



International Atomic Energy Agency

# General Conference

GC(VIII)/OR.83  
15 January 1965  
GENERAL Distr.  
ENGLISH

Eighth regular session

## OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Monday, 14 September 1964, at 2.40 p.m.

Temporary President: Mr. PERERA (Ceylon)

President: Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands)

### CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
1 . Opening of the session	1 - 3
2 Election of the President	4 - 14
3(a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee	15 - 17
4 Election of the Vice-Presidents	18 - 21
5 Appointment of the General Committee	22 - 25
6 Applications for membership of the Agency	26 - 28
7 Statement by the Director General	29 - 47
- Statement by the Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations	48 - 53

\* GC(VIII)/268.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
GC(VIII)/INF/75/Rev.2.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the eighth regular session of the General Conference.

2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, he invited the Conference to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates of Member States, the observers from other States, and the representatives of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. He thanked the President of the Austrian Parliament, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Governor of Lower Austria and senior Austrian officials for attending the meeting.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

4. Mr. PRADO (Brazil) proposed Mr. Eschauzier (Netherlands) for the office of President of the Conference. Mr. Eschauzier had had a long career as a diplomat and had represented his country at many international conferences and on the Board of Governors.

5. Mr. HAYMERLE (Austria) supported the nomination of Mr. Eschauzier.

6. Mr. Eschauzier (Netherlands) was elected, by acclamation, President of the General Conference for its eighth regular session.

7. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT appealed to all delegates to accord to the President the same support as the General Conference had accorded to him as President for the seventh regular session.

Mr. Eschauzier (Netherlands) took the Chair.

8. The PRESIDENT thanked delegates for the honour they had done to his country in electing him President of the General Conference for its eighth regular session. He paid tribute to the retiring President, who had directed the discussions of the seventh session with such authority.

9. Through long association with the work of the Agency he was fully aware of the responsibilities incumbent upon him and would endeavour to discharge them in the spirit of his predecessors.

10. The eighth session followed closely on the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy<sup>1/</sup> and might be considered a sequel to that conference. Much of what might appropriately be said on the latter subject had already been said most eloquently by Mr. Emelyanov, President of the Third Geneva Conference. He would therefore confine himself to those facts which in his view should form the basis of the deliberations at the present session.

11. It was fitting to recall the launching ten years ago by President Eisenhower of the "Atoms for Peace" programme, which had resulted in the establishment of the Agency. With the conclusion of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty<sup>2/</sup>, which had now been in force for twelve months, the hopes of man that his miraculous inventiveness would be harnessed to the service of human life had begun to assume concrete form. Those hopes had been confirmed by the decision of the major nuclear Powers to limit the production of fissionable materials for military purposes. It was true that nuclear disarmament had not yet been achieved, but progress towards that end had been most encouraging. The Agency had a major role to play in seeing that fissionable materials were used solely for peaceful purposes. Meanwhile, it was steadily pursuing the objectives laid down in its Statute. Nuclear power was becoming more and more competitive and the use of fissionable products in research, science and industry was expanding rapidly. While such favourable developments gave grounds for satisfaction, one should not forget that they brought with them an increase in the dangers inherent in radioactivity. It was therefore logical that the regulatory activities of the Agency in regard to health and safety, the transport of radioactive materials and the disposal of radioactive waste should assume growing importance.

12. The provisional agenda of the present session was not very full, principally because questions related to the use of atomic energy had just been discussed at the Third Geneva Conference. Moreover, a number of other questions were currently being examined by the Board of Governors. Nevertheless, the reduction in the time devoted to the deliberations of the General Conference was a sign of the Agency's growing efficiency, which was also reflected in the fact that, for the first time, the Board of Governors had drawn up a biennial programme for the Agency's activities.

---

<sup>1/</sup> Held at Geneva from 31 August to 9 September 1964.

<sup>2/</sup> Concluded at Moscow on 5 August 1963.

13. The financial situation was less satisfactory and would continue to be so until an adequate method had been devised for financing the Agency's activities.

14. Although the creation of the Agency had involved an important political decision, the Agency itself was a purely scientific and technical organization, and its importance for the well-being of nations, and particularly of the developing countries, had been brought out by the tangible results which it had achieved during the seven years of its existence. Whereas, at the beginning of the first regular session, the Agency had numbered only 53 Member States, it now had 88 Members, to which should be added the four States whose applications for membership were pending. That was a clear indication of the interest which the newly independent countries took in the Agency's work. States were becoming increasingly aware of the fact that the Agency was the principal technical instrument of the United Nations in the sphere of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. But it should not be forgotten that it was by devoting itself to the practical tasks which lay ahead that the Agency would be most useful to Member States.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

15. The PRESIDENT proposed that a Credentials Committee should be appointed in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure and that it should consist of the following nine Members: El Salvador, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Japan, New Zealand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United States of America and Uruguay.

16. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

17. The PRESIDENT pointed out that under Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference was required to elect its Vice-Presidents after the election of the Chairmen of the two Main Committees. He therefore proposed suspending the plenary meeting for a short time to enable the two committees to elect their chairmen.

