



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXII)/OR.310  
14 December 1988

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

Original: FRENCH

THIRTY-SECOND (1988) REGULAR SESSION

RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND TENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna  
on Thursday, 22 September 1988, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. HALIM (Malaysia)

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[\*] GC(XXXII)/856.

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXXII)/839 and 857) (resumed)

1. The PRESIDENT informed the General Conference of the results of the voting.

2. The result of the election of three Members from the area of Latin America was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	13
<u>Valid votes:</u>	257
<u>Required majority:</u>	43
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Argentina	88
Mexico	86
Peru	83

3. Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Mexico and Peru were elected to the Board.

4. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Western Europe was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Valid votes:</u>	177
<u>Required majority:</u>	45
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Denmark	89
Netherlands	88

5. Having obtained the required majority, Denmark and the Netherlands were elected to the Board.

6. The result of the election of one Member from the area of Eastern Europe was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	4
<u>Valid votes:</u>	86
<u>Required majority:</u>	44
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
German Democratic Republic	86

7. Having obtained the required majority, the German Democratic Republic was elected to the Board.

8. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Africa was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	10
<u>Valid votes:</u>	170
<u>Required majority:</u>	43
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Cameroon	29
Côte d'Ivoire	49
Ghana	48
Tunisia	44

9. Three countries had obtained the required majority, but, having received 49 and 48 votes respectively, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana were elected to the Board.

10. The result of the election of one Member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Valid votes:</u>	87
<u>Required majority:</u>	44
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Pakistan	54
Syrian Arab Republic	33

11. Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan was elected to the Board.

12. The result of the election of one Member from the area of South East Asia and the Pacific was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Valid votes:</u>	87
<u>Required majority:</u>	44
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Malaysia	87

13. Having obtained the required majority, Malaysia was elected to the Board.

14. The result of the election of one Member from the area of Africa or of the Middle East and South Asia or of South East Asia and the Pacific (the so-called "floating seat") was as follows:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	5
<u>Valid votes:</u>	85
<u>Required majority:</u>	43
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Algeria:	84
Cameroon	1

15. Having obtained the required majority, Algeria was elected to the Board.

16. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the 11 Members so elected, recalled that in accordance with Article VI.D of the Statute they would hold office from the end of the current session of the General Conference until the end of the thirty-fourth regular session, i.e. for a period of two years.

17. He thanked the delegations of Egypt and Hungary, which had provided the tellers, the tellers themselves, and their Secretariat assistants.

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

18. Mr. CONSTELNA (Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC)), after conveying the good wishes of the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of IANEC to the General Conference, said that, since 1959, IANEC had served as a forum where co-operation between national organizations responsible for nuclear affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean was discussed. Its activities consisted essentially in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through courses, seminars and round-table discussions, for which purposes it drew upon the technical resources of the main centres in the region. The use of radioisotopes in agriculture, industry and hydrology had received special attention at centres in Argentina, Chile and Colombia. Also noteworthy were the results of an evaluation of the uranium-bearing potential of the Andes carried out as part of the regional evaluation programme for

uraniferous regions by the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute, in collaboration with the nuclear energy commissions of Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela. In addition, the support given recently to the Brazilian Nuclear Information Centre had been a stimulus for scientific and technological information programmes in the nuclear field.

19. After a brief period of retrenchment, the activities of IANEC were picking up again. At the 15th regular session of the Commission, which was to take place in Washington, D.C. in the United States from 11 to 13 October of the current year, it was hoped that solutions would be found to the serious financial crisis affecting its co-operation programme. The advisory committee to which he belonged had the job of determining the region's specific needs with regard to nuclear applications, notably in the following areas: agriculture, industry, public health, nuclear safety and radiation protection, dissemination of nuclear techniques and training in those techniques, and nuclear information. The advisory committee had drawn up technical reports identifying the main areas of interest with a view to setting up a ten-year action plan. In the light of the importance being attached to studies of the nuclear legislation and regulatory activities of countries in the region, IANEC's legal committee had resumed its activities. The committee had recently met in Santiago, Chile, and had approved resolutions recommending that IANEC urge its member States to adhere to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It had also proposed that draft conventions on food irradiation and transboundary nuclear damage be drawn up.

20. The brief description he had given of IANEC's main activities should enable its work to be co-ordinated with that of the Agency, and co-operation between the two organizations to be intensified; that co-operation, which had been evident on many occasions in the past, had recently been seen in action in the joint organization - under the ARCAL programme - of activities such as the course on the improvement of cereals by mutation, which had taken place at La Molina University in Lima in November 1987. IANEC was firmly committed to collaborating closely with organizations active in the nuclear field, and in particular with the Agency, not simply because of the experience and wealth of knowledge that the latter had accumulated, but also because in Latin America

and the Caribbean IANEC's experience could help the Agency provide Member States of both organizations with the direct services they required.

21. Mr. NAVARRO (Philippines) said that his country, like the majority of those in the Third World, was trying to increase its economic and technological capabilities in order to achieve industrialization. The realization of that objective would take a large toll of the country's natural resources and would depend in large measure on the conditions imposed by the more developed nations from which credit and assistance would be sought. However, prosperity should not be pursued at the cost of a firm commitment to international peace and security. All countries should be ready to relinquish certain advantages temporarily in order that world civilization might continue to thrive in the coming century.

22. As their contribution to world peace, the people of the Philippines had enshrined the nuclear-weapon-free principle in the Constitution and had given their Government a mandate to pursue an appropriate policy in that respect. The Government supported the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. It took an active part in Agency initiatives aimed at developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world, and contributed to those efforts as far as it was able.

23. The entry into force of the INF Treaty between the Superpowers was an important step towards easing international tension. It was perhaps not too early to suggest a further stage, namely the conversion of the fissile material in nuclear explosives into fuel which could be used in current and future nuclear power plants. Such a step would involve material sacrifices on the part of the richer countries, but it would assure the rest of the world that those countries were committed to avoiding a nuclear holocaust, free more resources to meet energy needs and slow down the rate at which fertile material reserves were being used up.

