



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC

GC(XXXVI)/OR.349
16 October 1992

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

THIRTY-SIXTH (1992) REGULAR SESSION

RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 24 September 1992, at 10.25 a.m.

President: Mr. ADEKANYE (Nigeria)
later: Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea)

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Abbreviations used in this record.

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America
Basic Safety Standards	Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
RBMK	High-power channel-type reactor (Soviet Union)
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WWER	Water-cooled and -moderated reactor

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991 (GC(XXXVI)/1004) (continued)

1. Mr. PEYRAT (Paraguay) was pleased to see that the Republics of Slovenia, Croatia and Uzbekistan were assuming the responsibilities of membership in the Agency, which implied promoting peace and development in the world through the conscientious application of safeguards, prohibition of the military uses of nuclear energy, and its utilization for peaceful and productive purposes.
2. He hoped that the Agency would supply the appropriate technological means to consolidate the use of nuclear energy as a source of development, since it was an asset from the technological, economic and ecological stand-points. He recalled that since 1960 Paraguay had been receiving Agency assistance. Thanks to the profound changes that had occurred in his country, it was in a position to take its due place among nations.
3. Under Law No. 14 of 28 July 1992 Paraguay's National Atomic Energy Commission had been restructured. It had a close relationship with the National University of Asunción, and its members were designated by the University's rector from among persons proposed by institutions directly concerned with the use or handling of nuclear material.
4. Referring to activities in the area of animal science, he pointed out that the emphasis was on immunoassay techniques for diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease. His country also attached importance to the use of nuclear techniques to study water pollution and to radiological protection. As for equipment and fellowships, he hoped that the Agency would make a special effort, despite its scarce resources, to provide assistance, and make available accessible technology so that his country could enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy.
5. Paraguay did not use fossil fuel or nuclear energy since it produced 12 600 MW of hydroelectric power from the Itaipu plant, operated jointly with Brazil. The Yacyreta hydroelectric plant was in an advanced stage of construction and, as from 1994, would generate 4300 MW, to be shared on an equal basis with Argentina. Other such plants were under consideration.

6. Because of the availability of rich hydraulic resources, the existence of the conditions needed for overall development and the possibility of obtaining assured and pollutant-free nuclear power it was time, on the basis of the principles enunciated at the Rio de Janeiro Conference, to tackle the problem of damage to the environment, which endangered the very existence of the human species.

7. Paraguay supported the need for an international nuclear safety convention which would make it possible to verify the conditions of use, ensure non-proliferation and eliminate the possibilities of military use of nuclear energy.

8. His country was resolutely opposed to clandestine development of nuclear energy in any form and commended the Agency's role in preventing such development by providing detailed and reliable information thereon.

9. In connection with the search for new ways of co-operation, he expressed his appreciation of the offers made by countries in the Latin-American region, the willingness of developed countries to provide technological support, the bilateral arrangements within the regions and the effective work of the Agency, which was carrying out its tasks with competence and had continually to improve its capacity to be of service in the areas of safety and development.

10. He was happy to see that positive steps were being taken to ratify safeguards agreements with the Agency providing for regular inspections in States possessing nuclear technology.

11. He hoped that safeguards inspections by the Agency would proceed satisfactorily, thereby raising international confidence and contributing to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region at the present time.

12. He urged that pressure be applied with a view to compliance with the guidelines for weapons control in the case of transfer of missile technology and missile sales.

13. His delegation supported the international community's efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and noted the positive changes in the attitude of Governments with regard to the strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation.

14. Welcoming the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula of 31 December 1991, he called for full implementation of the agreement, which would promote regional peace and security and contribute to reconciliation and stability in the area. He also commended the ratification of the safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and hoped the latter would place its nuclear facilities under appropriate safeguards.

15. Furthermore, he was in favour of adherence by all countries in the Middle East, without exception, to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons because peace could only be achieved by agreement.

16. Fifty years had gone by since the first chain reaction, and the General Conference was meeting at a time when the world faced the choice between extermination and a better future life.

17. The work which the Agency had done during the preceding 35 years by formulating conditions of use of nuclear energy and promoting effective agreements proved its usefulness, and it owed its achievements, in large measure, to its freedom of action within the United Nations system.

18. In conclusion, he recalled a statement of the Foreign Minister of Paraguay, Mr. Alexis Frutos Vaesken, who had referred to the beginning of a new international order marked by accelerated and profound political changes and to the emergence of regional economic blocks, demanding a new pattern of trade relations. It was in that context that Paraguay wished to declare its commitment to discharge its responsibilities, to abide by the treaties it had signed and to promote the success of ARCAL. Weakening of confidence in the Agency must be avoided by continually updating the legal provisions and conditions, and he called upon the developed countries not to flinch from supporting assistance activities.

