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President: Mr. ADEKANYE (Nigeria)
Later: Mr. RYZHOV (Russian Federation)

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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
ASSET	Analysis of Safety Significant Events Team
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
RADWASS	Radioactive Waste Safety Standards
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGSI	Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation
SSDL	Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
WAMAP	Waste Management Advisory Programme
WWER	Water-cooled and -moderated reactor

PARTICIPATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO)
(GC(XXXVI)/1035)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the General Conference's attention to the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXXVI)/1035 and recommended by the Board of Governors.
2. Mr. RIHA (Czechoslovakia) said that his delegation proceeded from the fact that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had ceased to exist and new States had been created on its territory. Only two of them - Slovenia and Croatia - had applied for membership of the Agency, their applications being approved by the General Conference a few days before. He was therefore prepared to fully support the draft resolution in document GC(XXXVI)/1035.
3. Mr. CLARK (United Kingdom) said that the European Community and its Member States, on whose behalf he was speaking, had consistently maintained that the Agency should wait until the General Assembly of the United Nations had taken a substantive position on the question of Yugoslavia before doing so itself. The General Assembly had taken such a position on 22 September. With the General Conference in session, his delegation had requested that the Board of Governors hold an urgent meeting and had proposed that the Agency take a line similar to that taken by the General Assembly. The draft resolution recommended by the Board followed the text of the General Assembly resolution, with some minor modifications to take into account the different situation of the Agency.
4. Mr. KENNEDY (United States of America) said that the General Conference was having to address the extraordinary consequences of one of the greatest tragedies of modern times. The conflict on the territory of the former Yugoslavia was endangering the security of all, for it jeopardized the endeavours to achieve a democratic and peaceful world order. For its part, the United States supported all practical efforts to bring peace to the territory of the former Yugoslavia.
5. His delegation wished to stress that the action which had already been taken by the General Assembly and which the General Conference was now being invited to take merely reflected the realities of the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Although without precedent, the action was by no means completely

unforeseen. Forty-five years before, the Sixth (legal) Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations had formulated principles to guide the United Nations in deciding membership questions related to the break-up of States. According to those principles, which - in his opinion - could guide the General Conference as well, if, when a Member State broke up, there remained no clearly predominant portion which could reasonably be regarded as the continuation of the former State, the legal personality of the former State was considered extinguished and no State was entitled to continue the former State's membership in international organizations.

6. Before breaking up, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had been one of the most decentralized countries in the world. Since then, there had been no agreement among the former Yugoslav republics on the status of the former Yugoslavia's United Nations seat. Also, none of the former republics was so clearly a predominant portion of the original State as to be entitled to be considered the continuation of that State. His Government had therefore consistently made it clear that it could not accept Serbia-Montenegro's claim to the former Yugoslavia's seat. He regarded the action taken by the Security Council and the General Assembly as the appropriate response to an extraordinary situation and would accordingly welcome the taking of comparable action by the General Conference, as recommended by the Board of Governors, in conformity with Article IV of the Statute. Such action would confirm that the issue, like other membership questions, should be decided by the General Conference upon the recommendation of the Board of Governors.

7. In resolution 777(1992), adopted on 19 September, the Security Council had recognized that the former Yugoslavia had ceased to exist. Upon recommendation of the Security Council, the General Assembly resolution, like the draft resolution now under consideration, rejected the claim of Serbia-Montenegro to continue the membership of the former Yugoslavia. Contrary to what some maintained, the point at issue was not the suspension of a Member State pursuant to Article XIX of the Statute. Rather, following the actions taken by the Security Council and the General Assembly, the General Conference, on the basis of recommendations made by the Board of Governors pursuant to Article IV of the Statute, would simply be deciding that the

former Yugoslavia had ceased to exist and that its membership in the Agency had therefore expired.

8. Confirmation by the Board of Governors and the General Conference that Serbia-Montenegro was not the continuation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would automatically mean that Serbia-Montenegro must apply for membership, just as other former Yugoslav republics had done, if it wished to participate in the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

9. If it submitted an application, Serbia-Montenegro would be judged by the same criteria as all other new States applying for membership. Like them, it would have to demonstrate that it was willing and able to fulfil the obligations deriving from the Agency's Statute, and due consideration would be given to its ability and willingness to act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It was to be hoped that its desire to become a Member of the Agency would serve as a strong incentive for Serbia-Montenegro to honour its obligations, especially those deriving from the Charter of the United Nations. Until such time as it applied for membership and was formally admitted, Serbia-Montenegro, like any other State that was not a Member of the Agency, could not participate in the Agency's work, except in accordance with the rules and practices regarding the participation of non-member States.

10. Mr. AYATOLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) thanked the Board of Governors for having met promptly in order to consider the question of the participation of Yugoslavia in the Agency and for taking appropriate action. He also thanked the members of the European Community for having reacted promptly and effectively to the resolution recently adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which had served as a basis for the draft resolution now before the General Conference.

11. The tragedies occurring in the Balkans had warranted a decisive and rapid response on the part of the Security Council of the United Nations and other international bodies, including the European Community. Unfortunately, the atrocities had been allowed to proceed unimpeded. The decision of the General Assembly to deprive the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) of its membership had been a just, but belated, response. The decision had at least indicated that the international community would not

tolerate savagery at a time when all countries or groups of countries should be resolving their ethnic and cultural differences by peaceful and diplomatic means.

12. His delegation was therefore pleased that the Board of Governors had the previous day decided to recommend to the General Conference for approval a draft resolution similar to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly. He hoped that the draft would be supported by all delegations.

13. Mr. BALANESCU (Romania) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution in document GC(XXXVI)/1035, which had been recommended by the Board of Governors to the General Conference on the initiative of the United Kingdom delegation.

14. However, he wished to draw the General Conference's attention to the fact that nuclear facilities and materials subject to Agency safeguards were located on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. He would like to know how the Agency proposed to proceed with regard to the application of safeguards to those facilities and materials pending the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the Agency.

15. Also, he noted that in the resolution adopted by it on 22 September 1992 the General Assembly had taken note "of the intention of the Security Council to consider the matter again before the end of the main part of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly".

16. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution under consideration for the following reasons: first, Yugoslavia had ceased to exist, so that it had ceased to be a Member of the Agency; second, none of the successor States on the territory of the former Yugoslavia had become a Member of the Agency automatically; third, two of those successor States, Slovenia and Croatia, had applied for admission to the Agency and been approved for membership; fourth, if other successor States wished to become Members of the Agency, they would have to submit applications, which would have to be considered in accordance with the existing rules.

17. Ms. DJURICKOVIC-TUVIC (Yugoslavia) regretted that the question of the participation and status of her delegation had been raised again in the General Conference, which should not be called upon to deal with political issues. Her delegation considered that the draft resolution recommended by the Board on the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had no legal basis in the Statute of the Agency. Moreover, it was contrary to the principle of the universality of the Agency.

18. The question of the international identity and the continuity of a State was primarily a legal one - not a political one. The maintenance of Yugoslavia's international personality and statehood was in compliance with the practice usually followed in international relations and with the international rules of conduct normally applied in such cases. For example, the Charter of the United Nations did not provide for the disappearance of a Member State without its attachment to another State.

19. That position had been corroborated by the principles which the Sixth (legal) Committee of the General Assembly had adopted in 1947 after considering the issue of the legal rules which should apply to the States appearing on the international scene as a result of the partition of a Member State of the United Nations. It had been stated that, "as a general rule, it is in conformity with legal principles to presume that a State which is a member of the United Nations does not cease to be a Member simply because its constitution or its frontier have been subjected to changes, and that the extinction of the State as a legal personality recognized in the international order must be shown before its rights and obligations can be considered thereby to have ceased to exist". In the absence of evidence to that effect, adoption of the recommended resolution could constitute a dangerous precedent.

20. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had never claimed to be the only successor to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It had expressed its willingness to discuss succession issues and all other relevant matters on an equal footing with all other concerned parties at the International Conference on Yugoslavia that was currently taking place.

21. Accordingly, given the de facto and the legal situation, the identity and continuity of the legal personality of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

could not be questioned. Denial of the presence of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Agency and in other international organizations not only lacked a legal basis - it might also be detrimental to the ongoing peace negotiations. Moreover, the proposed text went beyond what had been adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in that the suspension of the participation of the Yugoslav delegation related only to the General Assembly.