24. The year 1988 marked the 20th anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), through which the 134 signatory States demonstrated their commitment to international peace and security. That Treaty, among others, recognized the important role the Agency played in its implementation, namely

that of ensuring that nuclear energy was used exclusively for peaceful purposes for the benefit of mankind.

25. His Government attached great importance to the Agency's mandate to accelerate and increase the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, while paying particular attention to nuclear safety. That was the reason why it had proposed ten years previously that the Agency help set up a regional emergency assistance centre. Although the initiative had been received with little enthusiasm at the time, recent events had demonstrated the need for such a centre.

26. His delegation was pleased to note that the Agency had the flexibility and capability to adapt to fast-changing situations and problems. The speed with which it had elaborated the Early Notification and Emergency Assistance Conventions was clear proof of that. The Philippines had decided to accede to those two Conventions, and preparations for the deposition of the instruments of accession were already under way.

27. The conclusion and adoption of the Joint Protocol to harmonize the Paris and Vienna Conventions was another success of which the Agency could be proud. Although those Conventions did not cover all questions of liability which might come up in the event of a nuclear accident, they nevertheless constituted a major step towards extending protection to the victims of a nuclear accident. He hoped that a conference to review the Vienna Convention would be convened at an early date in order to ensure that its provisions remained in line with developments.

28. A generation previously, the Philippines had hosted the India-Philippines-Agency (IPA) project, which had been the precursor of the Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) for Asia and the Far East. He noted also that the Regional Co-operative Arrangements in Latin America (ARCAL) were yielding pleasing results, and expressed the hope that similar arrangements would be concluded in other regions of the world. The Philippines continued to support the general objectives of the RCA programme and to participate in projects established within the region. However, the programme could be made more effective if networks were established among RCA Member States with the aim of overcoming the obstacles that stood in the way of the development of

nuclear applications. The transfer of technologies which were relevant to the economic and industrial capabilities of Member States should be speeded up. Projects involving Member States where the resources available were not too disparate should be identified and given support by the Agency and donor countries. Greater assistance could also be given to national institutions whose participation in such projects would place a heavy burden on their facilities, expertise and financial resources.

29. He welcomed the introduction of management plans for multi-year technical assistance projects, a scheme which would facilitate the evaluation, co-ordination and execution of those projects. However, the trend towards common activities on a regional basis should not - even assuming zero growth in the Agency's budget - create a situation where individual Member States' needs for technical assistance could not be accommodated.

30. With regard to the proposed amendments to Article VI of the Statute, his delegation supported the principle of universality in international organizations. That principle should be reflected in the equitable representation of Member States on the Board of Governors. The Philippines had submitted a draft resolution whose objective was to grant official observer status at meetings of the Board to Member States which were not members of that body - in other words, it would permit them to take part in the work of the Board and would place at their disposal the physical facilities necessary for them to exercise that right more easily, without, however, giving them the right to vote. That proposal would reinforce the principle of the sovereign equality of States and the universality of the Agency, and would also help bring the latter into line with other United Nations organizations which automatically granted observer status to their member States. He considered the existing procedure in the Board far from satisfactory, a view which was shared by others. Given the noble objectives of the proposal, he was confident that the draft resolution submitted would be favourably received.

31. Mr. HADDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that each year the Agency's General Conference purported to offer Member States the opportunity to express their points of view and to put forward proposals on the various activities of



the Agency, with a view to taking major decisions about the future development of those activities. However, the Conference was often limited to the repetition of ideas and opinions which had been expressed many times in the past, instead of attempting to reach a consensus on the items under consideration, some of which had been on the agenda for many years. Nevertheless, his delegation could not but note with great satisfaction that, since its creation, the Agency had been one of the most active, best organized, most serious and most productive of the international organizations. He wished to make a number of observations, some of them new, that might help the Agency remain a model for others. He hoped those suggestions would be favourably received, as they would benefit the Agency and all its Member States.

32. Firstly, despite the efforts made and measures taken to improve the representation of developing countries within the Secretariat, progress remained slow. It was not the administration that was to blame, but rather recruitment methods, which sometimes led to a situation where appointment depended on the opinion of one person.

33. Secondly, the Agency was spending abnormally high sums of money on printing services, and procedures for distributing publications were wasteful. A committee should be set up to examine ways of rationalizing the situation so as to reduce costs in respect of its purchase of paper, printing services, staff salaries and the mailing of documents.

34. Thirdly, there had been a disproportionate reduction in the staff of sections dealing with areas such as raw materials. In view of the effective and constructive role they played, such sections should be allocated additional human resources.

35. Fourthly, the budget for research contracts should be doubled, since those contracts were an effective means of promoting research in developing countries and created a propitious climate for the assimilation of the technology and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

36. Fifthly, the Agency should consider setting up regional maintenance and repair centres for electronic scientific instruments used in laboratories concerned with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. An initiative of that

kind would allow many equipment purchases to be avoided. The companies which received the majority of orders from the Agency could help it to create such establishments.

37. Finally, his country welcomed the conclusion of the INF Treaty, which was an important step towards world peace, and expressed the hope that understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States would improve further as world tension eased. Since the whole of humanity longed for peace, any act on the part of a State which accelerated the arms race, either on the earth or in space, ran counter to those aspirations. In contrast, any genuine attempt to eliminate nuclear weapons and the threat they represented was a service to mankind.