19. Paraguay's commitment to the Agency was clear and unequivocal, as was its opposition to every type of discrimination and its support for activities to achieve the highest levels of safety and development.

20. Mr. AAMODT (Norway), having welcomed Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency, said that his delegation could

support the Agency's proposed programme and budget for 1993 and 1994 submitted by the Board. It also supported the Board's proposal to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund for 1993 by \$2 million in order to help ensure that the Agency could operate continuously and efficiently. It could also accept that the Director General be given the authority to make advances of up to \$500 000 from the Working Capital Fund for projects or activities which had been approved by the Board but were not funded from the Regular Budget. However, the Director General should only exercise that authority in exceptional cases and only in order to achieve the objectives of the Statute. An increase in the Working Capital Fund should not be a remedy for the problem of late payment of contributions by Member States to the Regular Budget. In some cases, late payment might reflect severe economic problems in the Member States concerned, but in the past that had not been so in all cases and Norway fully supported the Director General's repeated statements urging Member States to pay their assessed contributions promptly and in full.

21. His country supported the \$55.5 million target for voluntary contributions to the TACF for 1993 and, pending parliamentary approval, would contribute its assessed share to that fund. While the target for the TACF had increased from \$34 million in 1987 to \$55.5 million for 1993, there had been a serious decline during the past couple of years in the percentage of the target actually met. It might therefore be advisable if the target over the next few years increased somewhat more slowly than it had done in recent years.

22. Protection of the environment and natural resources was of vital interest to the entire international community and a substantial contribution in that area had been made by the Agency's nuclear applications programme. The eradication of the New World screwworm in North Africa was a striking example of the benefits of nuclear techniques.

23. As experience had shown, the operation of nuclear installations was not without risks and it was imperative that all countries operating nuclear installations should observe the strictest safety and environmental standards. Agreement as soon as possible on a framework convention on nuclear safety, including the handling and disposal of radioactive waste, was crucial in that respect. Such a convention would contribute considerably to the improvement of nuclear safety worldwide.

24. Norway was particularly concerned about the dumping of radioactive waste at sea. It had on earlier occasions stressed the need to monitor dumping sites regularly and to evaluate possible consequences to the marine environment. A joint Norwegian-Russian expedition, with Agency participation, had been carried out in the Barents and Kara Seas to measure levels of radioactivity, to establish the origin of the radioactive contamination and to inspect dumping sites. The findings of that mission were currently being evaluated.

25. Norway was also very concerned about the safety of nuclear installations in Eastern Europe and supported Agency activities in that area, including the project to evaluate the safety of RBMK reactors. The conclusions of the first phase of the Agency's study on WWER reactors were worrying and the problems which had been identified needed to be dealt with through concerted international action with adequate financing. His country welcomed the initiative of the Group of 24 in that context. For its part, Norway was working out bilateral measures to improve the operational safety of the Kola nuclear power plant and was co-operating with the Agency and with institutions and authorities in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine to reduce the levels of caesium in cattle by the use of Prussian blue. There was clearly a need to co-ordinate the assistance given to the countries of Eastern Europe so as to define priorities and prevent overlapping. The Agency was in a good position to provide technical support by collecting, reviewing and disseminating information on the assistance programmes being implemented.

26. The statement by the Secretariat that in 1991 it had not detected any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material or misuse of facilities or equipment subject to safeguards was an important one, but it was overshadowed by the information, resulting from inspection activities carried out by the Agency pursuant to Security Council resolution 687, that Iraq had failed to comply with its safeguards obligations. Following that disclosure there had been wider acceptance of strengthened safeguards commitments. While more extensive use of special inspections and the earlier submission of design information would help to improve the safeguards system, it was also very important that the Agency should have more knowledge about the worldwide flow of nuclear

materials. Norway was therefore in favour of universal reporting of the production, export and import of nuclear materials, including those that had not reached a composition and purity suitable for fuel fabrication or isotope enrichment. Knowledge about the export and import of certain types of equipment and non-nuclear material might in some cases also improve Agency safeguards in countries with comprehensive safeguards agreements and Norway could therefore agree to the reporting of the international transfer of those types of equipment and material.

27. Norway was pleased to note the accession to the NPT in 1991 of Lithuania, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the entry into force of safeguards agreements pursuant to the NPT with South Africa and with Tuvalu and of a unilateral submission agreement with Pakistan covering a miniature neutron source reactor. Norway also welcomed the accession in 1992 of China and France to the NPT and the entry into force of a safeguards agreement pursuant to the NPT with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which it hoped would be implemented in full at an early date. However, it was to be regretted that at the end of April 1992, 49 non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT had not concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency within the prescribed period of 18 months after ratification or accession. The Secretariat's document on the status of negotiations of safeguards agreements and subsidiary arrangements was a useful one which should be updated annually. In conclusion, Norway supported the gradual extension of safeguards in nuclear-weapon States and called upon all such States to make a complete separation between peaceful and military activities and to start reporting to the Agency on all nuclear materials in peaceful nuclear activities.