22. Finally, it was the earnest hope of her delegation that, if the draft resolution was adopted, it would not have adverse consequences for the successful co-operation which had existed for many years between the Agency and Yugoslavia, especially in nuclear safety and radiological protection. Yugoslavia would continue to be bound by the obligations which it had accepted under international treaties in the field of nuclear energy.

23. At the request of several delegations, a role-call vote was taken on the draft resolution in document GC(XXXVI)/1035.

24. Czechoslovakia, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

25. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against: Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Brazil, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Holy See, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam.

26. The draft resolution in document GC(XXXVI)/1035 was adopted by 69 votes in favour and 3 against, with 12 abstentions.

27. Mr. HELLER (Mexico), recalling that his delegation had abstained, said that Mexico had already explained its position on the matter under consideration in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Its position remained valid, and it was strengthened by the absence of a clear legal basis for the resolution which had just been adopted.

28. The point was that the situation covered by the resolution was not envisaged either in the Charter of the United Nations or in the Statute of the Agency. The Charter of the United Nations did not touch on the question of the disintegration of and succession to a State, and that was why, on several occasions, the Security Council had tacitly recognized the automatic replacement of a whole by a part and had admitted new States resulting from a process of disintegration.

29. The resolution just adopted therefore had legal defects to which attention should be drawn at a time when, with the rapid transformation of the world's political map, international legal norms should be treated with particular respect.

30. Mr. MIKHAILOV (Russian Federation), recalling that his delegation had abstained, said that Security Council resolution S/RES/777 and General Assembly resolution A/47/1, which had been invoked as the basis for the decision just taken, did not envisage that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be automatically deprived of its right to participate in the work of other international organizations. Also, the Security Council resolution did not provide for the exclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the United Nations. The country could still submit documents, and it retained both its Permanent Mission to the United Nations and the plate bearing its name in the meeting rooms of the General Assembly and its organs.

31. The Russian Federation could not understand the haste with which such an eminently political matter had been brought before the Agency, which was a technical organization. Moreover, the text just adopted went further than the resolutions adopted in New York, as it provided for the exclusion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the work of the Board of Governors. His delegation knew of no legal justification for the decision just taken – and no provisions of the Agency's Statute which might motivate it. Also, it was not

convinced that the adopted resolution was in keeping with the spirit of the understandings arrived at in New York during the formulation of Security Council resolution S/RES///7 and General Assembly resolution A/47/1, and he did not think that the text adopted by the General Conference would really help to alleviate the Yugoslav conflict. He believed that all actions and decisions regarding the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should serve one single purpose - national reconciliation.

32. Ms. MACHADO QUINTELLA (Brazil), recalling that her country had abstained in the vote which had taken place a few days previously in the General Assembly of the United Nations on a similar resolution, said that the reasons for its abstention were valid also for the resolution which had just been adopted.

33. Reading from the explanation of vote given by her country in New York, she said that Brazil had been following with close attention and great concern all aspects of the developments in the situation in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and it remained ready to support efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict. Reasons for special anguish were the dire conditions afflicting the civilian population of the region, the intolerable breaches of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the recrudescence of dreadful practices based on ethnic grounds. Two reasons had nevertheless compelled Brazil to abstain in the vote.

34. In the first place, it was still Brazil's firm belief that the Charter of the United Nations remained the paramount document governing the existence of the United Nations as an organization based on law. Questions related to admission, participation, suspension or expulsion affected the most basic rights of States, and they should therefore be handled with the utmost care and attention, bearing in mind the fundamental need to follow the Charter strictly.

35. The treatment of such matters should certainly reflect an appropriate degree of reliability, predictability and transparency, with clear reference to the provisions of the Charter and the applicable rules of procedure. An overly imaginative interpretation of the Charter might lead to a weakening of the solid legal structure upon which the functioning of the United Nations was

based. It had even been asserted, lately, that the Charter seemed to be undergoing a process of informal revision. Brazil was concerned that Member States more and more frequently had the impression that they were being rushed into decisions on important matters on fluid or questionable legal grounds.

36. Secondly, Brazil attached the highest priority to the peaceful settlement of disputes and, to that end, advocated full use of the diplomatic potential of the United Nations. It was not convinced that the exclusion of any one of the parties to the conflict in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would in any way be helpful to the peace efforts currently being undertaken. One should also bear in mind the potentially negative impact of such a decision on the ability of the United Nations Protection Force to fulfil its increasingly complex tasks, as well as on the physical security of its multinational personnel.

37. In the light of those considerations, her delegation had not been in a position to support the draft resolution and had abstained.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXXVI)/1041)

38. The PRESIDENT recalled that, in 1989, the General Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot would be held; balloting would only take place for regions where no candidate had been agreed upon. Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, would be suspended for regions for which no secret ballot was to be held.

39. Under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, the presiding officer had to indicate to the General Conference those elective places on the Board which had to be filled. He drew delegates' attention to document GC(XXXVI)/1041 in that connection. Paragraph 2 of that document indicated for each geographical area the number of Member States which had to be elected so as to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute. Paragraph 3 listed the 24 Member States designated by the Board of Governors in June for membership of the Board in accordance with Article VI.A.1 of the Statute or elected by the General Conference in 1991 in

accordance with Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, which would therefore be serving on the Board during 1992-93. In order to facilitate the election, delegates had been provided with an informal note showing the results of the consultations among the eight geographical area groups regarding their candidates for the vacant seats. Delegates would see that agreement had been reached on all vacancies except the so-called "floating" seat. Balloting would therefore be required only for that seat.

40. Inviting the General Conference to proceed with the elections along the lines which he had indicated, he said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect Argentina, Chile and Paraguay to the three seats for Latin America.

41. Argentina, Chile and Paraguay were duly elected.

42. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect Finland and Sweden to the two seats for Western Europe.

43. Finland and Sweden were duly elected.

44. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect Hungary to the seat for Eastern Europe.

45. Hungary was duly elected.

46. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria to the two seats for Africa.

47. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Nigeria were duly elected.

48. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect Saudi Arabia to the seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

49. Saudi Arabia was duly elected.

50. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect the Malaysia to the seat for South East Asia and the Pacific.

51. Malaysia was duly elected.

52. The PRESIDENT invited the General Conference to proceed with a vote by secret ballot for the so-called "floating" seat, which was to be filled on the present occasion by the Middle East and South Asia.

53. A secret ballot was held to fill the "floating" seat.

54. At the suggestion of the President, a member of the Mexican delegation and a member of the United Kingdom delegation were appointed as tellers.

55. The result of the election was as follows:

Abstentions: 8

Valid votes: 79

Required majority: 40

Votes obtained:

Islamic Republic of Iran	13
Syrian Arab Republic	66

56. Having obtained the required majority, the Syrian Arab Republic was duly elected.

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

57. Mr. KOCH (Denmark), recalling that the Danish Parliament had decided in 1985 to exclude nuclear power from its national energy programme, said that Denmark had nevertheless responded vigorously to the challenge posed by the increase in harmful emissions arising from energy production and consumption.

58. The Danish Parliament and Government were confident that very ambitious targets could be reached without using nuclear energy and without additional cost. In May 1990, Parliament had officially approved a plan of action for sustainable development in response to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. It was estimated that the measures proposed in the energy action plan would result in a reduction of almost 15% in total energy consumption, cutting CO₂ emissions by over 20%, SO₂ emissions by 60% and NO_x emissions by 50% by the year 2005. Progress towards those

targets was being monitored regularly and in 1995 at the latest the results would be evaluated and the action plan revised if necessary.

59. Like other countries, Denmark welcomed the Agency's contribution to the implementation of Security Council resolution 687. The failure to detect Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme had demonstrated the urgent need to strengthen the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system.

60. His country welcomed the steps taken in that direction and particularly the reaffirmation of the Agency's right to conduct special inspections. Further improvements were nevertheless needed. Member States could commit themselves to declaring all civil nuclear materials - including uranium ore concentrates produced in their territory - and to providing information on international transfers of equipment. It seemed that unreported domestic production of yellow cake had played an important role in the covert Iraqi programme. The accumulation by Iraq of such material, for which there had been neither an export market nor a declared domestic use, might, if taken into account, have led to an earlier detection of the covert activities.

