GC

GC(46)/OR.2
October 2002

International Atomic Energy Agency
GENERAL CONFERENCE

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

FORTY-SIXTH (2002) REGULAR SESSION

RECORD OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Monday, 16 September 2002, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. RAJASA (Indonesia)

CONTENTS

[*] GC(46)/1 and Add.1.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(46)/INF/8/Rev.1.

CONTENTS
(Contd.)

Abbreviations used in this record

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
CANDU	Canada deuterium-uranium [reactor]
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEA	Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (France)
Chemical Weapons Convention	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G-8	Group of Eight
HEU	High-enriched uranium
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
IRRT	International Regulatory Review Team
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
Kyoto Protocol	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
LEU	Low-enriched uranium
LWR	Light-water reactor
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
Quadripartite Agreement	Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards
R&D	Research and development
RAPAT	Radiation Protection Advisory Team
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Co-operation
SDR	Special drawing right
SIT	Sterile insect technique
Tacis	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States

Abbreviations used in this record
(Contd.)

TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
Transport Regulations	Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material
TranSAS	Transport Safety Appraisal Service
Trilateral Initiative	Trilateral Initiative launched by the Minister of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy, the Secretary of Energy of the United States and the Agency's Director General on 17 September 1996 to consider practical measures for the application of IAEA verification to fissile material originating from nuclear weapons
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WANO	World Association of Nuclear Operators
WENRA	Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001 (continued)
(GC(46)/2)

1. Mr. CARRERA DORAL (Cuba) said that, although Cuba was not yet a party to the NPT, the strictly peaceful nature of Cuba's nuclear programme was well known.

2. His Government continued to believe that the present non-proliferation system was inadequate and discriminatory, since it permitted the existence of a "club" of nuclear Powers which had not entered into any specific disarmament commitments.

3. However, his Government had decided that Cuba should become a party to the NPT. The announcement to that effect made by Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs on 14 September had also underlined his country's hope that all nuclear weapons would ultimately be eliminated under conditions of strict international verification.

4. His Government was continuing to strive for a safeguards system based on an equitable, universal non-proliferation regime which would lead to the immediate, total and unconditional elimination of nuclear weapons.

5. Cuba had also announced its decision to ratify the Tlatelolco Treaty, despite the aggressive and hostile policies systematically and increasingly directed against it by the United States of America, the only nuclear Power in the region.

6. While considering that there should be an appropriate balance between the three pillars of the Agency - technical co-operation, safety and verification - Cuba attached particular importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities. and it greatly appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen those activities.

7. His country welcomed the fact that the Board of Governors had, after a lengthy "freeze", recommended an increase in the TCF target, and it hoped that the target would continue to rise, in line with recipient countries' real and growing needs.

8. Over the years there had been extensive technical co-operation between Cuba and the Agency, and his country had made optimum use of the resources provided for high-priority national programmes with a major impact.

9. His Government had demonstrated its support for ARCAL by recently ratifying the ARCAL Agreement and agreeing to host the fourth meeting of the ARCAL Technical Co-ordination Organ in Havana in May 2003.

10. Cuba, whose anti-terrorism and anti-war position was well known, recognized the role which the Agency could and should play, within the framework of its Statute, in combating nuclear terrorism. At the same time, it believed that the Agency activities directed against nuclear terrorism should not be allowed to draw human or financial resources away from activities in support of sustainable socio-economic development.

11. Cuba, which welcomed the creation of an extrabudgetary fund for the receipt of voluntary contributions in support of the Agency activities directed against nuclear terrorism,

nevertheless believed that steps should be taken to ensure that the resources voluntarily contributed for technical co-operation purposes did not "emigrate" to the new high-priority field of activity.

12. His Government recognized the role of nuclear technologies in sustainable development and would therefore continue attaching particular importance to the Agency.

13. Mr. RUMYANTSEV (Russian Federation) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had united all right-minded States in the fight against international terrorism. They had triggered a combining of multilateral efforts in the creation of a global system to deal with new threats, including threats in the nuclear sphere.

14. The Agency activities directed against nuclear terrorism were of great importance, especially following the decisions taken by the leaders of the G-8 at the Kananaskis Summit. Strengthening of the regime for the physical protection of nuclear materials, improvements in the Agency's system for nuclear material accounting and control, increases in the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system and the introduction of proliferation-resistant nuclear technologies would make it impossible for terrorists and their helpers to gain access to dangerous materials.

15. In the new international setting, the NPT was acquiring particular importance as a major element of stability and security at the global and the regional level, and his delegation was sure that the preparations just starting for the 2005 NPT Review Conference would help to strengthen the NPT regime.

16. The Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty signed in May by President Bush and President Putin would greatly contribute to the strengthening of strategic stability. The significance of the Treaty and of the Joint Declaration on a new strategic relationship between the United States of America and the Russian Federation went beyond the framework of bilateral relations.

17. Fulfilment by the two States of the commitments which they had entered into would substantially further the cause of nuclear disarmament and help to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. He and the United States Secretary of Energy were working hard to ensure that those commitments were fulfilled.

18. The disposition of excess nuclear weapons material and the reduction of the nuclear weapons complex in Russia were important aspects of nuclear disarmament.

19. Implementation of the 18 February 1993 agreement between the Russian Government and the United States Government on the utilization of HEU extracted from nuclear weapons was continuing. The problems involved in modifying the current contract so as to facilitate its implementation had been resolved.

20. From the results to date of the consultations being conducted within the framework of the Trilateral Initiative it was clear that the technical, legal and financial aspects of Agency

verification of excess fissile material had been examined sufficiently. His country looked forward to a continuation of the trilateral consultations.

21. His delegation, which believed that promoting nuclear power development was still a primary task of the Agency, was pleased with the results of the adoption - in 2000 - of resolution GC(44)/RES/21 on "Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications", especially the launching of INPRO. Implementation of INPRO was a practical way of pursuing, under the Agency's auspices, the initiative, announced by President Putin at the United Nations Millennium Summit, relating to energy for sustainable development and to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The results of INPRO's first phase, which was now nearing completion, would undoubtedly have a positive impact on nuclear power development worldwide. His delegation believed that both INPRO and the Generation IV International Forum would benefit from close co-ordination between the two.

22. Having emphasized the importance for nuclear safety of national nuclear regulatory authorities and having commended the efforts of Mr. Vishnevsky, the Head of Russia's Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Authority, he said that, on the whole, the existing legal basis was sufficient for ensuring nuclear safety at atomic power stations and nuclear fuel cycle facilities. However, further efforts were needed in order to achieve universality of the legal basis. The entry into force of the Joint Convention had been very important in that regard.

