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President: Mr. SIAMWIZA (Zambia)

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983 (GC(XXVIII)/713 and Add.1 and 2)
(continued)

1. Mr. BADDOU (Morocco) said that although the documents submitted to the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference reported many successes, they also contained matters for common concern. On the technical level, the Agency had fully attained its annual goals with regard to the design, management and operation of nuclear power plants, radioactive waste management, nuclear safety and radiation protection and also the basic applications of nuclear energy in agriculture, food, health and industry. Note should be taken of the preponderant share of resources allocated to technical co-operation, in particular the support given to the developing countries in drafting regulations, training personnel, designing, structuring and launching programmes and facilities and also introducing nuclear techniques in areas of fundamental importance such as agriculture, medicine and hydrology. Where Morocco was concerned, he welcomed the continuation and strengthening of the co-operation which had existed between his country and the Agency for almost ten years.
2. Morocco's main concern at present related to its energy situation. It was spending ever increasing funds on importing oil to cover its energy requirements. For over four years it had been implementing a national energy plan aimed at exploiting the country's resources while giving due emphasis, in view of their future role, to new and renewable energy sources. Stress was also laid on controlling consumption by optimizing energy choices in the evaluation and classification of development projects as a whole.
3. However, it could not be denied that Morocco was confronted with energy requirements which were increasing at a faster rate than its progress in utilizing its conventional energy resources or the financial resources it was able to devote each year to importing energy. That situation had been aggravated by the drought of recent years, which had brought out the unstable nature of hydroelectric resources and the close relationship between the availability of water and energy. It was therefore necessary to turn as soon as possible to a reliable, technically sophisticated and economically viable and competitive source of energy, namely nuclear power. In the short term, therefore, a resumption of nuclear power development could be expected.

4. The Agency's role in those various areas would be reflected in the increased range and complexity of the tasks to be performed and obstacles to be surmounted. In that regard, it was felt that the Agency's long-term planning activities relating to energy in the strict sense should be intensified. A specific programme aimed at identifying the energy requirements of each Member State should be established with a view to drawing up a report giving guidelines for, and a preliminary evaluation of, an energy development plan, which would assist those Governments wishing to determine the best options. With respect to technological development, particular attention should also be given to the technology of small and medium power reactors.

5. The Agency should take a marked interest in the very serious problems of water availability such as drought and desertification and should encourage the development of nuclear techniques designed to improve the fresh-water resources exploitable by man.

6. Co-operation between his country and the Agency was continuing to expand in both quantity and range and covered all the basic activities necessary for the implementation of the national nuclear programme, whose aim was to construct five units of 600 MW(e) each to be commissioned by stages between 1997 and 2005. The year which had elapsed since the twenty-seventh session of the General Conference had brought substantial progress in the formulation of national nuclear regulations, the performance of feasibility and siting studies for the first power plant and the establishment of appropriate scientific and technical bodies.

7. It should be added that Morocco, a party to all the basic treaties and agreements relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, had begun the process of ratifying the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and had also embarked on evaluation studies with a view to accession to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

8. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency was acquiring new Members each year and that the countries already belonging to the Agency were acceding in increasing numbers to the various treaties and agreements regulating its activities. Those new accessions demonstrated that the Agency was perceived not only as a body useful because of the services which it rendered, but also and above all as a necessary focal point for joint endeavours in the service of mankind.

9. The progress made also augured well for a better future with regard to the general and unqualified observance of the regulations governing the Agency's work and its relations with its Members and of the decisions taken by its General Conference.

10. Morocco was particularly interested in the establishment of radiation protection advisory teams and supported the initiative taken in that regard. The Agency's Division of Nuclear Safety had concentrated all its efforts on the management of the nuclear fuel cycle and attached less importance to the utilization and marketing of radioactive sources used in industry, medicine and agriculture, although the environmental effects of such sources had caused more incidents than had nuclear power plants.

11. His delegation had substantial misgivings regarding the real reasons preventing South Africa from placing all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and strongly denounced its arrogant attitude to the decisions of the General Conference to which it refused to respond.

12. The protection of civil nuclear facilities against armed attack was a primary objective to be attained with a view to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. His delegation hoped that unanimous and whole-hearted agreement could be reached on ways and means of attaining that objective, thereby filling a serious gap in the coverage of safeguards relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that respect, the serious consequences of the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi research reactor should serve as an example to all who might still be uncertain about the need to prohibit such attacks or even to prevent them or obtain reparation for them.