61. Recent experience had also underlined the general need to tighten export controls. His country welcomed the agreement of the Nuclear Suppliers Group on the establishment of a new regime to control transfers of nuclear-related dual-use equipment, materials and technology. Equally important was the fact that all members of the Group had adopted a policy of requiring full-scope safeguards as a condition of nuclear supply and were requesting other suppliers to do the same.

62. Denmark regarded the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and found it gratifying that further States had acceded to the Treaty, thus contributing to universal acceptance of the non-proliferation principle. The obligation for States parties to conclude a safeguards agreement under Article III of the Treaty was unequivocal and unconditional. It was therefore a matter for concern that nearly 50 of the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT had not yet concluded such an agreement. Although none of the States in question had significant nuclear activities, it was important for the credibility of the Treaty and the safeguards system that they should comply with their obligations.

63. Nuclear safety should be a major concern for the entire international community. It was a familiar fact that countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union were operating nuclear power plants with critically low standards of safety, and the situation required urgent action. The contribution already made by the Agency in that regard gave cause for satisfaction, and its important role in the new mechanism set up by the G-24 countries for co-ordination of their nuclear assistance programmes was also to be welcomed.

64. Unfortunately, the creation of a genuinely comprehensive and legally binding international safety regime was still a remote goal, even though significant progress had been made in the past year, notably in connection with the efforts made to establish a nuclear safety convention and the negotiations for a nuclear protocol within the framework of the European Energy Charter.

65. With regard to the nuclear safety convention, his delegation paid tribute to the preparatory work carried out by the expert group. In his view, the convention should above all be a dynamic instrument. It could take the present Agency safety principles and codes as a starting point, but should gradually be expanded to cover as many nuclear facilities and activities as possible, including the final disposal of nuclear waste. Then - although it had to be stressed that nuclear safety was bound to remain a national responsibility - the convention should include a procedure to verify that the safety principles adopted were actually being followed by States using nuclear power. Parties should be obliged to report on implementation of the convention, and there should also be an appropriate review mechanism. Finally, parties to the convention should commit themselves to accepting periodic visits from international safety experts.

66. As for the European Energy Charter, Denmark strongly supported the efforts being made to conclude a protocol on principles governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the safety of nuclear facilities. An important element of that protocol concerned the conclusion of bilateral agreements - particularly between neighbouring countries - on the location of nuclear facilities. It would be a major step forward if the parties could

agree on a legally binding commitment to consult neighbouring countries about plans to install nuclear facilities. The neighbouring countries concerned must be given the opportunity to express their views before decisions were taken.

67. The entry into force in April 1992 of the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention had done much to strengthen the existing nuclear liability regime. Also, the progress achieved by the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage was encouraging. Denmark fully supported the work of that Committee and hoped that draft amendments to the Vienna Convention would be submitted to a revision conference, possibly in 1993.

68. His country attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance activities, which continued to show substantial growth. Denmark accepted the target of US \$55.5 million for contributions to the TACF in 1993 and had already pledged its full share of that target. In conclusion, he thanked the Director General and the Agency's staff for their dedicated work.

69. Mr. EL HUSSEIN (Sudan), congratulating Slovenia, Croatia and Uzbekistan on their admission to the Agency, said that important changes were currently taking place in international relations. In order to confront those changes successfully, the Agency would have to expand its field of activities while bearing in mind the purpose for which it had been created, namely to obtain maximum benefit from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. If the Agency was to be successful in that serious task, all States would have to work together to establish a climate which contributed to the Agency's stability and increased confidence in nuclear safety. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the fact that many States had acceded to the NPT and invited those who had not yet done so to follow that example.

70. His delegation noted with satisfaction and supported the increasing efforts of Member States and the Agency to set up an international regime for nuclear safety, as such a regime would help to establish confidence in nuclear power plants and to dissipate existing fears that radioactive waste might not be properly stored, particularly in the developing countries.

71. The States of the African continent were very much in favour of the plan to establish a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Sudan accordingly welcomed the accession of South Africa to the NPT and the submission of all its nuclear facilities to the Agency's safeguards system; that was an important step towards establishing peace and security in the region.

72. Sudan once more deplored Israel's refusal to submit all its nuclear facilities to the Agency's safeguards system. As long as Israel refused to accede to the NPT and to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency monitoring, it would be difficult to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and peace in the region would continue to be threatened.

73. The developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, attached considerable importance to the technical assistance and co-operation programme, particularly as they were now aware of the advantages to be derived from the use of nuclear techniques in various areas. That being so, they were requesting Member States, and notably the industrialized States, to contribute to strengthening that area of the Agency's activity. While praising the work performed by the Agency's Department of Technical Co-operation, his delegation believed that Member States should redouble their efforts to find a financing arrangement for the TACF which would meet the needs of the countries concerned. As reliance on gifts and voluntary contributions clearly involved risks, financing of technical co-operation from the Regular Budget seemed one of the best ways of ensuring the efficiency and further development of that programme.

74. The States of the African continent had great hopes of AFRA, particularly in the fields of medicine, agriculture, improvement of animal husbandry, radiation protection, food irradiation, environmental protection, water supply, manpower development, and so on. Unfortunately, most AFRA projects had still not found sources of finance. In that connection, his delegation thanked the States which had participated in implementing certain AFRA projects and took the opportunity to invite all States and donor organizations to contribute to the projects, particularly those of greatest priority for development of the continent. In that connection he proposed: (1) that States parties to AFRA support those projects directly; (2) that the

Agency seek to obtain financial support from the more developed and richer countries for AFRA projects, in co-ordination and collaboration with the States parties to AFRA; and (3) that the necessary measures be taken for AFRA to receive a larger share of the Agency's budget.

75. Animal husbandry was the main source of food and income for Sudan, as for most African countries, and his delegation accordingly wished to thank the Agency for its efforts on behalf of the screwworm eradication project in Libya, as the insect could certainly have ravaged Sudan as well as other countries in the region.

76. In conclusion, he emphasized his country's increasing interest in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the efforts it was making to improve its capacities in that field. Sudan was, moreover, in the process of preparing regulations and programmes for the use of radioisotopes and radiation sources in agriculture, medicine, industry and hydrology. The Agency was providing valuable help, through its technical assistance and co-operation activities, in the areas of medicine, radiation protection, environmental monitoring, food supply, groundwater studies, maintenance of nuclear equipment and training.

77. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for the work accomplished over the past year. He also welcomed the admission of new Members to the Agency, which marked an important step towards the universality of the organization.

78. Together with some of his colleagues present in the room, he had had the privilege of attending the first session of the General Conference thirty-five years previously. The events which had taken place since then brought some reflections to mind. He wondered, for example, how the Statute would have been formulated if the Agency's founding fathers had had the vast experience of nuclear energy which had been accumulated in the meantime. Those thirty-five years had in fact seen many achievements, but also disappointments and failures of an extent unimaginable in the climate of general euphoria which had surrounded the creation of the Agency. Those who thought about such matters were not trying to rock the boat, but rather to stabilize it on a sea that was sometimes rough. As there were over

one hundred Member States, it was natural that they should have different views on the order of priority of the Agency's objectives. Those objectives were sometimes unanimously approved, but in other cases they brought disagreement or even controversy.

79. Members of the Agency knew that, on the basis of a referendum held in 1978, the Austrian parliament had passed legislation forbidding the use of nuclear fission for power production in Austria. It was the policy of the Austrian Government to make that decision known to other members of the international community and to inform them of the reasons behind it, in the hope that its example would be followed, particularly by neighbouring States.

80. Whereas views on nuclear power production differed widely at the international level, there could be only one view regarding the necessity of making nuclear plants as safe as possible as long as they existed. Austria therefore welcomed the Agency's activities in that area, particularly with regard to nuclear plants in Eastern Europe. There was by now a much keener awareness of the dangers inherent in the continued service of those reactors, and of the need for taking urgent corrective action. The efforts at present being made to draw up a convention on nuclear safety containing legally binding standards showed the increasing importance attributed to nuclear safety. His delegation hoped that the preparatory work currently under way would maintain its momentum so that the convention could soon be concluded.

81. It was a matter for regret that the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage had made scarcely any progress during the past year. The basic problem facing the Committee was clear: although the purpose of its work was to formulate a meaningful set of rules on liability for nuclear damage, including transboundary nuclear damage - rules which could be applied to installation States not covered by the Paris Convention, whose provisions on liability for nuclear damage were in any case insufficient - it was necessary for reasons of geographical interdependence that the new set of rules should also be applicable to the major European installation States party to the Paris Convention.