23. Carelessness in the management or handling of radioactive sources had on a number of occasions had sad consequences, and there were also concerns about the possibility of such sources being employed in malicious acts. In Russia, a campaign was being launched, with the co-operation of the United States, to prevent the unauthorized use of radioactive sources (including their use for terrorist purposes).

24. His delegation was pleased that a start had been made with the practical implementation of understandings reached by Russia and the United States, with active Agency participation, regarding the return to Russia of research reactor fuel of Soviet origin. Recently, fuel from a research reactor in Yugoslavia had been returned to Russia for safe storage and subsequent reprocessing. The operation, greatly assisted by the Yugoslav authorities, had constituted a useful precedent.

25. Work was under way in Russia on new systems for reprocessing spent fuel from Russian and foreign nuclear power plants, the aim being to permit safe final disposal of the radioactive waste from the reprocessing operation after volume minimization. Important for that work was international co-operation, and an international conference on Russian initiatives in the field of spent fuel management held in Moscow the previous week - and attended by over 200 Russian and foreign scientists, politicians and nuclear industry representatives - had pointed the way to how international co-operation relating to spent fuel management could be expanded.

26. His delegation, which welcomed the fact that the issue of the preservation of knowledge relating to nuclear technology was now being addressed within the Agency framework, hoped

that the Scientific Forum, which would be discussing that issue during the current week, would make useful recommendations.

27. His country, which attached great importance to the efforts being made to increase the efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system and introduce integrated safeguards, would like to see Agency safeguards activities optimized, with the conclusion of further additional protocols and with due account taken of the Agency's financial resources. In that connection, it was pleased that the development of a conceptual framework for integrated safeguards and of safeguards approaches for a number of nuclear facility types had been completed. The Russian Federation would continue to help strengthen the Agency's safeguards system through its safeguards support programme.

28. Together with the Agency, the Russian Federation, which was co-operating closely with the Office of Physical Protection and Material Security in the Department of Safeguards, had introduced at Obninsk practical courses for training specialists from CIS countries in the operation of physical protection systems. A seminar on the formulation of design-basis threats and adversary models for nuclear facilities in Russia and one on safety culture at nuclear power plants - with participants from Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Lithuania - had been held earlier in 2002, and a number of similar events were planned for 2003.

29. The Russian Federation, which was supporting the Secretariat's efforts to improve the quality of technical co-operation projects and to ensure that they achieved an appreciable socio-economic impact in recipient Member States, would soon be paying its TCF contribution for 2002 and intended to continue contributing regularly to the TCF.

30. Mr. ZHANG Huazhu (China) said that the Agency's achievements over the preceding year had been commendable. In the nuclear power field, the Agency had continued to promote R&D work on innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycles. In the area of nuclear safety, it had worked on establishing and refining safety criteria for all kinds of nuclear activities, strengthening international co-operation on the safety of radiation sources and radioactive material and providing all kinds of related services, thereby helping to raise nuclear safety levels throughout the world.

31. With regard to nuclear technology applications and technical co-operation, the Agency had helped establish strategic partnerships, advancing the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, water resources management, medicine and environmental protection, and bringing notable social and economic benefits to Member States. The Nuclear Technology Review provided helpful information for governments and the public on that subject.

32. In the safeguards field, the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards had been put in place and implementation had begun in a step-by-step manner.

33. In response to the appalling terrorist attacks against the United States on 11 September 2001, the Director General had convened experts from Member States to explore ways of combating nuclear terrorism, and the Board of Governors had reviewed and approved plans which were now being implemented.

34. During the forty-fifth regular session of the General Conference, his country had stressed the importance of nuclear power for sustainable development and the statutory role of the Agency in that regard. Over 40 years' experience had provided sufficient evidence that nuclear power was clean, safe and economical. Nuclear power accounted for about one sixth of the electricity generated in the world, and it had made a great contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Many countries, including China, had been in favour of including nuclear power in the CDM. Also, the new energy programmes of some countries which were major energy consumers envisaged the use of clean energy forms including nuclear power. The Agency, as the most authoritative intergovernmental organization in the nuclear field, should continue to be responsible for promoting nuclear power and nuclear technology and for co-ordinating the development of a new generation of nuclear power technology.

35. Promotion of the utilization of nuclear techniques was one of the most important responsibilities of the Agency and was of crucial importance to developing Member States in their efforts to address problems relating to agriculture, the environment, water resources management and medical care. That being so, adequate and reliable funding should be provided for the Agency's technical co-operation activities. Following lengthy consultations, consensus had at last been reached on the TCF targets for the coming two years. China would, as ever, support and participate in the Agency's technical co-operation activities, pay its TCF contribution in full and on time, and try to make an extra contribution.

36. As the largest developing country in the world, China was playing a positive role in global efforts to tackle climate change. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, the Chinese Prime Minister had announced that China had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, thus demonstrating its active participation in international co-operation in environmental protection and the promotion of global sustainable development.

37. Two nuclear power units had been put into commercial operation in China during the current year, and another six units under construction would be put into operation over the coming 2-3 years. At the same time, his country attached great importance to developing and using advanced technologies that helped increase the utilization rate of traditional fossil fuels.

38. Although the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rested with individual governments, international co-operation in that field was vital. The Agency should continue to play a central role in promoting international co-operation in nuclear safety. After years of effort, a series of international legal instruments on nuclear safety had been concluded and had entered into force. The standards which the Agency had developed with the support of Member States had played an important role in raising nuclear safety levels. The Agency was devoting a great deal of effort to helping Member States to strengthen their nuclear safety infrastructures, improve the related laws and regulations and remedy safety weaknesses of research reactors. China was supporting the Agency's efforts to set up an Asian nuclear safety network centre for promoting regional nuclear safety co-operation. It hoped that the centre would strengthen nuclear safety technology exchange and nuclear safety training and provide practical help to developing countries.

39. The Agency had a proven record of effectiveness in the verification field, and China was supporting its efforts in that field. The protocol additional to China's safeguards

agreement had entered into force on 28 March 2002, and his country would like to see other Member States - especially nuclear-weapon States - that had not yet done so taking the necessary steps to bring their additional protocols into force at an early date.