38. The nuclear threat posed by Israel and South Africa, and the strengthening of the nuclear capabilities of those two countries, were cause for growing concern among the peoples of the Middle East and Africa. The racist and aggressive character of the Israeli and South African régimes was such that the threat extended well beyond the frontiers of the two regions in question and endangered world peace. Moreover, Israel, through its expansionist policies, was defying the unanimous wish of the international community as expressed in the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly. The Fascist nature of Israel's behaviour -- which his country had long since been aware of -- had recently been exposed to the world community, with the revelation by the international media of the inhuman methods of repression and torture that Israel was using in occupied Palestine. Such a régime constituted a danger for its immediate neighbours, for other States in the region, and for world peace, particularly if it was in possession of such a murderous weapon as nuclear armaments.

39. It was to be hoped that Norway would continue to monitor the application of the agreement on the sale and use of the heavy water which it had provided to Israel, given that the latter was supposed to use the heavy water in question for peaceful purposes only and that there was serious room for doubt whether that obligation had been respected. He trusted that Norway would submit to the Agency detailed information on any new facts that came to light with regard to that questionable transaction with Israel.

40. Still on the subject of the threat posed by the military uses of nuclear energy, he pointed out that, as with a nuclear explosion, the improper disposal of radioactive waste could lead to radioactive contamination. The Syrian Atomic Energy Commission had, happily, detected a case of radioactive contamination in a shipment of 2000 tonnes of industrial waste on board a foreign ship which had anchored at the port of Tartus in the Syrian Arab Republic. In one part of that shipment, concentrations of radioactive elements had been detected that were one hundred times greater than normal. The Syrian Arab Republic had insisted that the shipment be returned immediately to the sender. The waste had been transferred to the "Zenobia", which had sailed back to the State in whose territory the exporting company operated.

41. An international convention should be drawn up forbidding the improper dumping of toxic waste and its transport from one country to another without the consent of both States in question. There was a regrettable and increasing tendency for companies in some industrialized countries to dump their waste in developing countries which lacked the necessary resources and technical knowledge to dispose of it properly. Such actions constituted an injustice and a threat to the population of developing countries.

42. In conclusion, his delegation commended the many activities of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. Thanks to its Director, who was well acquainted with the scientific problems encountered in developing countries, the Centre had succeeded in laying down constructive foundations and in opening its doors fully to scientists from those countries - so much so, in fact, that a visit to it was now virtually compulsory for researchers the world over. His country was highly appreciative of the financial aid given to the Centre by the Italian Government, and hoped that the Agency would allocate more funds to it so that it could extend and intensify its activities.

43. Mr. CORREA PAREDES (Ecuador) said it was the wish of the people of Ecuador, who were committed to peace and progress, that energy resources, and nuclear energy in particular, should be used exclusively for peaceful ends and for development. It was worrying that the gap between industrialized nations

and developing countries was widening while, paradoxically, nuclear armaments absorbed more and more resources and the human race was threatened by mass destruction. His delegation reaffirmed its support for all those international instruments which were aimed at promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and in particular the Agency's safeguards system, which was an effective tool for monitoring the peaceful uses of the atom.

44. His country endorsed the various programmes being implemented by the Agency to the benefit of all peoples of the world, and condemned the production of means of destruction that could harm health and render land unusable. It was also concerned by the transfer and dumping of nuclear waste in developing countries. The management and disposal of such waste was the exclusive responsibility of those who had produced it.

45. Ecuador was playing an active part in the ARCAL programme which it saw as being an indispensable regional tool for technical co-operation in the nuclear safety area. The assistance that Ecuador had requested from the Agency was for projects that would further the economic and social development of its people. Special mention should be made of a project concerning isotope-aided soil studies aimed at improving the cultivation of the African oil palm, which had enabled yields to be increased without disturbing the ecological balance. A project on nuclear techniques in animal science would make it possible to diagnose livestock diseases at an early stage and to improve reproduction. Ecuador had achieved major progress in the area of industrial applications, while other applications of ionizing radiation had enabled crop yield to be increased. Finally, thanks to the joint efforts of several Ecuadorian organizations and the collaboration of the Agency, the infrastructure needed for the installation of a 6 MeV neutron accelerator and for iodine-131 fractionation had been established, as had that required by the Nuclear Medicine Service of the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute.

46. For 1989 and 1990, Ecuador had submitted a number of specific technical assistance projects to the Agency: in the field of health, the aim was to perfect anti-cancer therapies; in agriculture, to control insects that attacked fruit destined for export; and in hydrology, to study or monitor water resources and hydroelectric reservoirs.

47. The principles and programmes which Ecuador would implement in the nuclear energy field would always be aimed at the achievement of peace, health and development in a climate of liberty and justice, to which noble ideals the Ecuadorian people were firmly committed. His Government therefore appealed once more to the international community, and especially to the developed countries, to give political support to the Agency's objectives, and to ensure that their co-operation led to the elimination of fears and tension and benefited mankind as a whole.

48. Mr. OMWONY (Kenya) expressed great satisfaction at the Agency's achievements as presented in the Annual Report for 1987. He particularly commended the wide range of services provided to Member States through the technical assistance and co-operation programme, and especially the work done by radiation protection advisory teams (RAPATs) and technical teams in many developing countries.

49. With the Agency's assistance, and pursuant to a law passed in 1982, Kenya had set up a country-wide radiation protection system through which it licensed all owners or operators of ionizing radiation sources as well as premises housing such sources. It had also introduced a mandatory film badge service as part of its thermoluminescence dosimetry system. The Agency's assistance in that regard had been valuable, as it had been in other African countries which had made use of it to set up radiation protection systems.

50. During the past year Kenya had hosted two important Agency-sponsored activities, namely a radiation protection course for East Africa and a regional seminar for Africa. The seminar had shown that the majority of African countries did not yet have legislation governing radiation. His delegation called upon those Member States which had not yet done so to enact the necessary legislation, since the Agency's regulatory recommendations had little meaning if the legal machinery necessary to apply them was lacking. Kenya continued to appreciate the technical assistance offered by the Agency in agriculture, medicine, industry, animal sciences and non-destructive testing.

51. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for the benefit of the people would continue to have a place in Kenya's plans. His authorities intended to initiate a systematic and progressive upgrading of the country's capacity with respect to nuclear science and technology, and ultimately to explore the possibility of establishing a nuclear power programme, since Kenya possessed no fossil fuels and had very little potential for increased exploitation of other forms of energy.

52. Kenya knew from experience that co-operation at the sub-regional, regional and international levels was vital to the successful development of a nuclear technology programme. He noted with interest the current trends and the success of regional co-operation arrangements, and welcomed the Agency's efforts to promote seminars in the African region. He also thanked those Member States which had helped his country by providing financial support through the Agency, thereby enabling it to obtain equipment, expert services and fellowships.

53. The Kenyan Government took a very serious view of wilful pollution and contamination of the environment, and called for a concerted effort on the part of all Agency Member States to ensure that the companies responsible for such acts did not go unpunished. Kenya urged the Agency to prepare internationally agreed codes of practice on the disposal of nuclear wastes. It further requested the Agency to help developing countries establish adequate monitoring facilities for the purpose of carrying out effective surveillance. Such measures would contribute to the safe development of nuclear technology in those countries and would enhance public acceptance of nuclear development programmes.

54. He wished to reiterate his country's clear position with regard to South Africa. Like the majority of Member States, Kenya abhorred the system of apartheid imposed by the minority white Government of South Africa. It also abhorred the apparent respectability which those who lent their support to the régime conferred on that system. Kenya therefore supported the resolution before the General Conference, and called for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political detainees in South Africa and the subsequent holding of general elections on the basis of universal suffrage.

Delegates would recall that the South African Government had persistently ignored their appeals for co-operation on various issues. He urged all Member States to impose economic sanctions against the South African régime, that being the only way to demonstrate peacefully against that country's system of government.

55. Time and again, both the United Nations General Assembly and the Agency had adopted resolutions urging the South African régime to accede to NPT and to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards - but with no success. That régime now appeared to be attempting to buy time, and his delegation felt that the General Conference should adopt the Board's recommendation that South Africa be suspended from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership. Moreover, his delegation was deeply concerned at the contempt with which South Africa had continued to treat the views of the Agency and the world community since the adoption of a similar resolution the previous year. His Government doubted whether South Africa would respond to document GC(XXXII)/855, submitted by the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. The Agency's Member States might have to decide the following year on how to deal with one Member State which continually violated the Agency's directives and resolutions.

56. Total disarmament was the corner-stone of world peace. The recent talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and the subsequent agreement on the reduction of their intermediate nuclear forces were of particular interest. The key to disarmament was mutual respect, based on mutual trust among all States. If that basic principle could be implemented, the world would be able to live in peace and to concentrate on the economic and social development of its peoples.

57. Mr. De La MORA (Colombia) said that, at meetings held in parallel with the General Conference, specialists from Member States were considering the question of nuclear safety and radiation protection and their representatives were examining current and planned technical co-operation activities at the regional and national levels. With regard to those two aspects of the Agency's work, the Group of 77 had already pointed out that the budget laid more emphasis on nuclear safety than on promotional activities,

and had made known its position in relation to a possible redistribution of the scarce resources available.

58. The United Nations General Assembly had expressed its views on the problems of the environment and development the previous February. The Board of Governors had subsequently proposed that the General Conference authorize the inclusion in the Agency's programme of activities that would contribute to sustainable development. The turn taken by the current debate on the Agency's functions raised the question whether its promotional activities should not be intensified once the experts had determined the conditions under which nuclear energy could be exploited without significant risk. In the present situation, the Agency must also give urgent attention to the question of how to meet existing needs while avoiding the irreversible destruction of non-renewable natural resources, which should be seen as the heritage of future generations. His delegation commended the Director General's objective explanation of that highly complex situation in his opening statement.

59. The Agency provided assistance to Colombia in the application of nuclear techniques. However, since that assistance fell far short of what the country needed and what it expected from the Agency, Colombia participated directly in the ARCAL programme and gave it its continuous support. His Government intended to encourage more active regional co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. He wished in that connection to mention the financial assistance provided by the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, Canada, Argentina, the European Economic Community and others, which served to boost the resources allocated by the Agency to the ARCAL programme.

60. As to the assistance it received directly from the Agency, Colombia was concerned at the fact that certain projects that had traditionally been approved by the Agency were now being affected by budgetary cuts. It refused to entertain the idea that technical assistance should be increased or reduced in proportion to States' voluntary contributions. He wished to express his country's gratitude to the United States for supporting a project on the upgrading of a research reactor and to the United Kingdom for supporting a project on radiation protection.



61. Colombia operated a small research reactor and wished to receive assistance from the Agency in modernizing it and improving its safety. Without such assistance, it would be obliged to shut down the reactor, thereby nullifying the results obtained thus far and necessitating an increase in imported radioactive materials for nuclear applications, particularly in the fields of health and agriculture.

62. Finally, Colombia had pledged a contribution of US \$49 400 for 1989 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF), thereby reaffirming its confidence in the activities financed by the Agency through that Fund. His Government had also set in motion the necessary legal and administrative procedures for accession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and to the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance.

63. Mr. JOVANOVIC (Yugoslavia) said he was confident that the General Conference would complete all its tasks successfully and would contribute to the further advancement of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency had an important role to play in accelerating socio-economic development, particularly in developing countries.

64. His delegation was satisfied with the Annual Report for 1987, which showed that particular attention had been given to areas such as safeguards, nuclear safety and radiation protection, nuclear power and radioactive waste management. The strong emphasis placed on waste management was very welcome, since that was an issue of crucial importance for the nuclear power industry. The considerable efforts made to strengthen nuclear safety and radiation protection and the significant results achieved also deserved praise. In that connection, his Government attached great importance to the implementation of the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance. It had already signed the former and was considering signing the latter.

