



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Forty-sixth regular session

GC

GC(46)/INF/3
24 June 2002

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC

**TEXT OF COMMUNICATION OF 10 MAY 2002
RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
CONCERNING RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS**

The text of a letter dated 10 May 2002 submitted by the Permanent Mission of Iraq and addressed to the Director General is reproduced herewith for the attention of the General Conference.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

Translated from original in Arabic

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ
Vienna

10 May 2002

Sir,

Since it joined the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1959, Iraq has played and continues to play a significant role in supporting and strengthening the Agency's work and activities. It had also been very prompt in fulfilling its financial obligations and had not previously had any outstanding financial contributions to the Agency. However, the comprehensive, unjust sanctions that have been imposed on Iraq since 6 August 1990 and the freezing of its assets in international banks have prevented it from obtaining any amounts to pay its financial contributions to the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international and regional organizations.

These coercive measures beyond Iraq's control still continue and prevent it from fulfilling its obligations to the Agency. I refer to the two letters from the Minister of Foreign Affairs dated 2 September 1999 and 30 March 2000 regarding Iraq's request for the restoration of its voting rights. The criteria and guidelines contained in document GC(42)/10 and adopted by the Agency's General Conference at its forty-second session allow for the restoration of the voting rights of States facing financial difficulties for reasons beyond their control and the reasons indicated in paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned document apply to Iraq. Furthermore, Article XIX.A of the Agency's Statute stipulates that the General Conference may permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member. We therefore ask that our request be approved by the General Conference, that just States adopt a position that is far removed from the double standards that the United States and the United Kingdom seek to impose on the General Conference for political reasons to the detriment of Iraq, and that Iraq's voting rights be restored to allow it to exercise its functions as an active member of the Agency, particularly since, unlike in the case of Iraq, the question of the restoration of voting rights is handled in a fair and objective way in the case of certain other States.

We emphasize that Iraq's request for the restoration of its voting rights is based on the fact that Iraq's delay in paying its contributions is caused by compelling circumstances beyond its control and that Iraq will pay its arrears once the comprehensive embargo imposed on it has been lifted. We hope that you will support our request and that the forty-sixth session of the Agency's General Conference will consider Iraq's request in an objective, neutral manner.

Accept, Sir, etc.,

(signed)

Chargé-d'Affaires a.i.
(seal)