28. Mr. MONDINO (Argentina) said he wished first to extend a warm welcome to the new Member States of the Agency: Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan.

29. In the past year, Argentina and Brazil had continued to implement the measures foreseen in the Argentine-Brazilian Declaration on Common Nuclear Policy issued on 28 November 1990 in Foz do Iguaçu, which were: the establishment of a common system of accounting and control of nuclear materials; the joint negotiation of a comprehensive safeguards agreement with

the Agency, which would audit the bilateral system; and the adoption of pertinent measures to update and improve the text of the Treaty of Tlatelolco with a view to achieving its full entry into force in both countries.

30. The common system of accounting and control of nuclear materials was already fully functional. The system had been given a legal framework through the signing by both countries of an agreement for the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy in July 1991 in Guadalajara. It had been ratified by both Governments and had been in force since 12 December 1991. That agreement also established the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), which had its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro and which had been in operation since 1 July 1992. The ABACC had already made arrangements for the first reciprocal inspections. He was pleased to note that the ABACC was participating in the General Conference.

31. With regard to the second step foreseen in the Foz do Iguaçu Declaration, a safeguards agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the ABACC and the Agency had been signed in Vienna on 13 December 1991 by the Presidents of the two countries at a special meeting of the Board of Governors. That agreement had already been ratified by the Argentine parliament. Until that quadripartite safeguards agreement entered into force, the common system of accounting and control of nuclear materials would provide the international community with adequate guarantees that both countries were fulfilling their obligations.

32. With regard to the third step foreseen in the Foz do Iguaçu Declaration, a meeting of all the parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco had approved on 16 August 1992 amendments to the Treaty jointly drawn up by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, thus opening the way to the speedy ratification of the Treaty by the Argentine parliament and to its full entry into force.

33. Further evidence of Argentina's full adherence to the international policy of non-proliferation of nuclear arms was that a decree had recently been passed establishing strict control over the export of sensitive equipment, material and technology in fields related to the production of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms. The National Commission

for the Control of Sensitive Exports, set up to implement that system, had already granted the first export licences and refused others.

34. His Government attached great importance to the functions of the so-called Nuclear Suppliers Group and identified itself with the decisions taken by the Group at its meeting on 31 March 1992 with a view to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Group had welcomed some of the concrete steps taken by Brazil and Argentina. He was pleased to announce that his Government was ready to formally join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

35. Turning to the status of nuclear activities in Argentina, he observed that nuclear energy continued to play a major role in electricity production. In 1991 the Atucha I and Embalse power plants had contributed 17.1% of the total electricity produced by the national grid, in spite of the fact that those plants represented only 7.6% of the installed capacity. On 17 March 1992, Atucha I had established a record for uninterrupted operation - 362 days at close-to-maximum output. Work on the Atucha II plant was progressing well. Economic difficulties in recent years had led to delays, but connection to the grid was now predicted for 1996. Another project which had been held up by economic constraints was the industrial heavy water plant at Arroyito. Final pre-licensing tests were now taking place. The first school of nuclear medicine and radiodiagnostics in Latin America, and one of the few of its type in the world, had opened in 1991 and was operating successfully. Progress had also been made on the design of a plant for decontaminating sewage sludge by irradiation before its conversion into agro-industrial fertilizer. The plant had the capacity to meet the needs of a city with a population of 400 000 and would use a 600 000 curie cobalt-60 source to destroy the bacteria and viruses responsible for such diseases as cholera and salmonella.

36. Within the framework of the new free-market economy which was being vigorously pursued in Argentina, nuclear activities were being restructured for maximum efficiency and economy, and the use of private capital was being encouraged in those areas which appeared profitable. The State was, however, retaining control of the industry, in addition to carrying out its regulatory functions.

37. In the field of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the past year had been a very active one for Argentina, on both the multilateral and bilateral fronts. Under the Agency's technical co-operation programme, including ARCAL, Argentina had hosted training courses and workshops, provided training for visiting scientists and fellows from other countries, and had made a large number of experts and lecturers available to the Agency. In 1991 it had occupied fourth place of all Member States in supplying experts and lecturers, and tenth place in training visiting scientists and fellows. As for bilateral co-operations, two new agreements had been signed. The first was an agreement with the United States and symbolized a new stage in the development of nuclear relations between the two countries. The second was with Costa Rica and related primarily to radio-isotope applications and nuclear medicine. Negotiations were in progress for a co-operation agreement with France. Lastly, a contract had been signed very recently between the atomic energy authority of Egypt and its Argentine counterpart for the construction of a research reactor and additional facilities that would significantly improve Egypt's capabilities in nuclear medicine, the irradiation of materials, basic scientific research and manpower training.