65. In 1987, co-operation between Yugoslavia and the Agency had been very extensive and had produced some tangible results. Numerous seminars had been held and various projects had been executed, mainly under the technical assistance programme. Substantial resources had been made available to complete projects started in previous years. That gave Yugoslavia reason to

hope that there were real possibilities for broadening its co-operation with the Agency. He wished to announce in that connection that his country had already pledged its full share of the target set for the TACF.

66. As was well known, developing countries were making every effort to accelerate their economic development and to co-operate with others on an equitable basis, particularly in the field of nuclear power and nuclear applications. However, those efforts were not always fully understood, even within the Agency. The situation within the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS) was a prime example of that. It was precisely because of the lack of truly equitable co-operation on a global scale that developing countries were unable to benefit from scientific and technical progress in the nuclear field and that the effect of the technical assistance provided was perhaps not as great as expected. Another contributing factor might be the inadequacy of infrastructures in developing countries. The Agency and other United Nations bodies should help those countries to overcome their difficulties and to speed up their development, including development in the nuclear field.

67. The suppliers of nuclear material should ensure a greater and freer transfer of technology, since that would certainly increase the volume of nuclear applications in developing countries. Yugoslavia had not yet taken a decision regarding the construction of new nuclear power plants, as the output of existing plants and of those under construction would meet the country's electricity requirements for some time. It had not entirely rejected the nuclear option, but public opinion within the country was very sensitive to the imposition of conditions and restrictions, particularly where the transfer of technology was concerned. That was one of the main factors hindering the expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries.

68. His delegation supported the Agency's programme and budget for 1989 and 1990 contained in document GC(XXXII)/837. The document was realistic and in line with the approved priorities, and the necessary balance had been struck between available resources and planned activities. The Agency's budget had shown zero real growth for several years. Some increase in real terms would certainly be welcome from the point of view of facilitating the implementation of programme activities, but other United Nations organizations

also applied the zero-growth principle. His delegation was convinced that the Secretariat could make additional savings by further rationalizing its activities. Notwithstanding those remarks, it felt that the financial outlook was not too bleak.

69. Yugoslavia's position on disarmament was well known. As was demonstrated by its acceptance of NPT, it attached great importance to the continuation of the nuclear disarmament process between the Superpowers. The current climate of growing confidence would have a positive influence on the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology.

70. With regard to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, his delegation felt that, instead of focusing on which form of energy was the cleanest, it would be more appropriate to ensure the safe operation of nuclear power plants: when operated safely, nuclear power plants had a minimal impact on the environment, but they could have disastrous consequences in the case of an accident. It was therefore essential to provide freer access to the latest technical developments in that area and to strengthen the Agency's role in that regard. The selection of energy options must remain the sovereign decision of each Member State.

71. In his opening statement, the Director General had given a comprehensive description of the Agency's current activities and of the problems which the use of nuclear energy posed for modern society. His delegation fully shared the Director General's view that the new basic safety principles for nuclear power plants were extremely important.

72. Mr. OLUMOKO (United Nations Council for Namibia) recalled that, although the General Assembly had first considered the question of Namibia more than 40 years previously and although it was now almost 22 years since the United Nations had terminated South Africa's mandate over that territory, Namibia remained a nation-in-waiting. Men and women continued, both in Namibia and in South Africa, to sacrifice their lives in the struggle for freedom and dignity.

73. For its part, the United Nations Council for Namibia had spared no effort to ensure that the question of Namibia remained in the forefront of international concern and would continue to do so. It would intensify its

campaign to mobilize international public opinion in support of self-determination and independence of a united Namibia, and would redouble its efforts to denounce the duplicity and intransigence of the Pretoria régime and its systematic flouting of United Nations resolutions and decisions on Namibia, as well as the collaboration of those western States which continued to defend that régime. Those efforts were, of course, only supplementary to those of the Namibian people themselves, who, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and its President, were waging a heroic and determined struggle for their liberation.

74. In his message to a formal meeting held four weeks previously to mark the 15th anniversary of the proclamation of Namibia Day, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had - inter alia - again urged all concerned to make a concerted effort to satisfy the aspirations of the Namibian people and to enable the United Nations to proceed with the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). His delegation considered that the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa constituted an act of aggression, as defined in General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974. Over the years there had been many decisions and developments relating to Namibia within the United Nations, and those bore witness to the intransigence of the South African régime and to its contempt for the legitimate aspirations of the Namibian people.

75. The United Nations Council for Namibia was gravely concerned at the systematic plundering of Namibia's natural resources, and particularly of its uranium deposits, to which South Africa, together with certain western and other economic interests, were helping themselves in violation of the United Nations Charter, the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, and Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, and in disregard of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971.

76. It was common knowledge that Namibia possessed approximately 5% of the world's exploitable uranium reserves and that the only active uranium mine in Namibia was operated by Rössing Uranium Limited, the largest producer of uranium in the world. South Africa's uranium resources contributed in large

measure to its nuclear capability; the fact that it also controlled Namibia's uranium resources increased its total share of the world market and, consequently, its ability to influence that market. Apart from enabling it to earn additional foreign currency, South Africa's position as a major producer of uranium -- a substantial part of which was mined in Namibia -- had given it a useful lever for securing extensive support from western countries for its own nuclear programme. It was therefore not surprising that South Africa was linking its possible accession to NPT to the future of the uranium which it was illegally exploiting.

77. The illegal exploitation of Namibia's uranium represented a serious health hazard for the Namibian people. The lack of surveillance measures and standards to protect workers and local inhabitants against radioactive contamination from the Rössing mine made the uranium mining, processing and transport operations highly dangerous for those people. The ore tailings contained dust particles which remained highly toxic for many years and, unless special and very expensive precautions were taken, those tailings were slowly dispersed by wind and rain over a wide area. Thus, the plundering of Namibia's uranium by Rössing could pose a serious threat to the health and environment of several generations of Namibians.

