



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE



GC(XXXII)/OR.306
16 November 1988

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

THIRTY-SECOND (1988) REGULAR SESSION

RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Tuesday, 20 September 1988, at 3.20 p.m.

President: Mr. HALIM (Malaysia)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the provisional agenda*</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
6	General debate and annual report for 1987 (continued)	1 - 139
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Mauritius	1 - 14
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	15 - 20
	Cuba	21 - 34
	Viet Nam	35 - 39
	Malaysia	40 - 53
	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	54 - 64

[*] GC(XXXII)/834.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXII)/INF/262/Rev.2.

<u>Item of the provisional agenda*</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Finland	65 - 76
Poland	77 - 87
Belgium	88 - 102
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	103 - 113
Brazil	114 - 129
Spain	130 - 139
-	
Reply by the delegate of Iraq to the statement by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran	140 - 142
1	
Election of officers and appointment of the General Committee (resumed)	143 - 144
-	
Statement by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran	145

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987 (GC(XXXII)/835) (continued)

1. Mr. UTCHANAH (Mauritius) observed that several positive steps taken recently indicated the political will to create a peaceful environment for the world population. At the present time when technology was evolving fast, man could not only destroy the Earth, but could also - by acting circumspectly - promote sustained economic development on a world-wide scale. The Annual Report for 1987 demonstrated quite clearly the increasing role of nuclear power in world electricity production. There was no doubt that the demand for electricity would be growing in the developing countries as they increased their level of industrialization. Mauritius, which had started its industrial diversification programme in 1983, had been witnessing a growth rate of 10-15% annually in electricity production over the preceding three years. That was the kind of growth rate which could be expected in a developing economy if the conditions were right.
2. The recent conclusion of the INF Treaty had been a positive step away from the destructive aspect of nuclear energy. However, the appropriate pressures should be maintained at all levels for the total elimination of nuclear arms. The resources thus freed could be more wisely used for social and economic development.
3. Two years earlier, at the thirtieth regular session of the General Conference, he had spoken about the need to consider the world as one. The troubles which affected one part of the planet could not leave the other parts unconcerned. Mankind was now more than ever aware of the potential dangers which the new methods of harnessing nuclear technology might bring to it. He had in mind the case of the radiological accident in Goiania: the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were now being extended to medicine and agriculture, but dangers often arose, especially in the less developed countries, as a result of shortages of trained personnel.
4. His delegation upheld the Agency's stand that regulatory requirements should be specific, simple and enforceable; in particular, good communication was required between all concerned in implementing and enforcing radiological protection requirements.

5. The Agency budget for radiation protection and nuclear safety for 1989-90 clearly recognized the need for a concentrated effort in that area. Like some delegates who had spoken before him, he stressed that the availability of funds for programmes of direct importance to the developing countries should keep pace with the priority accorded to them. Any slowing down of such programmes would only widen the existing technology gap.

6. There was hope at present that the nuclear arms race would soon be a thing of the past, and so efforts should now be concentrated on preparing for the future of mankind. The seminar on radiation protection services for developing countries which the Agency had recently conducted had been an effective exercise, but it was perhaps not enough. Many developing countries faced the dilemma of having up-to-date technology without necessarily having the legislative and technical framework needed for regular monitoring and control of radiological sources.

7. Each country should set up such a framework for both radiological and radioactive waste control as well as nuclear safety. To that end, it was essential to train personnel and to acquire the necessary equipment. That must be one of the Agency's aims, recent events having clearly shown that accidents could happen to anyone. That would take time, but would be a worthwhile exercise.

8. Referring to the question of making the public aware of the safety aspects of nuclear energy, he congratulated the Agency on the meeting with media representatives which it had recently organized. A sound public information programme was essential to the development of the uses of nuclear energy.

9. The recent public outcry against the dumping of toxic waste in Third World countries was a matter of serious concern for everyone. Although the stringent controls which the Agency had established might appear satisfactory, there was still a need to exercise vigilance, both at the national and the international level, where nuclear waste material was concerned.

10. Resolution No. 1153 adopted by the Organization of African Unity in May 1988 had highlighted the concern felt by the countries in the region at the potential hazards which the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes might

have for the environment. It was important for every Member State to ensure that its radioactive waste was disposed of in accordance with the established safety standards. But beyond that, some international guidelines were required, and the Agency had a role to play in that respect.

11. On the issue of food irradiation, he noted with pleasure that an International Conference on the Acceptance, Control of, and Trade in Irradiated Food was to be held towards the end of the year. The need for some form of quality standardization was felt most particularly by developing countries which, often through ignorance, took delivery of products considered unacceptable by the developed countries. Standards for irradiated food applicable to both exports and imports should be prepared.

12. Lastly, he considered that programmes and activities closely related to the nuclear energy sector should be initiated in all regions. His Government was therefore interested in the development of regional arrangements for Africa in the field of nuclear science and technology on the lines of those existing in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

13. That was indeed a challenge for his region, which had the greatest need for training but could take heart from the thought that nuclear science and technology would help it to proceed on the path of sustained development. However, economic growth must not be pursued at the expense of the environment. That was why Africa as a region must have the appropriate structures which would ensure safe utilization of nuclear energy. The Agency had been of great assistance in establishing safeguards standards, but it was up to all independent nations to ensure that those standards were followed.

14. Expressing his satisfaction at the present period of worldwide détente, he emphasized the role of the Agency as an instrument for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic development. He hoped that it would take a unified and global approach in its activities.

15. Mr. KIM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) wished to commend the Director General and the Secretariat on the excellent Annual Report for 1987. That had been a year of great significance for the Agency and, in general, for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Since the commemoration of its 30th anniversary the Agency had continued to play a pivotal role in the

expansion of the use of nuclear energy, in nuclear safety, environmental protection, the prevention of nuclear war and the abolition of nuclear weapons. That role had been justly appreciated at the 42nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Agency enjoyed the active support of Member States and of peace-loving peoples all over the world. Its technical assistance activities enabled the developing countries to embark on exploiting nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The world output of nuclear power had reached 16% of total electricity production, and nuclear energy was now being used widely for the promotion of human welfare in the areas of industry, agriculture, health and education. Ways of utilizing nuclear energy without risk to man and his environment were being explored and applied ever more effectively.

16. The achievements which had been made in the field of nuclear energy were unthinkable without the participation of the Agency. His country was appreciative of all the activities of the Agency and wished to reaffirm its intention to take an increasing part in them in the future.

17. His country had taken steps towards using nuclear energy for purposes of economic development. During the period of the third Seven-Year Plan, mainly hydroelectric power plants and thermal plants were to be built, but other resources such as nuclear energy would not be ignored. Preparations were under way for the construction of a nuclear power plant with a WWER-440 reactor. In addition, various activities were being carried out to apply nuclear energy in many sectors of the national economy, including industry, agriculture and health. The number of institutions using radiation and radioisotopes had increased to several hundred. Radiographic testing had come into general use in heavy engineering factories, shipyards and construction complexes, and such measuring devices as radiation densitometers, and level and thickness gauges were in use in various production sectors. Mines and factories were employing X-ray luminescence and beta scattering analysers. Radioisotopes were being used for the treatment of diseases and modern labelling methods in biology, agriculture and scientific research. A new device which could check germs quickly had recently aroused great interest among people working in the health sector and food industry. At the same time, in the use of nuclear energy in the various sectors of the national

economy, special attention was paid to nuclear safety and radiation protection, and the relevant rules and requirements were being strictly observed.