82. During the Committee's deliberations, the States party to the Paris Convention had introduced concepts specific to the OECD, namely the

distinction between the operator and the installation State, the relationship between insurability of risk and the extent of liability, and in general the civil law approach. Those concepts obviously posed problems for States in which nuclear power generation was a State activity, where OECD-based criteria for the insurability of nuclear installations did not apply, and where compensation for nuclear damage was seen as a matter of public policy rather than an obligation under civil law and could only be financed out of public funds, possibly augmented from international sources.

83. In view of the difficulties experienced by the Standing Committee in creating an improved nuclear liability regime within the framework of civil law, his delegation found it reassuring that international law also obliged States to compensate other States for transboundary nuclear damage. That obligation was rooted in Principle 21 of the 1972 Stockholm declaration, which affirmed the responsibility of States to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control did not cause damage to the environment in other States. Austria held the view that the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage should give more attention to the questions of public international law raised by responsibility for transboundary nuclear damage.

84. The term "nuclear energy" was sometimes used, quite erroneously, to mean nuclear power. Those who followed the activities of the Agency knew that, in addition to power production, nuclear energy had numerous applications which many countries, especially the developing countries, considered very important. Any assessment of the Agency's work should show that the use of nuclear energy in medicine, science and technology was raising living standards worldwide.

85. The Austrian Government had always held the view that the non-proliferation regime was an essential element in establishing a world free from nuclear weapons. It was therefore reassuring to note that, since France and China had acceded to the NPT, all nuclear-weapon States were parties to the Treaty. Austria welcomed the accession of South Africa and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the NPT and the conclusion by those States of safeguards agreements with the Agency. It also appreciated the declared intention of Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States.

Austria was looking forward to the NPT Revision Conference in 1995, at which Parties would have the opportunity to reaffirm their view that the Treaty was essential to a peaceful world order and, accordingly, to extend it indefinitely.

86. The important events which had taken place in Latin America had also greatly strengthened the non-proliferation regime. The comprehensive safeguards agreement concluded between Argentina, Brazil and the Agency was an important step towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, in accordance with the Tlatelolco Treaty.

87. Iraq's failure to observe its obligations under the NPT and its safeguards agreement with the Agency emphasized the importance of effective verification in relation to the obligations contained in the Treaty. The Agency's work pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, carried out in close collaboration with the Council, had made a vital contribution to restoring international confidence in the feasibility of a non-proliferation regime. The Agency would no doubt continue to make a substantial contribution to the efforts aimed at ensuring that Iraq respected its obligations under the NPT and that nuclear activities were not diverted for non-peaceful purposes.

88. In conclusion, as a representative of the host country, he commended the quality of the co-operation between Austria and the Agency and the essential role played by that organization in the efforts of the international community to achieve peace.

89. Mr. DEL POZO CARAFA (Bolivia) congratulated the President and the other members of the General Committee on their election and welcomed the new Members of the Agency. Also, he thanked the Director General and the staff of the Agency for the effective work they were doing.

90. During the past 35 years, the Agency had had to deal with a variety of situations, but it had nearly always succeeded in mastering them. The last few years, however, had been marked by a succession of events which even the most outstanding statesmen could not have foreseen. Although they reflected a strengthening of the principle of national self-determination, democracy and freedom, those events were also rather discouraging in that they seemed to be leading to a world where international security was constantly under threat

and the prospects for a durable peace were growing dimmer. That situation represented a new challenge for the Agency and its Member States, and Bolivia was determined to help - as far as it could - in taking up that challenge, in order that the end of the twentieth century might see the disappearance of the current threats to collective security.

91. In that regard, Latin America had every reason to be proud of the actions taken during the seventh extraordinary session of OPANAL's General Conference - they clearly demonstrated the desire of Latin America that the region should become a nuclear-weapon-free zone. His delegation was convinced that that desire would lead to the full entry into force of the Tlatelolco Treaty. Moreover, the ratification of Additional Protocol I to the Tlatelolco Treaty by France was an indication of support for the efforts being made in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the same spirit, the NPT should be strengthened and further accessions to it encouraged.

92. With the ongoing efforts to reinforce various legal instruments, the Agency's ability to act needed to be enhanced. The implementation of Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715 had entailed 14 inspection missions to 65 Iraqi nuclear establishments. The world community should act with the same determination everywhere in the world where attempts were being made to use nuclear weapons and materials for non-peaceful purposes. In that connection, his delegation wished to express its full support for the Agency in its efforts - being conducted through SAGSI - to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the safeguards system. Also, it welcomed the conclusion of new safeguards agreements, but wished to emphasize at the same time that the effectiveness and credibility of such agreements depended in the final analysis on Member States.

93. His delegation hoped that a universal nuclear safety regime would be created through adoption of the nuclear safety convention which was in the process of being worked out.

94. Bolivia was receiving technical assistance in radiation protection, nuclear medicine, uranium prospecting and the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, animal production and health, and hydrology; the assistance was mainly in the form of experts' services, fellowships, equipment

and instruments. By the end of 1991, the value of the assistance received had amounted to \$3 524 400. The programme for 1992 represented a total of \$297 700, for which his delegation thanked the Agency.

95. With regard to the financing of technical assistance, his delegation had noted the hard work done by the Resident Representative of Mexico in his capacity as chairman of the informal working group dealing with that issue. The working group's final report reflected the diversity of opinion within the group. His delegation nevertheless believed that it was important to secure a quantitative increase in the TACF.

96. Recalling the results of the Ninth ARCAL Planning and Technical Co-ordination Meeting, which had been held in Lima (Peru) from 18 to 22 May 1992 and at which general guidelines had been formulated, he expressed his gratitude to the Agency - whose support ensured optimum programme implementation - and to the donor countries.

97. With regard to the financial situation of the Agency, he said that his country was taking steps to make its recently announced payment.

98. In conclusion, he said that the Agency's Member States should realize the true extent of the energy crisis facing developing countries: the latter needed to increase their consumption of energy, but the conventional energy sources available to them were insufficient. The Agency and its Member States should work together in preparing developing countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in meeting the needs which emerged with development.

99. Mr. SEMINARIO ARCE (Peru), after congratulating the President and the other members of the General Committee on their election and welcoming the new Members of the Agency, expressed his satisfaction with the activities of the Agency in 1991.

100. The role being played by the Agency in the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes from developed to developing countries was of great importance for peace and well-being in the latter. In most cases, the absence of peace was the result of economic and social problems due to a technological imbalance. Peru therefore greatly appreciated the fact that the Agency, in fulfilling its statutory obligations, had since 1958 been providing

it regularly with assistance related to the use of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and industry.

101. Peru had on many occasions demonstrated its dedication to the cause of peace. At present, it was going through a difficult period due to unfavourable international economic conditions, a financial crisis with serious social repercussions and - above all - the constant threat to which terrorism and drug trafficking were exposing the country. The unceasing efforts of his Government to combat subversion and ensure economic and financial stability were bearing fruit. That was why his Government was confident of being able to restore an atmosphere of calm and security within the country. Similarly, it expected to overcome its financial problems thanks to the Peruvian people's solidarity and willingness to make sacrifices and to the understanding of the international community.

102. Because of the serious economic and financial crisis which it had been experiencing for several years, Peru had not been able to pay its contributions to the Agency in a timely fashion. The payments which it did make were made in order to demonstrate its willingness to honour its financial obligations towards the Agency. Despite severe financial restrictions, the competent authorities in Peru had decided to settle Peru's arrears as a matter of priority, and steps to that end had been taken.

103. In the search for peace, safeguards and technical co-operation were indissociable. In a world where major socio-economic imbalances could lead to conflict, promoting development meant promoting peace. That was why Peru had always advocated the establishment of an appropriate balance between safeguards and promotional activities as regards the allocation of funds.

104. During the past year, the changes initiated in Peru had continued in all sectors. The overblown public sector represented a considerable burden on the State, even if the salaries paid there were low. The burden was in the process of being alleviated through a policy which encouraged the voluntary departure of employees. Similarly, the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy had begun rationalizing the use of its administrative resources in order to improve its methods of work, to manage its programmes of international co-operation better and to establish closer ties with technical assistance and co-operation organizations like the Agency.