The meeting was suspended at 3.5 p.m. and resumed at 3.15 p.m.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

18. The PRESIDENT invited nominations for the eight posts of Vice-President of the Conference.

19. Mr. TORKI (Tunisia) proposed the delegates of the following States: Argentina, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Senegal, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
20. Mr. FERRO (Hungary) seconded the nominations.
21. The delegates nominated were declared elected to the eight Vice-Presidencies.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

22. The PRESIDENT pointed out that under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference was required to elect four additional members to the General Committee. He invited nominations.
23. Mr. GRANT (Ghana) nominated the delegates of the following States: France, Nigeria, United States of America and Yugoslavia.
24. Mr. OFTEDAL (Norway) seconded the nominations.
25. The delegates of the States nominated were declared elected to the General Committee, which was thus duly appointed in compliance with the provisions of Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY (GC(VIII)/267, 282)

26. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to consider the recommendations of the Board of Governors concerning the applications for membership of the Agency made by Cyprus and Kuwait (GC(VIII)/267) and by Kenya and Madagascar (GC(VIII)/282). The Board had submitted a draft resolution in respect of each of those applications but he thought the Conference might take the four draft resolutions together.
27. The four draft resolutions were adopted unanimously.
28. The PRESIDENT stated that, in accordance with Article XXI.C of the Statute, Cyprus, Kenya, Kuwait and Madagascar would become Members of the Agency as soon as their respective instruments of acceptance of the Statute had been deposited with the United States Government.

#### STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

29. The DIRECTOR GENERAL welcomed the five new Members of the Agency: Algeria, Cameroun, Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria. The admission of Cyprus, Kenya, Kuwait and Madagascar would bring the membership of the Agency up to 92.

30. Many of the delegates had attended the Third Geneva Conference and he would not therefore report on the work of that meeting in detail. He did, however, wish to quote a few figures on the utilization of nuclear power. In 1955, when the First Geneva Conference had been held, the installed nuclear capacity in the world had been only 5 MW; in 1958 it had risen to 185 MW, and it was now about 5000 MW; in 1970 it was expected that the installed nuclear capacity would have grown to some 25 000 MW. That increase clearly demonstrated that certain types of reactors had passed well beyond the laboratory stage and had become another product of the manufacturing industries.

31. The Agency had undertaken a pre-investment study on nuclear power on the island of Luzon, in the Philippines, under the auspices of the United Nations Special Fund; a report would be submitted in July 1965. At the request of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, the Agency had also organized an evaluation of the bids which had been made for the 70 MW Rooppur reactor which was to be built in Pakistan. In such cases, the Agency could be of service to Member States by identifying cost items and thus enabling a real comparison to be made between different bids.

32. The Agency was also engaged in assessing the safety of different reactor sites and different types of reactors. It had been suggested that such services might be more conveniently provided by an international evaluation group set up under Agency auspices; that possibility would be explored in the near future.

33. The most significant development in the application of nuclear power during the past year had been the study of the use of dual-purpose reactors, designed to produce electricity and to desalt water. The Agency had organized a number of panel meetings on the subject; and, after the recent statements by President Johnson and Mr. Khrushchev, it seemed reasonable to look forward to fruitful co-operation in a field that offered enormous benefits, primarily for countries with vast arid areas but perhaps also for the industrialized countries, which were becoming increasingly aware of the importance of careful utilization of their valuable natural resources of water.

34. The increasing number of reactors lent particular importance to the Agency's safeguards system, which had been extended during the past year to cover reactors of over 100 MW(th); the United States had placed the Yankee reactor, with a capacity of some 175 MW(e), under the safeguards system, and a first inspection of that reactor had recently taken place.

35. The revision of Agency safeguards at present being carried out should have the effect of facilitating a wider application of the system. It was encouraging to note that out of 38 countries possessing reactors, seventeen had accepted international safeguards. Moreover, the responsibility for safeguards provided under a number of bilateral agreements had been transferred to the Agency.

36. He wished to draw particular attention to a number of international and regional projects in which the Agency was taking part. The organization of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste had been going on apace and a seminar on plasma physics would begin on 5 October, with a much higher enrolment than had been expected. The Centre's Scientific Council, in which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, were participating, had met on two occasions and had given valuable advice on the programme of the Centre. The Middle Eastern Regional Radioisotope Centre for the Arab countries in Cairo was continuing its valuable training and research activities and had made arrangements to organize a third general course in the use of radioisotopes in October. The joint programme of research in reactor physics with the reactor NORA had been extended for another three years. After two years' work a research project in reactor physics had emerged, and Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia had agreed to co-ordinate their efforts with a view to solving specific problems of common interest. As a result, it was expected that the exchange of information would be considerably facilitated and speeded up.

37. The Board had endorsed a request by Congo (Leopoldville) to establish a regional radioisotope centre for tropical Africa for training and research and had approved an agreement for a joint training and research programme for the countries of Asia and the Far East, involving the use of a neutron crystal spectrometer. A joint research project using a liquid nitrogen loop in Latin America was also under study.