40. Preventing terrorists from attacking nuclear facilities, or from making and using "dirty bombs", had become a high priority. His country was opposed to terrorism in any form and believed that all countries bore an unshirkable responsibility to prevent nuclear terrorism. It welcomed the Agency efforts aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism and was prepared to provide expert services and other in-kind assistance in support of those efforts. The Chinese Government, together with the Agency and a number of Member States, was planning a training course on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities to be held in China later in the year. Also, Chinese technical and legal experts had been participating actively in the efforts to revise the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

41. China believed that, through the joint efforts of Member States and the Secretariat, the Agency would continue promoting the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and preventing nuclear proliferation.

42. Mr. EYUBOV (Azerbaijan) said that his country, which was actively involved in the international community's efforts to strengthen the international nuclear safety regime, was also taking steps to improve its own nuclear safety arrangements.

43. Azerbaijan, a country located in a highly sensitive region, was particularly concerned that nuclear energy should be used for exclusively peaceful purposes. It had accordingly become a party to the NPT and the CTBT - and also to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

44. Azerbaijan, which had denounced all forms of terrorism on many occasions, had made a practical contribution to the fight against terrorism during the international community's counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

45. In 1997, the President of Azerbaijan had proposed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Caucasus. Unfortunately, it was proving impossible to follow up on that proposal owing to the destructive policy of Armenia, which had committed armed aggression against Azerbaijan and occupied 20% of its territory. The Government of Azerbaijan was unable to monitor that section of the country's border which lay within the occupied zone, and that significantly increased the likelihood of illegal transborder movements of nuclear material. Steps had been taken to train and equip Azerbaijan's border guards, customs officers and quarantine service officials so that they might detect and intercept such movements, but those steps would not be fully effective as long as a part of the territory and a section of the border of Azerbaijan remained under foreign military occupation. The problem was particularly serious given the close ties between the Armenia-sponsored separatist regime established within the occupied part of Azerbaijan and various international terrorist organizations.

46. To date, Armenian terrorist groups had carried out 32 attacks against Azerbaijan's civilian population, killing over 2000 persons and injuring tens of thousands. The attacks had taken place in the metro and on buses, trains and boats.

47. In the light of the continuing military conflict with Armenia, his country was very concerned about the resumption of operations at Armenia's Metsamor nuclear power plant, located in a seismic area close to the border with Azerbaijan. It hoped in particular that a close watch would be kept on the movement of radioactive waste from the plant since, according to some reports, the waste was being transferred to the occupied part of Azerbaijan for burial.

48. In May, Azerbaijan had received a visit from the Director General, with whom President Aliev had discussed a number of important issues which, Azerbaijan hoped, could be resolved with the Agency's help. In order to further the interaction between the Agency and Azerbaijan, a "State Commission on Cooperation with the IAEA" had been established by presidential decree with him (Mr. Eyubov) as Chairman.

49. Currently, the main priorities as regards co-operation with the Agency were improving radiation protection in Azerbaijan and strengthening the country's system for ensuring the safety of radiation sources used in industry and medicine. Also, his delegation hoped that the proposals submitted to the Agency by his country for projects relating to - inter alia - radiation oncology and the prevention of illegal movements of radioactive materials would receive favourable consideration.

50. His delegation also hoped that, through the Agency, Azerbaijan would be able to obtain assistance with monitoring for the detection of radioactive waste and for the determination of levels of contamination in the soil, in the rivers Araks and Kura and in the environment generally and with the management of radioactive waste.

51. Although many Azerbaijani specialists had been receiving training through the Agency, his country still had an acute need for training in the use of state-of-the-art techniques for detecting nuclear and radioactive materials and in radiation oncology.

52. He looked forward to still closer co-operation between Azerbaijan and the Agency and other international organizations in resolving, soon and comprehensively, the issues which he had mentioned along with their causes. He was certain that such co-operation would greatly assist Azerbaijan in implementing its non-nuclear-weapon strategy.

53. Mr. COLOMBANI (France) said that, during the year since 11 September 2001, the international community had reacted commendably to the threat of terrorism, including nuclear terrorism. Individual States, which were responsible for the formulation and implementation of security policies, had reassessed the threat of acts of nuclear terrorism and strengthened their systems of protection against such acts. Also, they had stepped up international co-operation, and the Agency, which had an essential role to play in such co-operation, had within a few months presented - and gained approval for - the broad lines of a comprehensive and well-conceived programme for combating nuclear terrorism.

54. France, which intended to support the programme financially and through in-kind contributions, had proposed to the Director General a plan for 20 high-priority activities to be implemented by it in co-operation with the Agency and relating to physical protection, the control and securing of radiation sources and the promotion of international legal instruments.

Besides such contributions in kind, France would be making a contribution of 300 000 euro to the Nuclear Security Fund.

55. France was closely following the work of the technical and legal experts engaged in preparing a draft of an amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. His delegation was disappointed that the experts had failed to complete their task earlier that month, but it hoped that a consensus would be reached in the near future - with the holding of a diplomatic conference soon thereafter.

56. The NPT remained at the heart of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and the first session - in April - of the preparatory committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference, during which there had been a constructive exchange of views, had demonstrated the effectiveness of the strengthened NPT review process. In his delegation's view, the success of the preparatory committee's first session should pave the way for a balanced and forward-looking review of the workings of the NPT in 2005, resulting in progress towards full implementation of the NPT with regard to disarmament, non-proliferation and safeguards, and promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that connection, France was still looking forward to the entry into force of the CTBT and to the opening of negotiations in the Disarmament Conference - on the basis of the Shannon report - on a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

57. As regards the Agency's safeguards system, his country believed that the international community must strive for its universality in terms of the commitments entered into by States in order that its full effectiveness might be attained. The fact that more than 50 States party to the NPT had yet to conclude an NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency was a cause for concern, and France would like to see all those States fulfilling their NPT obligations with a minimum of delay.

58. France would also like to see all States which had not yet done so concluding and implementing protocols additional to their comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency as soon as possible. It was supporting the Secretariat's efforts in that connection. For example, earlier that year it had conducted a campaign in Africa and the Indian Ocean region to promote the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and his delegation had therefore welcomed the recent signings by Niger, Mali and South Africa. As to France's additional protocol, his delegation hoped that the draft law for ratifying it would be adopted by the French Parliament before the end of the year.

59. With regard to the situation in Iraq, the Agency was to be commended for its consistent efforts to fulfil the role entrusted to it by the United Nations Security Council. The Director General could count on France's firm support when endeavouring to apply the relevant Security Council resolutions.