38. Turning to the Agency's technical assistance activities over the past year, he commended the Secretariat for its efforts to make optimum use of its scarce resources during a period of financial crisis. Having been an active user of the technical co-operation programme only since 1991, his country was completing - to its full satisfaction - its first biennial cycle of such co-operation. Argentina would be pledging a contribution to the TACF for 1993 and had paid all its outstanding contributions to the TACF, including for 1992.

39. With regard to Agency safeguards, Argentina regretted that, for the first time, a Member State had failed to comply with its obligations. It seemed that the absence of adequate information had prevented early detection of that non-compliance. His Government welcomed the steps being taken by the Agency, within the framework of the Statute and existing safeguards agreements, to strengthen the safeguards system and remedy its shortcomings with regard to information.

40. His delegation also commended the results achieved in the fields of nuclear safety and radiological protection, food and agriculture, the life sciences and the physical sciences. The work done by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste was of great importance and his country supported the continuation of its activities in whatever institutional framework was considered most appropriate.

41. His delegation welcomed the significant progress made in a very short time towards establishing a nuclear safety convention. However, it felt strongly that the technical content of such a convention should be compatible with the Agency's basic safety standards, which were currently under revision. Wide acceptance of the revised standards was vital and would provide a sound basis for further progress on the convention. Moreover, the convention should not contain excessive technical detail since that might impede future progress in nuclear safety and should not exempt operators or national regulatory bodies from the primary responsibility for safety.

42. His delegation welcomed the proposal put forward by several Member States for the strengthening of assistance to developing countries regarding the commercial-scale use of food irradiation. His country had gained experience with that technology and was capable of manufacturing sealed cobalt-60 sources for irradiation. It was willing to place its knowledge and technology at the disposal of the Agency and Member States to help further that initiative.

43. Finally, his Government commended the Director General and all the staff for the achievements of the past year, particularly where the strengthening and universalization of the Agency's safeguards system were concerned.

44. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria), after welcoming the new Member States of the Agency, noted that in order for the peaceful uses of atomic energy to flourish, it was essential to establish and improve confidence among States. Every effort had to be made, therefore, to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system, to take steps to ban nuclear testing, to bring about substantial reductions in existing arsenals, and to codify a universal commitment not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States.

45. With its thirty-five years of experience, the Agency was in a good position to allay concerns about the risks associated with certain peaceful uses of atomic energy and to stress the important role of nuclear energy in the preservation of the environment. In that context, it was important to ensure a dynamic balance between the Agency's control activities and its promotional activities.

46. The Director General's opening statement and the Annual Report for 1991 gave an idea of the range of the Agency's activities and the progress of its major programmes. However, it was clear that the implementation of planned projects was made precarious by the effects of the policy of zero real growth, the accumulation of substantial arrears in contributions and delays in the payment of contributions. Demands on the Agency were increasing, but its resources were being eroded. Such a situation was unacceptable and impaired the Agency's credibility. His country therefore hoped that the Agency's financial situation would improve and regarded the Agency's Medium-Term Plan as a means of ensuring realistic and reliable programming which would help to stabilize the Agency's activities.

47. Algeria was grateful to the Agency for the valuable assistance which it had provided in major areas such as health, agriculture, water resources and energy. Algeria's projects were centred around the Nur and Salam research and radioisotope production reactors, which it had voluntarily placed under Agency safeguards and which had been the subject of numerous technical visits and inspections. Algeria also appreciated the Agency's assistance in projects of interest to the North African subregion, such as those related to control of the screwworm and medfly and the possibility of using nuclear reactors for the desalination of sea water. His country was also participating actively in the AFRA programme.

48. With regard to the financing of technical co-operation, the establishment of a system which would ensure predictable and assured resources continued to be a major challenge. While a satisfactory arrangement had been found for the financing of safeguards through the efforts of an informal working group and there was regular growth in that area, increased attention needed to be paid to strengthening international co-operation in the areas of nuclear safety, radiation protection and radioactive waste management.

49. In conclusion, he stressed that the Agency should be responsive to new developments. For that reason, it was important to make a detailed analysis of the composition and functioning of its various organs and of the Secretariat. Appropriate measures should be taken to allow greater participation by developing countries in the Agency's work, and it was with that requirement in mind that the items on the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat, the amendment of Article VI.A.2 and of Article VI as a whole should be considered.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION (resumed)

50. The PRESIDENT said that, at a meeting just concluded, the General Committee had decided to recommend the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item entitled "Participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" as an item of an important and urgent character. It further recommended that the new item be included as item 8, with consequential renumbering of the agenda items listed in document GC(XXXVI)/1027, and that it be discussed direct in plenary. He suggested that the general debate be interrupted in the afternoon in order to take up that item.