18. The situation in the Korean peninsula had become more tense and complicated than ever before. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had put forward many peace-oriented proposals, including one to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone of peace. He hoped that all peace-loving people would pay due regard and give support to that just cause.

19. The co-operation between his country and the Agency was increasing with each passing year. Research and development work on nuclear energy, research in the fields of nuclear physics and the properties of materials, and scientific and technological activities relating to the applications of nuclear energy in many sectors of the economy had been undertaken in close collaboration with the Agency. His country had received technical assistance from the Agency, notably in connection with particle accelerators for isotope production and analysis and with the modernization of uranium exploration. That assistance had proved its worth in many fields.

20. He wished to express his deep gratitude to the Director General, the Secretariat and many Member States for the development of the Agency's promotional activities and to assure the Agency of his country's continued co-operation.

21. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba) welcomed the opportunity which the Conference afforded to Member States to review their achievements in the use of nuclear energy for the development of their economies and for other peaceful purposes. His country was making progress in implementing its peaceful nuclear programme, and the construction of its first nuclear power plant was going ahead in accordance with technical standards. Special attention was being paid to measures which would guarantee its safe operation, both during construction and assembly and with respect to the training of future operators.

22. The Cuban Government was in the process of establishing a regulatory infrastructure for the nuclear sector. It had recently approved a decree on State supervision of the safety of nuclear installations in line with the

Agency's efforts in that area. Another important step towards the introduction of nuclear power in Cuba had been the start of construction work on the future nuclear research centre, which was to serve as the basic institution for research, specialist training and production of radioactive substances used in industry and public health.

23. In the safeguards area, Cuba had successfully concluded its negotiations with the Agency on subsidiary arrangements in connection with the safeguards agreement relating to units 1 and 2 of the Juraguá nuclear power plant. Those instruments were already in force.

24. The Director General's visit to Cuba in October 1987 had been of special importance in strengthening that country's ties with the Agency and with other countries interested in the development of nuclear energy. There had been fruitful exchanges of views on the basis of the Cuban nuclear programme and on the technical assistance which the Agency provided to scientific institutions. The Cuban Government's commitment to the development of nuclear energy in accordance with international regulations and standards had been reaffirmed. It attached high priority to its nuclear programme, and had just inaugurated an applied research centre for nuclear energy development, a scientific institution dedicated to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Cuba was also carrying out important activities in Latin America - including a course in nuclear medicine and increased participation in the ARCAL programme. Moreover, it was taking steps aimed at achieving a better understanding over nuclear safety matters with neighbouring countries. A Cuban delegation had recently visited a nuclear power plant in the United States and had been given the opportunity for a valuable exchange of views.

25. Referring to the economic situation in countries which lacked conventional sources of energy, he pointed out that although nuclear power was the only viable option for those countries, no progress was being made towards their acquiring it in the reasonably near future. As the annual report indicated, the installed capacity in the seven developing countries with nuclear power plants in operation was no more than 4% of the world's total installed capacity. That imbalance was a matter of great concern. How could a country which had no choice, and which was poor as well, make progress?

Some argued that those countries would do better to turn to other options - such as coal - in order to solve their energy problems. However, even if they had fossil fuel or hydroelectric potential, the less advanced countries lacked the financial resources and infrastructure to realize that potential and exploit it.

26. His delegation considered that the situation in the Third World would not improve unless changes were made in the unfair international economic system imposed on the developing countries by the market-economy countries, which kept the former in technological dependence and debt. Once that problem was resolved, the nuclear option would be the most efficient for many countries, as it would not only result in saving conventional fuels for other uses, but would also exert a positive influence on society as a whole through its multi-disciplinary character. Those realities must be understood and the essential changes made in the socio-economic structure if the Third World was to have energy and industrial development.

27. He wondered what the international community had done so far in that regard, and what had become of the new international economic order which had been proclaimed as the only way out for the world's poorest countries. Analysis of the relationship between disarmament and development showed that a potential source of financing for programmes to help the Third World and for the repayment of foreign debts would be the substantial resources now being invested in the arms race. In that context, all mankind had welcomed with satisfaction the agreement concluded between the two nuclear Superpowers to eliminate intermediate-range missiles. He also noted with pleasure that the Soviet Union, taking the initiative, had hinted at the possibility of going on to destroy 50% of intercontinental missiles.

28. It was also important to reduce conventional armaments and to abandon the politics of force and interference at the regional level, which had inevitably been the source of conflict and aggression in various parts of the world. The peace to which the world aspired was not merely that which excluded all danger of nuclear destruction - it must be universal and be established in a climate of international collaboration over problems of development.

29. The President of the Republic of Cuba, referring in a speech to those problems - nuclear weapons, underdevelopment, poverty, hunger and lack of education and health - had pointed out that malnutrition and well-known and curable diseases caused the death of 40 000 children each day - as many as would be killed if a nuclear bomb like those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were to fall on the children of the Third World once every three days.

30. Turning to the Agency's budget for 1989, he observed that it followed the principle of zero real growth, on which subject his delegation's position was the same as before. He hoped that in the future the Agency's budget would reflect an appropriate balance between promotional and regulatory activities so as to ensure that the developing countries' goals for the use of nuclear energy in the various sectors of the economy were achieved.

31. The indicative planning figures approved for 1990-92, representing a growth rate lower than in the preceding cycle, were the result of delicate negotiations. Cuba had defended, and continued to support, the present mechanism of financing technical assistance. However, it had pointed out on several occasions that the success of that mechanism depended on the participation of all countries in the financing, and that the amounts pledged must keep up with the growing demand of the developing and other Member States of the Agency.

32. The General Conference was called upon to consider how to implement resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/470 on Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat. He regretted that no progress had been made. In his delegation's view, the General Conference should assert its authority in such a way that the international community would compel the Israeli Government to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Agency in particular.

33. As to resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/485 concerning South Africa's nuclear capabilities, he noted that contact had been established with that country's Government with a view to finding solutions to the problems identified by the General Conference. His delegation wished to reaffirm its position in that matter: it supported and would continue to support any measure designed to eliminate the danger which South Africa's nuclear capabilities represented for the countries in the region. Cuba unreservedly upheld the stand of the

African group in that matter, and wholeheartedly supported any measure that would guarantee the security and integrity of the so-called front line States. It considered that any formula for a negotiated solution must be pursued which would help eliminate the anachronistic and despised system of racial segregation in South Africa and promote democratization of South African society, as demanded by the international community. Only then would the threat have been dispelled.

34. Every session of the General Conference constituted a challenge to the will of participants to find mutually satisfactory solutions for the benefit of peoples, to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons and to harness nuclear energy for the development and welfare of mankind as a whole.

35. Mr. NGUYEN DINH TU (Viet Nam) said that the thirty-second session of the General Conference was taking place at a crucial time when international relations were changing for the better. The relationship between countries was shifting away from confrontation towards dialogue, as had been shown by recent events. The INF Treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States had been a first breakthrough in the direction of genuine nuclear disarmament, a process which would certainly facilitate the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Although a lot still remained to be done, one could look forward optimistically to a nuclear-weapon-free world. In that context the Agency, as an international organization with high prestige, played an important role in the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its activities were of particularly high value to those countries which had just embarked on those uses of nuclear energy. The transfer of experience and technology, and assistance in research and development, manpower training, energy planning, etc. were a real help to developing countries. He hoped that the developed countries and the Agency would make further efforts to understand and to meet the legitimate demands of developing countries.