78. The General Assembly had declared that all activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia were illegal under international law and had called upon the United Nations Council for Namibia, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, to continue to take the necessary steps to compile statistical information on the wealth illegally extracted from Namibia, with a view to assessing the extent of the compensation that those interests would have to pay to Namibia after it had gained independence.

79. It had also called upon the governments of all States, and especially those whose corporations were involved in the mining and processing of Namibian uranium, to take all appropriate measures to comply with the United Nations resolutions and decisions and with Decree No. 1: those measures included requiring negative certificates of origin and prohibiting State-owned and other corporations, together with their subsidiaries, from

undertaking any kind of transaction involving Namibian uranium and from engaging in uranium prospecting activities in Namibia.

80. Furthermore, as part of its efforts to give effect to Decree No. 1, the General Assembly had authorized the United Nations Council for Namibia to initiate legal proceedings in national courts against corporations or individuals involved in the exploitation, transport, processing or purchase of Namibian natural resources, and had urged it to consider the promulgation of additional legislation aimed at protecting the interests of the Namibian people and at ensuring the effective implementation of such legislation.

81. The Special Committee on Decolonization had given further consideration to the question of Namibia at its meetings in August 1988 and had appealed to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, which operated the URENCO uranium enrichment plant, specifically to exclude Namibian uranium from the field of application of the Treaty of Almeno, which governed the activities of URENCO. The Special Committee had also expressed its deep concern over reports that a nuclear waste repository was being planned in the Namib Desert, on the west coast of Namibia, and had demanded that no such plans, which would endanger the health and well-being of the Namibian people and of their neighbours, be implemented.

82. The continued bondage of the Namibian people was a challenge both to the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations, which had been directly responsible for the territory for 22 years, and to the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, including the Agency. A few weeks previously, the Special Committee had adopted a resolution requesting all specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, to take all necessary measures to withhold from the racist régime of South Africa any form of co-operation and assistance in the financial, economic, technical and other fields and to discontinue all support to that régime until the people of Namibia had exercised fully their inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and national independence in a united Namibia, and until the inhuman system of apartheid had been totally eradicated.

83. In view of the persistent refusal by the racist régime of South Africa to comply with the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on the question of Namibia, and particularly with Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978), the General Assembly had repeatedly urged the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, as provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter. In that connection, he wished to recall operative paragraph 1 of resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/485 of 24 September 1987 in which the General Conference resolved "to consider and take a decision on the recommendation of the Board of Governors contained in its report GC(XXXI)/807 to suspend South Africa from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership in accordance with Article XIX.B of the Statute, at the thirty-second regular session of the General Conference". To date, South Africa had refused to submit all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards or to act in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter. When international agreements became distorted, the options left open to the international community became perilously few. When the trust and goodwill generated by political foresight and maturity were sacrificed to narrow domestic ends, those options diminished still further. He therefore called upon the General Conference to implement the Board's recommendation that South Africa be suspended from the exercise of its privileges and rights of membership of the Agency.

84. The United Nations Council for Namibia wished to thank the Agency and those of its Members which had helped the Council to discharge its responsibilities, and called upon them to take all necessary measures to implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions, which offered a solid basis for increased co-operation between the Agency and the Namibian people. The Agency had a very important role to play in providing technical assistance before and after Namibia gained independence, as well as during the transition period. In particular, the Agency should make a greater contribution to training, by implementing a consolidated programme of such assistance specifically designed to meet the needs of the Namibian people. The United Nations Council for Namibia commended the Agency on the efforts it had deployed through the Council's Nationhood Programme, and hoped that assistance would be substantially increased in order to meet the growing needs of the

Namibian people. In so doing, the Agency would be acting in full accordance with the objective of accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world set forth in Article II of its Statute.

85. He thanked the Director General for his efforts over the previous few years to increase the representation of developing countries within the Secretariat. The United Nations Council for Namibia would like to see Namibians being recruited by the Agency and would in due course put forward the names of suitably qualified candidates. Finally, he asked the Agency, in the light of the request made by the General Assembly to all the specialized agencies, to continue to grant a waiver of assessment to Namibia during the period in which it was represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia.

86. Mr. SAN MARTIN CARO (Peru) said that nuclear energy, which had initially been associated with destruction and war, had taken on a new dimension worthy of contemporary scientific and technological civilization, thanks to the Agency, its system of safeguards and its commitment to using the atom for development.

87. His country believed that peace was synonymous with development and that security, in the real meaning of the word, was inconceivable without comprehensive, self-sustaining development ensuring decent standards of living. Nuclear energy was essential for development and a modern and effective instrument with which to fight disease, increase food production, improve crops and generally improve the living conditions of large groups of the population which still lacked basic necessities.

88. For the same reasons, his country had a clear policy of support for disarmament and had warmly welcomed the fact that President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev had exchanged instruments of ratification of the INF Treaty, which was the first treaty actually to reduce the arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union and not just limit them.

89. For his country, 1988 was of particular importance since it marked the startup of its first research reactor at the new Huarangal Nuclear Centre. The effort put into constructing that Centre demonstrated his country's confidence in nuclear energy as a means of stimulating development. The



support received from the Agency had enabled Peru to increase its general level of nuclear competence and, in particular, its ability to exploit the new nuclear Centre. It had also benefited from Argentinian assistance in establishing the Centre.

90. In 1988, major discussions had taken place at the national level on the country's economy and its energy resources in the years to come. It had emerged from those discussions that a detailed assessment of the feasibility of nuclear power in Peru was needed. Moreover, the urgent need to improve food production, which had become acute during the past year owing to unfavourable economic factors, made it necessary to expand nuclear applications in agriculture and, specifically, to improve the yield of cereals and to bring new areas under cultivation using ground-water. His country hoped to receive advice and assistance from the Agency for that purpose.