13. His delegation considered that the facilities affected by that measure should be identified according to precise criteria and should meet well-defined requirements leaving no doubt as to the peaceful nature of the objectives for which they had been built or the nature of the activities undertaken in them. Furthermore, those facilities should be subjected to appropriate controls by the competent organs of the Agency, controls which could include the compulsory notification of research programmes undertaken.

14. In conclusion, he expressed his satisfaction at the untiring efforts deployed by the Agency with a view to promoting the use of the atom for the good of mankind.

15. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) said that the nuclear age confronted States with world-wide challenges which should be taken up by the international community within a universal framework. Since the Agency was an essential part of that framework, the presence of the Chinese delegation, participating for the first time in a session of the General Conference, was to be welcomed. China's membership was an important step towards the goal of universality and would strengthen the Agency's capacity to serve the international community as a whole.

16. As the Director General had pointed out, one of the Agency's most important functions was to promote the development and peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the exchange of knowledge, experience and technology among the Member States.

17. His delegation had noted with interest that 25 nuclear power plants had been put into service in 1983, bringing the total number of operational plants to 313, which represented a world electricity generating capacity of approximately 12% of the electricity produced in 1983. However, several power plants already under construction had been cancelled and other projects postponed, which indicated that world nuclear capacity was now increasing at a slower rate.

18. One of the many reasons for that situation was the relatively moderate growth in electricity demand due to a more rational public attitude towards energy consumption and to the international economic situation. Public attitudes towards nuclear energy also had decisive repercussions on national projects and their implementation rate. It was important to realize that "public acceptance" was closely related to the amount and quality of the information provided. More and better information was needed to facilitate public discussion at an educated level and create the conditions conducive to sound decision-taking.

19. With regard to waste management, it had been stated that there were no technical barriers to adequate and safe management of nuclear waste. The issue, however, continued to evoke heated argument among the public. It was therefore essential to show that the problem could not only be solved, but had actually been solved. In that regard, his delegation had noted with satisfaction that a code of practice on the management of radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants had recently been completed.

20. In the next few years there was another problem which would be acquiring ever greater importance: the older nuclear power plants were approaching the end of their economic or technical lifetime and would have to be shut down. It was therefore important to endeavour to resolve the problems of decontamination and decommissioning. Austria supported the activities undertaken in those areas by the Secretariat.

21. Regarding nuclear safety, Austria had noted with satisfaction that in 1983 no major accident jeopardizing human health or the environment had occurred in any nuclear power plant. The operational safety review teams set up the previous year had performed well and made valuable contributions to reactor safety. Since Austria had always encouraged efforts to improve nuclear safety, his delegation supported the Director General's proposal to set up an international nuclear safety advisory group to examine and analyse information on safety, provide a forum for the exchange of information and formulate projects accordingly.

22. In view of Austria's interest in the transfrontier aspects of nuclear power plants, it was with great satisfaction that he was able to state, as the delegate of Czechoslovakia had already done, that negotiations on that subject between the Republic of Austria and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic had been concluded successfully and that an agreement on "questions of mutual interest in connection with nuclear facilities" had entered into force in June. That agreement was an example of fruitful co-operation between neighbouring countries in the nuclear sphere. Austria was already, or would in due course be, holding talks on that subject with all its neighbours.

23. The main function of the Agency's safeguards system was to create confidence among the States in such a way as to guarantee that all the nuclear facilities placed under that system served exclusively peaceful purposes. That was an essential means of dispelling misgivings whose consequences might hamper the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. His delegation noted with satisfaction that safeguards negotiations had been opened or were being continued between the Member States and the Agency's Secretariat with a view to increasing the total number of facilities inspected. Austria was convinced that the Agency was performing an essential task for the international community by administering the non-proliferation regime verification system.

24. With regard to the resources allocated to the safeguards system and the technical assistance programmes, it was mistaken to think of those two areas as being in competition. It would be better to aim at a balance between those two goals, both of which had their own merits.

25. His delegation regretted that the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) had made little progress in reconciling the conflicting positions held by different Member States regarding freedom of access to nuclear technology, on the one hand, and non-proliferation, on the other. It hoped that CAS would be able to find a mutually acceptable solution satisfying the requirements of both nuclear trade and non-proliferation.

26. One of the Agency's most important tasks was to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the developing countries through technical assistance and co-operation. It was therefore encouraging to note that all the indicators of the Agency's technical assistance - the number of expert assignments, the resources allocated for equipment and the number of fellowships awarded - showed a clear uptrend as did the resources made available to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) since 1982. The system of indicative planning figures had yielded good results in the past and it provided an effective means of ensuring the predictability of technical assistance funding. He drew attention in that connection to the excellent work which the Seibersdorf Laboratory was continuing to perform.