105. Reviewing the technical assistance provided by the Agency to Peru, he thanked the United States and the United Kingdom for extrabudgetary contributions which would enable his country, on one hand, to continue a feasibility study for the introduction of nuclear power in the medium term and, on the other hand, to continue establishing neutron activation analysis and computer facilities. He highlighted certain activities: the training (through an advanced programme in nuclear physics) of highly specialized personnel in support of the future development of nuclear energy in Peru; the production of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals for the domestic market; activities relating to the production of iridium-192 sources; the mutation breeding of plants; animal nutrition and reproduction (under the sometimes difficult conditions encountered in the field); and food irradiation (the establishment of a multipurpose irradiation facility being expected by the end of 1993). The last-mentioned project showed that it was not only possible, but also necessary, to ensure that the Agency's activities were in line with the main trends of national development plans. By taking greater account of the development needs and specific requirements of each State, the Agency would be able to optimize the use of its resources.

106. Thanks to the assistance which it had received in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection, Peru now had highly qualified personnel and the means for coping with any nuclear accident or emergency situation. Through an Agency project, it had acquired a modern laboratory where the internal contamination of radiation workers could be monitored. In that area, however, the problems were legal as well as technical. He was therefore pleased that the question of measures to strengthen international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection had been included in the General Conference agenda. In keeping with its tradition of respect for international law, his Government reiterated its wish to sign the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

107. Recalling that Peru had presided in May over the ninth annual meeting of ARCAL national co-ordinators, he said that ARCAL was an excellent example of horizontal co-operation among countries in the Latin American region.

108. Mr. KONIE (Zambia), after congratulating the President on his election and thanking the Director General for his statement, noted with satisfaction that the Agency had done good work in 1991 despite certain difficulties. Welcoming the new Members of the Agency, he expressed the hope that their participation would strengthen the Agency's role in promoting the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

109. His delegation appreciated the action taken by the Agency pursuant to various resolutions on measures aimed at strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection. Also, it was satisfied with the action taken to implement resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/551, on the revision of the Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection, and resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/552, on education and training in radiation protection and nuclear safety. Zambia continued to attach great importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, given the critical role which they played in efforts to resolve some of the developing world's problems. It was currently involved in six Agency technical co-operation projects, relating mainly to agriculture, radiation protection, health and mining, and Zambian institutions were participating in four of the Agency's regional projects. Three research contracts had been concluded during the past year and five were still under way.

110. Zambia's experience had shown that qualified personnel was essential for technology transfer and for the success of technical co-operation projects. The Agency was playing a vital role in that regard, especially through a regional project on manpower development in Africa. In particular, the Agency had helped the Physics Department of the University of Zambia to upgrade its nuclear physics training. During the year, eight Zambian scientists and technologists had attended Agency-supported seminars and courses. All but two of the Zambians who had received training through the Agency's fellowship programme were still working at Zambian institutions, where they were using the skills which they had acquired through their fellowships. He took the opportunity to thank the Agency for arranging for fellowship-holders to go to developing countries where the conditions were similar to those in their country of origin, thereby ensuring that the

training received was appropriate. That was a good way of strengthening South-South co-operation.

111. Problems of equipment maintenance and repair continued to hamper the effective utilization of the facilities provided by the Agency - especially in the least developed countries, such as Zambia. His country therefore welcomed the efforts being made, through a regional project for Africa on nuclear instrumentation maintenance, to address those problems and the problems of spare parts. In that connection, he urged donors to support the footnote-a/ project for the establishment of an instrument maintenance network in southern Africa. Also, he urged that, in future Agency regional training courses in that part of the world, use be made of the skills of former Agency fellowship-holders and other local experts.

112. Zambia was continuing its efforts to put in place radiation protection regulations and licensing procedures, and for that purpose it still needed the Agency's help. The success of the Agency's efforts to strengthen local capacities was attested to by the fact that the skills of five Zambians trained under the Agency's fellowship programme had been used during a local workshop held in May 1992.

113. His delegation hoped that the Agency would continue providing substantial support for AFRA projects through the TACF; the economies of most countries participating in AFRA were suffering from severe constraints and could not provide much support.

114. Zambia and other Member States in southern Africa hoped that the sub-region (in fact, the whole of Africa) would become a nuclear-weapon-free zone. All the countries of southern Africa had now acceded to the NPT and, with the exception of South Africa, none of them had nuclear power programmes, uranium enrichment plants or conversion plants.

115. His delegation was pleased that South Africa had acceded to the NPT and had submitted its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards. However, it was concerned about the lack of decisive progress on the political front in South Africa, where the situation remained uncertain.

116. His delegation approved the efforts being made by the Agency to reduce the costs of safeguards while maintaining quality and effectiveness. It particularly welcomed the compilation of inventories of nuclear materials and equipment as a way of ensuring full accountability. It was in that spirit that it had supported resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/567, in which the Director General had been requested "to verify the completeness of the inventory of South Africa's nuclear installations and material". The report presented by the Director General pursuant to that resolution was encouraging, as it reflected a desire for transparency on the part of South Africa. Zambia hoped that South Africa would continue to co-operate with the Agency in meeting its international obligations under the NPT and other agreements.

117. His delegation was still very concerned about the fact that the discussions in the Board of Governors on the question of amending Article VI.A.2 of the Statute were not resulting in significant progress. He urged that the current imbalance in the geographical representation on the Board be corrected in such a way that the statutory principle of equitable geographical representation applied to Africa and to the Middle East and South Asia, and he reiterated his country's position that that issue was distinct from the question of revising Article VI of the Statute as a whole.

118. Zambia supported the proposals aimed at making the financing of technical assistance reliable and predictable, for it believed that there should be a balance between the Agency's promotional and regulatory activities. As had been highlighted in the report of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee (document GOV/2559), owing to a lack of reliable and predictable resources some planned technical co-operation activities had had to be cancelled or deferred. Also, his country noted with regret that some countries which had traditionally been major contributors were not pledging and paying as they had in the past. For its part, Zambia had been pledging and paying its full share of the TACF targets, and it would do so again in 1993.

119. In conclusion, he expressed concern about the financial crisis which the Agency had been going through in the past few years – and especially the current year, during which Financial Plans had had to be reduced by 13%, which

had resulted in the cancellation of planned activities. He appealed to all Member States to meet their financial obligations in a timely manner and promised that, despite the economic difficulties which it was facing, Zambia would continue to meet its obligations.

120. Mr. DALKHSUREN (Mongolia), expressing approval of the Agency's Annual Report for 1991, said that positive trends in the field of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy were evident. In a number of countries there was growing interest in the NPT and in disarmament, which suggested the possibility of switching resources from military to peaceful uses. At the same time, many delegates had urged that the Agency's safeguards be strengthened, but the Agency should not neglect its equally important role in promoting the utilization of atomic energy in the interests of sustainable development.

121. Mongolia favoured the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The NPT, which was the most universal international treaty in the field of disarmament and arms limitation, was doing much to help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, thereby promoting peace and stability throughout the world. His Government subscribed to all international instruments concerned with the monitoring and verification of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

122. Mongolia needed considerable energy resources in order to maintain a reasonable rate of economic growth and meet the growing needs of its population. In that regard, the enormous energy needs of developing countries were very much a problem which the Agency could play a leading role in helping to resolve. The Senior Expert Symposium on Electricity and the Environment held in 1991 in Helsinki had highlighted the need to reduce the amounts of carbon dioxide produced through the use of fossil fuels in electricity generation. The use of nuclear power was an obvious way of achieving a reduction. Accordingly, his country was pleased that the Secretariat proposed devoting attention to the development of small and medium power reactors - an activity which deserved very high priority, for such reactors could to a considerable extent meet the needs of developing countries.

123. Mongolia was making extensive use of nuclear techniques in industry, agriculture, medicine, environmental protection and hydrology. Various

tracers were being used in agriculture for studying the efficiency of fertilizers, the aim being to increase cereal yields and accelerate plant growth. In mining and geology, extensive use was being made of neutron activation analysis, X-ray fluorescence analysis and other methods for determining the composition of rocks rapidly and reliably.

124. With technical support from the Agency, a microtron was being constructed in Mongolia for use in developing nuclear techniques to meet the needs of different sectors of the economy. As nuclear techniques were being widely used, it was important to pay close attention to questions of nuclear safety and environmental protection. With the Agency's help, a number of national courses and seminars had been held in Ulan-Bator on radiation protection and safety infrastructures, nuclear spectrometry, nuclear electronics and other topics. They had provided very useful training and helped in propagating the utilization of nuclear techniques.