36. His Government fully recognized that peace and co-operation were essential for social and economic progress within Viet Nam, in the region where that country was situated, and in the world as a whole. It had therefore taken steps in that direction, thereby contributing considerably to

détente and co-operation in the region and in the world. In the nuclear area, it had affirmed more than once that it was resolutely embarking on the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in close collaboration with the Agency and with all countries, especially those in its region. It strongly advocated the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South-East Asia and in other regions of the world. At the RCA seminar held in Jakarta in June 1988 he had said that Viet Nam highly appreciated the co-operation which had been established between the countries of the region within the framework of the RCA under the Agency's auspices, and that it desired further extension and strengthening of that co-operation.

37. In view of current conditions in Viet Nam, his Government accorded preference to the non-power applications of nuclear energy. The research reactor, built with the assistance of the Soviet Union and the Agency, had been working successfully and safely for more than four years. The institute where the reactor was situated had become a centre for nuclear instrumental analyses, isotope production, research and training. Several Agency projects in medicine, agriculture and industry had been implemented, creating a demand for the uses of nuclear technology in material processing, sterilization, non-destructive testing and food preservation.

38. Radiation protection was becoming an important element in Viet Nam's programmes. Attention was being paid to environmental and personnel monitoring and to regulation and supervision. In that respect, the visit to his country of an Agency radiation protection advisory team (RAPAT) during the current year had been useful. Viet Nam hoped that with the Agency's assistance its basic radiation protection infrastructure would soon be in place.

39. In conclusion, he observed that mankind was now on the right path - towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, a world of mutual understanding and sincere co-operation. He was confident that the Agency would make a valuable contribution to that cause.

40. Mr. GHAZALI (Malaysia) said that the usefulness of supranational organizations, and the need for them, were being ever more widely recognized. Still, terrorism, threats and nationalism remained prominent aspects of the

modern world. Although the Agency did not claim to transcend national sovereignty, but on the contrary worked through recognition of that sovereignty, States were reluctant to invest it with the necessary powers and material resources.

41. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy were essential to the economic and social development of nations. Economic and social factors external to science (including industrial, commercial, military and political ones) played a crucial role in determining foci of interest and lines of research. However, few matters having to do with economic life had been so misunderstood as the problem of economic security, even though it was of paramount importance.

42. Commitment to a doctrine or to a set of doctrines was nothing new. One would have to be naive not to see that society was influenced by political ideologies which created a perpetual atmosphere of crisis. All the same, the recent turn taken by the Iran-Iraq conflict was a reason for hope.

43. As the question of nuclear disarmament affected all countries, the progress which had been made in that area was welcome. It seemed as if actual power in the world was concentrated in the hands of a very limited number of Member States which now tacitly recognized that none of their interests was more important than world peace. Even if that was a precarious basis for world peace, that approach at least had the merit of being pragmatic and constituting a distinct advance over the previous situation. Seen from that point of view, peace was nothing more than a suspension of will. Unless the balance of terror produced its effect, and unless the motivations for ceaselessly perfecting nuclear weapons were transformed into a beneficent urge to co-operate, the fear of war and of the suicide of humanity would continue to dominate political awareness.

44. As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Malaysia attached great importance to the Agency's safeguards system and appreciated the concerns which had been expressed in many quarters. It might be necessary to strengthen that system further, but care should be taken that efforts made to that end were not counterproductive, the penalty for which would be impotence and erosion of confidence. Overall, NPT

was supposed to be based on a balance between certain obligations and certain privileges, especially after 20 years' existence.

45. Developing countries benefited directly from the technical assistance and co-operation programme. Malaysia, for one, had done so. Clearly, a liberal and intelligent transfer of technology to developing countries could be an incentive for whole-hearted support of NPT. Indeed, that sort of collaboration was necessary to bridge the gap which separated the developed from the developing countries. The proper functioning of the Agency was also hampered by the cash flow problem it faced. His country was concerned about that problem and urged Member States to meet their obligations immediately.

46. All the progress achieved in the areas of energy, industry, medicine and agriculture was only one aspect of the great changes which characterized the modern world. It was the age of technology, but since technology could not itself make the necessary corrections, man had to intervene to decide which political and administrative mechanisms should be used. There must be a way of taking conscious and coherent action different from what was demanded by modern mass movements or even pressure groups representing particular interests.

47. Governments, scientists and the public had become aware of the extent to which modern technology and commercial practices were harming the rural and urban environments. Many intellectuals and officials had expressed their scepticism about nuclear safety. For example, it had been seen that the safe storage of radioactive wastes and industrial wastes containing long-lived toxic materials raised serious problems, namely first, the problem of responsibility for their management, which would extend well beyond the probable lifetime of any State, or even any society; secondly, the problem of the quantities involved, which had given rise to a number of controversies; thirdly, the problem of storage (Should they be stored inside a country's boundaries or in certain unclaimed areas?); and fourthly, the problem of safe transport to the storage sites. The storage of wastes should not exclude the possibility of their subsequent retrieval for further processing. However, the fact that certain quarters (and perhaps certain States, believing that technology could solve any problems it created) were engaged in dubious activities had added a new dimension to that issue.

48. It was known that man had always had to face mortal dangers. Yet there was a difference between jeopardy to the life of one man - or even to the lives of a large group of men - and jeopardy to life itself. It was to be feared that knowing or unknowing mismanagement of the environment and wasting of the earth's resources would result in irreversible ecological disturbances and endanger future generations.

49. His delegation wished to stress, as it had already done in previous sessions of the General Conference, that adherence to international standards was essential in the context of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that any attempt to establish norms contrary to those in force would be unacceptable. Nothing could so condemn a country or a system of government as recourse to methods which flagrantly violated universal norms.

50. For Malaysia, the decision to embark on a nuclear programme was a national option. The institutionalization of scientific knowledge and technical information in that field was contrary to its free exchange and entailed serious consequences, since a great part of research and development activities went on outside the framework of private enterprise. Private enterprise had shown relatively little interest in nuclear power, as that sector could not be made to fit commercial requirements. Moreover, in nuclear trade the ground rules were forever changing. It was as if certain developing countries had to fight with every means to prevent their immediate interests from being sacrificed to some intangible cause. Although there were apparently no insurmountable technical problems, their nuclear programmes faced formidable institutional and political obstacles. That situation was likely to set countries against each other and, as a consequence, to weaken the nuclear regime as a whole.

51. The expected failure of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) in 1987 had been the culminating point of the frustrations felt by the international community, which had been left in a state of passivity with its attention focused not on the problems or possibilities of the future, but on the unpleasantness of the recent past.

52. The nuclear debate was now no longer a scientific controversy, even though scientists were involved, but could be described as a sociological and sometimes political confrontation. It was also accepted that opposition to nuclear energy was above all a facet of the far more wide-ranging concern felt by a substantial section of the population over the trends and conditions of modern life.

53. On political issues, by definition, there could be no unanimity. Balances had to be found between the interests of different groups. Scientists could neither abdicate their responsibilities to others nor reserve for themselves the right to decide.

54. Mr. VISHNEVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the thirty-second session of the General Conference coincided with détente in international relations. The realistic approach of leaders and public opinion had made it possible to slow down the arms race, to avert the threat of war and to resolve conflicts. As Mr. M.S. Gorbachev had stressed at the 19th All-Union Conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the focus of international life must shift from confrontation to co-operation and mutual understanding. The year's events were of great importance indeed, as they marked the first reductions in nuclear weapons. World denuclearization demanded, in addition to the reduction of existing nuclear arsenals, a strengthening of the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the establishment of nuclear-free zones and the formulation of assurances regarding the definitive elimination of nuclear weapons.