27. Mr. BADRAN (Jordan) said that the twenty-eighth session of the General Conference was being held under very difficult circumstances, which called for a maximum of concerted action to meet the challenges and find the best solution for the entire international community. The political, economic and technological problems were growing ever more acute and there seemed to be no indication that they would be solved in the near future, all of which added to the fears of the international community, in particular the developing countries.

28. Furthermore, the arms race, in the case of both conventional and nuclear weapons, was continuing to escalate at an alarming rate and the nuclear weapon stockpiles which had been built up were now sufficient to destroy human civilization several times over. It was regrettable that the international community had not yet been able to halt that terrifying race.

29. Moreover, the small countries with modest military and technological capabilities continued to feel vulnerable and apprehensive for their future, not only because of world-wide nuclear threats and uncertainties, but also because of direct threats by neighbouring countries such as Israel and South Africa, which had their own highly developed military and technological potential and were also supported by non-peaceful nuclear capabilities. Both those countries represented a serious threat to their neighbours and to peace and stability in their respective regions.

30. His delegation noted that there were two points on the agenda devoted to the present question. The first concerned the consequences of the Israeli threat and the second South Africa's nuclear activities.

31. The General Conference of the Agency in its resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409 had given Israel ample time to demonstrate its good intentions with regard to the international community and the Middle East region and had requested Israel to withdraw its threats to destroy the nuclear facilities of neighbouring countries; only if it did so could the Agency continue its co-operation with Israel in a normal way. One year later, however, his delegation was forced to note with regret that: firstly, the statement made by the Israeli Prime Minister did not respond to or comply with resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409. And what was even more serious, the statement left it to Israel to decide whether the installations which it was threatening in neighbouring countries were peaceful or not. That attitude was dangerous for it constituted a total negation of the Agency's role and its credibility, especially where the safeguards systems was concerned. Secondly, the Agency had concluded three contracts during the past year without waiting for approval by the General Conference, the only authority empowered to pronounce upon Israel's compliance with resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/409. That called for an explanation by the Secretariat.

32. His delegation wished to associate itself strongly with other delegations in requesting the General Conference to adopt a decisive and definitive position with regard to the international and regional threats posed by Israel and the South African régime. It also requested the international community to co-operate, through recognized bodies and governments, in putting an end to those threats and totally rejecting them as a political weapon, especially when they were directed against peaceful nuclear facilities safeguarded and inspected by the Agency.

33. It had to be stressed that all the developing countries had a long way to go before being able to use nuclear technology to cover their energy requirements and would not even have reached that stage by the year 2000. That was due to the international nuclear technology markets and the constraints upon it, and was not only attributable to inadequate financial resources and infrastructure and the lack of trained personnel.

34. If the developed countries wished to broaden their local market by incorporating district heating and process heat production schemes, then it would be necessary to expand the international nuclear technology market, to remove the constraints imposed on the developing countries in that regard and to find satisfactory solutions to the political and military problems posed by nuclear facilities. His delegation was convinced that the Agency, with its international reputation, could play a vital role in that regard. In addition to the study on small and medium power reactors in which the Agency was currently engaged, it should also, without further delay, set up a task force composed of a small number of representatives from developing countries to conduct a thorough investigation of the obstacles preventing the expansion of the international nuclear technology market and to propose solutions and possible options. That study could then serve as a practical basis for a realistic and well-defined programme designed to give the developing countries every opportunity to solve their energy problems through nuclear technology.

35. With regard to the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, food preservation, water exploration and other areas, the great efforts which had been deployed were appreciated although there was still much to be done. Co-operation between the Agency and the FAO had the support of all the Member States, especially his own country.

36. With regard to the international safeguards system, Jordan requested, as it had done at the twenty-seventh session the previous year, that it should be developed along the lines of a dual responsibility system, whereby the country concerned would be required to provide all the guarantees requested by the Agency, including permission to conduct direct inspections to prove that the country's nuclear facilities were intended for peaceful purposes. At the same time, the international community should guarantee by means of a special arrangement administered by the Agency that the facilities in question would not be exposed to threats or destruction by conventional or nuclear weapons.

37. A system of that kind would greatly help to allay the fears of the developing countries, in particular the smaller countries, and would assure them that their investment could not be threatened by aggressive States, as was the case in the Middle East.

38. Jordan welcomed the efforts deployed by the Agency with regard to nuclear safety and considered that the Director General's proposal to set up operational safety review teams ready to take action at the request of any Member State should be encouraged. However, as the Indian delegation had already said, preoccupation with safety should not be carried to the point where it became an obstacle to progress in the developing countries' nuclear capacity.

