's programmes rendered a service to all mankind.

16. The Agency should always try to meet the needs of developing Member States; in that context he regretted the reduction of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contribution, a trend that he hoped would be reversed in coming budget periods. He suggested an increase in the funds made available to the Department of Technical Co-operation so that it could perform its task to the full.

^{1/} GC(XXVII)/COM.5/OR.31, para. 63.

17. In his delegation's view, zero real budgetary growth should not be allowed to affect all Agency programmes to the same extent. He was glad that a dialogue between the Secretariat and the Group of 77 had been established in preparing the programme and budget and hoped that the practice of consultation would continue in the future. He expressed broad satisfaction with the assistance provided by the Agency in nuclear power planning and the training of scientific personnel and with the Agency's activities relating to small and medium power reactors (SMPRs).

18. A number of developing Member States intended to embark on nuclear power programmes, and they would have great need for Agency assistance. Accordingly, zero real budgetary growth in future years might retard the achievement of energy goals in such countries.

19. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) noted with gratification that the budget for 1985 provided for zero real growth. However, technical assistance and other promotional activities should not be curtailed for the sake of zero-real-growth budgeting.

20. In his view, the Agency should devote particular attention to urgent issues such as those connected with the challenge to nuclear power from coal-fired power stations in the current relatively unfavourable regulatory and financial climate and with achieving an international consensus on spent fuel management.

21. He would return to the topic of the technical assistance programme during the discussion of agenda item 18.

22. Mr. ALLAB (Algeria) congratulated the Secretariat on the new format of the budget document and hoped that the dialogue with delegations in preparing the budget would continue.

23. He supported the remarks of other speakers from the Group of 77 and pointed out that, although zero real growth might be admissible for some programmes, it should not be applied to technical co-operation; the budgetary and human resources of the Department of Technical Co-operation should be strengthened. Advanced scientific research was important for mankind and some provision should be made for it in the budget, but his delegation felt that the resources

being allotted to it were out of proportion with, for example, those allotted for the SMPR study. With those reservations, he was able to support the budget.

24. Mr. SIEVERING (Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Administration) thanked representatives for the appreciation they had expressed regarding the new format of the budget and the consultations that had been pursued with delegations during the preparation of the Agency's programme and budget. The Secretariat had profited from those consultations, and he assured delegations that the same procedure would be followed and, he hoped, improved upon in 1986.

25. In reply to a question raised by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the absence in the manning table of established posts for the Arabic Translation Section, he explained that two staff members had been charged against established posts in another Section in order to ascertain whether the latter could operate efficiently without them. As that had proved to be the case, the two posts in question, one Professional and one General Service post, would be transferred to the Arabic Translation Section as from 1 January 1985.

26. He assured the delegate of India, who had asked whether the Agency's practice of employing cost-free experts was unique^{2/}, that, although procedures were not uniform, the practice existed in other parts of the United Nations system.

27. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolution A in document GC(XXVIII)/715/Mod.1 and draft resolutions B and C in Annex III to part I of document GC(XXVIII)/715.

28. It was so agreed.

29. Mr. DARTOIS (Belgium) said that if there had been a vote on the budget his delegation would have asked for a separate vote on Programme Area 4, Safeguards, and would have abstained in order to indicate on one hand his delegation's disapproval of that part of the budget and on the other its confidence in the officers of the Department of Safeguards, particularly its head.

^{2/} GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/OR.35, para. 39.

Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (Vienna Convention)

30. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution on the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage contained in document GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/32.

31. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, which had been co-sponsored by Argentina, Egypt and Yugoslavia, recalled that the Standing Committee on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, during its fifth series of meetings, held in Vienna in May 1984, had taken note of the provision of advisory services by the Agency to developing countries in framing nuclear legislation based on the Vienna Convention and had stated that such services provided an incentive for broader acceptance of the Convention. Also, it had been suggested that States party to the Vienna Convention might wish to consider proposing a resolution to the General Conference to call the attention of Member States to the worldwide framework offered by the Convention for dealing with nuclear liability issues. In that context he pointed out that the other two conventions on the subject - the Paris Convention and the Brussels Supplementary Convention - were European in scope, whereas the Vienna Convention was of worldwide application.

32. Mr. LOZADA (Philippines) asked for the Philippines to be included among the co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

33. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the draft resolution be considered on the following day in order to give delegations more time to study the text.

34. Mr. LAMPARELLI (Italy) supported the Chairman's proposal and said that he would contact the co-sponsors to suggest modifications to the draft resolution.

35. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt) thanked the Chairman for his proposal and requested the Secretariat to make available to delegations the Standing Committee's report (document N5-TC-462.5), Agency Press Release 84/18 and a copy of his introductory statement.

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

36. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to turn to the draft resolution in document GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/33, which related to a report by the Joint Inspection Unit on the Agency's technical co-operation activities. He asked whether Egypt was prepared to accept the amendment proposed earlier on by the representative of the United Kingdom^{3/}.

37. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt) thanked all those delegations which had supported the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/33 and the representative of the United Kingdom for her proposal for amending the pre-ambular paragraph. He himself would like to amend the two operative paragraphs to read:

"1. Refers the report to the Board of Governors for consideration, and

"2. Requests the Board of Governors to report to the General Conference at its twenty-ninth regular session on the matter."

38. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution with the amendments proposed by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Egypt.

39. It was so agreed.

THE FINANCING OF SAFEGUARDS (GC(XXVIII)/725)

40. The CHAIRMAN said that a draft resolution in respect of arrangements for the assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budgets for the years 1985 and 1986 was contained in document GC(XXVIII)/725.

41. As there were no speakers, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVIII)/725.

42. It was so agreed.

ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REGULAR BUDGET (GC(XXVIII)/726)

43. The CHAIRMAN said that a report by the Board of Governors and a draft resolution for adoption by the General Conference were contained in document GC(XXVIII)/726.

^{3/} See para. 3 above.

44. As there were no speakers, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVIII)/726.

45. It was so agreed.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1985 (GC(XXVIII)/727)

46. The CHAIRMAN noted that the scale of assessment given in document GC(XXVIII)/727 was based on the assumption that the General Conference would approve the arrangements for the assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget.

47. As there were no speakers, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend adoption by the General Conference of the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXVIII)/727.

48. It was so agreed.

THE FINANCING OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (GC(XXVIII)/717, 717/Add.1 and 717/Corr.1)

49. The CHAIRMAN noted that document GC(XXVIII)/717 (with a corrigendum to the English version numbered GC(XXVIII)/717/Corr.1) contained a report by the Board of Governors pursuant to resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/418 and the summary records of the Board's discussions on the subject in February. The Board's discussions in June were contained in an addendum to that document (GC(XXVIII)/717/Add.1).

50. Mr. HERNANDEZ MATA (Mexico) expressed his satisfaction at the way in which the system of indicative planning figures for technical assistance had operated, producing the best results for recipient States. However, the problem of uncertainty remained since voluntary contributions were dependant on the economic and political situation in donor countries. Technical assistance should be given the highest priority, as it was the basic means of spreading the benefits of nuclear energy and reducing the technological disparities which caused conflicts between developing and developed countries.

51. In 1985, when the Board of Governors was discussing the indicative planning figures for 1987-89 it should take into account the fact that cash resources were remaining static, that UNDP funds and the funds available for

promotional activities from the Regular Budget had both decreased and that the number of technical assistance projects had increased.

52. Mexico and Egypt had decided to co-sponsor a draft resolution similar to the one which had been adopted at the twenty-seventh regular session of the General Conference to the effect that the Board of Governors should continue to report annually to the General Conference on the actions taken to implement General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. The text of the draft resolution would be distributed in due course.^{4/}

53. Mr. HAWAS (Egypt) stressed the importance of Agency technical co-operation and said that the technical assistance and co-operation programme reflected the extent to which the Agency was fulfilling its objectives as laid down in Article II of the Statute.

54. All countries which were in a position to do so should provide additional funds for the technical assistance and co-operation programme. Increasing the funds for that programme added to the Agency's credibility and to its ability to carry out one of its major functions.

55. He recalled that in resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, which provided a good basis for the financing of technical assistance, the General Conference had requested the Board of Governors to take the necessary steps to ensure that technical assistance was funded from the Agency's Regular Budget or through other comparably predictable and assured resources. In that resolution the Conference had also requested the Board to take appropriate steps to ensure that technical assistance funds were increased "in order to respond adequately to meet increasing financial requirements for the maximum possible number of technically sound projects". Any method of financing technical assistance which was adopted should ensure that the resources were predictable, assured and sufficient.

56. Mr. CHAUDRI (Pakistan) stressed the importance which his country attached to the technical assistance programme of the Agency and noted with satisfaction the recent increase in the resources being made available to it. The Agency should ensure that there was a balance between its promotional and regulatory activities.

^{4/} The draft resolution was distributed in document GC(XXVIII)/COM.5/34.