125. The Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation and a group of experts had visited Mongolia in order to discuss the implementation of projects and of the plan for co-operation between the Agency and Mongolia. His country believed that such visits were very necessary.

126. Mongolia considered regional co-operation agreements to be an excellent way of promoting co-operation among developing countries, which was why it had recently decided to become a party to the RCA. Its decision had already been communicated to the Director General through official channels.

127. Mongolia attached considerable importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, which it regarded as an excellent mechanism for contributing to the development and modernization of Third World countries. The Agency's Annual Report for 1991 demonstrated convincingly that the Agency had achieved satisfactory results in that field. His delegation was grateful to the Director General and the Secretariat, and especially the Department of Technical Co-operation, for their untiring efforts despite the constraints imposed by zero real budgetary growth. He endorsed the recommendations of the Board regarding the Agency's Programme and Budget for 1993 and the TACF in 1993.

128. For several years, Mongolia had been encountering serious economic difficulties which were hampering its participation in the work of international organizations. However, it was pursuing a policy of co-operation with all countries and all international organizations, and the latter were giving it substantial aid. For example, the Agency's technical assistance was enabling it to maintain the level already achieved in the field of nuclear applications and to retain its qualified personnel.

129. In conclusion, he was convinced that the Agency would continue to be successful in promoting the utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Mr. Ryzhov (Russian Federation) took the Chair.

130. Mr. AMOO-GOTTFRIED (Ghana), after congratulating the President on his election and welcoming Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan, said that South Africa's nuclear programme had until recently been a constant threat to the countries of the African continent. It was therefore with relief that those countries welcomed the accession of South Africa to the NPT and its signing of a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency. Africa could now look forward to becoming a nuclear-weapon-free zone - an objective which should be pursued with vigour and determination.

131. His delegation also welcomed the accession of China and France to the NPT. With the NPT due to undergo a crucial review in 1995, Ghana urged all signatories to ensure its extension at that time. Also, it appealed once more to all those States which were still not parties to the NPT to accede to it and submit their nuclear installations to full-scope Agency safeguards.

132. The Agency's annual report pointed to commendable achievements in many areas, and the Director General and the Secretariat were to be congratulated on the way in which they had implemented the various programmes. His Government appreciated the role being played by the Agency both in the safeguards area and in promoting peaceful applications of nuclear energy. However, recent unfortunate events had led to an increase in public anxiety and to outcries against the use of nuclear power. The Agency should intensify its efforts to free the public of its prejudices against nuclear power and to promote the use of that energy source - the only one which met legitimate environmental concerns.

133. That presupposed the establishment of international standards for the storage and disposal of radioactive wastes. His delegation noted with satisfaction the progress made under the RADWASS programme and hoped that the first phase of the programme would be completed on schedule. It also hoped that the Agency would play a catalytic role in promoting international co-operation, which was essential to greater nuclear safety. In that connection, one should not overlook the very real dangers posed by the nuclear materials contained in nuclear weapons which were to be dismantled as a result of the end of the cold war. A mechanism should be put in place for ensuring that those lethal materials were subjected to international verification. Despite its financial difficulties, the Agency seemed to have the know-how and resources necessary for assuming that task. Ghana therefore recommended that appropriate measures be taken in order to enable the Agency to play its proper part when the time came.

134. Emphasizing the importance of the Agency's technical co-operation programmes for many developing countries, he recalled that AFRA had entered into force with a 16-year delay. The enthusiasm with which the event had been greeted had soon given way to disappointment; for lack of financial support, many excellent projects had not been implemented. His delegation again called upon donor States to support those projects. In that connection, it wished to thank once more the Governments of France and Spain for supporting AFRA financially; it hoped that they would maintain their support in the years to come and that other Governments would follow suit.

135. Ghana was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance which had been provided by it and to the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom for helping to finance two footnote-a/ projects - one on nuclear instrumentation and computer interfacing and the other on the genetic improvement of cacao and coffee trees. He appealed to other donor countries to finance other footnote-a/ projects.

136. The fellowships and expert services provided by the Agency and the regional and interregional seminars and training courses organized by it were greatly assisting in the transfer of technology to developing Member States. Ghana believed that there was room for improvement and expansion in those

activities and appealed to the Agency to ensure maximum funding for them. Also, he expressed the hope that the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste would continue to receive assistance from the Agency.

137. With the Agency's help, Ghana was making steady progress in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy (especially in mutation breeding, food preservation by gamma irradiation, the radiation sterilization of medical products, the control of harmful insects using the sterile-insect technique, and nuclear medicine). Considerable progress had also been made in the use of analytical methods such as X-ray fluorescence analysis and tracer techniques. Ghana was in the process of constructing a laboratory for the local preparation of radiopharmaceuticals. It had placed its SSDL at the disposal of neighbouring countries for training and calibration activities. Also, it was continuing to participate in several Agency research contracts, and its facilities would continue to be available to the Agency for the holding of regional courses.

138. All progress in the application of nuclear technology had, of course, to be accompanied by stringent radiation protection measures. Ghana was therefore grateful to the Agency for having assisted it in the formulation of a law on irradiation protection, the promulgation of which would open the way for a project involving a miniature neutron source research reactor supplied by China with Agency assistance. In order to ensure the smooth implementation of that project, his Government had taken steps to strengthen the necessary institutional and legal infrastructures. Thus, the Board of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, which had been suspended for almost a decade, was now reconstituted. Such measures demonstrated his Government's conviction that nuclear technology had a pivotal role to play in Ghana's development.

139. The next few years would be crucial for the Agency, as it would be called upon to play an increasing role in the area of international security. Although the end of the cold war had opened up numerous prospects for international co-operation, it had unfortunately not put an end to anxieties and fears regarding security. Was Superpower rivalry to be replaced by more explosive regional rivalries? Would the coming years see increased proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world? Would it become relatively

easy to obtain materials suitable for clandestine nuclear weapon programmes? In order to provide reassuring answers to those questions, the Agency would have to be able to play an increasing role in verifying that materials from dismantled nuclear weapons were not diverted to clandestine nuclear programmes or did not otherwise fall into the wrong hands. The close monitoring of stored materials would also be essential. Given its resources and technical expertise, such tasks would necessarily fall to the Agency.

140. In a period of budgetary difficulties, the Agency would need to be more innovative and to demonstrate a greater capacity for adaptation. Under the Director General's leadership, it had already shown that it could rise to the occasion when the circumstances required it to do so. It was up to Member States to provide the necessary support. As in previous years, his Government pledged its full co-operation.

141. He nevertheless considered it necessary to emphasize that, while the close monitoring of materials and facilities might be essential, care should be taken not to prevent developing countries from making progress in the peaceful applications of nuclear techniques. Unwarranted restrictions on peaceful nuclear programmes would have a negative effect on technological progress through the use of nuclear energy in agriculture, medicine, industry and other areas. The Agency's role was to help expand the use of such applications and not restrict them.

142. Mr. TALHOUNI MAJADA (Jordan), after welcoming the admission of Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan to the Agency, called on Member States to work for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He stressed the need for Israel to refrain from the production of military nuclear material and the development of military nuclear devices, to sign the NPT and to submit all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards.

143. Member States were increasingly determined to expand and strengthen the safeguards system; that reflected their firm desire to develop their peaceful nuclear capacities. While welcoming the progress already made, his delegation hoped that North Korea would implement as soon as possible the measures envisaged in the Joint Declaration made by it and South Korea, which provided

for Agency safeguards activities and was aimed at the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

144. Jordan, a small country with limited resources, greatly appreciated the assistance which the Agency provided to developing countries, and it invited Member States to maintain their efforts to provide assured resources for the technical assistance and co-operation programme, so that the programme did not have to depend entirely on voluntary contributions. His delegation was pleased to announce that Jordan had taken the necessary steps to pay its arrears of assessed programme costs. It had paid part of the amount in question during the current year and undertook to pay the remainder in the years to come.

145. His delegation supported the Agency's efforts in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection, and it called upon all Member States to co-operate fully with the Agency in that field and, if possible, to provide more information as counter-arguments to the opposition of certain parties to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

146. He commended the Agency's efforts to evaluate the technical and economic potential of the utilization of nuclear energy in the desalination of seawater; he hoped that the project in question would continue to receive the necessary support and that part of the costs would be met from the Regular Budget.