39. The Agency's work regarding nuclear waste management also deserved support, especially the establishment of internationally accepted standards and criteria for the disposal of high-level waste. The code of practice on the management of radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants would therefore be very useful.

40. His delegation welcomed the progress made in terms of both quantity and quality in the field of technical co-operation. There was a need, however, for better programming and broader co-operation in order to narrow the technological gap between Member States and the division of countries in two categories: those interested in obtaining technical assistance, i.e. the developing countries; and those interested in improving the safeguards system, i.e. the developed countries. Only then would it be possible to discuss certain issues with greater objectivity.

41. Jordan considered that the Agency's annual report and the statement by the Director General faithfully reflected the Agency's persistent efforts to serve the international community in the sphere of atomic energy. Moreover, the more the Member States co-operated in observing the Agency's Statute, the greater the chances of transforming the nuclear nightmare into an instrument of peace and progress.

42. He confirmed Jordan's pledge to pay its share of the target fixed for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985.

43. Mr. ERNER (Turkey) recalled that under Article II of the Statute one of the Agency's objectives was 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". Against that background, he wished first of all to make some comments on the Agency's safeguards activities, to which part of the Annual Report for 1983 was devoted. His delegation had noted with great satisfaction that the Agency had not detected during the year in question any anomaly which might indicate the diversion of a significant quantity of safeguarded nuclear material. That fact was most reassuring and helped to build confidence among States and, hence, to establish regional and world-wide peace and security. The Agency was to be commended for its considerable efforts in the area of safeguards in 1983. Generally speaking, despite the relatively low number of man-days recorded for assignments in nuclear-weapon States, the overall level of inspection activity had been highly satisfactory.

44. Nonetheless, he could not hide his concern about the unsafeguarded facilities of significance for safeguards which existed in various States. Unsafeguarded materials, whether in nuclear-weapon or non-nuclear-weapon States, were a real source of concern for Member States. In that regard, his delegation wished to express its satisfaction at the latest voluntary safeguards agreement offer by one of the nuclear-weapon States, now the fourth such State to place some of its civil nuclear facilities voluntarily under the Agency's safeguards.

45. The other pillar of support provided by the Agency as an organization was its technical assistance and co-operation programme. Without technical assistance many developing countries would be confronted with enormous difficulties. In the course of the years, the Agency had proved to be not only a trustworthy and impartial instrument for the provision of technical assistance in the form of fellowships, expert services and equipment and for the transfer of various kinds of nuclear technology, but had also served as a unique means of providing objective guidelines on almost all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle. The Director General and the Secretariat were to be complimented on the satisfactory results which they had obtained with regard to technical assistance in 1983. In June 1984, the Director General had stated at a meeting of the Board of Governors that the resources allocated for

technical assistance had increased by 25% over 1982, reaching a total of \$34.5 million. It was also gratifying to note the increase in the technical assistance implementation rate during the first months of 1984, which had increased by 50% compared with the same period in 1983. Mention should also be made of the large number of footnote a/ projects for 1983 made operational by April 1984.

46. Those results were proof of improved administration and co-ordination between the different Departments of the Secretariat. Such close co-operation not only contributed to the Agency's efficiency, but also helped to increase the actual assistance received by Member States.

47. His country pledged its assessed share of the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1985. It was grateful to the Department of Technical Co-operation for its valuable aid and thanked the Division of Nuclear Safety, which had been very helpful in introducing clarity into, and also expediting, the Turkish nuclear power programme.

48. His delegation had followed the work of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) with interest and had taken part in its discussions. The fact that the Committee had reached an agreement on emergency and back-up mechanisms gave cause for cautious optimism. Some headway had also been made in the revision mechanisms. On the other hand, it was somewhat perturbing to note the difficulties which had arisen during the twelfth session of CAS, when the Committee had tackled principles (16) to (19). He was aware of the concern among participants of CAS for various definitions relating to the issue of non-proliferation. It should be stressed, however, that if no common ground could be found on that issue, the progress made by CAS so far would be rendered meaningless. If it were not possible to reach an agreement on the question of non-proliferation, CAS would become a forum for unproductive deliberations which would only be a waste of time for all concerned. Turkey therefore urged all the delegations represented on the Committee to show courage, flexibility and greater understanding in considering the matter of principles. Without greater political goodwill CAS would be unable to make any real progress. Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that failure or, at any rate, the strong probability of failure, on the part of CAS, would have

repercussions on other important conferences, namely the Third Review Conference of the Parties to NPT and the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) to be held in September 1985 and in 1986 respectively.

