International Atomic Energy Agency
GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC

GC(46)/OR.7
December 2002

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

FORTY-SIXTH (2002) REGULAR SESSION

RECORD OF THE SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 19 September 2002, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. RAJASA (Indonesia)
Later: Mr. RAMAKER (Netherlands)

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[*] GC(46)/19.

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

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Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ARASIA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia 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
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste)
LDC	Least developed country
MESA	Middle East and South Asia
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
SEAP	South East Asia and the Pacific
SIT	Sterile insect technique
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

1. Mr. PEREVET (Cameroon), recalling the tragic loss of life caused by the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, commended the prompt measures taken by the Agency to protect against nuclear terrorism.

2. Cameroon was committed to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and to strengthening the non-proliferation regime. The NPT was the foundation of that regime and he expressed the hope that the ongoing negotiations would enable the international community to move closer to full implementation of that Treaty. In that connection, his country was looking forward to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to the start of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

3. He commended the Agency's efforts to improve its programme of assistance to Member States with the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The international community had shown an increasing interest in the problems of peace, security, development, poverty eradication and protection of the environment in recent years, and the Agency should play an ever greater role in those areas. In that context, he welcomed the recent initiative aimed at combating the tsetse fly in Africa using the SIT. Eradication of that pest would be a decisive factor in reducing poverty and promoting socio-economic development.

4. Equally, he noted with satisfaction the action taken pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(44)/RES/24 on servicing immediate human needs, in particular the establishment of a regional technical co-operation programme on use of the SIT to combat the malaria-transmitting mosquito.

5. His country also appreciated the efforts to implement resolution GC(44)/RES/18 on strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities and it attached high priority to sustainable, self-sufficient programmes with a high socio-economic impact on the rural population and with a potential for poverty reduction. It therefore supported the increasing number of technical co-operation projects in the areas of human health, animal production and health, non-destructive testing and quality control, nuclear science and applications, radiation protection and radiation and waste safety which had helped it develop its human resources and strengthen its co-operation tools. Thanks to the Agency, Cameroon now had an endocrinology laboratory and a gamma camera for diagnosis of cancer. Through its CPF, which was currently being elaborated, it was hoping to reorient its co-operation activities in line with its national strategy to fight poverty, concentrating on health, public works, education and rural development. In line with the Agency's recommendations, his country was committed to establishing a legal and regulatory framework for radiation protection and radiological safety. The Agency had also helped Cameroon develop its capacities in the area of non-destructive testing, enabling it to carry out the testing work for the 1070 kilometre-long Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline.

6. As in many other African countries, some regions of Cameroon suffered from an acute water shortage. The World Bank had estimated that the availability of renewable water

resources would halve by 2025. With the added problems of pollution, desertification and deforestation, the country would soon face a serious potable water shortage. In less than a century the surface area of Lake Chad had shrunk by 90%, endangering socio-economic activities in an area covering part of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and the Central African Republic. Thus, his country attached great importance to the Agency's activities on sustainable management of water resources. He also welcomed the launch of a regional programme on combating desertification and expressed the hope that adequate human and physical resources would be made available for those activities.

7. The Government of Cameroon was making great efforts to settle its arrears of assessed programme costs. It had paid its contribution to the TCF for 2002 and had made arrangements to ensure regular payment of its share of the TCF and its assessed programme costs.

8. For some time, the international community had been taking a great interest in environmental problems and climate change, and the Agency should intensify its work on prevention of the risks of radiation emissions, elimination of contamination from ionizing radiation sources, and protection of the environment at mining and marine sites. It should also look into the possibility of applying nuclear techniques in the area of seismic, volcanic and environmental risk management, and in combating HIV and AIDs.

9. Cameroon's national institutions were becoming increasingly involved in the activities of the AFRA programme. A regional workshop on screening of mutants had been held in Doula in June. The programme had also helped his country set up a competitive structure for non-destructive testing. Efforts would continue under other parts of the programme such as promotion of radiation physics in national hospital training, strengthening of dosimetric monitoring of radiation workers, strengthening of national equipment maintenance and repair capabilities and of radioactive waste infrastructures.

10. Mr. BEKOE (Ghana) said that, as the Annual Report for 2001 showed, the Agency was consistently and successfully promoting nuclear science and technology, safety and verification - the three pillars of its programme - in Member States, bringing them significant benefits.

11. In the area of safeguards, Ghana had participated in the Agency's seminar for African States on the role of safeguards agreements and additional protocols, which had been held in South Africa in June 2002. It had been one of the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to sign the NPT on 4 May 1970, and the first African country to sign an additional protocol on 11 June 1998. It had complied fully with the NPT, and its additional protocol was currently before the Ghanaian parliament awaiting approval. As soon as the protocol was approved, his country would ratify it; in the meanwhile, it had already started implementing its provisions.

12. Some States had not yet brought into force comprehensive safeguards agreements. Since the Agency could only carry out its verification activities where the necessary agreements were in place, he urged those States to conclude safeguards agreements with the

Agency in accordance with their NPT obligations as soon as possible. The importance of the universal application of Agency safeguards could not be overemphasized.