55. There was a tendency to propose political, rather than military, solutions to contemporary problems, as shown by the conclusion of the INF Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union, the substantial progress made towards an agreement on a 50% reduction in strategic arms, and the negotiations on the restriction and banning of nuclear tests.

56. The NPT and the Agency's safeguards system played a significant role in connection with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in maintaining international peace and security. His country considered that they were particularly important and that the Agency should have a major role in that

area. In that connection, his country shared the public's concerns at the fact that certain governments with ambitious nuclear policies refused to understand that it was in their countries' interest to accede to NPT.

57. His country was also in favour of establishing measures to prevent attacks on nuclear targets, undertaking efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and introducing international regulation of liability for nuclear accidents.

58. The proposed programme and budget for 1989 and 1990, his delegation was gratified to note, was fully in line with the Agency's objectives. His country attached particular importance to nuclear power, which seemed to be the economically and ecologically best means of meeting an increasing demand for electricity, for nuclear power plants were in the long run less costly than conventional power plants, and under normal circumstances they were also more satisfactory from the environmental point of view.

59. Nuclear safety was an essential element for the future of nuclear power, and his country fully supported the Agency's activities in that area, be they the establishment of standards, the organization of conferences and meetings or the adoption of conventions. At the same time, the Agency should be expediting the formulation of guiding principles on measures to be taken in the event of an accident, for the experience of many countries showed that the problems of nuclear power plant safety could be mastered if suitable efforts were made.

60. His country, which had been particularly sensitized to that issue by the experience of Chernobyl, was in the process of establishing a set of measures aimed at preventing such an accident from happening again, and had already introduced significant improvements in operational safety at its plants.

61. Furthermore, in May 1988, Kiev had hosted an international conference on the medical aspects of the Chernobyl accident, in which more than 25 countries had taken part. The conference had highlighted the fact that the considerable efforts deployed to alleviate the consequences of Chernobyl were of great interest to the whole world.

62. His country also attached great importance to the disposal of radioactive waste and to the conditions under which nuclear power plants were decommissioned, and felt that the Agency should play an important role in those areas.

63. The Agency had been very successful in the application of nuclear techniques to agriculture, medicine and other sectors of great importance to developing countries. In that context, the Agency should contribute to the development and application of nuclear techniques which were harmless to the environment and which would help solve the agricultural problems encountered in many countries, particularly in developing countries. His country supported the Agency's aim of making nuclear techniques available to all countries and had pledged, for 1989, a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) of US \$533 400. On the whole, his country approved of the Agency's programme for 1988 and 1989.

64. In conclusion, the increasing role played by nuclear energy called for the strengthening of international co-operation, and the Agency's activities in that area provided an excellent example of the way in which the complex problems of the modern world could be resolved while taking mutual interests into consideration.

65. Mr. KAHILUOTO (Finland) was satisfied to note that the Director General, in his statement, had strongly emphasized the ecological aspects of energy production. The harmful emissions from burning fossil fuels had long been a source of problems, but their devastating effects on the environment had for the most part been neglected. It was gratifying that experts at both the national and the international level were now urgently calling for measures to protect the environment, and also that the nuclear option, among others, was being considered in a new light.

66. In that connection, he recalled that the Nordic countries had submitted a draft resolution on sustainable development. It would be very appropriate for the Agency to set forth in a broader context its activities to promote environmental protection, including the application of various nuclear techniques as well as the long-term role of nuclear power. Many countries had adopted legislative and regulatory measures, but they were still far from

adequate. However, ecological aspects were clearly being given increasing attention in the planning of nuclear power plant projects; that could be favourable for the nuclear option. His own country had been able, thanks to nuclear power, to achieve a very significant reduction in the volume of harmful emissions (sulphur dioxide reduced by 110 000 tonnes, nitrogen dioxide by 54 000 tonnes and carbon dioxide by 15 million tonnes).

67. The acceptance of nuclear energy depended primarily on maintaining high standards with regard to safety, waste management and safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons. At the end of 1987, 120 reactors had been under construction world wide, which should lead to a significantly increased demand for Agency services in general, and should be accompanied by a strengthening of international co-operation. The safety assessment services offered by the Agency were already very much in demand, and would be more so in the future. In addition to the valuable work already done - NUSS Codes, inspections by operational safety review teams (OSARTs), expert groups such as the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) - the Agency would be called upon more and more to become involved in the area of waste management and other aspects of the back end of the fuel cycle. If nuclear energy was to gain wide acceptance, it was absolutely necessary that those challenges be met.

68. Nuclear power occupied a significant place in his country's total energy production. Finland had every interest in promoting international co-operation in nuclear energy and had therefore always given the Agency its full support. If the Agency was to be able to fulfil its mandate, it should be guaranteed adequate resources. In June 1988, the Board of Governors had succeeded, after considerable effort, in arriving at a compromise budget for 1989 which, however, was not entirely satisfactory: the time had surely come to heed the Director General's warnings and to reflect on the consequences of applying the principle of zero growth to the Regular Budget in the coming year.

69. His country attached particular importance to the Agency's safeguards role. The assurance that nuclear materials were not being diverted to non-peaceful uses was a prerequisite for the civil utilization of nuclear energy and its acceptance by the public. It was therefore alarming that in 1987, according to the Safeguards Implementation Report, the Agency had not

fully met its safeguards goals. Fortunately, it had been possible to conclude that all significant quantities of safeguarded material were adequately accounted for. In any case, it was important that the Agency should have at its disposal the necessary financial resources to exercise its safeguards functions, and that it should receive full support from its Member States on that matter.

70. It was well known that certain information on the implementation of safeguards could be misinterpreted and misused. Member States, by taking the utmost care to comply with Agency procedures and by facilitating inspections, should contribute to dispelling all doubts as to the effectiveness of safeguards. In addition, by exercising strict control over nuclear transactions which took place on their territory, Member States could reduce the number of incidents which brought discredit on the whole sector. The Director General's proposals concerning the role which could be played by the Agency in that connection deserved closer study.

71. During the current year, his country had initiated a safeguards support programme which focused on the development of non-destructive testing methods and on the training of inspectors. The programme would be carried out over five years and would be financed completely by Finland.

72. Recalling that 1988 marked the 20th anniversary of NPT, he stressed that, for many countries, a stricter adherence to the clauses of the Treaty would lend more credibility to the nuclear sector and dispel certain misgivings. Finland appealed to countries not parties to NPT to undertake not to acquire nuclear weapons and to place all their nuclear material used for peaceful purposes under Agency safeguards. It was encouraging to note that all nuclear-weapon States had at last accepted safeguards on at least part of their nuclear activities. The coverage of the safeguards system should be further expanded, because the public continued to fear that peaceful activities might lead to the production of nuclear explosive devices.

73. With regard to the programme and budget for 1989-90, he noted that the Agency's programmes had undergone little change in the past 10-15 years and did not fully reflect all the developments in nuclear technology which had occurred meanwhile. Of course, many sectors using that technology had

developed to the point where they no longer needed the Agency's help, apart from technical assistance and co-operation activities. However, he felt that Member States should welcome the Director General's proposal to review the programme during the course of the next two years.