38. The Agency was endeavouring to stimulate regional co-operation, especially in the developing countries, and could give valuable assistance by promoting closer co-operation between established centres in advanced countries and newer centres in the developing countries in the form of "sister" laboratory arrangements. It was also intended to establish closer contact with national atomic energy commissions and to encourage them to hold regional meetings for the

discussion of common problems. In February 1964 an agreement had been concluded between the Agency and the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa (CTCA). As the functions of that Commission were due to be taken over by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), steps would be taken to ensure good co-operation between the OAU and the Agency.

39. During the previous year, the Agency had had an expert in nuclear technology stationed at Bangkok as Regional Officer for Asia and the Far East. It would be helpful if delegates from the region would express opinions on the utility of that service, so that the Secretariat could assess the extent to which similar services should be established for other regions.

40. The action taken by the Agency with a view to furthering co-operation between international organizations had yielded good results. A Liaison Officer had been stationed by the Agency at the Resources and Transport Division of the United Nations in New York and Scientific Liaison Officers had been sent to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, a joint Agency-FAO Division was due to be established shortly at Agency Headquarters.

41. The Agency was to serve as Executing Agency for a project on the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly, submitted to the Special Fund by the Central American Phytosanitary Organization, whose members were the Central American States and Mexico. The project would enable it to be seen whether the sterile-male technique was scientifically and economically feasible on a large scale. Similar research was being carried out on the tsetse fly through Agency research contracts and could be expanded if sufficient funds were available. Agency studies on rice and maize cultivation were continuing and had already produced encouraging results. Irradiation techniques were being used in experimental studies of food preservation, especially for the disinfestation of grain; in that connection the Agency had already undertaken studies in Argentina, Pakistan and Turkey.

42. He wished to make a special point of the extremely harmonious manner in which the United Nations departments and those of the Agency had co-operated in the organization of the Third Geneva Conference. That co-operation had contributed to a substantial reduction in the direct cost of the Conference - \$1 million, as compared with the \$3.5 million for the 1958 Conference.

43. Efforts had been made to organize the eighth session of the General Conference on a tighter schedule in order to comply with the wishes of many Member States that their delegates should be able to return home as soon as possible, as many of them had already been attending the Third Geneva Conference.

44. The General Conference would note that the 1965 budget proposed only a 6% increase in expenditure and that staff increases related mainly to the staff required for nuclear data compilation. Emphasis had been put on technical programmes and the need for more scientific and technical staff in 1965 would be met by further adjustments. The fact that the scientific staff had been able to carry out satisfactorily the extra work involved in the preparation of the Third Geneva Conference without undue interference with their normal duties suggested that there was still some unused capacity in the Secretariat, which he would endeavour to utilize to the full. Moreover, the establishment of the Department of Technical Assistance should result in savings in both staff and costs.

45. The recruitment of staff on as wide as geographical basis as possible was one of the main structural requirements of an international organization, and contributed greatly to ensuring the impartiality that was so necessary in an international civil service. A certain rotation in posts was also beneficial, and it should therefore not be expected that a staff member of a given nationality would automatically be replaced by a candidate of the same nationality or that the replacement would be given an equivalent position or grading.

46. If newer Member States were not in a position to make experienced scientists available to the Secretariat - as they had been invited to do - it might be possible for them to send young scientists and administrators, who would thus acquire valuable experience.

47. The success of an organization depended ultimately on the confidence and support which it received from its Members. He would therefore welcome the comments and suggestions of delegations regarding the Agency's work, so as to ensure the best possible co-ordination of effort and thus the maximum benefit to all Member States.

STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

48. The PRESIDENT invited Mr. Spinelli, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to address the Conference.

49. Mr. SPINELLI (Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) said that he took pleasure in conveying to the Conference the best wishes of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the success of its work.

50. The Conference was opening under particularly favourable auspices, since the Third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, in which the Agency had played such an active part, had just successfully concluded its work in Geneva. He wished to take the opportunity of paying tribute to Mr. Eklund, Director General of the Agency, who had been the main artisan-organizer of the Conference. Without trying to assess the results obtained, he had pleasure in making specific mention of the atmosphere of co-operation which had prevailed throughout the proceedings and of the contribution that the Conference had made to the United Nations Development Decade. The Geneva Conference had provided striking evidence of the fact that while many theoretical problems still remained to be solved in the realm of nuclear energy, the stage of industrial application, which would open up the way to a better life for mankind, had now been reached.

51. The areas of co-operation between the United Nations and the Agency were bound to multiply, as was already apparent in the co-operation which had been established in the important field of water desalination and in the implementation of various scientific and administrative projects.

52. He congratulated the Agency on the progress it had made in various fields, particularly in regard to safeguards and the very promising start that had been made by the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste.

53. He asked the President and the Director General to convey his thanks to the Austrian Government for its generous hospitality.

The meeting rose at 4:55 p.m.