13. The Agency continued to foster a strong and visible safety regime and its achievements to date were impressive. Although the application of safety standards was primarily a national responsibility, the Agency should continue to provide all possible assistance for their implementation in Member States. It should also continue to assist Member States to strengthen their response capabilities in the case of nuclear and radiological emergencies. Its recent work on urgent problems associated with the existence of orphan sources, and its plans to combat nuclear terrorism were commendable. Training courses on safety-related issues should be promoted for countries in the African region. In that regard, he commended the Agency for initiating plans to organize an interregional training course in the current year on emerging nuclear security issues at the Argonne National Laboratory in the United States.

14. Ghana had taken particular note of the Department of Technical Co-operation's new approach aimed at achieving self-reliance and sustainability by taking nuclear technology to the market place and developing mechanisms and best practices for working with both the private and public sectors. The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, under the framework of AFRA, had identified four key areas where that approach could be applied: research reactor utilization, in which field analytical services were being rendered to various industries, research institutes, local and foreign universities and public institutions; non-destructive testing services for oil refineries, thermal power plants, shipyards and petroleum companies both in the Government and private sector; gamma irradiation of food and medical products; and tissue culture and plant breeding, where the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences of the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute was using in vitro and nuclear techniques to breed new varieties of various crops. His country was also putting into effect policies which would accelerate commercial application of biotechnology to promote sustainable agriculture. Business plans and feasibility studies were being prepared, together with quality control and quality assurance management plans, so that the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission could deliver services and products in a cost-effective manner in order to make a socio-economic impact in Ghana. Those efforts should also promote technical co-operation among the countries in the region.

15. His country was grateful for the Agency technical assistance it had received and looked forward to even greater co-operation and partnership in future years. The Agency's technical co-operation programmes required the commitment and support of all Member States.

16. The significant support which was being given indirectly through the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) to the University of Cape Coast and the National Centre for Mathematical Sciences deserved particular mention. The ICTP continued to provide assistance to the Laser and Fibre Optics Centre at the University of Cape Coast and was supporting collaboration between the University and the National Centre for Mathematical Sciences on a PhD programme, providing facilities, organizing short-term regional colleges and workshops on specific subjects, and assisting visiting scholars from the United States of America, Europe and other parts of Africa to participate in those programmes. Ghana was also eagerly looking forward to the Director General's visit to

participate in the commissioning of its second radiotherapy centre, and to discuss the future of the Agency's work in the sub-region.

17. Mr. PALACIOS (Ecuador), welcomed the announcement by the Government of Cuba that it intended to accede to the NPT, and its decision to ratify the Tlatelolco Treaty. On 25 October 2001, his own country had deposited the instruments of ratification for its additional protocol and for the ARCAL agreement.

18. Ecuador had a law regulating the manufacture, use, transfer and transport of equipment generating ionizing radiation and radiation sources. Under that law, the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission was responsible for the regulation and control of peaceful applications of nuclear energy and for applying the code of conduct on radiation safety promulgated in 1978. It ran regular radiation protection training courses on ionizing radiation, physical dosimetry, biological effects of radiation, practical protection measures and the current regulations and performed regular inspections of users of ionizing radiation to check compliance with legal requirements. Use of radiation sources in industrial applications had increased over the preceding year. Control of and sanctions against breaches had been strengthened. Sanctions were imposed by a special judge who was also the Executive Director of the Commission. The Commission was also implementing a Model Project on radiation protection developed by the Agency. Moreover, Ecuador was monitoring the safety and security of facilities and radiation sources through regular inspections.

19. His country was applying the Agency's Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. The Commission issued licences for movements between provinces and provided radiation monitoring services where necessary. Ecuador was in favour of an international regime for transport of radioactive material covering liability for damage to human health or the environment, or any economic loss caused by an accident. Furthermore, it was important that coastal states receive prior notification of any maritime transport of radioactive material.

20. Finally, in the technical co-operation field, the Commission was implementing various projects relating to the use of nuclear energy in the fields of human health, agriculture, natural resources, the environment and human resource training. Ecuador was also participating actively in ARCAL and was grateful to the Agency for the support it provided in the technical co-operation field which contributed to its sustainable development.

21. Mr. AL OWAIS (United Arab Emirates) said that nuclear energy had a vast potential to benefit mankind, but it also had enormous destructive power. The international community should persist in its efforts to achieve optimum use of nuclear energy in peaceful applications such as electricity generation, seawater desalination, agriculture, diagnosis and therapy etc., and to eliminate the dangers of non-peaceful uses by fully co-operating with the Agency.

22. Since joining the Agency in 1976, his country had been stressing the need to harness nuclear energy in the service of mankind, especially in the areas of agriculture, industry and health. The United Arab Emirates had five medical centres and four accelerators to treat malignant tumours, apart from hundreds of X-ray machines. During the preceding thirty

years, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had wrought many changes in the daily life of the people, and his country was making every effort to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, control of the use of radiation sources and radiation protection. It had passed legislation, set up the necessary commissions and prepared an action plan with Agency co-operation with a view to strengthening control of radiation sources.