74. He welcomed the steady growth shown by the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities. His country would continue its financial support of the Agency in that area and intended to increase its extrabudgetary contribution. It would be desirable for the Agency's projects and the general development plans of the countries concerned to be brought more closely in line. In that context, it would be of advantage to improve further the preparation of projects, making good use of the new two-year planning period. A great many new methods and ideas were emerging in that sector, and the Agency was to be commended on its effectiveness and vitality.

75. With regard to the conventions for which the Agency was depositary, it seemed that the international community had genuinely grasped how important it was not to forget the health and safety of people living in other countries. During the current week, the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention would be opened for signature. His Government intended to sign the Protocol and urged other countries to sign the Vienna Convention so as to widen the scope of the Protocol. The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material would also soon be ratified by his Government, which had not been able to do so earlier owing to legislative obstacles.

76. In conclusion, he congratulated the Director General and his staff for the fruitful work they had performed since the previous session of the General Conference and assured them of his Government's full support.

77. Mr. SOWINSKI (Poland) said that the past year had seen many events which had led to a distinct improvement in international relations, to a better climate of mutual confidence and to broader co-operation. The entry into force of the INF Treaty had been the first step on the road to nuclear disarmament. The summit meetings between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, and the President of the United States, Mr. Ronald Reagan, in Washington and

Moscow had opened up the way for a real step forward to be made on issues which jeopardized the peace and prosperity of humanity. It was to be hoped that those meetings would lead to significant advances in disarmament, in particular to the conclusion of an agreement on a 50% reduction in strategic offensive weapons by the Soviet Union and the United States. There had also been progress in Soviet-American negotiations on the restriction of nuclear testing, which would perhaps lead to a total ban.

78. Poland welcomed anything that could counter the threat of nuclear war and reduce the tension in the relations between governments or groups of countries, and it would itself strive to contribute to that process, especially on the European continent. In that connection, the Chairman of the Polish Council of State, Mr. W. Jaruzelski, had proposed a Polish plan to reduce armaments and to introduce a regime of confidence in the central part of the continent.

79. Poland had played an active role in working out long-term Warsaw Pact initiatives for the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, and it remained in favour of the strictest observance and strengthening of NPT on the European continent and in all other parts of the world. The positive developments on the international scene should also contribute to expanding co-operation, especially in areas of human activity related to safety and to the beneficial development of the world. The organizations of the United Nations system had an important role to play, and the Agency in particular amongst them. Certainly, the Agency, as an organizer of scientific and technical co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, as depositary for four international conventions and as the international body for verifying compliance with non-proliferation commitments, could be credited with many achievements.

80. The fact that 136 States with different political systems and at various stages of development in the utilization of atomic energy had become parties to NPT was proof that political realism, clear-sightedness and a sense of responsibility towards the future were not lacking in the world. Poland therefore welcomed the conclusion of safeguards agreements between the Agency and the People's Republic of China and between the Agency and Nigeria, as well

as Spain's accession to NPT. None the less, even wider adherence to NPT and to other international agreements related to the banning of nuclear weapons and to non-proliferation would be desirable and would strengthen international peace and security. In the long run, that would lead to the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

81. For the past two years, the Agency had focused on issues related to the safety of nuclear energy. The Agency had given priority to strengthening international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiation protection, in particular through programmes such as the operational safety review teams (OSARTs), analysis of safety-significant events teams (ASSETs), Incident Reporting System (IRS) and Operational Safety Indicators Programme (OSIP). He also welcomed the basic safety principles prepared by INSAG, and noted that the training courses organized by the Agency on the safety of nuclear power plants had accounted for 25% of training-related Agency activities in 1987.

82. Currently, Poland was party to three of the four international conventions for which the Agency was depositary (Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency). His country was currently examining the possibility of acceding to the Vienna Convention, but first had to make a decision on a number of internal legal regulations. However, it considered that increasing the number of States parties to the Vienna Convention should not be regarded as a substitute for more active steps towards formulating a convention on international liability for nuclear damage. Poland, along with other socialist countries, therefore undertook to carry out an in-depth analysis of all aspects of international liability for nuclear damage, and to organize an ad hoc group on that question, as well as submitting a draft resolution on it.

83. All types of energy had unfavourable effects on the environment. However, Poland was convinced that nuclear energy was the least harmful, and for that reason would keep to its decision to develop the use of that energy. Nevertheless, the problem of protecting the environment must be a focus of general concern, in the same way as the problems of the fight against hunger, armed conflicts and the threat of nuclear war. Although environmental

protection matters were the responsibility of other organizations in the United Nations system, the Agency should contribute to resolving the problem within the area of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In that respect, he welcomed Agency programmes such as those of the Department of Research and Isotopes aimed at using nuclear and radiological techniques to help solve ecological problems. Poland supported the draft resolution submitted by the Scandinavian countries in favour of sustainable development.

84. It was essential to convince the international community that nuclear energy was the energy source which represented the least danger to the environment, and to that end it was necessary to provide information on specific action taken to eliminate causes for concern: the programmes on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, on the safety of nuclear installations and on the storage of radioactive waste.

85. He was pleased to note that the Agency's programme for 1989-90 focused on techniques for the use of radiation to purify gaseous effluents and on the establishment of an interregional technical co-operation programme in that area. A purifying unit using the electron beam technique was currently under construction in a thermal plant at Warsaw.

86. He also welcomed the considerable progress made by the Agency (particularly in the areas of technical co-operation, research and isotopes) towards better utilization of the funds allocated to technical assistance. He therefore hoped that all States would help to improve the situation even more by paying their assessed and voluntary contributions promptly and by making full use of non-convertible currencies. Poland had already paid 75% of its assessed contributions and was making every effort, together with the Agency's Department of Technical Co-operation, to develop methods that would allow the best use to be made of non-convertible currency. It had proposed to supply specialized equipment and training services for specialists from developing countries. It had also proposed to organize a specialization course on topics related to genetic mutations. Many countries sent their specialists to attend courses in Polish research establishments. In 1977, 33 persons had participated in training courses of that kind, and for 1989 Poland was prepared to offer 10 fellowships to representatives from developing countries.

87. Poland could approve the Agency's accounts for 1987 and the draft programme and budget for 1989-90, though still regretting the decrease in activities foreseen for nuclear safety and radiation protection. Finally, he assured the Agency that Poland would continue to support the Agency in its mission and announced that it would pay in full its 1989 contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

88. Count Francis de la BARRE d'ERQUELINNES (Belgium) said that nuclear power production in his country was continuing in line with the energy policy chosen by Belgium and in accordance with the guidelines of the European Economic Community (EEC) in that area.

89. The seven pressurized-water reactors at Doel and Tihange had maintained their good performance, continuing to provide users with more than two kilowatt-hours out of three, thereby making it possible to control the cost of the electricity generated despite unpredictable variations in energy products. The savings made through the use of nuclear power at present amounted to more than 100 billion Belgian francs (US \$2.5 billion). Furthermore, the reactors significantly reduced harmful releases into the environment, such as those which caused acid rain. That was why, for example, releases of sulphur dioxide had declined by 60% per kilowatt-hour in Belgium over the decade starting in 1973.

90. Belgium, through the intermediary of the EEC, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD and the Agency, was sharing with others the experience which it had accumulated in safety and radiation protection during the many years of operation of its nuclear reactors and facilities.

91. It had participated as much as possible in the many meetings organized under the Agency's safety programme. Its experts had taken part in the International Conference on Nuclear Power Performance and Safety, held in Vienna in September-October 1987, where they had highlighted economic and safety-related aspects of nuclear power plants and discussed the industrial use of plutonium-containing fuel in light-water reactors and waste management.