51. It was so decided.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991 (GC(XXXVI)/1004) (resumed)

52. Mr. SALLOUKH (Lebanon) welcomed the new Members to the Agency.

53. The past year had seen the accession of important countries to the NPT, a reduction in nuclear armaments, and initiatives to resolve long-standing disputes through negotiation. The world was now more ready for peace than for war and the vast resources formerly wasted on the arms race were now available to help achieve peace and security. The strict application of safeguards was vital to the security of the international community, which was dependent on tighter control of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

54. He urged the Agency to strengthen its efforts in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, particularly in the fields of food and agriculture, health, and industry, in order to increase the prosperity of developing

countries. He also commended the Agency's efforts to promote international co-operation in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection and expressed the hope that the Agency would have the right to inspect nuclear facilities from the safety point of view in the same way as for safeguards.

55. Nuclear waste posed environmental problems that transcended national borders, and proper controls were necessary in order to preserve clean air, wholesome food and fresh water. The conference on the environment held recently in Rio de Janeiro had touched on that and many other issues. The rich industrialized countries had a greater responsibility than others to combat waste and pollution, to halt desertification, and soil erosion, and to resolve the problem of carbon dioxide emissions.

56. Water was destined to become a major issue in the Middle East and other areas. Estimates for water requirements in the year 2000 in the Arab world predicted that 13.4 billion cubic metres would be needed for drinking water and 4.5 billion cubic metres for industrial use. In spite of its prodigious fresh water resources, Lebanon was conducting studies of future water requirements and called on the Agency to act swiftly to collate all available information on future water needs and on desalination using nuclear energy.

57. His country shared the Agency's concern about its financial situation, which was attributable to shortfalls in assessed and voluntary contributions. Financial difficulties had had an adverse impact on the technical assistance programme and he hoped that a just balance would be found between the Agency's safeguards and technical co-operation programmes. There was no doubt about the need for safeguards nor about the necessity of providing technical assistance to developing countries, which had to cope with constantly growing populations and concomitantly increasing needs. An understanding approach to both issues was needed if a consensus was to be reached among Agency Members.

58. Many years of consultations on the amendment of Article VI had not yet produced any agreement. In the light of the steady increase in the Agency's membership, it was apparent that some geographical areas were now under-represented on the Board of Governors. The effectiveness of the Board would be enhanced by a more equitable representation.

59. Turning to the important issue of the application of safeguards in the Middle East, he recalled that the previous year the General Conference had requested the Secretariat submit a report to it on the matter. Document GOV/INF/658, submitted to the Board of Governors in June 1992, had not been wholly satisfactory, and the Board had requested that it be redrafted before being submitted to the General Conference. The revised version, which was contained in document GC(XXXVI)/1019, included the preamble of the previous document and some changes but his country felt that practical issues had still not been addressed. The peoples of the Middle East longed for peace and hoped to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. He stressed the need for non-discriminatory application of full-scope safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East, including Israel. The Council of the League of Arab States, at a meeting in September 1992, had reaffirmed its readiness to discuss all disarmament proposals, thereby supporting Egypt's proposal for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. It considered that approach to be the best way of achieving peace in the region. That goal could not be achieved through the efforts of one side alone. By accepting Agency safeguards on its nuclear installations, Israel would also be demonstrating its goodwill. The Agency was duty-bound to submit a comprehensive study on the application of full-scope safeguards in the region as a first step towards achieving a nuclear-weapon-free zone. All weapons, especially those of mass destruction, should be destroyed.

60. Lebanon, a peace-loving country, was now in the process of rebuilding its infrastructure, which had been destroyed as a result of more than 15 years of war. He hoped that the Agency would contribute actively to those efforts.

61. Mr. MIKHALEVICH (Belarus) welcomed Uzbekistan, Croatia and Slovenia as new Members of the Agency.

62. Contributing to the reinforcement of peace and security in connection with the NPT must remain a priority for the Agency. All efforts in that regard should be multilateral in nature. One of the main tasks of the NPT Review Conference in 1995 would be to convert the NPT into an agreement of unlimited duration. Belarus was attempting to establish itself as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and was making active efforts to accede to the NPT.

The ratification of the Treaty would be one of the priorities on the agenda of the next session of the Parliament of Belarus, which was scheduled to begin on 20 October 1992.