60. France was disappointed that the DPRK had done an about-turn regarding the modalities of application of its safeguards agreement with the Agency. It hoped that, following the official start, on 8 August, of the construction of the two LWRs being provided to the DPRK through KEDO, the DPRK would meet its NPT commitments and review its position in order to enable the Agency to accomplish its mission.

61. France, although attached to the principle of cost neutrality in real terms, had consistently been of the view that the Agency must have the resources necessary for performing its statutory tasks within the framework of its Regular Budget. The performance of those tasks should not be allowed to suffer because of the new demands being made on the Agency. All Member States should be ready both to respond to the Agency's new needs and to ensure that there were sufficient budgetary resources for safeguards, in the interests not only of international peace and security but also of promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

62. France had consistently paid its full TCF target share, the amount for 2002 being over US $4.5 million. Also, it financed footnote-a/ projects and supported AFRA and ARCAL activities. It was pleased that, under the skilful guidance of the Chairman of the Board, Ambassador Hughes, a consensus had been reached on the TCF targets for 2003 and 2004, but an increase in the resources available for technical co-operation would depend mainly on the major donor countries paying their full TCF target shares. It hoped that they - and many other Member States - would do so. At the same time, it hoped that more recipient Member States would pay in full the assessed programme costs due from them.

63. France, which had participated actively in the Second Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, was pleased with the progress made in many areas since the First Review Meeting, held in 1999. It had noted with satisfaction the commitments made to implement those improvements which were still necessary, and it hoped that those Member States with nuclear facilities which were not yet Contracting Parties would accede to the Convention soon.

64. France, which was actively preparing to participate in the First Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention, planned for 2003, believed that only very wide adherence to the Joint Convention would make the international community more confident about the quality of nuclear fuel cycle management.

65. WENRA, wishing to arrive at a common approach to nuclear safety, had in January decided to compare, using a methodology based to a large extent on Agency safety standards, the practices of different member countries. France believed that that comparison would help to further increase the safety of nuclear installations in western Europe.

66. The Agency's Transport Regulations, the requirements of which had been incorporated into the regulations of the modal organizations, were being strictly observed in France regardless of the mode of transport and the materials being transported. In the interests of transparency in that connection, France had just officially requested a TranSAS mission for 2003.

67. As regards international transport, France and its partners had for several years been conducting a dialogue whose purpose was to ensure the greatest possible transparency and to provide requesting countries with the assurances which they wanted and also with certain information of use to them. The practice in question had been welcomed in General Conference resolutions. Those involved should bear in mind the basic requirements of

physical protection, however, and the practice should not be allowed to call the provisions of maritime law into question.

68. In that connection, his delegation was looking forward to the 2003 International Conference on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material, at which France would share its expertise and experience in a spirit of transparency. His delegation was confident that there would be useful technical discussions at the International Conference, resulting in progress towards even greater safety - if further improvement were possible - in the domestic and international transport of radioactive materials.

69. In order to integrate nuclear safety and radiation protection in France more closely and to increase the resources available for the activities in question, a General Directorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (DGSNR) had been established at the beginning of the year as the sole authority responsible for oversight - on behalf of the State - in those two areas. A large nuclear safety and radiation protection research organization which would in particular provide technical support to the DGSNR had also been established.

70. As to the future of nuclear power, there were signs of renewed vitality in those countries which were opting for that source of energy for their sustainable development. In a recent report of the European Commission on the security of energy supplies, it had been concluded that nuclear power, which accounted for 35% of electricity production in Europe, was essential and that the range of energy supply options should be as broad as possible. Energy supply security considerations underlay the strategic plans made public during the past two years by - among other countries - the United States, Japan, Russia, Finland, the Republic of Korea, China and India.

71. France had been implementing a responsible energy strategy orientated towards nuclear power in order to ensure a high level of energy independence. In 2001, 58 operational reactors had accounted for 76.2% of electricity production in France. The French authorities had recently announced the imminent launching of a major public debate on energy, to be followed by the passing of a framework law which would increase the role of renewable energy but also guarantee a place for nuclear power.

72. With regard to concerns about the environment and global warming, the benefits of nuclear power were indisputable. The European Commission had estimated that the amount of CO_2 being emitted in European Union countries was 300 million tons less per annum than it would be without nuclear power production - the equivalent of half the CO_2 emissions from motor vehicles within the European Union.

73. His delegation, which welcomed the political will displayed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, hoped that all those involved in peaceful applications of nuclear energy would work hard to ensure that nuclear energy played its full part in sustainable development. In that connection, it was pleased with the way in which the Secretariat had, at the Summit, highlighted the role of the Agency in the areas of nuclear technology transfer, human health, food and agriculture, water resources management and environmental protection.

74. Besides recognizing the advantages of nuclear power from the points of view of energy supply security and combating climate change, some countries were now conducting in-depth studies of the competitiveness of nuclear power - something already recognized in Finland.

75. Against a background which was generally favourable as regards the future of nuclear power, France was participating in the Generation IV International Forum and following with interest the work being done in the context of INPRO - two initiatives between which close co-ordination should be encouraged. The systems being studied within the framework of those two initiatives should, in his country's view, be suitable for electricity generation in conjunction with - for example - hydrogen production or seawater desalination.

76. France, which had long appreciated the need to preserve knowledge important for the future of nuclear science and technology, stood ready to participate in the knowledge management activities to be undertaken within the Agency framework.

77. In 2001, there had been a major reorganization of research and the nuclear industry in France. The research capabilities of the CEA had been regrouped under four headings - "nuclear", "defence", "basic research" and "technology" - and the nuclear industry had been rationalized and consolidated within the AREVA group, the primary global player in the nuclear field.

78. France, which was sure that nuclear power would play a substantial role in the sustainable development of humankind and the protection of the planet, believed that the Agency was making an essential contribution by helping to ensure international peace and security and enabling more and more countries to benefit from the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

79. Mr. SOURANG (Senegal) said that his country, which had joined the Agency 20 years previously only seven months after gaining independence, had since then implemented, with Agency assistance, several projects in areas such as agriculture, nuclear medicine, hydrology, stockbreeding, manufacturing and natural resources evaluation and exploitation. The use of radioisotopes in those areas had enabled it to achieve results which would have been difficult to achieve using traditional methods. Moreover, the Agency had assisted his country in the area of nuclear physics research and the Secretariat had arranged for nationals of Senegal to receive training in areas such as radiochemistry and radiopharmacy.