57. The increased demand for assistance from the Agency, which arose from the growing interest in the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, should be met with prompt and adequate financial support. It was a matter of concern that many technically sound projects could not be supported because of a lack of funds. Whereas the Agency's safeguards budget had increased by a factor of more than 27 since 1970, the funds for technical assistance had increased by only a factor of nine during the same period.

58. The technical assistance programme should be financed through the Agency's Regular Budget in order to ensure a balance between the Agency's promotional and regulatory activities. There was an urgent need for full implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388.

59. Mr. MORALES PEDRAZA (Cuba) said that the present system for financing technical assistance, which could be regarded as a compromise solution acceptable to both donor and recipient countries, should be maintained for the time being. However, the system could be regarded as adequate only as long as it satisfied the increasing needs of the developing countries; the indicative planning figures would therefore have to be increased annually and the contributing countries would have to fulfil their commitments. He was concerned that some countries only partially fulfilled their technical assistance commitments and that some did not even make such commitments.

60. His country would pay its full contribution for 1985 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

61. The financing of footnote-a/ projects should not be subject to any extraneous criteria imposed by any Member State; it should depend solely on technical merit.

62. Mr. ASMAN (United Republic of Tanzania) stressed the importance attached by his country to technical assistance and regretted the fact that technical assistance financing was based on voluntary contributions. Although there had been very few developing Member States in the Agency during its early years, the problem of financing technical assistance had already been recognized in 1962, when the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(VI)/RES/123.

In that resolution, which was very similar to resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, reference had been made to a proposal that all Agency activities should be financed from a single assessed budget. The similarity between the two resolutions demonstrated the inadequacy of all the proposals made in the interim period. The 1962 resolution should be seriously re-examined by the General Conference.

63. The lack of a satisfactory solution to the problem would continue to frustrate the realization of the Agency's aims of promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

64. Mr. NANIOV (Bulgaria) reaffirmed his delegation's view that technical assistance should be financed on a voluntary basis. The rapid increase in the resources of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund during recent years demonstrated that the present financing system corresponded to the interests of Member States.

65. His country would contribute its full share to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in 1985. Many Member States of the Agency did not assume voluntary commitments or did not honour the voluntary commitments assumed, and he appealed to them to support the universal nature of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund by contributing to it.

66. He did not believe that it was necessary to charge assessed programme costs of 8% for technical assistance.

67. Mr. DARTOIS (Belgium) recalled that, during the session of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee in December 1983, his delegation had stated that the growth in the resources assigned to technical assistance and the increase in the number of countries which would benefit illustrated the importance attached by Member States to technical co-operation.

68. He regretted that, as a result of budgetary difficulties, his country had been unable to make its full voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund in recent years and would be unable to do so in 1985; he would inform the Director General as soon as possible of the amount of its voluntary contribution for 1985. Belgium's priorities with regard to development aid were different from the priorities of many other countries, but development aid from Belgium had exceeded 0.6% of its gross

national product in 1983 and Belgian institutes would continue to receive as many trainees proposed by the Agency as possible.

69. Mr. AL-HANI (Iraq) pointed out that developing countries desired a permanent, predictable basis for the financing of technical assistance and co-operation. He fully supported the recommendation made by the Board of Governors with regard to the indicative planning figures for 1985 and 1986. He shared the hope expressed by the representative of Egypt during the June session of the Board that the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, in May 1985, would reach a consensus on the indicative planning figures for 1987, 1988 and 1989.

70. Technical assistance and safeguards, which were among the most important activities of the Agency, were both aimed at spreading the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He therefore appealed to those developed countries which provided so much support for safeguards to increase their contributions towards the financing of technical assistance.

71. Mr. LOZADA (Philippines) noted the improvements made in the technical co-operation programme during the past years. However, the 1984 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the Agency's technical co-operation activities contained some important suggestions for further improvements. He particularly supported the recommendation to extend the three-year cycle of indicative planning figures for voluntary contributions and the recommendation to replace the "multi-year project" concept by multi-year programming; with regard to the former recommendation, the Board of Governors might wish to consider replacing the three-year cycle by a five-year cycle.

72. Mr. YU (China) said that the technical assistance and co-operation programme was one of the Agency's two main areas of activity. The financing of that programme, therefore, ought to be the common concern of all Member States, developing and developed countries alike. His country approved of the spirit of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, which adequately reflected the wishes of the developing countries, and hoped that the Agency would take effective measures to implement it so as to ensure the financing of technical assistance and co-operation on an adequate, predictable and assured basis.

73. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said that his delegation, like those of all the Agency's Member States, was concerned that resources for technical assistance should be provided on a predictable basis with a certain regularity. The system of indicative planning figures provided such a basis. As the Review of the Agency's Activities (GC(XXVIII)/718) showed, most of the Agency's programmes, and its technical assistance and co-operation programme in particular, were heavily oriented towards the needs of the developing countries. Moreover, document GC(XXVIII)/715 indicated that the funds available for technical assistance at the present moment exceeded the demand on them.

74. His country attached great importance to the operational activities of the United Nations system in general, as evidenced by the fact that it was the third largest contributor to such activities - after the United States of America and Sweden. Accordingly, it considered the payment of its share to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund to be an obligation and not simply a voluntary act. His Government had already pledged its full share for 1985 and urged other Member States to do the same.

75. Mr. SCHELLER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, in view of the importance attached by his country to the Agency's technical assistance programme, it consistently pledged its full share to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund and made additional voluntary contributions for footnote-a/ projects, the provision of expert services, fellowships and training courses and the financing of co-ordinated research programmes of benefit to developing countries. The fact that there had been a steady increase in the funds assigned to technical assistance between 1978 and 1986 showed that the system of voluntary contributions based on indicative planning figures actually allowed for better predictability than was possible under the Regular Budget.

76. Mr. LAMPARELLI (Italy) said that his country was fully aware of the importance of technical co-operation, as shown by the fact that it would be contributing extrabudgetary resources amounting to over \$18 million for technical co-operation activities during the period up to 1986. It considered the present system to be satisfactory, since it allowed for greater increases in funding than was possible under the Regular Budget. It was therefore in

favour of requesting the Administrative and Budgetary Committee to agree on indicative planning figures for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989.

77. Mr. KENYERES (Hungary) said that the financing system based on indicative planning figures should be maintained, since it met the requirements of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. His Government increased its voluntary contribution every year, made fellowships available to the Agency free of charge and organized a variety of scientific and technical activities in Hungary. Since the system of indicative planning figures had been established there had been a considerable increase in the funds available for technical assistance, a fact which demonstrated convincingly that the voluntary funding of such activities should be maintained.

78. Mr. MITRI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the success of the Agency's technical assistance activities was due primarily to the absence of prior conditions and the voluntary nature of the system. His Government felt that the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme should be supported by the industrialized countries.

79. Mr. COUSINS (Australia) noted from document GC(XXVIII)/717 and the Addendum thereto that there were still differing views on the best method of financing the Agency's technical assistance programme. Like a number of others, his delegation was not in favour of the funding of all technical assistance from the Regular Budget. Australia maintained that position throughout the United Nations system because its contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund came out of the country's aid programme, unlike its contributions to the Regular Budget.

80. Analysis of the financial consequences if technical assistance were funded from the Regular Budget showed that, if the annual increase in the latter since 1981 were taken as a basis, the funds available for technical assistance in 1985 would be approximately \$9.5 million short of the recommended target of \$26 million. Moreover, even if the rate of increase in safeguards funding

since 1981 was applied to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, the final figure would still be approximately \$5.5 million short of the recommended 1985 target. The indicative planning figure system had facilitated the operation of the Agency's technical assistance programme and considerably enhanced the predictability of funding. It could be further improved if all Member States pledged and paid their shares to the Fund in full and in good time. In that connection, he noted that in recent years there had been a substantial increase in late payments to the Fund. At the end of 1983, 40% of the Agency's Member States, many of them developing countries, had made no pledge for that year or had not paid their pledged contributions.

81. Australia would be pledging its full share to the 1985 Fund. Also, it would be providing the Agency with extrabudgetary resources for a number of projects under the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, it was giving consideration to funding footnote-a/ projects in neighbouring countries which shared the region-wide commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

82. In view of the obvious effectiveness of the indicative planning figure system and the continuing high level of extrabudgetary funding for technical assistance despite the difficult world economic situation, his delegation felt that the present arrangements for the funding of technical assistance should be maintained.

83. Ms. GALLINI (United States of America) said that the most recent figures available - those for the year 1983 - indicated a 25% increase in the funds available for technical assistance that year over the previous year. It was clear, therefore, that the present system of indicative planning figures allowed significant increases in funding which by far outstripped any which might have been possible under the Regular Budget. Funds available under the present system, therefore, were at least as assured and predictable as Regular Budget allocations. Instead of continuing to discuss the pros and cons of

financing from the Regular Budget, the Agency's policy-making organs should consider as soon as possible the indicative planning figures for the years after 1986. The meetings of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee in 1985 might be a suitable occasion for doing that.

84. Finally, her delegation would be pleased to assist in formulating any draft resolution to be submitted to the General Conference under the present agenda item.