63. The Chernobyl tragedy had shown very clearly that the fact that a country did not have a nuclear power programme of its own did not protect it from the risk from nuclear power plants in other States situated near its borders. His country was therefore particularly in favour of the extension of the Agency's nuclear safety programme and considered that nuclear safety issues should be a priority within the Agency's activities. It fully supported the creation of a binding international nuclear safety regime, and endorsed the work which was taking place within the Agency on the establishment of an international nuclear safety convention. Such a convention would be a unique opportunity to establish an officially agreed international approach to all aspects of the problem. One logical consequence of the efforts to strengthen the international safety regime could be the drawing up of an international treaty on the cessation of the production of fissile material for military purposes. A treaty of that kind would involve the setting up of an additional monitoring system for warheads and nuclear materials. Bilateral agreements could also play a major role in solving nuclear safety problems and problems related to the protection of the public from radiation. Belarus was ready to co-operate with interested Member States on that issue.

64. The review of the Basic Safety Standards was to be commended. That activity was of particular interest to his country in view of the adjustments which it was currently making to the State programme to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

65. While he shared the concern of the international community regarding the problem of nuclear weapons control in the CIS, he pointed out that his country had already started to set up a State accounting and control system for nuclear materials and had established a national competent authority in that connection. In addition, his Government was currently considering the possibility of acceding to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Belarus was grateful for the help it had received from the Agency with the establishment of the necessary legal framework and a regulatory infrastructure for dealing with nuclear and radiation safety issues.

66. Belarus was carrying out serious research in nuclear physics, the interaction of ionizing radiation with matter, radiobiology, radioecology and the use of radiation in medicine, agriculture and other fields. The strengthening of contacts between Belarus and the Agency was therefore of great importance. His country intended to co-operate actively with the Agency on the development of a strategy for the radiation protection of the public, in work on the effects of low radiation doses and the determination of overall exposure levels, and on the development of new technologies to facilitate agricultural production on contaminated land. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had provided in organizing, together with FAO and the Government of Norway, the project on the reduction of the radioactive caesium content of milk and meat from grazing animals in regions affected by the Chernobyl accident. The preliminary results of an experiment carried out under production conditions showed a threefold reduction in the caesium level.

67. Belarus had recently celebrated the first anniversary of its existence as a sovereign State. The transition to independence was being dogged by a severe economic crisis. It was experiencing difficulties in the fuel and energy sector and had to import approximately 90% of its fuel and almost 30% of its electricity. One way of solving that energy crisis would be to build nuclear power plants, but that would require public support and the vanquishing of the "Chernobyl syndrome".

68. The complex problems with which the people of Belarus were faced had been made significantly worse by the Chernobyl tragedy. His Government was making great efforts to improve the life of the people who lived in the affected regions. Enormous amounts of resources had been poured into the construction of "clean" living areas for the evacuees. Very strict standards had been introduced for the radionuclide content of food products. Medical care had been improved, as had techniques for the farming on contaminated territory; decontamination and radioactive waste disposal techniques were being developed. Unfortunately, experience had shown that national efforts were not enough and that the consequences of the catastrophe could only be mitigated by effective international co-operation. He extended his sincere thanks to all those countries and organizations which were providing assistance to his country in that connection.

69. He shared the general concern over the Agency's financial difficulties. His Government was endeavouring to pay off its debts to the Agency.

70. His country felt that a more flexible approach should be adopted to the drawing up of scientific and technical co-operation programmes, allowing for redistribution of resources in accordance with changing priorities. There should be periodic reviews and revision of plans in that area based on consultations between Member States and the Secretariat. At present, special priority should be given to projects related to the Chernobyl accident since that work would benefit the international community as a whole.

71. Mr. BISLEY (New Zealand) said that the Agency had a vital role to play in providing information and advice to developing countries to enable them to assess the nuclear power option. New Zealand, which had hydroelectric, geothermal and natural gas resources, had not chosen that option, but its scientists had developed expertise in certain non-power applications of interest and relevance to developing countries and had contributed to the Agency's technical co-operation activities by participating in over a dozen different projects in fields such as hydrology and geothermal studies.

72. There was a striking difference between the current strategic situation and that prevailing immediately after the establishment of the Agency. However, although danger of global nuclear warfare had receded, the threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons had not. The international community was rightly concerned about attempts to circumvent international control systems, including the Agency's safeguards system. The details of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme, which had existed despite the safeguards system, had created the impetus for moves to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system. Agency inspectors working with the United Nations Special Commission had done an admirable job under difficult circumstances in unearthing details of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme. That task was not yet finished and Iraq had not yet fully revealed the details of its nuclear weapons programme, as required by the Security Council, including details of its foreign nuclear suppliers.

73. As a country in the Asia and Pacific region, New Zealand had been concerned that it had taken so long for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to honour its obligation under the NPT to conclude a safeguards agreement. His country welcomed the fact that it had now done so and that the first three Agency inspections had taken place. It also welcomed the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula signed at the end of 1991 between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea and hoped that the DPRK would complement the implementation of its Agency safeguards agreement by allowing effective bilateral inspections as provided for in that Declaration.