49. Turkey's electricity generating capacity had increased since 1982 by 13% per year, reaching a level of 33 000 GWh in 1984. However, since that level had proved insufficient to cover the increasing demand, the difference had been made up by importing 2000 GWh from the USSR and Bulgaria. That situation showed that the target set for the nuclear power capacity to be installed by the year 2000, namely 3000 MW, was realistic. In 1984, Turkey's thermal power plants had accounted for 56% of the total electricity produced, the remaining 44% being supplied by hydroelectric energy. When the first two reactors currently planned came on line in 1992, Turkey would have a total installed nuclear capacity of 1650 MW(e), amounting to 10% of its total electricity production. Studies were now under way for a further reactor with an output of 1000-1200 MW(e), which would be connected to the grid in 1996.

50. The site chosen for the first two reactors lay in the region of Akkuyu, in the south of Turkey. The next reactor would be built at Sinope in the north of Turkey. In view of seismic conditions in Turkey, safety analyses and quality assurance programmes were of great importance and raised particular difficulties. The Agency had already provided valuable assistance during the preparatory phases of the programme. Two bilateral co-operation agreements had been signed in May and June 1984, with the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada, respectively. Through these agreements, Turkey should be able to benefit from the experience and expertise already acquired in those countries. Turkey would require further assistance from the Agency in the matter of licensing. Long-term arrangements had accordingly been made for the provision of experts and a training programme had been devised jointly with the competent Divisions of the Agency.

51. The Turkish example was yet another illustration of how important the Agency's services could be for Member States. His delegation wished to thank the Secretariat once again for its co-operation and remained convinced that the Agency, through its promotional and regulatory activities, would continue to help maintain peace and prosperity throughout the world.

52. Mr. CHAGULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his delegation attached the greatest importance to the Agency's vital function of accelerating the economic development of the developing countries and strengthening world security through the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. It was gratifying to note the considerable effort made by the Agency in promoting the exchange of knowledge and the transfer of technology, in particular through meetings, publications, expert missions, fellowships and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS).

53. Nonetheless, despite the recent measures taken to improve the services it provided to Member States, the Agency should not lose sight of the needs of the least developed Member States. The latter could not derive full benefit from the Agency's services unless they were given the opportunity to develop their capacity to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes, in particular in agriculture, hydrology, medicine and industry. Those countries needed qualified personnel and the necessary infrastructure if they were to attend the technical meetings organized by the Agency, take advantage of the information contained in the technical reports and make use of INIS. It went without saying that all efforts in that direction had to be co-ordinated with those of other competent bodies within the United Nations system.

54. Resolution GC(XXVI)/RES/399 had been adopted by the General Conference in recognition of the growing needs of the developing countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Like other developing countries, Tanzania was appreciative of the results of the review of the Agency's activities undertaken in response to that resolution. However, document GC(XXVIII)/718 did not contain any practical suggestions or recommendations on the best ways in which the Agency might respond to the needs of the developing countries. There had not even been any need to investigate those needs, since the representatives of the developing Member States had voiced their concerns eloquently at each year's General Conference. His delegation would continue to express serious concern regarding a number of points where improvements could be made in the Agency's efficiency and its credibility from the point of view of all its Member States.

55. During the past decade the number of developing countries belonging to the Agency, particularly those in the regions of Africa and the Middle East, had increased considerably and their representation on the Board of Governors

should have increased proportionately. It was laid down in the Statute that the Agency was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members and that they had equal rights and obligations. That being so, there was no clear reason why the Member States from certain regions should be denied equal representation on the Board. He appealed to the sense of justice of the developed Member States and asked them to accept a modest increase in the number of seats on the Board. It was high time that a decision was taken on the matter.

56. Technical co-operation was of the greatest importance for his delegation, especially in that it enabled the Agency to bring its Member States together in providing assistance to the least developed countries, including Tanzania. It was most regrettable that the insufficiency and unpredictability of those resources had made it more difficult to perform that important task. It was an unfortunate historical accident that the funding of technical co-operation was based solely on voluntary contributions. The Agency should move with the times. Although it had had very few developing Member States during the first years of its existence, a draft resolution proposing that all its activities be financed from the Regular Budget had been submitted back in 1962 at the sixth session of the General Conference. That resolution had not been adopted. The number of developing countries belonging to the Agency and the needs of those States had increased substantially since that time. The adoption by the General Conference in 1981 of a resolution very similar to the 1962 draft resolution illustrated the inadequacy of all the alternative proposals put forward so far. His delegation therefore considered that the earlier proposal, i.e. the one contained in the draft resolution submitted to the sixth session of the General Conference, should be seriously re-examined by the General Conference. Until a satisfactory solution to the problem had been found, it would be difficult to realize the Agency's ideal, which was to promote the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, particularly in the developing Member States.