85. Ms. AJAKAIYE (Nigeria) supported the views expressed by the representatives of Pakistan, Egypt and Mexico. Her delegation continued to be concerned about the lack of political will to implement operative paragraphs (1) and (2) of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 and was opposed to the funding of technical assistance from voluntary contributions. Technical assistance was one of the Agency's major areas of activity and was of benefit to developed and developing countries alike. It therefore deserved more than mere charity. The technical assistance and co-operation programme would become meaningful only when it was financed from assured and predictable resources.

86. Ms. PARKIN (United Kingdom) said that, as other speakers had noted, the present system of financing technical assistance had allowed greater real growth than would have been possible under the Regular Budget. The latter had to be re-examined and approved each year and was therefore a less assured and effective source of funding. Her delegation was, therefore, willing to continue to support the system of voluntary contributions based on indicative planning figures and to consider figures under that system for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989.

87. While it was true that the present system did not provide an absolute guarantee of funding, it could do so if all Member States paid their shares of the target for voluntary contributions to the Fund. In fairness both to recipients of technical assistance and to present donor countries, all Member States should pledge their full shares of the recommended 1985 target of \$26 million. It was noteworthy, in that connection, that only \$9.2 million had so far been pledged (by 26 States) towards that target.

88. Mr. USTYUGOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation believed that voluntary contributions towards technical assistance provided sufficiently assured and predictable resources and fully met the requirements of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. Moreover, the indicative planning figure system facilitated long-term planning, since the figures were set for up to three years in advance. The Regular Budget had to be approved each year and did not, therefore, make for such a high degree of predictability. His country favoured the three-year planning period. The Soviet delegation had already pledged the full amount of the Soviet Union's contribution for 1985.

89. Mr. KOREF (Panama) was in favour of the present system of funding technical assistance and considered that the General Conference should, at its current session, request the Board of Governors to establish indicative planning figures for 1987, 1988 and 1989 and the Board should also consider extending the indicative planning figures as far as 1992 in order to facilitate multi-year programming, a system which had so far yielded good results.

90. Mr. BUCKLEY (Canada) supported the views expressed by the representatives of the Netherlands and Australia. His country was a firm partisan of the indicative planning figure approach, which had proved its worth by generating more resources than would have been possible under the Regular Budget. Furthermore, there was every prospect that it would continue to be successful.

91. While many commentators on the present subject implied that the Regular Budget would provide a more reliable source of funds, the Committee had only just recommended arrangements whereby 75 Member States were to pay for 2% of the safeguards budget while 36 Member States would pay for 98% of that budget, which illustrated that the stability of funding was dependent not on the system applied but on the political will of the Member States in a position to contribute funds.

92. Mr. MATSUMURA (Japan) stressed the importance attached by his country to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. Accordingly, it had been contributing its full share to the Fund under the indicative planning figure system, which provided a predictable basis for resources over a period

of several years and was, in that regard, superior to the Regular Budget. However, the assurance of resources under that system could be further enhanced if those countries which had not yet contributed to the Fund would do so.

93. Under the present system, the annual rate of increase in the Fund's resources over the past three years had consistently exceeded 20%. That growth could not have been achieved under the Regular Budget, which was subject to the constraint of zero or near-zero real growth.

94. Contributions to the technical assistance programme should continue to be voluntary and the indicative planning figure system should therefore be maintained. The level of funding should nonetheless continue to rise, and to that end Japan was prepared to continue contributing its share to the growing Fund despite the constraints on the Agency's Regular Budget.

95. Mr. DI BASE (Uruguay) said that his country would pay a voluntary contribution for 1985 and would soon be announcing the amount of that contribution.

96. Mr. MELIBARY (Saudi Arabia) reiterated his country's position - namely, that the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme should be financed from the Regular Budget, which provided a more assured basis than the present system and allowed for programming independent of voluntary contributions. Pending the introduction of financing on that basis, his delegation supported the proposal by the representative of the Philippines that indicative planning figures be set for up to five - rather than three - years in advance.

97. Mr. PERRIER de LA BATHIE (France) said that his country was fully aware of the importance of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme for the developing countries. It maintained its view, however, that the present system afforded the most reliable basis for the provision of resources, particularly at a time when the financing of activities throughout the United Nations system was subject to zero-real-growth constraints. Despite the economic difficulties facing his Government, it was nonetheless prepared to pay its contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

98. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee revert to the present item during its next meeting, by which time Members would have been able to study the draft resolution co-sponsored by the delegations of Egypt and Mexico.

99. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.