



GC

GC(41)/24  
25 September 1997

International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

GENERAL Distr.  
Original: ENGLISH

Forty-first regular session  
item 20 of the provisional agenda  
(GC(41)/1)

## COMPOSITION OF REGIONAL GROUPS

### Report by the Chairman of the Board of Governors

1. On 20 September 1996, the General Conference endorsed a statement made by the President of the Conference which, inter alia, requested the Chairman of the Board of Governors to consult with Member States not yet listed in a regional area (referred to in Article VI of the Statute) as well as with other Member States, including representatives of the regional areas. The Chairman was also asked to report on specific proposals to include each Member State within the appropriate area, for consideration at the 41st regular session of the General Conference in September 1997.
2. After a series of informal bilateral and group consultations during which it became evident that there was no agreement on the issue, and out of conviction that the question of composition of regional groups is interlinked with the other Article VI issues, namely, the size and composition of the Board and the criteria to be followed in designating Member States for Board membership, I decided - in collaboration with the Chairmen of the two Working Groups established by the Board for these other two issues - to propose a package of proposals on the three related issues to the Board at its June 1997 session (see Appendices I.A, I.B and Appendix II of document GC(41)/11).
3. With specific reference to the issue of composition of regional groups, I have proposed in Attachment 3 of Appendix I.A to document GC(41)/11, a grouping of Member States by areas in which all Member States of the Agency have been included.
4. In this connection, attention is called to Appendix I.B of document GC(41)/11, in which I indicated how I saw one element of the package, namely certain assurances from Israel regarding membership on the Board of Governors.
5. As discussion in the Board indicated, the views of members remained divergent on this issue. There was objection by a number of States to the inclusion of Israel in the MESA group at this time. A number of States felt that the responsibility for the composition of the regional groups rests primarily with the members of the respective groups.

6. On the other hand, a number of other States welcomed the proposal as a compromise solution and were prepared to endorse it because they were of the view that Israel should be included in MESA and that the principle of sovereign equality implied that all Member States belonged to regional groups.

7. There were also some objections to the inclusion of Yugoslavia in the list. I stressed, however, that the inclusion of Yugoslavia was not intended to prejudge in any way the 'successor state' question.

8. There was therefore no agreement on the proposal contained in Appendix I.A. of document GC(41)/11 which sought to include all Member States of the Agency within the appropriate regional area pursuant to the request of the General Conference last year.

9. The summary records of the Board's discussion on this and related issues are contained in documents GC(41)/11/Add. 1 and GC(41)/11/Add. 2.