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Record of the Fourth Meeting

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Chairperson: Ms. FEROUKHI (Algeria)

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¹ GC(51)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

GIF	Generation IV International Forum
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (continued) (GC(51)/COM.5/L.2, L.3, L.6, L.7 and L.13)

1. The representative of JAPAN, referring to the draft resolution on non-power nuclear applications contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.2, which had been introduced during the Committee's first meeting, suggested that the phrase "subject to the availability of resources" be inserted in paragraph 8 after "providing assistance" and in paragraph 9 after "the Joint FAO/IAEA Agricultural Programme".
2. She proposed that "the Agency" in paragraphs 8 and 10 be changed to "the Secretariat".
3. The representative of PAKISTAN said that it was implicit that all Secretariat activities were subject to the availability of resources and he therefore did not see the need for the additions suggested by the representative of Japan.
4. He had no objection to the proposal to refer to "the Secretariat" in place of "the Agency" in paragraphs 8 and 10.
5. The representative of JAPAN, responding to the first comment made by the representative of Pakistan, withdrew the suggestion regarding the insertion of "subject to the availability of resources" in paragraphs 8 and 9.
6. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.2, with "on PET radioisotope production" replaced by "relating to PET radioisotope production" in paragraph (q), with the words "the unique applications of isotopes to track the global uptake by the oceans of carbon dioxide and the resulting acidification effects on marine ecosystems," after "the Mediterranean fruit fly" in paragraph 6 and with the replacement of "the Agency" by "the Secretariat" in paragraphs 8 and 10.
7. It was so agreed.
8. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution entitled "Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized reactors" in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.7, which had also been introduced during the Committee's first meeting.
9. It was so agreed.
10. The representative of INDIA, referring to the draft resolution on "Agency activities in the development of innovative nuclear technology" in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.13, which had been introduced during the Committee's third meeting, proposed that the detailed references to international initiatives in paragraph (d) be deleted.
11. The representatives of PAKISTAN, SOUTH AFRICA, MALAYSIA, EGYPT and ARGENTINA expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of India.

12. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION proposed that paragraph (d) be amended to read “Noting that recent international initiatives underline the importance of the Agency’s International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) and complement its activities”.

13. The representative of BRAZIL said that, if the reference to the Generation IV International Forum was to be removed from paragraph (d), its full title — not simply GIF — should be given in paragraph (i).

14. The representative of NEW ZEALAND recalled her delegation’s suggestion — made during the Committee’s third meeting and supported by the representatives of Austria, Norway and Denmark — that the words “including extending the global reach of nuclear energy, safety, proliferation resistance and other security issues” be deleted from paragraph 10.

15. The representatives of SPAIN, SOUTH AFRICA, FRANCE, INDIA, PAKISTAN, EGYPT, CHINA, YEMEN, BELGIUM and the REPUBLIC OF KOREA called for the retention of those words.

16. The representatives of IRELAND and LUXEMBOURG said that they also supported the suggestion made by the delegation of New Zealand.

17. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, expressing support for the retention of the last part of paragraph 10, suggested that the wording be modified so that it referred to “... safety and security issues ...”.

18. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that further discussion of the draft resolution be deferred pending the outcome of informal consultations.

19. It was so agreed.

20. The representative of COLOMBIA, introducing the draft resolution entitled “Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy” in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.3, drew particular attention to paragraph (e), about the establishment of the PACT Programme Office, paragraph (f), about imPACT missions, paragraph 7, about the “Forum on Cancer Control in Africa”, paragraph 9, about international collaboration and paragraphs 12 and 13, about fund-raising.

21. The representative of ALBANIA, welcoming the draft resolution, said that his country, where pilot activities within the PACT framework had been carried out, knew that PACT could make a real difference on the ground. PACT had enabled Albania to fight cancer in a comprehensive fashion, and his country would like to see more Member States supporting PACT through financial and other contributions. In particular, the PACT Programme Office needed additional human resources.

22. The representative of ARGENTINA, having expressed her country’s strong support for PACT, said that reference should be made in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution to the cities where the events supported by the IAEA Nobel Prize Cancer and Nutrition Fund had been held, since the competent authorities in those cities had helped to disseminate information about the events both locally and regionally. She suggested the insertion of “and held in Cape Town, Bangkok and Buenos Aires” after “IAEA Nobel Prize Cancer and Nutrition Fund”.

23. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA, having expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of Argentina, said that PACT was one of the most important programmes of the Agency.