57. All delegations were well aware of the constant threat to the African continent posed by the nuclear capability of the racist South African régime. Tanzania, along with all peace-loving nations, was deeply disappointed that many developed Member States and a number of international organizations were continuing to collaborate with South Africa despite the many resolutions tabled

by the United Nations General Assembly and the General Conference of the Agency. Such collaboration was dangerous because, despite its undertaking to pursue its nuclear programme in accordance with the spirit, principles and objectives of NPT, the South African régime still refused to place its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. Its pledge was therefore insincere, contradictory and a mockery of the spirit and objectives of NPT. The South African régime could only win the confidence of the international community if it guaranteed the transparency of all its nuclear activities by placing all its nuclear facilities, including its uranium enrichment plants, under Agency safeguards. He commended the Agency on its efforts to put resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/408 into effect, and hoped that the Member States would provide the necessary support for its full implementation. In that connection, his delegation had been alarmed to learn of the existence of international plans (involving several Member States of the Agency) to use Namibian territory as a dumping ground for nuclear wastes in return for substantial sums of money, which could be used by the racist South African régime against the oppressed people of Namibia. The Agency was urged, in collaboration with the United Nations Council for Namibia, to watch out for those sinister plans with a view to bringing them to the attention of the international community and preventing their implementation. The Secretariat of the Agency should also, in future, provide the Board of Governors and the General Conference with information on any co-operation enjoyed by the South African régime with Member States of the Agency, in particular in the nuclear sphere.

58. It was true that nuclear power trends in most of the developing countries were very uncertain, not for want of interest on the part of those countries, but because they lacked the means necessary to integrate nuclear power plants into their energy systems, the capital outlay required for the construction of such plants being prohibitive. The developing countries were struggling hard to become industrialized and energy was, of course, an important pre-condition for the process of industrialization. They were also trying to protect their physical environment and would therefore be pleased to do so by opting for nuclear power (provided it was within their means) in preference to fossil fuel energy, which polluted the environment. Furthermore, most of the developing Member States of the Agency had no fossil fuels of their own and were unable to afford them on the scale necessary for their industrialization

programmes. Nuclear energy was therefore very promising as both a clean and reliable energy source, provided that the safety of nuclear power stations could be guaranteed. The envisaged study on small and medium power reactors could be of aid to the developing countries in overcoming the main difficulties involved in the use of nuclear energy. His delegation was pleased that such a study had been undertaken, and hoped that it would help to increase confidence in nuclear energy and to promote its use, particularly in developing countries.

59. Lastly, his delegation was grateful to the Agency for facilitating the exchange of experience and formulating various kinds of regulations for the safe operation of facilities and handling of nuclear materials. He supported the idea of setting up a nuclear safety advisory group for the purpose of studying general nuclear safety issues.

60. The aim of safeguards was to ensure that all nuclear activities were being conducted without any diversion of fissionable materials for non-peaceful purposes. Attaining that aim would certainly create the desired confidence, but such confidence should be gauged in accordance with the proportion of nuclear activities not yet placed under safeguards. That proportion was still far too high, especially as it included most of the military programmes of the nuclear-weapon States which were Members of the Agency. The threat of nuclear annihilation still hung over the world in spite of the large number of States parties to NPT. Most of the Agency's Member States had committed themselves to safeguards verification and were also parties to NPT. Nonetheless, there remained much to be done in order to make the solemn commitments given by those States fully valid. The present system, whereby the Member States voluntarily offered to place their nuclear facilities under safeguards, a system which lacked coherence, should be reviewed. He therefore hoped that corrective measures would be adopted at the next Review Conference of the Parties to NPT in order to create the desired confidence in the realm of safeguards.

61. Mr. VASCONEZ (Ecuador) said that the detailed report by the Director General had brought out with greater clarity the vital importance of the mandate entrusted to the Agency, which was to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and to assist in efforts to prevent the use of such energy for military purposes.

62. The economic and political crisis, the ideological conflicts between the different blocs and the insecurity which marked international relations prompted one to reflect on the urgent need to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of all peoples, more especially, the developing countries. His delegation hoped that the competent international fora would make substantial progress towards limiting, and if possible halting, the nuclear arms race, the cost of which - in terms of potential victims as well as money - was irrational and offensive to mankind. Traditionally a peace-loving country, Ecuador was making a fresh appeal to the international community to do its utmost to show wisdom in decisions regarding world disarmament, a united will on the part of all the States being an essential condition for constructive dialogue.