80. In agriculture, the main beneficiary was the National Agronomic Research Centre of the Senegalese Agricultural Research Institute, which had regional stations located in various parts of Senegal. The Agency had provided equipment, and had assisted with the setting up of a radioisotope laboratory where studies of soil-water-plant relationships and of manure application efficiency were being carried out. The research conducted by the Institute had helped to identify pedo-climatic zones, the water requirements of millet and peanuts and drought-resistant varieties. In addition, cowpea and peanut cultivars capable of fixing large quantities of nitrogen in cultivation systems had been identified.

81. The Agency had helped the National Laboratory for Stockbreeding and Veterinary Research to establish radioimmunoassay capabilities for determining reproductive hormones and to strengthen its diagnostic capabilities. Also with Agency assistance, radioimmunoassay and related techniques had been introduced at the Inter-State School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine for use in animal nutrition and livestock reproduction studies. Through one technical co-operation project, his country had gained access to improved methods for diagnosing, combating and controlling animal diseases. As a result, rinderpest had been virtually eradicated and the country had been provisionally declared free of it in 2001.

82. Co-operation in the human health field had greatly intensified since 1986. Two technical co-operation projects had helped with the development of diagnostic capabilities at the Aristide le Dantec Hospital, and one had helped with the establishment of scintigraphic imaging and in vitro assay capabilities at the biophysics laboratory of the Sheikh Anta Diop University and the Aristide le Dantec Hospital, extending the range of clinical examinations available.

83. Several projects had helped with the introduction of isotope hydrology techniques to, for example, study groundwater flow and characterize aquifers. Also, a complete hydrochemistry laboratory had been set up. Senegal had participated in Model Project RAF/8/022, which had aimed at improving the management of water resources in arid and semi-arid zones in Africa.

84. Following a RAPAT mission to Senegal in 1988, a radiation protection training project had been initiated at the Applied Nuclear Technology Institute. Also, under that project, expert services in the field of thermoluminescence dosimetry and assistance with the drafting of legislative and regulatory texts had been provided.

85. His delegation hoped that the Agency would continue to assist Senegal, which was a member of AFRA, particularly in the fields of food and health. His country had concluded an NPT safeguards agreement and would shortly be concluding an additional protocol, and within the framework of the African Union it was supporting the denuclearization of Africa through the Pelindaba Treaty.

86. Mr. VALECA (Romania) said that his Government attached great importance to the development of nuclear power and that Unit 1 of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant was currently covering 11% of Romania's electricity demand.

87. Three main factors had led his Government to decide that construction work at Unit 2 should continue and to invite foreign investment in Unit 3: the high levels of safety at all of Romania's nuclear installations; the fact that the expected continuation of economic growth at an annual rate of about 5% would result in an energy deficit of 1000 MW(e) by 2005; and the fact that Romania had the nuclear infrastructure and expertise necessary for supporting the construction and operation of Unit 2.

88. The commercial contract for the completion of Unit 2 had been concluded in 2001 between the Romanian company Nuclearelectrica (SNN) and its traditional partners - Atomic

Energy of Canada Limited and ANSALDO Energia (Italy). Companies based in France, the United States of America and other countries were also participating in the project.

89. It was expected that Unit 2 would by 2005 account for more than 20% of Romania's electricity production, so that by then about 50% would be accounted for by clean technologies such as nuclear and hydroelectric power generation.

90. The country's National Nuclear Strategy provided for the continuation of construction work on Unit 3 of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, and his Government believed that nuclear power should be considered a CDM technology under the UNFCCC. It also believed that the Agency should continue doing its utmost to ensure that nuclear power was given a full and fair hearing in multilateral debates within the UNFCCC framework.

91. His Government attached high priority to ensuring the safety and security of nuclear materials and installations, and Romania's relevant legislation and regulations were being brought into line with the latest European Union and Agency standards. Also, the national regulatory body (CNCAN) was being strengthened with the help of the European Commission and the Agency.

92. Recommendations made after a full scope IRRT mission in May and an IPPAS mission in April were being implemented in the ongoing process of amending Romania's nuclear legislation and regulations.

93. In the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001, Romania had joined in international efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms. It had pledged in-kind contributions in support of the Agency action plan approved by the Board in March, and his Government had recently informed the Secretariat that it was prepared to host a regional pilot course on techniques for counteracting threats of nuclear terrorism.

94. The CNCAN and other competent authorities had reviewed the national legislative framework and regulations relating to the safety and security of nuclear materials and installations, and new physical protection regulations had been issued. In addition, the CNCAN had issued regulations regarding the qualifications of guards and other security personnel at nuclear installations in order to increase the effectiveness of response measures in the event of a terrorist attack.

95. In July, an Agency-supported exercise in dealing with illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials had been held in Romania for the purpose of assessing - inter alia - procedures, preparedness, communications and co-ordination between various national bodies, and measurement capabilities.

96. Significant progress had been made in Romania's accession negotiations with the European Union, and the adoption by Romania of European Union nuclear safety and radiation protection norms was proceeding smoothly.

97. Romania's framework law 111/1996 on nuclear safety had recently been amended in order to allow the establishment of technical support organizations and the financing of regulatory activities with extrabudgetary resources.

98. With regard to the harmonization of Romania's nuclear legislation with European Union and Agency standards, a draft law on the promotion of nuclear activities and one on the safe management and final disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel had been submitted to the European Commission and the Agency's Secretariat for consideration before being presented to the Romanian Parliament for approval.

99. Romania remained committed to fulfilling in good faith all its NPT obligations and to further pursuing a responsible nuclear export control policy. It would continue to provide every assistance to the Agency with the implementation of its additional protocol and with other tasks relating to nuclear non-proliferation.

100. As to Agency technical co-operation activities, his delegation was grateful to the Agency for arranging for the training of Romanian personnel and providing Romania with expert services. As in the past, Romania stood ready to support those activities by itself providing training - for experts from developing countries - and by organizing regional seminars and workshops and sharing information and expertise. His delegation was confident that the Agency would continue to make use of the Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Safety at the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, the National Institute for Nuclear Research at Pitesti and the National Institute for Physics and Nuclear Engineering (IFIN) in Bucharest for international and regional training activities.

101. The National Institute for Nuclear Research was still in the process of converting its TRIGA research reactor from HEU to LEU, and his Government hoped that support for the Institute's efforts would be provided through the Agency's technical co-operation programme.

102. Romania's VVR-S research reactor had been definitively shut down, and the decommissioning plan was being finalized with support provided through the Agency's technical co-operation programme. One important remaining issue was the return to the Russian Federation of the reactor's spent fuel. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat's consultations on arrangements for the safe management of research reactor fuel of Soviet/Russian origin would have a positive outcome.