91. Peru was planning to devote a major proportion of the activities of the new Huarangal Nuclear Centre to the training of nuclear scientists and technicians from the region and hoped in that connection to be able to count on the experience and the assistance which more developed countries could make available to it through the Agency. Also on the subject of training, his country wished to express its gratitude to the Agency for the work the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste was doing not only in theoretical physics but also in the physical sciences in general. That work had a major impact on the scientific development of Latin America.

92. At the regional level, his delegation recognized the importance of the ARCAL programme for intraregional co-operation as well as its major influence on Peru's nuclear development. At the global level, the expansion of nuclear energy was only possible if the public were convinced of the effectiveness of efforts to prevent the non-peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and to avoid nuclear accidents, or at least limit their consequences.

93. The Agency's reaction to the unfortunate accidents which had occurred in recent years had been rapid and effective. As had been stated on previous occasions, one of the best ways of ensuring safety was to gather collective experience and to incorporate it effectively into existing regulations. In that context, the Director General's comment that the world was becoming more

aware of the relative consequences of using different sources of energy was very encouraging.

94. In conclusion, he commended the Secretariat on the smooth running of the Agency and thanked those countries which had demonstrated their confidence in Peru by electing it to the Board of Governors.

95. Mr. SILANGWA (Zambia) reaffirmed his country's firm commitment to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, which could and should play an important role in improving the quality of life. As a young developing country, Zambia was gradually setting up the necessary technological infrastructure for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and was indebted to the Agency for the assistance it had provided in the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, health, natural resources and industry.

96. Although Zambia itself did not have any nuclear power plants, his Government had welcomed the Nuclear Safety Review for 1987 and had noted with satisfaction the steps taken by the Agency to implement the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance. It was looking forward to the Agency's emergency response system becoming fully operational and to the publication of the emergency notification and assistance technical operations manual. His Government had taken steps to accede to both Conventions.

97. His delegation welcomed the statement that nuclear materials under Agency safeguards in 1987 had remained in peaceful nuclear activities or had been otherwise adequately accounted for, and paid tribute to the Director General and his staff for their untiring efforts in that area.

98. The sharing of information was an important aspect of nuclear safety, and his delegation appreciated the Agency's role in that sphere. His country would continue to give priority to the strengthening of its radiation safety and protection capability and to participate in the Agency's programmes and activities in that area.

99. His Government was grateful to the Agency for fellowships which had provided it with trained radiation protection specialists and continued to attach great importance to the technical assistance and co-operation programme. The previous year Zambia had, with the help of the Agency,

finished setting up a national nuclear analytical laboratory and a multi-purpose <sup>60</sup>Co irradiation facility, which augured well for the future of peaceful nuclear applications in that country. As had been stressed by the President of Zambia when opening the laboratory, the Agency's assistance would continue to be needed in the future. A programme aimed at achieving full utilization of those facilities was already under way.

100. Although the Board had allocated increased resources to technical assistance and co-operation through the system of indicative planning figures, that mechanism remained unpredictable; his Government was therefore disappointed that the Board had once again failed to recommend a permanent solution that would satisfy resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388. For that reason, his delegation urged the Board to recommend a system of firm commitments to the General Conference as soon as possible. For its part, his Government pledged to pay its share of the target set by the Board for the TACF for 1989.

101. With regard to the need to amend Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, he wished to point out that the application of the statutory principle of equitable geographical representation to the Middle East and South Asia and to Africa remained as valid an objective now as it had been ten years previously. His delegation was again disappointed to see that the Board had failed to find a solution to that problem. However, it wished to reiterate its view that the question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 should be kept separate from discussions on the revision of Article VI as a whole.

102. His Government was deeply concerned about the dumping of toxic chemical wastes in developing countries. The behaviour of certain multinational companies in industrialized countries in that connection was alarming and posed a threat to the environment. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) had rightly referred to those acts as a crime against Africa. The Agency had a role to play in that area, particularly where radioactive wastes were concerned, and should help developing countries to establish or strengthen infrastructures and mechanisms to monitor, manage and control the movement and disposal of nuclear waste.

103. Since the previous session of the General Conference, the situation in southern Africa had remained very volatile. The Pretoria régime continued to maintain a highly militarized political climate. The state of emergency remained in force in South Africa. Hundreds of black people were being murdered by the military forces of the Pretoria régime and the ban on popular organizations opposed to the inhuman apartheid régime had not been lifted. Furthermore, the exploitation and sale of Namibia's uranium and other resources by the apartheid régime was continuing, in complete disregard of the demands of the United Nations General Assembly and the Agency's General Conference.

104. His delegation had warned the previous year that the Pretoria régime was, as usual, making false promises to the international community regarding the action it intended to take to respond positively to the Board's resolution of 12 June 1987. It came as no surprise, therefore, that the situation had not changed. The Zambian authorities were convinced that the Pretoria régime would not voluntarily abandon its policy of apartheid or its military ambitions in southern Africa. It was thus essential - before it was too late - to exert pressure on the Pretoria régime to submit all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards.

105. In view of Pretoria's military ambitions and its existing nuclear-weapon capability, his delegation was in no doubt that, even if South Africa became a party to NPT, that racist régime would continue to strengthen its nuclear-weapon capability if certain major nuclear facilities were not placed under Agency safeguards; the situation in southern Africa therefore required rapid international intervention in the form of mandatory, comprehensive sanctions against the racist régime and the suspension of South Africa from the Agency through the adoption of the recommendation made by the Board on 12 June 1987. Rather than wait until international opinion was again betrayed or disregarded, all delegations should support the resolution submitted by the African Group, which demonstrated that Group's desire to find a solution to the problems posed by the Pretoria régime in the interests of international peace and security.

106. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Cyprus) reaffirmed his country's commitment to the principles of the Agency, to which the Government and people of Cyprus would continue to give their full support. It was worth noting in that connection that the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance had been submitted to the Cypriot Parliament for approval and it was likely that they would be signed and ratified by the Government in the near future.

107. Small countries which did not have nuclear reactors limited their nuclear activities mainly to medicine and agriculture and were grateful for the technical assistance they received from the Agency. His country hoped to be able to co-operate actively with the Agency in the near future by making available qualified scientists.

108. In a world that had become safer with the recent reduction in nuclear weapons, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be increasing and the Agency's role expanding as a result. However, nuclear energy posed a number of worrying problems, including the disposal of wastes which were a potential threat to human health. His delegation condemned all dumping or criminal handling of toxic wastes -- and particularly radioactive wastes - which contravened internationally agreed regulations, and commended the efforts made by OAU countries in that connection. The problem was a worldwide one, and his country would support all efforts to inform the public of the dangers of the unlawful dumping of wastes, to control and regulate such practices and, provided the means to do so could be established, to suppress and punish such criminal acts.

109. With regard to the staffing of the Agency's Secretariat, his delegation could support the draft resolution submitted by Egypt and hoped that the Director General would continue his efforts to recruit staff from Third World countries, particularly those which already had a skilled scientific community ready to offer its services.

110. Mr. CIBILS (Uruguay) commended those responsible for the Agency's technical co-operation activities on the manner in which they were carrying out their work. It was somewhat worrying, however, that the Agency was favouring certain sectors at the expense of promotional activities, and especially technical assistance to less advanced countries. His delegation

did not doubt the importance of safeguards and shared the concerns of all those who rightly wished to maintain full control over the use of nuclear fuel. However, like other delegations it felt that the safeguards system should be re-examined with a view to effecting economies and improving efficiency.

111. His delegation welcomed the increased attention given by the Agency to the strengthening of radiation protection and nuclear safety in Member States, and in particular its efforts to make information available on that subject to all countries and at all levels. His country had taken the necessary steps to update its radiation protection regulations and would soon have an up-to-date national inventory of ionizing radiation sources.

112. On the question of measures to strengthen international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection, his delegation welcomed the preparation of the Joint Protocol linking the Paris and Vienna Conventions, which it hoped would strengthen the existing international regime concerning liability for nuclear damage.

113. His Government had recently embarked on the construction of a nuclear technology development centre, which, after a modest beginning, would become the main vehicle for the promotion of the medical, industrial, agricultural, veterinary and other applications of nuclear techniques and enable the country's people - its most valuable resource - to press forward with the nation's development. Uruguay's efforts would be in vain without the support of the Agency and friendly countries, particularly Argentina. His country had high hopes for its nuclear technology development centre, which should stimulate a new influx of technical assistance resources for national development projects in the nuclear field.

114. His country was a strong supporter of the ARCAL programme, which was very important not only because it enabled Latin American countries to benefit from effective technical co-operation, but - more importantly - because it demonstrated the ability of those nations to work together. Thanks were due to those countries whose extrabudgetary contributions made possible the implementation of many projects and financed Agency programmes for the promotion of nuclear technology in Uruguay.

115. His country had concluded a nuclear co-operation agreement with Canada, which constituted a step forward in the strengthening of its relations with other nations. Although Uruguay was a small country, its level of nuclear development was relatively high, as evidenced by the fact that one of its nuclear medicine programmes was among the most advanced in the developing world. Nuclear technology was not limited to electricity production, but extended to many scientific and technical fields. All developing countries should continue their efforts to achieve full nuclear development through frank and open co-operation.

116. Mr. MAHMASSANI (Lebanon) said that his country strongly supported the Agency and continued to believe that its objectives and principles were essential to the creation of a better, safer world. The results achieved by the Agency as described in the Annual Report for 1987 were extremely satisfactory.

117. The safeguards system was essential for the development of nuclear power, which was an indispensable source of energy. The effectiveness of safeguards depended largely on the co-operation of the world community. The Safeguards Implementation Report testified to the Agency's success in that area, but it seemed that the Director General's efforts to adopt new safeguards approaches to cope with the increase in activities had run up against financial obstacles. Steps should therefore be taken to remove those obstacles.

118. His country endorsed both the Agency's technical co-operation programme and its safety activities. In view of the importance of applications in health, industry and food for developing countries in particular, that programme ought to be expanded.

119. There was an urgent need to establish a nuclear liability regime which would ensure compensation for any nuclear damage caused by any nuclear reactor anywhere in the world. Without such a regime, nuclear power would always be vulnerable and open to criticism.

120. Lebanon was especially concerned by the dumping of radioactive waste in developing countries, since it had itself recently been a victim of such practices. It condemned the multinational corporations and companies which

dumped such waste in developing countries and demanded an immediate halt to such illegal activities. All parties concerned should ensure that transactions involving nuclear waste were subject to strict licensing requirements.

121. His delegation deeply regretted Israel's refusal to comply with General Conference resolution GC(XXXI)/RES/470 calling on it to submit all its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards. The Israeli nuclear capability and threat constituted a serious danger for the Middle East and his country was alarmed by the information on Israel's possession of nuclear weapons. The report by the United Nations Secretary-General referred to in document GC(XXXII)/849 stated that, although the United Nations did not have conclusive proof that Israel possessed nuclear weapons, circumstantial evidence seemed to indicate that Israel had developed the necessary technology and had the means to manufacture such weapons if it so decided. Furthermore, Israel refused to accede to NPT and to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons. It was therefore essential for Israel's nuclear facilities to be placed under Agency safeguards.

122. It was the responsibility of all to pass on to future generations a safe environment in a peaceful world free from the fear of contamination. It was the Agency's role to help achieve that goal, and his delegation called on others to support and respect the Agency and to enhance its credibility.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.