74. The full-scope safeguards agreements entered into by a number of other States, including Brazil and Argentina, the accession by China and France to the NPT, and the fact that Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan had agreed to sign the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States were all significant developments. In view of the additional responsibilities for the Agency which those developments would entail, every effort had to be made to ensure that safeguards were not only effective but also efficient. His country was encouraged by the Director General's evident willingness to explore ways of doing that.

75. It was clear that there were severe strains on the safeguards budget. However, the financing of safeguards should be based on an equitable system. Although all States benefited from an effective safeguards system, it was nevertheless those States with nuclear industries which created the requirement for safeguards activities and the distribution of the burden of financing safeguards should take that fact into account. His country was nevertheless happy to contribute its fair share towards financing Agency safeguards. It was also pleased that it had been able to respond positively to the Director General's request earlier in 1992 for help with the funding of safeguards equipment by making a modest extrabudgetary contribution.

76. It was increasingly being accepted that transparency was a key element in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. For that reason, attention had been focused on export controls as a means of preventing nuclear proliferation. Shortly after the conclusion of the previous session of the General Conference, the United Kingdom and France had announced that they

would adopt a policy of requiring full-scope safeguards for any new nuclear supply. Then, at the beginning of April 1992, all 27 members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group had agreed to adopt a full-scope safeguards export policy. Argentina had subsequently announced a similar policy. New Zealand therefore hoped that China, the only major nuclear supplier not already having done so, would soon accept the importance of a full-scope safeguards export policy in preventing proliferation.

77. In conclusion, he extended a warm welcome to the three new members of the Agency and called upon all Member States to renew their efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to ensure the safety of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

78. Mr. GOMEZ MENDEZ (Colombia), having welcomed Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency, observed that the recent new Colombian constitution prohibited the fabrication, import and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the entry into the country of nuclear and toxic wastes. His Government believed that there should be a balance between the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and the control, through the safeguards system, of its abuse. It also attached great importance to the safety of nuclear facilities as an effective way of ensuring the widespread peaceful use of atomic energy for the benefit of mankind. All Member States should therefore co-operate in making use of the Agency's services to promote operational safety and the effective application of the Early Notification and Emergency Assistance Conventions.

79. As a party to the Tlatelolco Treaty, Colombia welcomed the amendments to Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20 of the Treaty approved by OPANAL in August 1992. It also welcomed the decision by Argentina, Brazil and Chile to take the appropriate steps to implement that Treaty and the ratification by France of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty. With France's ratification, all nuclear-weapon States had agreed to respect the denuclearization of the region.

80. In his Government's five-year economic and social development plan for 1990-94, high priority was given to the development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The plan's objectives included the introduction

of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in undergraduate university courses, the introduction of specific aspects of that technology in post-graduate courses, and the improvement of public awareness of the benefits of nuclear technology.

81. The Institute of Nuclear Affairs (IAN) had embarked on five major programmes for the coming five years: the establishment of a national radiation and nuclear safety programme: the upgrading of the IAN-R1 research reactor; the promotion of the applications of large radiation sources, including the purchase of a new cobalt-60 source with a view to setting up an industrial applications pilot plant: the setting up of an energy planning group with a view to including the nuclear option in Colombia's future energy power planning; and the creation of an environmental protection group with particular emphasis on the conservation of water resources using isotope techniques and nuclear analytical technology.

82. In conclusion, he wished to express his Government's gratitude to the Agency and to donor countries which had made it possible to implement many important development projects in Colombia. For its part, Colombia had pledged its assessed share of the target for the TACF for 1993.

Mr. Lee (Republic of Korea), Vice-President, took the Chair.

83. Ms. SCHIMMING-CHASE (Namibia), after welcoming Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency, commended the Secretariat for its commitment to the peaceful and safe application of nuclear energy for sustainable development.

84. Namibia was currently taking the formal steps necessary to accede to the NPT. It had been encouraged to do so by the progress being made in reducing nuclear arms worldwide. It intended to commence negotiations immediately with a view to concluding a safeguards agreement with the Agency.

85. Namibia did not envisage the development of a nuclear power programme in the foreseeable future. So soon after independence, its priority was, to the extent that economic and social conditions allowed, to expand activities in nuclear science and technology in order to meet basic needs in agriculture, animal husbandry, hydrology and medicine. In establishing the basic radiation

protection infrastructure which was a prerequisite for the expansion of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, Namibia would be relying for years to come on the Agency and on regional co-operation - through AFRA - for the provision of expertise, technical assistance and training.

86. Her delegation welcomed the measures the Agency had taken to strengthen nuclear safety and radiological protection in developing countries. Namibia had joined the Agency only in 1991, but was grateful for the assistance it had already received under the technical co-operation programme. A mission consisting of five international experts had recently conducted a comprehensive technical appraisal of the radiological safety programme at Namibia's uranium mine, the results of which had provided a technical basis for the future supervision of the mine by the country's regulatory authorities. Currently, a second expert mission was visiting Namibia to assist with the establishment of a radioactive waste management programme.

