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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Sixth Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Thursday, 20 September 2007, at 3.05 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. FEROUKHI (Algeria)

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¹ GC(51)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

IRRS

Integrated Regulatory Review Service

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (continued)

(GC(51)/COM.5/L.13/Rev.1)

1. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, presenting the revised draft resolution on Agency activities in the development of innovative nuclear technology, said that informal consultations on paragraph 10 had led to agreement that it be amended to read "... other international initiatives in areas related to international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, safety, proliferation resistance and other security issues".
2. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, said she assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.13/Rev.1, as amended.
3. It was so agreed.

24. Personnel

(a) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat (resumed) (GC(51)/COM.5/L.10)

4. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, reporting on the informal consultations that had taken place regarding operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)COM.5/L.10, said that there had been agreement that the paragraph should be amended to read: "... identify those geographic regions which are under-represented and the number of positions, based on the Secretariat's indicative figures, by which they are under-represented".
5. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document CG(51)/COM.5/L.10, as amended.
6. It was so agreed.

14. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management (resumed) (GC(51)/COM.5/L.11 and L.16)

7. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to resume consideration of the draft resolution on transport safety in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.16.

8. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that, in paragraph 14, the expression “Denial of Shipments” should be replaced by “Denials of Shipment”, to address potential difficulties with the translation into Spanish.

9. The representative of ARGENTINA said that the seemingly minor change to paragraph 14 was significant for the Spanish translation.

10. His delegation endorsed the text before the Committee as amended, but it was very disappointed that the draft resolution on transport safety and the draft resolution on nuclear security (in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.14) had not formed part of the “omnibus” resolution submitted in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.11. There were inconsistencies between the three texts in their English versions and hence in their Spanish versions — and possibly in their other-language versions.

11. The representative of COLOMBIA, noting that her country was among the sponsors of the draft resolution on transport safety, said that her delegation was grateful to the other delegations which had participated in the consultations leading to the text before the Committee.

12. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that his delegation, which greatly appreciated the way in which the consultations had been conducted, hoped that the Secretariat would do its utmost to facilitate the work of the International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material.

13. The representative of CANADA said that his delegation was pleased that the issue of denials of shipment of radioactive material had been addressed in a substantive paragraph. While not entirely comfortable with the wording of paragraph 14, it welcomed the fact that the issue was receiving the attention which it deserved.

14. The representatives of JAPAN, IRELAND and the UNITED KINGDOM expressed strong support for the draft resolution and commended the delegation of New Zealand for its efforts in facilitating consensus.

15. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.16., with the expression “Denials of Shipment” in paragraph 14.

16. It was so agreed.

17. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to continue its consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.11.

18. The representative of CHINA, referring to paragraph 23, said that his delegation greatly appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in developing safety standards and safety review services for fuel cycle facilities and Brazil’s participation in those efforts. However, such safety review services were not yet fully developed. His delegation would therefore like to see the phrase “urges other Member States to avail themselves of such services” replaced by “encourages the Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of information and experience arising from such review services”.

19. Referring to paragraph 32, he suggested that “urges” be replaced by “encourages” and that the words “to avail themselves of such services and” be deleted, as the expert mission had not been arranged within the framework of normal Agency services of which Member States could avail themselves.

20. Referring to paragraph 43, he suggested that the phrase “and encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to develop safety guides on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)” be added at the end.
21. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that, in his view, all the sponsors of the draft resolution could accept the suggestions made by the representative of China. Also, they could accept the proposal — made by the United Kingdom representative during the Committee’s third meeting — that the word “justifiable” be inserted in paragraph 16 between “continuous” and “improvement of the safety standards” and the proposal — made by the representative of the United States of America during the Committee’s third meeting — for amending paragraph 58.
22. The representative of JAPAN, referring to paragraph 32, said that this country had greatly appreciated the expert mission organized by the Secretariat following the earthquake at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant.
23. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN proposed the insertion, in paragraphs (h) and 27, of “non-legally-binding” before “Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors”.
24. He proposed that the phrase “, including acts with malicious intent associated with nuclear and radiological terrorism,” in paragraph (k) be deleted.
25. He asked why the phrase “open information exchange” was used in paragraph (n).
26. He proposed that in paragraph 8 the phrase “urges Member States embarking on new nuclear power programmes” be amended to read “encourages Member States embarking on new nuclear power programmes” and the phrase “notes with satisfaction the growing interest of Member States in the IRRS” be deleted, since it was not obvious that interest in the IRSS was actually growing; a phrase such as “encourages interested Member States to host IRRS missions” might be used instead.
27. He proposed that in paragraphs 22 and 26 “calls upon” be replaced by “invites” and that in paragraph 29 “calls upon” be replaced by “encourages”.
28. He proposed the addition , in paragraph 40, of a phrase reading “and requests the Secretariat to assist Member States in using such safety standards”.
29. Lastly, he proposed that in paragraph 61 the phrase “and encourages Member States to promote transparency in their nuclear activities by promptly reporting nuclear and radiological accidents and incidents to the Incident and Emergency Centre” be deleted.
30. The representative of PAKISTAN expressed support for the proposals made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
31. The representative of AUSTRALIA, responding to the proposals made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that, in his view, all sponsors of the draft resolution could agree to the insertion of “non-legally-binding” in paragraphs (h) and 27.
32. Regarding paragraph (k), the words “acts with malicious intent associated with nuclear and radiological terrorism” had been used in 2006 in paragraph (o) of resolution GC(50)/RES/10 and, in his view, the phrase “, including acts ... terrorism” should therefore be retained.
33. Regarding the question asked about paragraph (n), he said that many participants in the drafting meetings leading to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources had called for an open exchange of information on national approaches to controlling radioactive sources.

34. Regarding paragraph 8, he understood that the interest of Member States in the IRRS was growing and therefore considered that the phrase “notes with satisfaction the growing interest of Member States in the IRRS” was justified. Also, since the establishment of a competent regulatory body was an essential step for any country embarking on a nuclear power programme, in his view the word “encourages” would not be strong enough.
35. He could go along with the replacement of “calls upon” by “invites” in paragraph 26, but would like “calls upon” to be retained in paragraphs 22 and 29.
36. Regarding paragraph 40, the sponsors of the draft resolution would like some time in which to consider the proposal made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
37. Regarding paragraph 61, he felt that the phrase “and encourages Member States ... to the Incident and Emergency Centre” should be retained.
38. The representative of ARGENTINA suggested that in paragraph (n) the phrase “the value of widespread and open information exchange” be replaced by “the value of promoting widespread information exchange”.
39. He could go along with the deletion of the last phrase of paragraph 8 if the interest of Member States in the IRRS was not growing.
40. The representative of CANADA said that many Member States were interested in the IRRS, and his country was to host an IRRS mission in 2009.
41. The representative of BRAZIL, referring to the phrase “a competent regulatory body with effective independence from other organizations” in paragraph 8, recalled that paragraph 8 of resolution GC(50)/RES/10.A had spoken simply of “an effective regulatory body”.
42. The representative of FRANCE called for the retention of “urges” in paragraph 8 and of “calls upon” in paragraph 29.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.