103. His Government, which hoped that the balance between the statutory and the technical co-operation activities of the Agency would be maintained, intended to ensure that Romania continued to make regular payments to the TCF and towards the Regular Budget and to pay the assessed programme costs due from it.

104. Mr. GAIDUK (Ukraine) said that his country, like many other countries with a highly developed nuclear power industry and using nuclear techniques for a wide range of purposes, had spent much of the year since the previous General Conference session striving to meet new security challenges connected - above all - with the threat of terrorist activities directed against nuclear facilities. With 13 power reactors in operation, three being decommissioned and two under construction, Ukraine was devoting particular attention to

questions of physical protection. It was participating actively in the process of drafting an amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material designed to include nuclear facilities within the Convention's scope and was supporting the efforts being made within the Agency framework to prevent acts of nuclear terrorism.

105. Nuclear power accounted for about half of Ukraine's electricity production, and in the decades to come it would be a key element of the country's energy policy. Global climate change and other problems arising from humankind's interaction with the environment were a good reason for fresh thinking about the role of nuclear power in the future.

106. The Secretariat was to be commended for its efforts to ensure that, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the question of reliable and efficient energy supplies was discussed in an objective manner.

107. The Second Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had shown that the Contracting Parties were raising safety levels at their nuclear power plants and that the Agency's efforts to enhance nuclear safety generally were proving effective. Ukraine regarded the recommendations and proposals made at the Second Review Meeting as an action plan which it would endeavour to implement during both the operation and the construction of its nuclear power plants.

108. Recalling a conference held earlier in the year in Kiev to mark the tenth anniversary of the European Union's programme of technical assistance in nuclear safety for CIS countries (Tacis), he said that it had highlighted the Agency's role in co-ordinating the efforts of several countries and organizations to strengthen nuclear safety in countries of the former Soviet Union. Ukraine was grateful to those donor countries which had helped to enhance safety at its nuclear power plants.

109. Referring to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, he said that its closure had not brought an end to the serious problems which it posed. Organizations, scientists and engineers from many countries were helping to solve those problems, and a number of unprecedented projects were being carried out at the Chernobyl site. A decision had been taken to build a new, safer confinement structure for the destroyed Unit 4 reactor, and design work had started. Also, preparations were being made for the decommissioning of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant as a whole, with careful attention being paid to nuclear and radiation safety.

110. Ukraine was supporting the Agency's efforts to strengthen co-operation in nuclear science and technology and applications, especially within the framework of INPRO. The results of INPRO would be important for Ukraine, in whose future energy strategy a major role would be assigned to nuclear power in helping to ensure the country's energy independence.

111. All Agency technical co-operation projects in Ukraine were directed towards solving problems of high priority in the field of nuclear power generation. The most important problems for Ukraine at present were connected with the safety of nuclear facilities,

equipment life-cycle management, nuclear power plant service life extension and the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

112. Ukraine, which appreciated the importance of Member States fulfilling their financial obligations vis-à-vis the Agency, had paid its 2002 Regular Budget contribution and its full 2002 TCF target share in a timely manner.

113. Ukraine was currently preparing to ratify the protocol additional to its NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency. Implementation of the additional protocol would require significant resources, but Ukraine would take the necessary steps as expeditiously as its economic circumstances permitted.

114. A major concern with regard to the implementation of the additional protocol would be the large quantity of nuclear material still in the destroyed Unit 4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The problem was a unique one, and the active involvement of specialists from the Department of Safeguards in solving it would be essential.

115. Ukraine, which was a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention, attached great importance to the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste given its large nuclear power programme and the persisting aftermath of the Chernobyl accident. Dry storage facilities were being constructed for Ukraine's spent fuel, which should solve the medium-term storage problem, and the long-term storage problem was now being examined. His country, which would like to see further Member States acceding to the Joint Convention, hoped that appropriate attention would be paid to spent fuel and radioactive waste management in future Agency technical co-operation programmes and that the First Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention would be a success.

116. Ukraine greatly appreciated the Agency's role in helping to strengthen the regime of third-party liability for nuclear damage and was a strong adherent to the regime's main principles. At the end of 2001, the Supreme Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine had adopted a law on third-party liability for nuclear damage and its funding which prescribed a liability threshold of 150 million SDRs for the operators of nuclear facilities.

117. Commending the Director General and the Secretariat on their efforts to strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, he said that Ukraine would continue to support those efforts.

118. Mr. ARAUZ AGUILAR (Guatemala) said that the goal of his country - a multicultural and multilingual nation - was sustainable development, which it believed it could achieve thanks to its abundant natural resources and a population accustomed to overcoming obstacles.

119. His country was engaged in a process of national reconciliation after a war that had lasted over 30 years. One of the most serious problems facing it was poverty, and his Government was making great efforts to solve it by - inter alia - promoting macroeconomic stability, reducing unemployment and achieving a fair distribution of the national income.

120. The Agency had been supporting those efforts, and the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy had enabled Guatemala to make significant advances both in terms of productivity and in terms of human welfare. Within the framework of ARCAL, it had benefited from numerous national, regional and interregional technical assistance projects focusing chiefly on human health, agriculture, radiation protection and geothermal energy applications.

121. Agency model projects had led to improvements in Guatemala's radiation protection and radioactive waste management infrastructures and to the strengthening of the country's regulatory authority, as President Portillo had reported to Congress in January. In addition, the dosimetric calibration laboratory of the Ministry of Energy and Mines had been upgraded to become a reference laboratory for the calibration of radiation detection and measurement systems for the whole Central American region.

122. In the field of human health, medical equipment had been provided, health physicists had been trained and radiotherapy quality control programmes had been established through Agency technical co-operation projects. A reference centre established with Agency assistance at the National Cancer Institute was providing services to nationals not only of Guatemala but also of countries such as Belize, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico.

123. In the field of geothermal energy, the National Electrification Institute had received assistance with training in geochemistry and reservoir engineering. It was hoped that the power generation capacity of Guatemala's known geothermal areas would ultimately be 430 MW(e).

124. Through co-operation between the Agency, FAO, the United States and Mexico, complete success had been achieved in controlling the medfly in Guatemala, whose medfly rearing facility - which was producing some 1850 million sterile pupae a week - had been recognized as a centre of excellence and was receiving Agency fellows from all over the world for training in the SIT.

125. His country was participating very actively in ARCAL projects relating to areas such as human and animal health, manufacturing, agriculture and the environment - all having a strong social impact and consistent with sustainable development.