87. The preliminary draft of the new and expanded Basic Safety Standards, which took account of the principles and concepts set out in the new recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, was a major step towards the attainment of a standardized level of safety internationally. In their final form the Standards would form part of Namibia's legislative framework for the peaceful and safe application of nuclear energy.

88. In conclusion, she commended the Agency on its performance during the past year and confirmed her country's commitment to the Agency's goals and mandate.

89. Mr. OGALO (Kenya) said he wished first to welcome Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency.

90. His delegation was pleased to note the report prepared by the Board of Governors in response to requests from Member States concerning equitable geographical distribution in the recruitment of Agency staff.

91. In the past year, co-operation between the Agency and Kenya had remained very good. Kenya's economy was largely dependent on agriculture, and the Agency had continued to support its national efforts to improve

agricultural production through research into the productivity of dairy cattle, isotope-based studies of the efficiency of fertilizer use, research into biological and other pesticides, and work on a trypanocide drug. The other main area of co-operation had been medical applications of nuclear technology, for which Kenya had received equipment for use in the treatment of cervical and oesophageal cancers, nuclear medicine, radiological protection and other areas. Kenya had also benefited from assistance in waste management and nuclear safety. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency intended to continue supporting his country in the safe application of nuclear technology and thanked the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy and other countries which had provided funds for certain programmes.

92. AFRA, of which Kenya was a member, had met all its targets in its third year. His Government was grateful to Spain and France for providing financial assistance to AFRA. Without such help, AFRA would not be able to function and he appealed to other Member States to support what was a very useful regional programme.

93. Kenya noted with appreciation the actions taken by South Africa in implementing its safeguards agreement and the co-operation it had shown to the Agency. With more transparency, South Africa could make a substantial contribution to the peaceful uses of nuclear science in the African region.

94. The Agency faced a challenging task in seeking to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear technology for sustainable development and to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It was therefore logical for it to pursue those two functions simultaneously and in a balanced manner.

95. Kenya was currently experiencing one of the worst droughts in its history. The situation was exacerbated by the daily influx of thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries, which placed a great strain on the national economy. In that context, he wished to thank the Agency for standing by his country in its efforts to explore further possibilities for harnessing nuclear science to improve the living standards of its people.

96. Referring to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio, he stressed that nuclear power had a great role to play in providing an alternative source of energy. For its part, the Agency

should take the lead in environmental monitoring and assessment, particularly with regard to the disposal of nuclear wastes. In that connection, his Government had been deeply concerned at UNEP's recent revelation of the dumping of radioactive wastes in Somalia by certain foreign companies. Owing to the potentially severe impact of such dumping on the environment and the lives of people in the whole region, his delegation requested the Agency to investigate the matter urgently. The world could not stand by and watch as some companies flouted international protocols and agreements with impunity.

97. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize the importance of public awareness and education, which were vital components of overall efforts to harness nuclear science and technology for sustainable development.

98. Mr. AL-SHERIDA (Kuwait) welcomed Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency. His Government attached great importance to the work of the Agency and had consistently paid its annual contributions to the budget.

99. Kuwait had suffered total destruction as a result of the invasion by Iraqi forces. He had therefore been most surprised to hear the way in which the Iraqi delegate had listed the damage suffered by Iraq, as if it had been the victim and not the aggressor. Kuwait had grown used to the prevarications of the Iraqi régime and was not surprised that Iraq had failed to respect Security Council resolutions. By shirking its responsibilities Iraq was losing credibility. Iraq still held Kuwaiti prisoners and spoke of Kuwait as if it were an Iraqi province. While trying to convince the international community of its intention to comply with Security Council resolutions, Iraq was at the same time concealing information about its nuclear programme. The case of Iraq represented a dangerous precedent and cast doubt on the efficacy of the present safeguards system. There was a clear need to strengthen that system in order to prevent the recurrence of a similar case.

100. With regard to the question of the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, he urged the Director General to hold further consultations with relevant countries on the options available. He appealed to all countries in the Middle East to exert pressure on Israel to submit its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards. The Middle East would not achieve

stability or security so long as Israel failed to respect United Nations and Agency resolutions aimed at creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region.

101. It was well known that the effects of nuclear activities were transboundary in nature. It was important, therefore, that the Agency verify safety measures taken nationally and ensure that the storage of waste was not carried out at the expense of the environment.

102. His country was particularly interested in the use of irradiation to preserve foodstuffs and requested the Secretariat to disseminate all relevant information and to promote the transfer of that technology to developing countries. Another area of interest to his country was low-cost desalination of water by nuclear means. The availability of water was a fundamental problem in the Middle East and in many developing countries.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.