24. The representative of YEMEN said that his country greatly appreciated the Agency’s efforts in the fight against cancer, and especially PACT. Yemen had been chosen as one of the six PACT pilot

countries and considered that PACT should receive still stronger support. Accordingly, his delegation would like “encourages” in paragraph 4 to be replaced by “appeals to” and “encourages” in operative paragraph 9 to be replaced by “urges”.

25. The representative of NEW ZEALAND, expressing support for the draft resolution, said that her country considered PACT to be an extremely important Agency programme.

26. The representative of FRANCE, welcoming the draft resolution, said that his country fully endorsed the high priority attached to PACT. However, although his delegation considered it important to highlight — in paragraph 15 of the draft resolution — the need for sufficient human resources in the PACT Programme Office, it had misgivings about telling the Secretariat how to do its job by encouraging it “to make staff adjustments”. Also, it did not think that the word “sufficient” before “support and funding” was necessary.

27. The representative of CANADA said that, as a substantial contributor in support of PACT, his country welcomed the draft resolution and would like to see it adopted with paragraph 15 amended so as to take account of the comments made by the representative of France.

28. The representatives of BRAZIL and the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN expressed strong support for PACT.

29. The representative of JAPAN said that her country recognized the importance of PACT and had made substantial contributions in support of it. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution, but would like the phrase “the provision included in the Regular Budget to cover a portion of PACT’s funding requirement for management and essential support” in paragraph 1 to be replaced by “the provision included in the Regular Budget to cover a portion of PACT’s funding requirement with core funding provided for resources to implement projects using extrabudgetary funds” — the words “with core funding ... extrabudgetary funds” being taken from page 103 of the Agency’s Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (GC(51)/2).

30. The representatives of INDIA, ANGOLA and EGYPT expressed strong support for PACT.

31. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that his country had been participating in PACT from its early days and was pleased with the work being done by the PACT Programme Office.

32. With regard to the comments made by the representative of France on paragraph 15, he suggested adding “as appropriate” after “to make staff adjustments”.

33. The representative of COLOMBIA said that her delegation had no objections to that suggestion. It had not been the intention of the sponsors of the draft resolution to tell the Secretariat how to do its job.

34. The CHAIRPERSON said that, although a representative of a country belonging to the Group of 77 and China, which had submitted the draft resolution under consideration, she felt that the words “encourages the Secretariat to make staff adjustments” in paragraph 15 were inappropriate. The General Conference should not become involved in micromanagement.

35. The HEAD OF THE PACT PROGRAMME OFFICE, responding to a request for information about the staffing of the PACT Programme Office, said that only three posts were paid for from the Regular Budget. The remainder were paid for from extrabudgetary resources which highlighted the importance of having sufficient extrabudgetary funding available in the longer term.

36. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that the PACT Programme Office was understaffed and the issue must be addressed.

37. He suggested amending operative paragraph 15 to read: "... encourages the Secretariat to take the necessary steps in this direction and ..."

38. The representatives of CANADA and FRANCE expressed support for the suggestion.

39. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.3 with paragraph 1 amended to read "... PACT's funding requirement with core funding provided for resources to implement projects using extrabudgetary resources", with the insertion of the words "and held in Cape Town, Bangkok and Buenos Aires" after "the IAEA Nobel Prize Cancer and Nutrition Fund" in paragraph 4, with the replacement of "encourages" by "appeals to" in paragraph 4 and by "urges" in paragraph 9, and with paragraph 15 amended to read "... encourages the Secretariat to take the necessary steps in this direction and encourages Member States to continue providing support and funding".

40. It was so agreed.

41. The representative of FRANCE, introducing the draft resolution on nuclear power applications in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.6, drew particular attention to paragraph 8, about the establishment of the Nuclear Power Support Group, and to paragraph 11, about the organization of workshops on vital topics related to the use of nuclear power.

42. The representative of NEW ZEALAND, supported by the representative of NORWAY, suggested that a working group be convened to consider the draft resolution.

43. The CHAIRPERSON said that some small delegations would find it difficult to assign a representative to such a working group while the Committee was meeting. Perhaps the Committee could consider the draft resolution in informal session.

44. The representatives of AUSTRIA and LUXEMBOURG expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of New Zealand.

45. The representatives of EGYPT and SOUTH AFRICA expressed support for the Chairperson's suggestion.

46. The CHAIRPERSON — following comments made by the representatives of EGYPT, INDIA, PAKISTAN, FRANCE, IRELAND, NORWAY, NEW ZEALAND and DENMARK — proposed that the Committee consider the draft resolution in informal session.

47. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.