23. Safeguards constituted one of the important pillars of the Agency's work, and the United Arab Emirates was a party to the NPT and intended to sign a safeguards agreement. However, the Agency should make greater efforts to apply the safeguards system to all States, without exception, in particular in the Middle East, and his country would support any move to declare the region a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

24. Increasing use was being made of nuclear technology to meet basic human development needs in many areas, and the technical co-operation programme was an important mechanism for the transfer of nuclear science and technology. He commended the Agency's efforts in that sphere, although the use his country made of Agency technical co-operation was still modest. As a centre for the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries, the Agency should strive to play a more effective role, especially in nuclear, radiation and waste safety and other related areas. The United Arab Emirates was a member of ARASIA, and regional co-operation between the members of that agreement should benefit States in the region. He expressed the hope that the three ARASIA projects which had been submitted on planning of sustainable energy, quality assurance for radioanalytical laboratories and non-destructive testing would be approved under the technical co-operation programme.

25. Concern had recently been expressed regarding the radiation effects of depleted uranium used in many peaceful and non-peaceful applications. People could be exposed to it through inhalation or ingestion, or through wounds. The Agency should carry out more studies of that problem and take appropriate technical measures to reassure the international community about the use of depleted uranium.

26. In conclusion, he called upon all governments, organizations and individuals to strengthen international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

27. Mr. TROJANOVIĆ (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) observed that, during the one year of its membership, his country had continued to establish co-operation arrangements with the Agency in all areas, including technical co-operation. It had submitted six projects for the 2003-2004 technical co-operation cycle, on safe disposal of spent fuel from the RA research reactor, decommissioning of the RA research reactor, safe nuclear waste management at the Vinča Institute, improvement of the technical functioning and control process and safe disposal of spent elements from the industrial sterilization unit, production of radiopharmaceuticals in the Vinča cyclotron, and improvement of the technical characteristics of the RB reactor. He was grateful to the Agency for accepting those projects, and for approving the provision of financial assistance and computer equipment for the Vinča Nuclear Science Institute and the Geoinstitute at the 45th regular session of the General Conference.

28. Faithful to its commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, his country had, in co-operation with the United States, the Russian Federation and the Agency, and with

financial support from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, successfully shipped the remainder of its 80%-enriched fresh nuclear fuel back to its country of origin, Russia, for reduction of its enrichment.

29. At the same time, the preparatory work had been completed for a number of programmes relating to the restructuring of the Vinča Nuclear Science Institute. The first such programme included the shipment of the unused high-enriched uranium to the Russian Federation and, the replacement of the spent fuel storage containers with the ultimate intent of removing the spent fuel from Vinča. Others related to the decommissioning of the RA reactor and to the construction of a new and safe depository for medium- and low-level material outside Vinča. His country's determination to resolve those problems without delay had also been confirmed at the basic decommissioning workshop held earlier in the month at Vinča, which had been attended by experts from the Vinča Institute, representatives of the State authorities and Agency experts. A detailed exchange of views had taken place on the optimum professional, safety and financial requirements for decommissioning of the RA reactor and a permanent safe disposal site for radioactive material. His country hoped that the Agency, the United States, the Russian Federation and other countries and organizations would continue to provide assistance with the implementation of those projects.

30. Yugoslavia had co-operated actively with the Agency inspectors who carried out the regular inspections at the Vinča Nuclear Science Institute under its safeguards agreement. It had faithfully implemented that agreement over a long period. Furthermore, it was convinced that the Model Additional Protocol would improve the application of safeguards and it was considering concluding an additional protocol in the near future.

31. In conclusion, his country had discharged all its financial obligations to the Agency and would take steps to settle its financial obligations for 2003 in good time, including its share of the TCF for 2003. He expressed the hope that the Agency would allocate greater financial resources to programmes which were directly related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to protection of the environment from radiation.

32. Mr. ABDULAATI MOHAMED (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) thanked the Agency for the valuable co-operation his country had received over the years and expressed the hope that the projects submitted by his country for the 2003-2004 technical co-operation cycle would be approved, in particular those on isotope hydrology and eradication of the fruit fly.

33. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was active in the nuclear energy field at both regional and interregional level. It had hosted many co-ordination meetings and training courses for AFRA and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency. In August 2002 it had received an Agency mission to review its CPF, and in October 2000 it would be hosting a training workshop on inspection of medical equipment and radiation sources organized by the Agency.

34. His country was interested in co-operating with African States in the production of radioisotopes for medical purposes and in the provision of training in radiation protection at the Tajoura Nuclear Research Centre. It had also approached the relevant authorities in Sudan and South Africa with a view to signing a memorandum of understanding and an agreement. It had signed a similar agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

35. He commended the Agency's efforts to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety. The radiation monitoring and nuclear safety office that had been set up in his country the preceding year had started operations. It was responsible for overseeing implementation of the law regulating the use of and protection against ionizing radiation, and had actively participated in the technical meetings on detecting and locating orphan sources which had been held in July 2002.