126. Currently there were technical co-operation projects under way in Guatemala on the analysis of ecotoxic metals using X-ray fluorescence techniques, on the strengthening of the national programme for neonatal hypothyroidism screening and on quality control at a radiotherapy centre. All those projects were being implemented through outsourcing, which was contributing to the efficiency of their implementation.

127. Guatemala was supporting efforts directed towards greater integration among neighbouring countries through the Puebla Panama Plan, which would create enormous opportunities for more than 65 million people. In the energy sector, the electricity grids of Mexico and Central America were to be connected, which would open the way for the development of cleaner power generation using the region's substantial renewable energy resources. Also, the initiative in question would further promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region.

128. In conclusion, he called on all Member States which were carrying out nuclear or nuclear-related activities to conclude an additional protocol as soon as possible, so as to help prevent the diversion of nuclear material or technology for terrorist purposes or for other purposes that might endanger collective security.

129. Mr. BUTT (Pakistan) said that, following the tragic events of 11 September 2001, his country had established robust physical protection systems that were under constant review. It was pleased that the Agency had also reacted promptly to the new challenges and that so many countries were taking measures to protect their own interests, the interests of their regions and the interests of the world at large.

130. The Agency had an important role to play in that context, but its promotional activities should not be allowed to suffer as a result. Pakistan would continue to support those activities by, for example, providing training for Agency fellowship holders.

131. The Agency's technical co-operation activities could make a significant contribution towards the establishment of a fairer world based on sustainable economic development - a must for lasting peace and security. They had already had an appreciable impact in Pakistan in areas such as medicine, agriculture, hydrology and safety.

132. With more than 30 years' experience of generating nuclear power under Agency safeguards, Pakistan failed to understand why it was being prevented by embargoes from acquiring technology and material necessary for increasing plant reliability and efficiency.

133. His country, which considered need-oriented programmes, capacity-building and unhindered freedom to acquire technology for peace and prosperity to be essential, believed that a balance should be maintained between the technical co-operation activities and the other activities of the Agency. Any attempt to undermine that balance would be counter-productive.

134. His country also believed that the TCDC concept should be fully implemented and would like to see greater synergy between the activities being conducted within the framework of RCA, AFRA and ARCAL. It would be hosting the next meeting of representatives of countries party to the RCA, in 2003, and it hoped that practical measures for achieving greater synergy would be considered at that meeting.

135. Given its very limited hydro and fossil fuel resources, Pakistan regarded nuclear power as essential for helping to meet its increasing energy needs. It therefore welcomed the recent positive shift in attitudes towards nuclear power at the international level. It wished to construct further safeguarded nuclear power plants and hoped that, to that end, it would receive assistance from other Agency Member States.

136. Pakistan attached great importance to INPRO. Also, it was participating in the Agency activities relating to nuclear desalination. With Agency help, it was preparing to build a demonstration nuclear desalination facility near the Karachi nuclear power plant.

137. Pakistan, whose good nuclear safety record had been recognized at the Second Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, was an active member of WANO and the CANDU Owners Group, and it was giving high priority to the strengthening of safety culture at all its nuclear facilities. For example, following the establishment of an independent Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority reporting directly to the Head of Government, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission had strengthened its Directorate of Safety, which, besides dealing with nuclear safety and radiation protection issues, operated the country's nuclear emergency response co-ordination centre.

138. Pakistan looked forward to greater co-operation with other countries as regards unhindered access to technology in keeping with the spirit of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Embargoes affecting safeguarded nuclear facilities were not only counter-productive but also potentially dangerous, for a nuclear accident anywhere was a nuclear accident everywhere.

139. Pakistan, whose safeguards record was immaculate, believed that safeguards could contribute significantly to the safety and security of nuclear material. Accordingly, it was participating in the international community's efforts to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. However, it was concerned about the tendency to make new proposals at every meeting of the open-ended group of legal and technical experts who were endeavouring to draft an amendment designed to strengthen the Convention.

140. His country greatly appreciated the work of the advisory groups established with a view to improving the Agency's programmes, particularly that of SAGTAC. However, it believed that Member States should be kept informed about the work of those groups through regular briefings.

141. The measures taken to overcome the Agency's budgetary problems had sometimes had unwelcome consequences. Despite its economic difficulties, Pakistan had always paid its dues in full and in a timely manner, and would like to see all other Member States doing the same.

142. Pakistan, whose main basic and applied research centre - PINSTECH - had been declared a Regional Resource Unit by the Agency, was pleased that, pursuant to an initiative of Pakistan, the United Nations had declared 10 November 2002 to be "World Science Day for Peace and Development". It hoped that Member States would celebrate that day by emphasizing the universality of science and the importance of unfettered access to scientific and technological knowledge worldwide.

143. Both of Pakistan's nuclear power plants had been operating safely during 2002. The Karachi nuclear power plant (KANUPP), which had gone into operation 30 years previously, had been operating with an availability factor of around 80%, and the Chashma nuclear power plant (CHASNUPP) had very satisfactorily completed its first two years of operation. The two plants accounted for only about 3% of electricity generation in his country, but the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) was planning to construct further power reactors at the KANUPP and CHASNUPP sites.

144. PAEC had released 41 crop varieties developed by nuclear agriculture research institutes in Pakistan. The new varieties had higher yields and were resistant to disease and pests, and some of them had already had a marked beneficial impact on Pakistan's economy.

145. Salinity control methods developed in Pakistan under Agency auspices were now being introduced in ten developing countries. In Pakistan, a project for the restoration of 25 000 acres of wasteland had been prepared.

146. PAEC had established in different parts of the country 13 hospitals capable of providing nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and chemotherapy services to more than 300 000 patients each year. Also, work had begun on the establishment of five new nuclear medicine centres.

147. Mr. KYRLE (Austria) said that it was imperative that maximum levels of safety be achieved and maintained in all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle throughout the world. The Agency was to be commended for its intensive efforts to enhance nuclear safety, particularly by elaborating nuclear safety standards, rendering safety services to Member States and promoting good safety practices.

148. Since Austria placed special emphasis on the issue of nuclear safety in the context of enlargement of the European Union, his country welcomed the substantial progress made during recent years in addressing that sensitive issue, especially the agreement reached between the European Union and those membership candidate countries which had nuclear power reactors in operation regarding the closure of reactors that could not be upgraded to comply with European Union safety requirements. In that context, Austria and the Czech Republic had in November 2001 concluded an agreement regarding nuclear safety at the Temelin nuclear power plant.