147. The Director General had made commendable efforts to increase the representation of developing countries on the staff of the Secretariat. He should continue with his efforts, for Member States which considered themselves to be well represented would take a greater interest in the running of the Agency and in sharing responsibility for it.

148. While endorsing the Agency's Programme and Budget for 1993 and 1994, he reiterated the importance of development-related projects designed to meet the needs of Jordan and other developing countries. His country undertook to pay its assessed contribution to the Regular Budget. Regrettably, it could not at present pay its share of the TACF target, but it would try to remedy the situation as soon as possible.

149. Mr. SAETI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) paid tribute to the efforts of the Director General and his colleagues to enable the Agency to perform its functions successfully. He took the opportunity to congratulate the countries which had become Members of the Agency during the year.

150. The Agency had set itself the task of promoting the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to ensure the well-being and prosperity of mankind, and it had spared no effort to strengthen international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection, while at the same time keeping abreast of events and changes on the international scene. Since its establishment, it had done its utmost to help its Member States. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya greatly appreciated the efforts of the Agency and would co-operate with it as far as it could in the performance of its functions.

151. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was making the best use it could of its available resources in order to ensure the well-being and prosperity of the Libyan people, and the peaceful utilization of atomic energy was one of the paths which it was following. That had been confirmed by the Director General at the beginning of February 1992, in a statement which he had made after talks with the Leader of the Revolution during which the latter had made it clear that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had no intention of using nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes. It should also be mentioned that the Director General had visited Libya's Nuclear Research Centre, where he had seen the laboratories and other facilities.

152. Among the activities undertaken by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in co-operation with the Agency, the screwworm control project had been crowned with success. The insect in question had been completely eradicated, and a disaster that would have affected not only Libya but all other countries of Africa and the Mediterranean basin had been avoided. In that connection, he mentioned that his country had met about 70% of the costs of the project and was currently participating in a Mediterranean fruit fly eradication project together with other Agency Member States, including the Maghrebian countries. Other important projects relating to food irradiation, radioactive waste treatment, medicine, agriculture and the environment were also under way.

153. At the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had submitted to the Agency a proposal concerning the desalination of seawater using nuclear energy; in doing so it had drawn attention to the importance of potable water supplies in several parts of the world. At the time of the thirty-fifth session, the Agency had published the results of an initial technical study whose conclusions appeared in document GOV/2465. That evaluation had been followed by meetings and negotiations at several levels which had led to a second study; the report on that study - in document GC(XXXVI)/1013 - showed that the use of nuclear energy for seawater desalination was technically and economically possible. Given the importance of the project, his delegation urged all States and organizations to support it.

154. Security Council resolution 487 had required that Israel place all of its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards without delay. If Israel had complied with that resolution, the situation now would be completely different. More than ten years had passed since then, and Israel had had the time to acquire a nuclear arsenal. Although there was an urgent need to implement that resolution and establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone, Israel was persisting in its refusal and not taking account of the wishes of the international community. His delegation hoped that pressure would be put on Israel to comply with the resolutions of the international community.

155. Since South Africa had signed the NPT and concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency, remarkable changes were taking place in the relations between South Africa and the other countries of the African continent. His delegation hoped that the policy of racial discrimination would disappear in that part of the world and that the population of South Africa would soon be embarking upon a new era, characterized by freedom and equality.

156. In his statement, the Director General had mentioned a number of important problems to which he had proposed solutions. They had included problems related to the safeguards system and ways of strengthening it, the final storage of radioactive wastes and the establishment of an international register of storage sites, and the growing stocks of plutonium resulting from the dismantling of nuclear weapons and the treatment of irradiated nuclear

fuel and the formulation of international standards for ensuring their safety. The rapid resolution of those problems would increase the confidence of the international community and dispel fears regarding nuclear energy.

157. With regard to radioactive wastes, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had consistently emphasized the need to resolve that problem at international conferences and seminars; the Agency should continue to provide the assistance required by developing countries on whose territories such wastes had been discharged.

158. In conclusion, in the light of the financial situation as described by the Director General, he called on Member States to pay their contributions in a timely manner in order that the Agency might continue to achieve its objectives.

159. Mr. JAMAL (United Republic of Tanzania) congratulated the President on his election and thanked the Director General for his statement. Also, he commended the Secretariat for the excellent work which it was doing.

160. The United Republic of Tanzania was very grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance provided to it in various fields. At its request, the Agency had organized a programme review mission to Tanzania which had taken place in December 1991. The services of the four experts who had participated in the mission had been greatly appreciated, and their report would constitute a blue-print for the transfer of nuclear technology to his country.

161. Tanzania did not plan to embark on nuclear power generation in the foreseeable future. However, it wished to acquire certain nuclear techniques appropriate to its needs and its level of technological development in order to accelerate its social and economic development. In that connection, aware that manpower development was an essential precondition for the transfer of nuclear technology, his country hoped that its technical co-operation with the Agency and with various regional groups would enable it to achieve its goals in that area.

162. He paid tribute to the efforts of the Agency to achieve its statutory objectives and of Member States to enable the Agency to continue with its activities. However, for nearly ten years a number of Member States had been

pressing for the financing of technical assistance from the Regular Budget or from other predictable and assured sources. The major contributors to the Agency had remained deaf to their appeals, and it seemed that the issue was no longer of great current interest. It was to be feared that the new needs emerging in the field of safeguards would lead to a decline in contributions to the TACF and make them even less predictable, thereby paralysing the Agency's promotional activities in developing Member States - especially the least advanced among them. Tanzania therefore appealed to all developed Member States to bear in mind the difficulties of those countries.

163. The efforts of the Agency to promote not only North-South co-operation but also South-South co-operation were particularly commendable. In that connection, while noting that the Agency was supporting AFRA as well as ARCAL and RCA, he deplored the fact that AFRA projects did not seem to be attracting sufficient financial support. Also, he emphasized that the technical assistance approach to Africa should take into account the low technical and economic level of the region and its history. He thanked France and Spain for the extrabudgetary contributions which they had made for the AFRA programme in 1991-92 and 1993-94 and Egypt and Tunisia for having hosted courses organized within the framework of the AFRA programme - and especially for having provided the cost-free services of many local lecturers. He appealed to other donors to make contributions and to support the remaining projects.

164. Understandably, the public considered that the Agency - given the specialized nature of its activities - should keep out of politics. However, in carrying out its statutory functions, and especially in applying NPT safeguards, the Agency was faced with questions of a political nature which were often very important and which could not be evaded. When that happened, the main issues should be discussed frankly and in good faith in order to achieve harmony, peace and security. His delegation was convinced that, if that were done, more and more Member States would accede to the NPT.

165. The debate on the nuclear capacities of all Member States, whether or not parties to the NPT, should continue in order to promote wider compliance with safeguards obligations. Deterrent measures should be formulated for detecting non-compliance with safeguards obligations, and they should be

debated not only within the Agency but also in other bodies belonging to the United Nations system and within the framework of bilateral relations.

166. As was frequently being stated, the present international situation was very conducive to the taking of far-reaching measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The opportunity should be taken to establish a credible and effective safeguards regime which strengthened confidence in the process of regulation while permitting the promotion of peaceful nuclear technology.

167. Ms. BOH (Slovenia) congratulated the President on his election and commended the Director General and the Secretariat on the work which they had done during the past year. It was a great honour for her to be addressing the General Conference on behalf of Slovenia. She thanked in particular the Board of Governors and the Secretariat for the confidence which they had displayed in her country when endorsing it for Agency membership. She also thanked the Agency and its Director General for intervening promptly when the former Yugoslav army had threatened the nuclear power station at Krsko in July 1991. Her country unreservedly supported the measures taken by the European Community and by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, which had decided not to recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as the successor to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

168. Slovenia wished to assure the General Conference that it would fulfil the obligations assumed by it under the Agency's Statute, the NPT (to which it had acceded during the year) and various bilateral and multilateral agreements regarding peaceful applications of nuclear energy to which it was party in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Succession of States in Respect to Treaties.

169. Aware of its responsibilities as a new Member of the Agency, Slovenia was confining itself strictly to peaceful nuclear activities and doing all it could to promote the aims of non-proliferation. It fully supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen safeguards and greatly appreciated the excellent work being done by the Secretariat in that connection. It believed that all violations of commitments relating to the peaceful utilization of atomic energy should be severely condemned by the international community.