36. Technical co-operation activities relating to nuclear science, technology and applications should be strengthened, especially in the areas of water resource management, use of the SIT to eradicate the fruit fly and agricultural pests, improvement of livestock productivity, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine and other applications which promoted socio-economic development in developing countries. The necessary financial resources should be made available for training in those techniques and for procurement of equipment, instruments and laboratories.

37. He commended the measures the Agency had taken to protect against nuclear terrorism and thanked the Director General for his report on that subject. However, it was important to maintain a balance between the Agency's activities with regard to both planning and financing, and technical co-operation programmes should continue to be implemented in accordance with the priorities set by Member States. Activities relating to protection against nuclear terrorism should be funded from a fund set up with contributions from Member States.

38. His country attached great importance to global disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, since nuclear weapons constituted a threat to peace and security. It was essential that the safeguards system and the additional protocol be applied universally and without discrimination. The first step should be to demand that States possessing weapons of mass destruction eliminate them. In their current form, integrated safeguards were discriminatory, giving full freedom to the nuclear-weapon States to choose both the procedure for the application of safeguards and the sites where they were applied, and thus encouraging them to continue to develop armament programmes and to increase their nuclear arsenals. The only guarantee for the developing countries against the threat of the use of nuclear weapons was the elimination of those weapons by all nuclear-weapon States. He therefore called upon all nuclear-weapon States to prepare a programme for the elimination of their nuclear arsenals within a definite time-frame, subject to international verification with the participation of developing countries, and to halt all nuclear weapon development plans.

39. The Middle East region continued to suffer from a great security imbalance owing to Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and because that country's nuclear installations were not subject to safeguards. The other States in the Middle East were seeking to make the region a nuclear-weapon-free zone. All of them except Israel were party to NPT, some of them were party to the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, and some had signed an additional protocol. Double standards and discrimination between States when applying international treaties, agreements, laws and resolutions created an atmosphere of mistrust, prompting those States which did abide by international law to question its fairness. Peace could not be achieved in the Middle East while the major powers supported Israel, allowing the latter to ignore calls for peace and exhortations to sign the NPT,

conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency and open its facilities to international inspection. He therefore urged the General Conference to take all necessary steps to ensure that Israel complied with the will of the international community.

40. His country welcomed Iraq's decision to agree to the return of the international inspectors. It was a wise decision, which would help to remove the danger of war and destruction in the region. He hoped that all parties concerned would profit from that positive move and would resort to peaceful dialogue to resolve any conflicts rather than military threats.

41. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Conference would adopt the proposed resolution on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications.

42. Mr. TAVČIOVSKI (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that his country had deposited the instrument of ratification for its NPT safeguards agreement that year, thus meeting the constitutional requirements for the entry into force of that agreement and the related protocol.

43. It had also made a significant step towards compliance with international radiation safety standards through the promulgation of a new national law on radiation protection and safety. An independent Radiation Safety Directorate would be established pursuant to that law and regulations covering the essential elements of the Basic Safety Standards would be finalized. The continuing support of the Agency would be required to allow the regulatory authority to operate at a high level and to build competence in radiation protection. Priority was being given to the preparation of other appropriate regulations and codes of practice. More intensive training programmes would be held at national level. The ongoing Agency projects on quality assurance and control of medical applications were expected to provide a sustainable basis for more efficient control of medical exposure.

44. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen its technical co-operation activities, bringing them in line with national development goals and priorities. Its new CPF had been prepared with Agency assistance and should further improve the already successful co-operation effort. The country's future programme would focus primarily on further strengthening the regulatory infrastructure and improving the application of isotope techniques in selected areas such as human health, agriculture, veterinary medicine, the environment and hydrology. Projects in the next cycle would concentrate on diagnosis and treatment procedures in medicine, combating of illicit trafficking and low-level waste management.

45. His country would continue to support the Agency's regional technical co-operation programme for Europe. For the forthcoming cycle, it had proposed a project on the control of brucellosis in sheep and goats with a view to disseminating technologies developed under earlier national projects sponsored by the Agency, and developing quality assurance schemes for the certification of milk products as free from brucellosis. The countries that had supported the proposal would be invited to a regional workshop at the beginning of the

following year. The national Veterinary Institute had already offered its expertise, and training for fellows from other countries.

46. His country also welcomed the Agency's efforts to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive substances. During the current year, it had hosted a regional training workshop for participants from 11 countries in the region with exercises at the Macedonian border. It had also initiated efforts to develop the required operating procedures to strengthen national capacity for combating illicit trafficking under a national project during the forthcoming project cycle.

47. Mr. AMHA (Ethiopia) said that applications of nuclear techniques in agriculture, human health and nutrition, animal reproduction and health, and water resources studies and management, had grown steadily in his country over the preceding few years. With Agency support, the country had been able to build appreciable infrastructure and manpower capabilities, and substantial results had already been achieved in radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, groundwater and surface water studies, radiation protection and nuclear instrumentation. That had encouraged the Government to commit itself to larger projects.