63. His delegation reaffirmed its allegiance to the Agency's safeguards system, which it considered an extremely useful instrument. He noted, however, that the cost of safeguards tended to exceed the funds allocated for technical assistance and co-operation. Since the latter provided the real way forward to the international collaboration necessary for devising national nuclear power programmes and, hence, the economic advancement of the developing countries, there was no choice but to freeze the safeguards budget for two years.

64. Ecuador had been following the discussions of CAS carefully. While fully aware of the progress made in establishing an emergency and back-up mechanism, it was important to recall that the parallel negotiation of all the principles of international co-operation in the field of nuclear energy was a sine qua non for implementing such a system. It would not slacken its efforts to ensure that such negotiation work was continued within CAS.

65. Latin America was proud of having established the first and so far only nuclear-free zone. The Tlatelolco Treaty was one of the region's main contributions to the objectives of peace and international disarmament. The grave world situation highlighted the importance of that treaty which, despite 17 years of fruitful work, would not have fully attained its objective until the entire region was a nuclear-weapon-free zone. He therefore appealed to those few countries which had not yet acceded to the Treaty to sign or ratify it, thereby associating themselves with the 23 States sovereign members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL).

66. The efforts deployed by the Director General in appointing nationals from developing countries to directorial posts within the Secretariat were to be welcomed. In the firm belief, however, that those efforts were still insufficient, his country would continue to assist the Director General in his endeavours to rectify the existing imbalance. It also attached particular importance to the proposal by a significant number of countries to place the financing of technical assistance and co-operation on a reliable and predictable basis by paying for those activities from the Agency's Regular Budget; it would then be possible to respond fully to the needs of the developing countries in accordance with their national programmes.

67. China's admission to the Board of Governors was a very important event and there was no doubt that the assistance of China would be greatly appreciated by all Member States. He also wished to reaffirm his delegation's position, which it shared with the entire Latin American Group, regarding any amendment of Article VI of the Statute: such an amendment should not reduce the number of seats occupied by Latin America on the Board. Ecuador was prepared to take part in negotiations on that point.

68. His delegation was convinced that suitable mechanisms were necessary for the protection of peaceful nuclear facilities against armed attacks and therefore strongly supported the draft resolution submitted by Argentina.

69. Ecuador, which had participated actively in the Andean Group project, would continue to do whatever was necessary to attain its objectives and reaffirmed its full support for the project and for the action taken by the Agency in launching the Regional Co-operative Arrangements for Latin America (ARCAL). His country welcomed the donor countries which had helped to upgrade the programme and, as a token of its interest in ARCAL, had invited it to meet at Quito in August 1985 and had assured it that it could count on the collaboration of the Government and Ecuadorian people.

70. Mr. CLADAKIS (Greece) said that his country, a firm believer in nuclear disarmament and in the prevention of nuclear-weapon proliferation, had continued to work towards that goal in the course of 1984 as in previous years. With regard to the Balkan peninsula in particular, the Greek Government believed that its efforts would be instrumental in establishing a nuclear-free zone and creating a climate of mutual trust among the peoples of the region.

71. As well as being a staunch supporter of the non-proliferation regime, Greece also supported the Agency's safeguards system. In that connection, his delegation noted with satisfaction that in 1983 the Secretariat had not detected any anomaly which might indicate the diversion of safeguarded nuclear materials, whether for the manufacture of nuclear weapons or any other military purpose. However, the existence of non-nuclear-weapon States which had not yet agreed to place all their nuclear activities under the Agency's safeguards system was a salutary reminder that there was no cause for boundless optimism. His delegation therefore urged those countries to place their activities under full-scope safeguards, thereby making a significant contribution to the creation of the climate of international trust necessary for the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. On the more general level of safeguards procedures, it was suggested that the Agency should report regularly on the nuclear activities of non-nuclear-weapon States which might be regarded as preparatory to non-peaceful nuclear activities.

72. His delegation had read with interest the Nuclear Safety Review for 1983 and had noted the satisfactory record achieved by nuclear power plants, the number of which had passed the 300 mark and which, with an operating experience of over 3000 reactor-years, accounted for 12% of the world's electricity. It also welcomed the substantial progress which seemed to have been made in reducing occupational exposure to radiation at nuclear power plants.