92. In addition, the Belgian authorities were observing with great interest the establishment of the Worldwide Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), which had been decided upon in Paris on 6 and 7 October 1987 following an

agreement by representatives of 130 nuclear operators in 26 countries. That association's tasks would include the direct dissemination of more extensive and more detailed information on the performance and safety of facilities to the officials responsible for everyday management. It was essential that very close contact should be maintained between WANO and the Agency, not only to avoid duplication, but also, and primarily, to give the Agency access to a database which it could use in order to ensure optimum implementation of its nuclear energy and safety programmes, so as to be better able to play the role in those areas devolving to it under its Statute. The participation of WANO in the scientific programme on nuclear safety organized during the current session of the General Conference demonstrated the desire of the two organizations to work together.

93. The "Transnuklear" affair, which had aroused an overblown international publicity campaign, had called in question the implementation of safeguards and of radiation protection standards. It was therefore worth briefly recalling the facts. The irregularities noted during the transport and processing of wastes from abroad had been the subject of various inquiries by competent authorities (European Commission, European Parliament, Belgian Parliament and so on). The fraudulent practices in question, involving a very small number of people in Belgium, had concerned only the transport and processing of low-activity wastes from abroad due to be treated by a department of the Nuclear Energy Research Centre CEN/SCK at Mol. It was important to stress that Belgian nuclear power plants and fabrication plants had been in no way involved in those transactions.

94. With regard to the crucial question of the application of radiation protection standards for the purposes of safety and health, the various inquiries, including those by experts from all the countries appointed by the European Commission, had concluded that there had been no negative comments to be made on that subject. There had been no violation or infringement of the radiation protection regulations.

95. The decision not to continue operation of the Eurochemic reprocessing plant, despite the agreement of the Belgian Parliament, had led to a change in the role of the Belgoprocess Company via the National Organization for

Radioactive Wastes and Fissile Materials (ONDRAF/NIRAS). As a result, processing and conditioning of waste was being carried out since March 1988 by Belgoprocess, a 100% subsidiary of ONDRAF/NIRAS. That decision recognized the responsibility and functions which the public authorities must discharge in that area by assuming direct and total control of such activities.

96. In the area of radioactive waste management, it was worth mentioning the remarkable technical developments in the Belgian programme, namely the beginning of the demonstration stage for the deep burial of waste in clay, the supercompaction of low-level wastes, and high-temperature scorifying incineration for both radioactive and non-radioactive industrial wastes. In the area of radiation detection, the Belgian Government had approved the establishment of a national monitoring network (TELERAD) which, linked to a central computer, could detect in real time any variations in radioactivity levels which might be caused by Belgian facilities or by fallout from other countries.

97. Safeguards implementation had been called in question during the "Transnuklear" affair through the repetition of information, already refuted by the Belgian authorities more than two years previously, suggesting that Alkem had concealed 800 kg of plutonium in the Belgonucléaire facility over a period of several years. That false allegation had been denied promptly and categorically at the highest level, namely by the authorities of the Agency and EURATOM, in the form of communiqués and press conferences. His country could only welcome that action. In the same context, the question of safeguards implementation had been the subject of a Belgian parliamentary inquiry during which hearings had established that the accounting inventories for plutonium and fissile material reserves had always been correct.

98. Belgium had noted with satisfaction the conclusion in 1987 of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of their Intermediate-range and Shorter-range missiles. It regarded that Treaty as a first step towards implementation of Article VI of NPT, and believed that other, wider-ranging agreements would have to follow if Article VI of NPT, in which the majority of States party to

that Treaty had placed such hopes, was not to remain a purely formal provision that would give rise to doubts during the discussions which were to take place in 1995.

99. Belgium welcomed the findings of the Safeguards Implementation Report for 1987. Like other Member States, it stressed the need for proper editing and translation of that document. Ambiguities must be avoided in both the original and translated versions, as they might give opponents of nuclear energy a clear field to question the effectiveness and reliability of Agency safeguards. Reference should also be made, among others, to Articles 18 and 19 of document INFCIRC/153, which assigned a major role to the Board of Governors in considering measures to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material and, in the case of such non-diversion, afforded the State every reasonable opportunity to furnish the Board with any necessary reassurance.

100. Furthermore, to assist the Agency in carrying out its technical activities in the area of safeguards, Belgium was continuing its research under its support programme. With the experience it had gained in that area, it would provide all that was necessary to ensure that its participation in the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation was beneficial.

101. His country wished to recall the importance it attached to the discussions of the informal working group set up to examine different proposals on the revision of Article VI of the Statute. It hoped that a solution to that problem could be found soon, and remained convinced that only the formal proposal for the amendment of Article VI which Belgium had co-sponsored was a suitable compromise formula. That amendment could accommodate the demands of regions which believed themselves to be under-represented under the terms of paragraph A.2 as well as the aspirations of members of groups including a large number of countries advanced in the field of nuclear technology (paragraph A.1) without upsetting the delicate balance which existed in the Board of Governors. The presence and increased participation in the Board of Governors of States which contributed in various ways to the Agency's activities could only improve the effectiveness of that body.

102. Lastly, the proposals regarding the advisory bodies responsible for reviewing the technical programmes (GOV/2350) showed the Director General's and the Secretariat's concern to promote the Agency's efficiency. Those administrative management proposals should be complemented by an in-depth consideration of the directions which the programmes should follow. The Director General had already begun that consideration, notably in his opening statement, and Belgium fully endorsed his pertinent analysis of the utilization of nuclear energy and the impact of energy choices on the environment. That analysis was an ideal instrument for the optimum orientation of the Agency's priority tasks in accordance with its Statute.

103. Mr. STEPANENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that since its establishment the Agency had played an essential role in international co-operation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and had made its contribution to prevent additional countries from using that energy to manufacture weapons of mass destruction.

104. The success of the special session of the General Conference had once again shown that the international community had a reliable and confident mechanism for co-ordinating activities related to the peaceful use of atomic energy, and the programme to establish an international regime for the safe development of that form of energy contained all the elements necessary for achieving that goal.

105. The Byelorussian SSR was preparing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding. In the course of all those years, under a socialist régime, it had been transformed into an industrial State with a diversified economy and a high technical and scientific potential. His country believed that all nations could and should help to create the conditions of security, independence and progress which were necessary for all aspects of life. It took a realistic and flexible approach to international problems, guided by a new direction in its political thinking. It was working steadily so that, by the third millenium, States would reject nuclear weapons, by no longer tolerating the stationing of destructive devices in space and by reducing their number on the ground before ultimately eliminating them entirely.

106. His country fully supported the idea of verifying disarmament, perhaps along the lines of the Agency's existing safeguards system. In that connection, he noted with satisfaction that during the period under review, as in previous years, the Agency's inspectors had not detected any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of safeguarded nuclear materials or the misuse of facilities subject to safeguards, for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device. His delegation believed that the Agency should concentrate its safeguards efforts in States which were about to develop nuclear power. The Agency should also play an active and constructive role in strengthening international co-operation in the area of nuclear and radiation safety, including the prohibition of attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities, the prevention of nuclear terrorism and the establishment of standards.