48. Although Ethiopia was participating in a number of national and regional projects, its main focus in the preceding year had been on two projects. The first of those related to the use of the SIT for tsetse eradication in the Southern Rift Valley of Ethiopia. It was of immense significance, as 85% of the population depended on agriculture. Tsetse-transmitted animal trypanosomosis was one of the most significant and costly diseases in the fertile lowlands of Ethiopia. An estimated 150 000-200 000 km^2 of the land in the fertile valleys of the south, west and north-west of Ethiopia were infested with one or more of the country's five known tsetse fly species. As a result, 10-14 million head of cattle and an equivalent number of small ruminants were believed to be at serious risk of trypanosomosis. The Government had shown its commitment to dealing with those problems by providing trained manpower, financing and facilities for the several national and regional tsetse intervention projects. The project in question had been initiated four years previously, and it was planned to use the SIT as part of an integrated pest management programme. The project activities implemented in 2001 to 2002 had included the setting up of an appropriate organizational structure, manpower mobilization and training, laboratory and field equipment acquisition, suppression of the tsetse population using conventional methods and rearing of a tsetse fly colony for release in the field. The results obtained thus far had been encouraging.

49. His country recognized that tsetse and trypanosomosis were a transboundary problem and therefore required co-ordinated efforts in tsetse-infested regions both inside and outside the country. Tsetse eradication using the SIT also required adequate involvement on the part of the beneficiary country. Ethiopia had played an important role in the establishment of the Pan African SIT Forum and PATTEC. It strongly believed that joint international action against tsetse constituted a major step towards poverty reduction and it urged United Nations organizations active in that field, notably the FAO, WHO and IAEA, to co-ordinate their efforts with the PATTEC initiative.

50. With support from the Agency, Ethiopia had been applying isotope techniques in water resource management activities and had obtained scientific information critical to the understanding of groundwater, surface water and geothermal resources in the country. Encouraged by those results, the Government was finalizing preparations to launch the country's second largest technical co-operation project with assistance from the Agency and the United States Geological Survey. The Ethiopian Groundwater Resources Assessment Programme aimed at understanding and mapping the hydrogeology of the country. Proper understanding and management of water resources were highly important owing to the recurrent droughts in that part of the world.

51. Aware as it was of the need to adhere to a safety regime that could adequately support nuclear and related technology transfer in development efforts, Ethiopia had enacted the Radiation Protection Proclamation and had established a National Radiation Protection Authority in 1993. The latter was now a credible and competent regulatory authority with a well functioning and effective regulatory system. Over the preceding three years, Ethiopia had been actively co-operating with the Agency under the regional Model Project on upgrading radiation protection infrastructure. That project had been well tailored to address the similarities and differences in participating Member States and had helped establish an appropriate radiation protection infrastructure in Ethiopia. His country was committed to the further development of a sustainable national infrastructure, to putting in place the best protection and safety standards compatible with the socio-economic conditions in the country, and to developing a deep-rooted safety culture in applications involving ionizing radiation.

52. Mr. ZAMBEZI (Zambia) commended the measures the Agency had been taking to strengthen its technical co-operations activities, which were critical to the development of underdeveloped countries, and to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear, radiation and waste safety, which were of cardinal importance in fostering public confidence in the use of nuclear science and technology and in avoiding nuclear catastrophes.

53. Zambia had taken measures to address the problem of illicit trafficking in nuclear material and had drafted appropriate legislation which was currently awaiting further action by the Government. It was also in the process of concluding an additional protocol and had signed and would soon be ratifying the CTBT.

54. He commended the Agency’s programme and budget for 2003 and the continued efforts to strengthen the technical co-operation programme. Zambia’s CPF should provide an agreed basis for a programme of action.

55. His country continued to build on the level of infrastructure and human resources development it had achieved through Agency technical assistance. Since the preceding session of the General Conference, tele-linking and tele-diagnosis had been introduced and a new gamma camera had been acquired for the Nuclear Medicine Unit of the University Teaching Hospital. Future activities would include full tele-linking to the Groote Schuur Hospital in Capetown, South Africa, and training of doctors and technicians to ensure the sustainability of the project. The neonatal hypothyroidism monitoring facilities at the University Teaching Hospital enabled timely remedial measures to be taken and provided diagnostic services to adults. Facilities for monitoring drug-resistant tuberculosis and

detecting drug-resistant malaria had been set up at the Tropical Diseases Research Centre at Ndola with Agency support. Those diseases were a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the country and the data collected were being used to update the national drug policy.

56. The plant tissue culture facility continued to offer support for the national potato seed supply and food security initiatives, and varieties of cassava were being micro-propagated for use as disease-free planting material by farmers in rural areas.

57. Capacity to monitor industrial aerosols and radon in mines and work places was being established and initial sampling had started. That activity would be of benefit in ensuring occupational health and safety, especially for those working in the mining industry. An expert mission under the project was assisting with the installation of equipment and planning of project activities. Zambia appreciated the Agency's continued assistance with the strengthening of the local focal point for the International Nuclear Information System (INIS).