73. He was somewhat concerned, however, about safety standards in the wider sphere of nuclear energy applications and basic research, and noted that three serious accidents had taken place in nuclear facilities other than power plants, claiming the lives of two people and resulting in the exposure of a number of other individuals to high levels of radiation. His delegation therefore strongly supported the establishment of an advisory group answerable to the Director General for the purpose of examining safety issues.

74. Greece also supported the Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) programme which, by providing the necessary background for implementing a set of codes and guides on the safety of nuclear power plants, was particularly useful to countries still relatively inexperienced in the nuclear field. Completion of the set of safety codes and guides in 1985 should not, however, be taken as a signal for slowing down the programme. His delegation also welcomed the establishment of the IAEA Incident Reporting System.

75. Although Greece had deferred adoption of the nuclear option, it was aware of the potential advantages of it and was seriously considering developing the infrastructure necessary should a decision be taken at a future date to introduce nuclear power. Nevertheless, Greece was engaged in an active uranium prospecting programme and was developing and applying nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and industry. In that connection it considered the Agency's technical co-operation programme to be of vital importance. The Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should continue to increase in volume so that greater aid could be provided, especially to those countries with less potential for utilizing nuclear energy. Being both a donor and a recipient of the Agency's technical assistance, Greece was a staunch supporter of the programme. It had already pledged its full assessed share - \$101 400 - of the target for voluntary contributions to the Fund for 1985.

76. Mr. PINEDA GONZALEZ (Guatemala) said that his country would not be able to turn to nuclear power as a viable source of energy within the next few years. However, the peaceful applications of nuclear energy could contribute significantly to the economic and social development of Guatemala, which was endeavouring to establish the infrastructure necessary in terms of material and manpower for applying nuclear techniques in agriculture, medicine and industry, especially the mining industry. In the agricultural sector, Guatemala was particularly interested in nuclear techniques for pest control, more efficient use of fertilizers, plant breeding and food preservation. For example, under a tripartite programme, a laboratory had been set up for rearing and sterilizing the Mediterranean fruit fly, which posed a serious economic threat through spoilage of large quantities of fruit, loss of currency for the purchase of insecticides and problems in marketing various products. In 1984 sterile flies reared in Guatemala had been released for the first time and the use of the technique for eradicating other types of pest was arousing increasing interest.

77. With regard to the use of radiation to induce phytogenetic mutations, studies had been undertaken to improve the nutritional value of the bean, which was an important component in the Guatemalan diet. The Agronomic Research Institute was interested in applying that technique to other crops.

78. The irradiation of food for purposes of preservation was attracting great interest as an alternative to the use of chemical additives for controlling parasites and prolonging the shelf life of various products which normally spoiled rapidly. Guatemala had recently set up an interministerial commission to study, with the help of an Agency expert, whether that procedure could be applied to the problem of food losses and whether its application on an industrial scale would be feasible and cost-effective in Guatemala.

79. He wished to pay tribute to the Agency, and, in particular, to the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary, for their valuable assistance in the above-mentioned areas of activity.

80. Mention had also to be made that in 1984 a radioimmunoassay laboratory had been set up, and a gamma camera was soon to be brought into service; in addition, facilities for the manufacture of radiopharmaceuticals would soon be operational. Work was continuing on an analytical laboratory permitting practical studies for use in industry or for teaching purposes.

81. In 1983 Guatemala had launched a uranium prospecting programme. It was also participating in a regional co-ordinated hydrological research project and a regional project relating to non-destructive assay. The assistance provided by the Agency with regard to those regional projects was welcomed.

82. In view of the risks involved in the use of radioisotopes and ionizing radiation in public health care, his country had decided to construct in the near future a secondary standard dosimetry laboratory for the purposes of radiation protection and, as a parallel measure, to introduce legislation covering all aspects of the import, transport, utilization, storage and disposal of radioactive materials.

83. It was clear that, in order to derive the greatest possible benefit from nuclear technology, there was need to have qualified personnel. Guatemala had therefore stepped up its training programme by taking advantage of the fellowship programmes, courses and study tours offered, in particular, by the Agency and the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission.

84. Parallel to the activities undertaken with the assistance of the Agency, Guatemala had established fruitful co-operation with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the United States and Mexico.

85. Although Guatemala was at present passing through a difficult economic situation, it would continue to pay its voluntary contribution to the Agency for the implementation of technical assistance programmes. Guatemala, which was one of the founding Members of the Agency and had twice occupied a seat on the Board of Governors, hoped that it would be readmitted to the Board for the period 1985-1987.

The meeting rose at 10.5 p.m.