107. Under those conditions, it would also become urgently necessary to formulate and implement a universal system of international liability in the nuclear field. The lack of a comprehensive international legal instrument governing that important aspect of the peaceful use of nuclear energy could lead to distrust in relations between governments and could slow down the development of nuclear power. His country therefore considered that it would be useful for preparations to be made in the very near future, under the auspices of the Agency, with a view to drawing up an international legal document which on a universal level would cover not only questions of civil liability, but also those of State liability in the event of nuclear damage.

108. His delegation had examined with care and interest the Annual Report for 1987 and joined other delegations which had already praised the Agency's activities. It supported the Agency's programmes and policies such as those in the areas of nuclear and radiation safety, safeguards, nuclear power, technical co-operation and the International Nuclear Information System.

109. His delegation welcomed with satisfaction the increase in co-operation between the Agency and countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The co-ordination meeting between the Agency and CMEA concerning a research programme on the probabilistic modelling of accident sequences in nuclear power plants, which had been held in Moscow in May 1988,

was a good example of such co-operation. Important lines of research work conducted at the Nuclear Power Institute of the Byelorussian SSR Academy of Sciences included the study of nuclear and radiation safety, the detailed investigation of emergencies and the construction of new-generation safe reactors. The results of that research would be used in building the first Byelorussian nuclear power plant.

110. His country appreciated the Agency's activities in the area of technical co-operation. It paid its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund regularly and in full. In the current year, it was increasing its contribution to a total of US \$142 800 in national currency.

111. As part of its activities to support the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programmes and co-ordinated research programmes, as well as its efforts to help expand and strengthen international co-operation between Member States, his country was prepared to organize training courses for specialists at various institutes of the Byelorussian SSR Academy of Sciences in the following areas: operation of nuclear reactors; application of ionizing radiation in medicine, agriculture and construction; study of radionuclides in solution; dosimetry of ionizing radiation; study of the scientific principles and methods of microanalysis in radioimmunology for medical purposes; complex heat and mass transfer processes in heterogeneous systems (theory, modelling, experiments); heat-exchange equipment for heating and cooling systems and systems for the thermal stabilization of components and devices. His country could also offer its specialists' services as Agency experts in developing countries. In future years, the Nuclear Power Institute of the Academy of Sciences would be able to organize courses on neutron activation analysis and other subjects using its research reactor.

112. His country supported unreservedly the expansion and strengthening of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of the atom. In its view, there could be no real international co-operation in that area without a strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and due observance of the existing international agreements controlling nuclear exports. International exchanges in the nuclear field must not promote the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

113. His country would continue to provide the Agency with its political, scientific, technical and material support in the implementation of its programmes aimed at facilitating the safe and peaceful use of atomic energy, the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the advent of a world free of nuclear weapons.

114. Mr. PROENCA ROSA (Brazil) began by recalling that Brazil's nuclear activities had started taking shape in the 1950s, at which time a set of principles had been drawn up whereby Brazil would develop nuclear energy through its own efforts as well as through international co-operation, while observing international recommendations for the protection of human health and the environment. His country had therefore always fully supported the Agency's activities in the area of nuclear safety.

115. Brazil believed that international co-operation in the area of safety was vital for all Member States, and it was in that spirit that it wished to share the lessons it had learned from its experience, as it had done after the very unfortunate accident at Goiania, caused by the breaking open of a radioactive caesium-137 source which had been improperly removed from a radiotherapy unit. He had himself reported on that event to the Board of Governors at its meetings in February. A year later, he was in a position to confirm that the situation had soon been brought under control and that the levels of residual radiation in the contaminated areas had returned to previous background levels - thanks to the capable efforts of the Brazilian experts and the valuable assistance which had been promptly received from abroad, either direct or through the Agency. His delegation particularly welcomed the initiatives taken in that respect by Mr. Leonard Konstantinov, the Deputy Director General for Nuclear Energy and Safety.

116. In order to share with colleagues from other countries the lessons which could be learned from the Goiania accident, two international meetings had been organized in Brazil: first a seminar sponsored by national institutions, and then, in June, a post-accident review meeting.

117. Another basic principle governed nuclear activities in Brazil: they were for peaceful purposes, and his country had always supported, in a non-discriminatory way, international initiatives aimed at preventing the

proliferation of nuclear weapons. In that context, his country regarded the Agency as the best international instrument for promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It was significant that the new Brazilian Constitution stipulated that all nuclear activities carried out on Brazilian territory would be permitted only for peaceful purposes and only with the approval of the National Congress. That sovereign decision was an expression of the popular will and of Brazil's commitment to its international obligations.

118. The energy crisis in the 1970s had taught Brazilians that they must rely primarily on national resources and technologies for their energy supply. Oil production had increased by 400% since then, and alcohol now replaced petrol in nearly 90% of new cars sold on the domestic market. In view of Brazil's uranium resources - more than 300 000 tonnes of U_3O_8 - it had been decided to develop nuclear technology, either locally or under co-operation agreements. Thus, agreements had been signed with the United States for the construction of the Angra I power reactor and with the Federal Republic of Germany for the transfer of technology related to the construction of power plants and the fuel cycle.

119. The results obtained so far, and Brazil's economic and financial position, had led to a recent decision to restructure the Brazilian nuclear sector in order to improve the efficiency of the nuclear programme and to combine the efforts of the public and private sectors. At the same time, the Brazilian Government had the firm intention to implement in full the commercial contracts and construction projects which had already been agreed upon, and to respect in all cases its international obligations. The Agency's safeguards would be applied to all technology transfers past or future.

120. The reorganization of the nuclear sector consisted of two parts: the institutional framework and the industrial sector.

121. Where the institutional part was concerned, a senior council for nuclear policy had been set up with the mandate to advise the President of the Republic on national nuclear policy. It would consist of ministers, civil servants and representatives of the scientific community and would also be assisted by advisory committees in the areas of radiation protection and

nuclear safety, nuclear development, radioactive waste, industry and trade, and nuclear applications.

122. On the industrial side, the responsibility for the construction of nuclear facilities had been transferred to the electricity generating sector, which was also responsible for the commercial operation of power plants; a company (Indústrias Nucleares do Brasil S.A.) which was open to participation by the private sector but of which the State was the main shareholder had been founded to operate the fuel fabrication plant; the rights of the previous associates would be respected; lastly, a subsidiary of the new company had been set up for uranium mining, milling and yellow cake production.

123. The growing participation of the private sector in the Brazilian nuclear programme, thus stimulated, was already showing promising results. Two major zirconium and beryllium plants were about to start operations through the efforts of Brazilian public institutions and private companies.

124. The fuel elements for the IPEN research reactor at São Paulo would henceforth be manufactured locally, using indigenous materials and techniques. The reactor's capacity had been increased, and it would be operated continuously. Brazil's progress was partly the result of its co-operation with industrialized countries, under bilateral agreements or through the Agency's technical assistance programme. For its part, Brazil shared with other developing countries the lessons which it had learned from experience, inter alia, at the regional level through training courses. Thus, in 1988, it had hosted the first Latin American regional training course on State systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material.

125. The technical assistance and co-operation projects involving Brazil were being implemented as planned. For the following biennium, the Agency had received proposals from the Brazilian authorities in the areas of nuclear safety, radiation protection, medical applications, agriculture and the environment. Despite severe budgetary constraints, a number of Type II fellowships had been offered to trainees from Latin America and arrangements had been made to send cost-free experts. Several Type I fellowships had also been accepted for participants from all regions of the world.