58. His country set a high value on technical co-operation within the framework of AFRA, which brought into action teams of experts in a number of fields such as radiotherapy, isotope hydrology and nuclear medicine, using the expertise and capacity available within the region. Zambia had received AFRA missions on instrumentation, sustainability of nuclear facilities and marketing. Zambian scientists and technical staff had participated in training seminars, co-ordination meetings and programmes in the fields of isotope hydrology, non-destructive testing, renewable energy and the SIT, inter alia. He expressed hope that support for AFRA would continue so that the projects scheduled for 2003-2004 could be implemented.

59. In conclusion, he noted that Zambia would be pledging its full share of the TCF for 2003.

60. Ms. MOLLEL (United Republic of Tanzania) said that her country condemned terrorism in all its forms and in the strongest terms, and she appealed to international civil society to use every legitimate means to combat such acts, including preventing access by terrorists to nuclear material and facilities.

61. Tanzania was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance it received from it. LDCs, particularly those in Africa, needed appropriate technologies to fight and reduce the poverty caused - in particular - by famine and AIDS. Nuclear technologies had a critical role to play in development programmes in such fields as tsetse eradication, animal and crop improvement, nuclear medicine or radiotherapy, and industry, water resources and mining.

62. Tsetse infestation, trypanosomosis and the spread of sleeping sickness remained major constraints on human health, and livestock and crop improvement across vast areas of Tanzania that had a great potential for increased and improved agricultural and animal production. Trypanosomosis affected both humans and livestock in over 60% of the country. Stockbreeders and farmers were forced to compete for the available remaining 10% of tsetse-free grazing land leading to over-grazing and soil degradation.

63. Tanzania was therefore highly appreciative of the Agency's efforts to help African Member States deal with the tsetse problem, particularly through PATTEC. The Agency had

assisted Tanzania with the mass rearing and radiation sterilization of tsetse flies for release in Zanzibar. Following the success of that operation, similar efforts were being deployed on Mafia Island and in the Babati district. Her country was committed to the PATTEC initiative and was in the process of establishing a National Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Control Committee to facilitate its participation in it. It had already signed a contract with the Agency for the mass rearing and supply of sterile flies under project RAF/5/051; under that contract, the Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Research Institute in Tanga, Tanzania, would rear 150 000 female Glossina pallidipes for tsetse control activities in the Southern Rift Valley of Ethiopia, and another 150 000 female Glossina morsitans centralis for similar activities in the Okavango delta in Botswana. A colony of 60 000 female Glossina austeni would be maintained for the continuation of the Zanzibar activities.

64. Tanzania was grateful to the United States of America for having provided funds for the rehabilitation and fly-proofing of the Tanga facility, which would enable it to mass rear tsetse species for the planned eradication activities in Babati and on Mafia island in the United Republic of Tanzania. Other countries had also provided welcome support. The SIT had already been successful in Zanzibar proving that, when the technique was integrated with other environmentally benign technologies, tsetse flies could be completely eradicated. Now that Zanzibar was tsetse free, agriculture and livestock improvement activities were on the increase. Thus, the SIT was also a major weapon against hunger, disease and poverty. She appealed to all those who wished Africa well to support the PATTEC initiative.

65. Nuclear medicine and radiotherapy were other areas where the United Republic of Tanzania had achieved major successes with technical assistance from the Agency. Many Tanzanians now had access to improved nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute and did not have to go outside the country. That Institute was the only cancer hospital and served around 37 million people. Unfortunately, the old radiotherapy equipment, which had been rehabilitated with Agency assistance ten years previously, urgently needed to be replaced in order to make optimal use of the recently introduced treatment planning systems and ensure patient safety. Tanzania hoped that new equipment could be bought through the technical co-operation programme on a cost-sharing basis.

66. There had been encouraging developments in the nuclear power field and her country welcomed the recent research and development initiatives on low-cost power reactor units which would ensure the cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, viability, affordability and safety of nuclear energy, and minimize the generation of nuclear waste. Tanzania believed that nuclear power should be part of the global clean energy mix, but people in developing countries and elsewhere needed the assurance that power reactors could be operated safely and cheaply, and that they did not give rise to increased nuclear weapon proliferation or long-term spent fuel and nuclear waste disposal problems. She urged the Agency to take a leading role in the current vigorous research and development initiatives, and to promote the involvement of developing countries in reactor design improvement work.

67. In the radiation protection field, Tanzania was currently revising its legislation and was grateful to the Agency for its input and assistance in the development of the preliminary draft bill. Good international co-operation in the current environment of liberalized economies

should enable LDCs like Tanzania to derive maximum benefit from nuclear technology, including the nuclear power option.

68. Her country supported all international efforts to avert nuclear weapon proliferation through effective nuclear safeguards and measures to combat international terrorism. It also hoped to see intensified efforts to conclude a comprehensive treaty banning nuclear weapons.

69. Finally, she announced that Tanzania would be pledging its full share of the TCF.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(GC(46)/5 and 21)

70. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the General conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot would be held; balloting would only take place for those areas where no candidate had been agreed upon. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the General Conference's time. Accordingly, he proposed that Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, be suspended in respect of those areas for which there was agreement.

71. He was happy to report that agreement had been reached in all area groups on their candidates for the vacancies to be filled.