149. The Laeken Council had in December 2001 called for a high level of nuclear safety in the enlarged European Union, and a joint approach to nuclear safety in the form of common safety standards and practices was needed.

150. Despite the improvements achieved in the area of nuclear safety, Austria still believed that nuclear power was not a politically, socially or technically justifiable energy option, given the enormous risks it posed. Also, Austria did not consider nuclear power to be compatible with the concept of sustainable development, in view of the ever-increasing burdens which it placed on future generations, so that nuclear power was not a viable option for combating the greenhouse effect.

151. Welcoming the results of the Second Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, he expressed the hope that the important necessary safety improvements identified at the meeting would be duly made by the Contracting Parties in question.

152. The tragic events of 11 September 2001 had underlined the fact that nuclear security, the physical protection of nuclear installations and nuclear safety were interrelated. Austria was supporting the Agency's endeavours in all three areas.

153. The First Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention, scheduled for 2003, would be another important step towards a higher level of safety within the nuclear fuel cycle as a whole. In that connection, his delegation greatly appreciated the work being done on preparing a code of conduct on the safety of research reactors and looked forward to the meeting of technical and legal experts at which the first draft of the code of conduct would be examined.

154. Austria welcomed the completion of the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards, which would allow the Agency not only to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material but also to draw conclusions about the absence of undeclared nuclear activities. To make the integrated safeguards system fully operational, States must now ensure that the necessary safeguards agreements and additional protocols were in place. Regrettably, the number of additional protocols in place was still well below expectations. The Japanese Government was to be applauded for its untiring efforts to promote the universalization of the Model Additional Protocol by sponsoring Agency seminars and offering to host an international conference in Tokyo in December 2002.

155. His country did not share the view that the conclusion of additional protocols was optional for non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT, convinced as it was that a clear legal obligation to conclude additional protocols derived from NPT Article III.1. It was up to each State party to make sure that, whenever a change occurred in the safeguards system, the additional measures required could be properly implemented by the Agency.

156. International nuclear security was a prerequisite for nuclear trade and co-operation. States parties to the NPT could supply nuclear items only if those items would not be diverted for non-peaceful purposes in recipient States, which meant that a State wishing to purchase nuclear items must have in place an adequate nuclear security system comprising four elements: comprehensive safeguards, including safeguards applied pursuant to an additional protocol; an adequate system for physical protection; minimum arrangements for combating illicit trafficking; and an appropriate set of export control rules. It was the Agency's task to make that clear and to assist States in establishing adequate nuclear security systems. Austria, which welcomed the Secretariat's strong commitment to enhancing nuclear security and particularly the Secretariat's action plan for the prevention of nuclear terrorism, believed that the fight against terrorism would succeed only if States' nuclear security systems were properly implemented.

157. With regard to the current efforts to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, regrettably, despite four meetings and agreement on the overall objectives, no consensus had been reached on an amendment that would strengthen it. On the contrary, there was a tendency to dilute essential parts of the draft amendment, the purpose of which was to give clear guidance to countries - particularly developing countries - on how to design effective and efficient physical protection systems. His country hoped that the deadlock would be broken in November, at the next meeting of the open-ended group of legal and technical experts convened by the Director General.

158. His country, which was pleased with the progress made in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's technical co-operation activities, was supporting those

activities in the wide area of non-power applications of nuclear energy - applications relating to, inter alia, human health, hydrology and the environment. For example, on World Water Day, 22 March 2002, the Austrian Development Cooperation had collaborated with the Secretariat in demonstrating the importance of nuclear techniques for the sustainable management of water resources.

159. The Agency could count on the continuing support of Austria, which had again paid its full TCF target share and would continue to meet its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Agency.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION

160. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the agenda for the current session consist of all the items on the provisional agenda set forth in documents GC(46)/1 and GC(46)/1/Add.1. With regard to the allocation of items for initial discussion, the Committee had recommended that all the items listed in documents GC(45)/1 and GC(46)/1/Add.1 be taken up for initial discussion as indicated in those documents. It had also recommended that the order of items be as proposed in those documents.

161. The General Committee's recommendations were accepted.

(b) CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION AND OPENING DATE OF THE NEXT SESSION

162. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the Conference set Friday, 20 September 2002 as the closing date of the forty-sixth regular session and Monday, 15 September 2003 as the opening date of the forty-seventh regular session, which would be held in Vienna.

163. Noting that some delegates had suggested that future sessions of the General Conference be scheduled for later in September or for early October, he expressed the hope that the Secretariat would look into the matter.

164. The Committee's recommendation was accepted.

(c) RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

165. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee, which had had before it requests made by Iraq, Georgia and Mali for the restoration of their voting rights, had postponed consideration of the requests made by Georgia and Mali until its following meeting. As to the request made by Iraq, the Committee had recommended that Iraq's right to vote during the present session not be restored because, in the Committee's opinion, that country's failure to pay the amount necessary in order to avoid the application of Article XIX.A of the Statute had not been due to conditions beyond its control.

166. The General Committee's recommendation was accepted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001 (resumed)

167. Mr. PALACIOS (ABACC) said that during the ten years since it had been established ABACC had carried out more than 1200 inspections at 75 nuclear facilities in Argentina and Brazil, representing a total effort of more than 4400 inspector-days. As a result of its accounting and control activities, carried out by a core of ten technical professionals with the support of some 70 inspectors seconded by the two countries and costing about $20 million over those ten years, it could confirm that during that period both countries had fulfilled their commitments under the bilateral Agreement on the Exclusively Peaceful Utilization of Nuclear Energy. That demonstrated the seriousness of the work which those countries and ABACC were doing to further nuclear non-proliferation.

168. Moreover, the activities of ABACC and its increasing co-operation with the Agency had made a major contribution to the international safeguards system. The two organizations were likely to agree soon on guidelines for joint inspection activities at specific facilities, which would increase inspection efficiency without detriment to the effectiveness of safeguards. Agreement on those guidelines was a pre-requisite for the adoption by the two organizations of procedures of the "New Partnership Approach" type.

169. While significant progress had been made in implementing safeguards under the Quadripartite Agreement, the implementation of an additional protocol in the two countries - which was likely - would pose new challenges. In that connection, it was essential to strengthen the channels of communication between ABACC and the Agency so that views could be exchanged and, where necessary, corrective action agreed upon without undue haste. While substantial progress had been made in that regard during ABACC's first ten years, there was still room for improvement.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.