126. Brazil's participation in the ARCAL programme had been greatly increased in 1988, with the provision of expert services and the hosting of three training courses. Brazil, as the Director General had seen during his last visit, had been able to achieve positive results using its own resources. It had also profited from technical assistance provided by the Agency and was therefore, in its turn, in a position to transfer technology which was already adapted to the needs and characteristics of developing countries.

127. His country also maintained fruitful bilateral relations with the United States and France, as well as with the Federal Republic of Germany, which was also sponsoring, through the intermediary of the Agency, the Brazilian footnote-a/ project entitled "Study of multi-layer semiconductor structure".

128. His delegation also wished to make special mention of the wide-ranging relations between Argentina and Brazil in the nuclear field. The Heads of State of the two countries had recently, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Aramar Experimental Centre, set up a permanent bilateral committee on nuclear policy, and the co-operation between the two countries had led to a number of joint projects, for example on the development of techniques used in fast-breeder reactors. That long-term project was due to result in the construction of a prototype reactor at the beginning of the twenty-first century. That was why both countries were requesting that people working on that project be admitted as observers to the International Working Group on Fast Reactors.

129. In conclusion, his Government had every confidence that nuclear energy could contribute to economic and social development while respecting the environment, and remained fully committed to co-operation in the nuclear field.

130. Mr. MARAVALL (Spain) said that while nuclear power would be called upon to play an increasing role in countries lacking energy resources in the medium term, its long-term future was scarcely predictable: it would thus be necessary to attempt to achieve the highest possible level of safety and to seek a definitive solution to the problem of waste management. In addition, there were many uncertainties regarding the energy sources of the future (such as fusion energy), and also regarding conventional sources where they related

not only to the size of existing reserves, but also to problems of pollution. There was also the fact that accidents which had occurred at nuclear power plants had alarmed ecologically-minded members of the public and, as a result, had led to major public discussions in several countries. That phenomenon was particularly important in developed countries where, various economic and social objectives having already largely been reached, conservation of the environment had become a major political issue. In those circumstances, the Agency must ensure that information was passed on swiftly and clearly so as to improve the public's image of the nuclear industry.

131. Turning to the question of international instruments in the area of nuclear safety, he noted with satisfaction that a conference would be taking place during the week to adopt the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy. He hoped a large number of countries would soon sign that Protocol in order to expedite its entry into force and to help improve the civil liability regime for nuclear damage.

132. During the past year, Spain had taken some important steps in connection with international legal instruments relating to nuclear energy: it had acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 5 November 1987 and had signed the London Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers on 2 September 1988, thus demonstrating its commitment to the controlled use of nuclear materials and techniques.

133. With regard to the Agency's technical co-operation programme, his country was convinced that it would help to improve the standard of living in developing countries and nuclear safety throughout the world. It therefore supported that programme and would make its technology available for it.

134. Although nuclear fission power had reached an acceptable level of maturity, there were still problems to be solved, such as radioactive waste disposal, serious accidents and their consequences, the ageing of nuclear power plants and the possibility of extending their lifetime, as well as the development of new, more reliable and economical generations of reactors. The last point was of vital importance for governments when taking decisions regarding the future energy structure of their country.

135. Turning to the Spanish nuclear programme, he said that since the previous session of the General Conference, two power plants had started operation, one of which was still at the testing stage. In 1987, Spain had produced 41 270 GW·h of nuclear power; that constituted an increase of 10.2% over the previous year and represented 31.1% of the electricity produced. The average load factor had been 80.9%, which testified to the quality of the designs and maintenance as well as the qualifications of operating staff.

136. The results of the OSART mission to the Almaraz nuclear power plant had been very positive and had shown that operational safety at that plant was higher than the international average. As to possible improvements, they were being taken into account by the Almaraz plant. In future, other power plants would be evaluated in a similar way.

137. Anxious to help allay international public concern about radioactive waste, his country wished to announce that its programme for the disposal of waste from a Spanish plant which had recently been brought into service had been approved by the Commission of the European Communities, and that the latter already had before it the documents concerning the programme for the disposal of waste from a second plant.

138. Eager to maintain a high level of safety, his country had welcomed the revised and updated version of the NUSS Codes as well as the report of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) on safety principles and objectives. It had taken account of the NUSS Codes from the time of their preparation, in which Spanish experts had participated, and the INSAG proposals were being studied very thoroughly by his country.

139. Special attention should be given to radiation protection, including in areas which easily escaped proper supervision, such as occupational radiation exposure outside nuclear power plants and the very widespread use of certain X-ray equipment. Spain particularly appreciated the Agency's attempts to rectify the deficiencies which had been detected throughout the world in a recent report. Similarly, it was very interested in studies on the experience gained following the Chernobyl accident in the area of radiation protection, as well as in the dissemination of the results of those studies.

REPLY BY THE DELEGATE OF IRAQ TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

140. Mr. MAHMOUD (Iraq), exercising his right of reply, said that some of the slanderous statements made at the previous meeting by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran demonstrated that Iraq's attitude towards the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of Security Council resolution 598 was well founded. It would be remembered that the Islamic Republic of Iran had waited one year before accepting that resolution and then had done so under conditions which were well known to everyone, namely after Iraq had been able, through a series of military operations, to recover all its territories occupied by Iran. The statements made by the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran showed once again that that country had difficulty in accepting the state of peace and in understanding its importance for the Iranian people and for other peoples in the region.

141. The slander put forward by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the subject of chemical weapons was part of a great worldwide Zionist campaign aimed at denigrating Iraq and preparing the ground for an Israeli military operation against Iraqi industrial complexes. The Israeli Minister of Justice had already threatened Iraq with such action, and the present climate was strongly reminiscent of that which had prevailed before the Israeli military attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. His country, which had repeatedly stressed its support for international regulations, strongly condemned the slander campaign directed against it. That campaign, which had been started in certain circles in Washington with Zionist support, had been echoed by the words of the Iranian delegation, although one might have expected that country to adopt a responsible attitude in view of the establishment of a just peace in the region which was at stake.

142. Believing that it would be enough to draw the attention of delegations to a document which in itself sufficed to demonstrate the mendacious nature of the Iranian allegations, he recalled that in an interview given on 2 September 1988 to Radio Tehran, the Iranian Minister of the Revolutionary Guards, speaking about the achievements of his Government in the area of weapons manufacture, and in particular in the sectors of chemical, bacteriological, biological and nuclear-weapons production, had stated that

the manufacture of chemical weapons no longer presented any scientific problems for the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was thus to be presumed that that country was producing and deploying chemical weapons in accordance with official decisions. He would therefore conclude by inviting the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to show more goodwill and sense of responsibility in dealing with so important a problem as that of peace in the region.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (resumed)

143. The PRESIDENT announced that the delegate of India, in his capacity as Chairman of the Middle East and South Asia group, had informed him of the agreement reached within that group. He accordingly proposed that the delegate of Saudi Arabia be elected as Vice-President of the General Conference to fill the outstanding vacancy in the General Committee and that the delegate of Bangladesh be elected as additional member. The General Committee would thus consist of six Vice-Presidents, namely the delegates of Guatemala, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, the President of the General Conference (himself), the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole (namely the delegate of the Philippines) and seven additional elected members, namely the delegates of Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Nigeria. The General Committee would therefore have 15 members, of which six were Vice-Presidents and seven were additional members, which would involve suspending the application of Articles 34 and 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. He took it that the General Conference accepted such suspension and approved the proposed composition.

144. It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

145. Mr. SAMIEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation wished to reserve the right at a later stage to exercise its right of reply to the comments which had just been made by the delegate of Iraq.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.