72. Drawing attention to document GC(46)/5, containing a list of the Agency Member States which the Board of Governors had designated to serve on the Board from the end of the Conference's present session until the end of the 47th (2003) regular session, he recalled that, under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, he had to inform the General Conference of the elective places on the Board which had to be filled. To that end, document GC(46)/21 had been prepared; it indicated that the Conference had to elect eleven Members of the Board from the seven categories listed.

73. He took it that the General conference wished to elect Brazil, Cuba and Panama to the three vacant seats for Latin America.

74. Brazil, Cuba and Panama were duly elected.

75. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Denmark and the Netherlands to the two vacant seats for Western Europe.

76. Denmark and the Netherlands were duly elected.

77. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the Czech Republic to the vacant seat for Eastern Europe.

78. The Czech Republic was duly elected.

79. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Egypt and Sudan to the two vacant seats for Africa.

80. Egypt and Sudan were duly elected.

81. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Saudi Arabia to the vacant seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

82. Saudi Arabia was duly elected.

83. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Malaysia to the vacant seat for South East Asia and the Pacific.

84. Malaysia was duly elected.

85. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect New Zealand to the floating seat for Africa/MESA/SEAP, which it was the turn of a member from SEAP to fill.

86. New Zealand was duly elected.

REQUESTS FOR THE RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS
(GC(46)/INF/7 and 10)

87. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that Mali be permitted to vote during the current session of the Conference because it was of the view that Mali's failure to pay the amount necessary to avoid the application of Article XIX.A of the Statute was due to conditions beyond its control. However, it had recommended that Georgia not be permitted to vote during the current session because it was of the view that its failure to pay the amount necessary to avoid the application of Article XIX.A of the Statute was not due to conditions beyond its control.

88. He took it that the Conference accepted the recommendations of the General Committee.

89. It was so decided.

90. Mr. AYOUB (Iraq) said that for many years his country had been suffering from very difficult conditions which had prevented it from paying its contributions on time. It had made a number of requests to the General Conference for restoration of its voting rights, the latest of which was contained in document GC(46)/INF/3. That request was justified owing to the pressure which was being exerted on Iraq by the United States of America and the United Kingdom. However, by comparison with similar cases, his country's request had been afforded unusual and unorthodox treatment. Finally, he drew attention to document GC(46)/INF/11, the Attachment to which contained a request by Iraq to be allowed to pay its contributions in its national currency.

91. Mr. RAUTENBACH (Director, Office of Legal Affairs) said that, in a letter dated 17 September 2002, following the General Conference's decision on 16 September not to restore Iraq's voting rights, the Iraqi Permanent Mission had requested that Iraq be allowed to pay its financial obligations towards the Agency in Iraqi dinars, especially in view of the fact that the Agency could use those amounts to cover the costs arising from the resumption of its regular activities in Iraq in accordance with the safeguards regime in force since 1999. The letter asked that the request be submitted to the General Conference for discussion during the current session so that a positive decision could be made thereon.

92. The General Conference had no power to take such a decision for the following reasons. Although various types of financial rules were mentioned in the Statute as requiring General Conference approval (e.g. in Articles V.E.8, XIV.G and XIV.F), there was no mention of any general function regarding financial regulations. Since such regulations were plainly necessary, it followed that, to the extent that that particular function had not been assigned specifically to the General Conference, the Board had the power to adopt such regulations pursuant to Article VI.F or Article VII.B of the Statute. Under either interpretation, the General Conference had no authority in that area.

93. Of the Financial Regulations adopted by the Board, Regulations 5.02, 5.06 and 13.02 were relevant to the request made by Iraq. Regulation 5.02 stated that each assessment should be established with a component in United States dollars and a component in euros, and that those components should be in direct proportion to the respective shares of the Regular Budget expenditures linked to the two currencies as approved by the General Conference. Regulation 5.06 stated that assessed contributions should be paid in United States dollars and euros in the ratio determined pursuant to Regulation 5.02. Regulation 13.02 stated that the Board could amend the Regulations or suspend any of the Regulations, subject to the provisions of the Statute. From the foregoing it was evident that only the Board had the power to amend or suspend the relevant Financial Regulations so as to permit a Member State to pay its assessed contributions in local currency.

94. A number of practical considerations also arose in relation to Iraq's request. As was mentioned in paragraph 13 of Attachment 2 to document GC(46)/INF/6, an arrangement already existed for payment of contributions to the Agency in local currency through the offices of the United Nations Development Programme, credit being given to the Agency when payment had been received in accordance with the Agency's Financial Regulations. Furthermore, Financial Rule 105.02 provided that, if a Member State was experiencing difficulties in paying its assessed contributions in the ratio or the currencies required pursuant to Regulations 5.02 and 5.06, or its advances to the Working Capital Fund in the currency required pursuant to Regulation 5.03, the Director of Budget and Finance of the Agency should assist the Member State concerned in meeting its obligations for payment in the currencies required, any currency exchange costs being borne by the Member State concerned. Whether those two possibilities could apply to Iraq depended on whether they were prohibited by relevant Security Council resolutions, a question to be decided by the Sanctions Committee. If Iraq approached the Agency in connection with either of those possibilities, the Agency would take up the matter with the Sanctions Committee.

ORAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

95. Mr. MOLTENI (Argentina), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, presented the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on items 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Committee had recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution on the four items in question. One delegation had expressed reservations regarding draft resolution A in the Annex to document GC(46)7 and draft resolution B in document GC(46)/7/Mod.1, without blocking the consensus.

96. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to take up the items considered by the Committee of the Whole.

The Agency's Accounts for 2001 (agenda item 9)

97. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution on page I of document GC(46)/6 was adopted.

The Agency Budget Update for 2003 (agenda item 10)

The financing of technical co-operation (agenda item 11)

98. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, draft resolutions A and C in the Annex to document GC(46)/7 and draft resolution B in document GC(46)/7/Mod.1 were adopted.

Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget (agenda item 12)

99. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution on page 2 of document GC(46)/10 was adopted.

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

100. Mr. NYUNT MAUNG SHEIN (Myanmar) commended the Agency's role in building a global nuclear safety culture and its achievements in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear safeguards, radiation and waste safety, and promotion of nuclear science, technology and applications. However, Agency safeguards and verification measures should be applied in a non-discriminatory manner and in conformity with the NPT.

101. The Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which Myanmar had signed in December 1995, had entered into force in 1997. Nuclear-weapon-free zones were effective means of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoted nuclear disarmament.

102. The Agency's technical co-operation activities played an important role in promoting sustainable development in many countries, since nuclear techniques were environmentally friendly and nuclear power generation did not cause environmental pollution. The use of

nuclear techniques had contributed to his country's development efforts in such areas as food, agriculture and health. It had been able to apply radiotherapy and nuclear diagnostic techniques, and nuclear techniques for medical research, with Agency assistance in the form of equipment, services and training. Technical co-operation projects were also contributing to national human resources development, and increased use was being of radioisotopes in industry.

103. Having embarked on a programme of promoting and developing nuclear applications, Myanmar was aware of the need for an adequate radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure. It had nearly finalized its regulations on the safe use of radiation and atomic energy. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had provided in those areas.

104. Several countries were at a stage of nuclear technology development comparable to that of Myanmar and they deserved the Agency's assistance. He therefore urged that, in preparing the technical co-operation programme, priority should be given to projects which benefited less developed Member States. He also paid tribute to the Agency's mediating role in regional co-operation efforts promoting nuclear science and technology.

105. Mr. MÁRQUEZ MARIN (Venezuela) noted that, at the most recent series of meetings of the Board of Governors, the Director General had said that a balance between the Agency's various activities did not necessarily entail identical expenditure but rather full attention to each area. Nevertheless, in assigning priorities the interests and needs of all Member States should be taken into account. Venezuela recognized the need to strengthen the Agency's efforts aimed at preventing terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities or terrorist use of nuclear material, and it stood ready to assist those efforts. However, as technical co-operation and assistance were so important to developing countries, activities to protect against nuclear terrorism should not be allowed to detract from programmes promoting sustainable socio-economic development.

106. Some countries had been pressing for increases in the safeguards budget over the preceding year and urging that the hitherto voluntary contributions for anti-terrorist activities should become obligatory. However, the real capacity of countries to pay had to be taken into account. With the removal of the shielding system, the contributions of the developing countries would increase steadily over the coming 15 years. A larger safeguards and anti-terrorist component in the budget in addition to that would make contributions unpayable for many countries. Thus there was a risk that the Agency could become a select club where only a few members had voting rights. It would be hard to convince the governments of developing countries that they should dedicate precious resources to the inspection of nuclear facilities which most of them did not even possess, or to the prevention of nuclear terrorism instead of to education and health.

107. Venezuela had made an effort to integrate Agency technical co-operation programmes into its development plans. Its main aim was to improve the quality of life and socio-economic conditions of its population. It had managed to involve large-scale development corporations in those activities, removing them from the purely academic sphere, with a view to producing concrete results. For instance, the National Petroleum Company of Venezuela had been playing an active part in the application of nuclear

techniques in the hydrocarbon industry, and the Venezuelan Guyana Corporation had been participating in a project on optimization of the production process in the aluminium industry. The latter company had also shown an interest in technical co-operation projects in the areas of environmental protection, dam safety techniques, techniques for improving mining, extraction, and processing activities, and control of sedimentation in the Apure, Caroní and Orinoco rivers.

108. Other areas the country was working on were sustainable animal production and construction of a secure store for spent used radioactive material. There was also an urgent need for investment in equipment and staff in the health sector and for efficient and effective control of radiation instruments used in medicine. Furthermore, it was hoped that a seminar to disseminate information on non-power applications of nuclear energy could be organized early in 2003.

109. The Agency could also provide valuable assistance with the development of a logical and coherent national programme in the nuclear area and the setting up of a single national authority for monitoring the security of radiation sources.

110. Finally, he welcomed Iraq's decision to accept unconditionally safeguards inspections, which should pave the way towards a peaceful solution and the removal of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.