



International Atomic Energy Agency

# General Conference

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Agenda item 22  
(GC(V)/171)

## APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Draft resolution submitted jointly by Bulgaria, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

## APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The General Conference,

- (a) Noting that, in the question of the appointment of the Director General, a considerable number of Members of the Agency are of the opinion that this post should be given to a representative of the countries of Asia and Africa, the present needs of which require special attention on the part of the Agency,
- (b) Bearing in mind that there was no unanimity in the Board of Governors on the appointment of Mr. Eklund to the post of Director General, and
- (c) Considering it desirable that the candidate appointed to the post of Director General should be personally acquainted with the various points of view on this question before it is finally settled in the General Conference,

Instructs the President of the General Conference to invite Mr. Eklund to be present at the debate in the General Conference on the question of the appointment of the Director General.

### BACKGROUND

1. In July 1961, the Board of Governors, in connection with the imminent expiration of the term of office of the present Director General, discussed the question of the appointment of a new candidate for that post. The Western majority on the Board recommended the General Conference to confirm Mr. Eklund



as Director General of the Agency.<sup>1/</sup> This decision was approved, notwithstanding the weighty arguments and objections of the representatives of the Socialist States and a number of countries of Africa and Asia, who were in favor of appointing as Director General a candidate from the Afro-Asian countries, the present means of which require special attention on the part of the International Atomic Energy Agency. In this connection, they argued that a representative from the countries receiving Agency assistance could best evaluate the needs of those countries and contribute to the development of equitable international co-operation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. It was also pointed out that the appointment as Director General of a candidate from the Western Powers, a representative of which has occupied this post for four years, would be a gross violation of the principle of equal rights of States Members of the Agency and a direct infringement of the rights of certain States in the interest of other States.

2. The delegations of Bulgaria, Poland and the Soviet Union consider it abnormal that Mr. Eklund, the candidate for the post of Director General, did not attend the meetings of the Board of Governors when his candidature was discussed. This deprived Mr. Eklund of the opportunity adequately to acquaint himself with the views and opinions put forward by members of the Board regarding his appointment. Furthermore, members of the Board, many of whom are not personally acquainted with Mr. Eklund, were unable to get to know him and make contact with him during the discussion of his candidature or hear his point of view regarding the objections which a number of Governors had raised to his appointment. It appears from the correspondence of the Agency's Secretariat with Mr. Eklund that he is insufficiently informed of the real state of affairs and not fully familiar with the records of the discussion and with the opinions put forward in connection with candidates for the post of Director General.

3. The present situation is without precedent in the experience of international organizations in general and of the International Atomic Energy Agency in particular. In this connection it may be recalled that, when the first Director General of the Agency was appointed, the candidate attended

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<sup>1/</sup> See document GC(V)/165.



the meetings both of the Board of Governors and of the General Conference when it came to confirm the appointment. It is well-known that the Agency does not even appoint experts without an opportunity of meeting them and getting to know them.

4. Contrary to established practice the Western majority of the Board of Governors rejected a proposal by the Governor from Poland to invite Mr. Eklund to a meeting of the Board. The conclusion is unavoidable that the representatives of the Western Powers have no desire to take account of the views of other States Members of the Agency and are attempting to have a candidate to their liking appointed to the post of Director General behind the latter's backs.

5. Such an attitude to the appointment of a Director General cannot fail to arouse the opposition of those countries firmly in favor of the equal rights of all countries and due regard for the interests of all alike. For the effective and successful discharge of his duties any candidate for the post of Director General will depend on the support given to his candidature by all Members of the Agency and on their willingness to co-operate with him.

6. The delegations of Bulgaria, Poland and the Soviet Union accordingly consider it essential for the General Conference to adopt a resolution inviting Mr. Eklund to attend its meetings while the appointment of the Director General is being discussed.