170. Slovenia believed that the Agency had an increasingly important role to play in enhancing nuclear safety and radiation protection. In that connection, she recalled that the only nuclear power plant in the former Yugoslavia was situated in Slovenia, at Krsko, and that it had been in operation since 1981. It had been constructed, as a joint project of Slovenia and Croatia, within the framework of a trilateral agreement between the Agency, the United States and the former Yugoslavia. It had been under Agency safeguards ever since going into operation. In 1991, it had produced 24% of the electricity consumed in Slovenia. As attested to by OSART, ASSET and WAMAP missions, its performance was excellent and it had a good safety record. Slovenia was also engaging in extensive nuclear research, mainly with the help of a TRIGA research reactor.

171. Slovenia attached great importance to OSART missions, which it regarded as an essential part of efforts to enhance nuclear safety. They provided opportunities for a very fruitful exchange of information and experience between operating personnel and Agency experts, and they were an efficient means of disseminating the best possible practices and eliminating defects and misunderstandings. Her Government would strongly support all efforts to render safety missions still more efficient, with a view to promoting mutual confidence. It believed that further international co-operation was necessary in nuclear safety and radiation protection.

172. In particular, Slovenia fully endorsed the work being done on revising the Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection, drawing up a nuclear safety convention and revising the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and the work being done on radioactive waste safety standards and the project for enhancing the safety of WWERs in Eastern Europe. In the context of European Community activities, Slovenia was about to sign the European Energy Charter together with the Basic Agreement and the respective protocols.

173. Stressing the importance which Slovenia attached to the Agency's technical co-operation programme, she announced that her country would be paying its share of the TACF target for 1992 and was ready to pledge its share for 1993. In order to overcome their difficulties, the new countries of

Eastern Europe would have greater and greater need of assistance through the Agency's technical co-operation programme. Slovenia would continue to participate actively in the programme, including training courses for participants from developing countries, and would continue to put its experts at the Agency's disposal.

174. The Agency was also playing an important role in promoting the non-power uses of nuclear energy. Slovenia believed that the development of advanced nuclear techniques for use in agriculture, medicine, food production and industry was a vital activity for many countries. Her own country was deeply involved on research on such applications, which it strongly encouraged.

175. Recalling that a devastating war was raging in parts of the former Yugoslavia, where the number of victims already ran into the tens of thousands and vast areas had been destroyed and "ethnically cleansed", she appealed to the General Conference to help put an end to the violence and the bloodshed and help ensure the safety of all the peoples living on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, wherever they were and whatever their religion or nationality. Slovenia was convinced that the international community could end the war.

176. In conclusion, she said that it was important to extend and strengthen the non-proliferation regime and the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Non-proliferation controls and safeguards inspections were necessary for the safe development of nuclear energy, which itself was a pre-condition for the public acceptance of nuclear power. Slovenia would pay its contribution to the Regular Budget for 1992 and intended to play a positive role within the Agency. It was sure that the Agency would respond successfully to the new challenges facing it.

177. Mr. STEMPEL PARIS (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean), after congratulating the President and the Vice-Presidents on their election, recalled that at the thirty-fifth regular session of the General Conference he had held out the prospect of the imminent establishment of the nuclear-weapon-free zone envisaged in Article 4 of the Tlatelolco Treaty. As a result of various events that had taken place in recent months, that goal had now almost been achieved.

178. In accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Tlatelolco Treaty, a safeguards agreement had been concluded at the end of 1991 between Argentina, Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In February of the current year, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the Tlatelolco Treaty for signature, St. Vincent and the Grenadines had signed and ratified the Treaty and made the declaration provided for in Article 28 in order that the Treaty might enter fully into force for it. Belize had also signed the Treaty on that occasion. On 24 August 1992, France had submitted to the Depository State its instrument of ratification of Additional Protocol I to the Treaty. Also in August 1992, St. Lucia had signed the Treaty, and amendments to Articles 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20 of the Treaty which had been proposed by Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Chile in order to facilitate the full entry into force of the Treaty for the three last-mentioned countries had been adopted during the seventh extraordinary session of OPANAL's General Conference.

179. Thus, the Tlatelolco Treaty was on the point of applying fully to the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean. As regards Cuba, that country had announced that, although none of the reasons preventing it from signing the Tlatelolco Treaty had disappeared, it would sign in the interests of regional unity when all the countries of Latin America had assumed the responsibilities deriving from the Treaty.

180. As had been emphasized by Argentina, Brazil and Chile during the fourth meeting of signatories of the Treaty, it was to be hoped that consolidation of the Tlatelolco system would also serve as the point of departure for regional co-operation in the field of peaceful nuclear applications, for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone did not mean the renunciation of such applications by the States concerned.

181. With regard to Additional Protocol II, during the seventh extraordinary session of OPANAL's General Conference the representative of the Russian Federation had declared that his country, as a successor State, assumed all the international rights and obligations of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, including those deriving from the signing of that

protocol. In the opinion of OPANAL's General Secretariat, that declaration resolved the legal problems of the assurances which should be given by the nuclear-weapon States regarding respect for the nuclear-weapon-free status of Latin America and the Caribbean.

182. When the nuclear status of Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan had been clarified, OPANAL would take the decisions and initiate the negotiations which it considered most appropriate in each case.

183. Thanking the Agency and the Director General for their valuable co-operation in the process of amendment of the Tlatelolco Treaty, he said that the amendments that had been adopted would undoubtedly result in an even more important role for the Agency in monitoring the implementation of the Treaty. Finally, he appealed once more to all States party to the Treaty that had not yet done so to conclude as soon as possible the safeguards agreements provided for in Article 13 of the Treaty.

184. Mr. COLL (Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials) recalled that in July 1991 Brazil and Argentina had signed, in Guadalajara (Mexico), a bilateral agreement for the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy whereby the two countries undertook to use the nuclear material and facilities under their jurisdiction or control exclusively for peaceful purposes. They also undertook to prohibit and prevent in their respective territories - and to abstain from carrying out, promoting or authorizing, directly or indirectly, or from participating in any way in - the testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means of any nuclear weapon and the receipt, storage, installation, deployment or any other form of possession of any such weapon. The agreement had entered into force in December 1991, after being ratified by the Parliaments of the two countries. It established a Common System of Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (SCCC), which would be applied in the two countries in verifying that the nuclear materials in all their nuclear activities were not diverted to the purposes prohibited by the agreement.

185. To that end, the agreement established the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC), the headquarters of which were in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). As an international organization,

ABACC enjoyed the privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of its tasks. The privileges and immunities of its officials were set out in an additional protocol. ABACC had two organs: the Commission, consisting of four members (two designated by each party), was the policy-making organ; the Secretariat was the executive organ.

186. The first meeting of the ABACC Commission had taken place in December 1991, in Buenos Aires (Argentina). The Secretariat consisted of a Secretary and a Deputy Secretary, a body of experienced officials, a group of administrative assistants and about 50 temporary inspectors (25 per country) who were attached to ABACC only when carrying out inspections. As stipulated in the agreement, the inspection activities were to be carried out on a reciprocal basis, with Argentine inspectors visiting Brazilian facilities and vice-versa.

187. The Secretariat was divided into a technical unit and an administrative and financial unit. The technical unit was responsible for nuclear material accounting, for planning and evaluation, for operations and for technical support. The agreement also provided that the parties should furnish, on an equal basis, the resources necessary for the functioning of ABACC. After the signing of a headquarters agreement with Brazil, ABACC had begun its activities on 1 July 1992. It had started by examining the general procedures of the SCCC and technical questionnaires about facilities, establishing the databank necessary for nuclear material accounting, planning inspections and determining what equipment would be needed. It had already organized two seminars for its inspectors and had begun, in co-ordination with the national authorities of each country, to verify facility designs.

188. As happened whenever an organization was being established, numerous difficulties had been encountered during the establishment of ABACC. In the light of the results to date, however, he was optimistic about achieving the envisaged objectives.

189. Lastly, he emphasized the importance of the signing, in December 1991, of a quadripartite agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the Agency and ABACC whereby the Agency undertook to apply full-scope safeguards in the two countries, in co-operation with ABACC and taking account of the technical

effectiveness of the SCCC. The agreement would enter into force on the date when the Agency received from ABACC and the States parties written notification that the necessary conditions had been fulfilled. Given the importance of the agreement for the parties, it was to be hoped that those conditions would be fulfilled soon.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.