



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXII)/OR.206
April 1979*

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR SESSION: 18-22 SEPTEMBER 1978

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,
on Thursday, 21 September 1978, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>	
4	General debate and annual report for 1977 (continued)	1 - 75
	Statements by the delegations of:	
	Uruguay	1 - 7
	Turkey	8 - 16
	Cuba	17 - 25
	Liechtenstein	26 - 29
	Chile	30 - 36
	Zambia	37 - 45
	Peru	46 - 55
	Morocco	56 - 61
	Sudan	62 - 66
	Austria	67 - 75

*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 6 October 1978.

**/ GC(XXII)/605.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXII)/INF/179/Rev.2

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977 (continued)

1. Mr. BERGER (Uruguay) said that his country was carrying out a number of programmes in the nuclear field, related to nuclear medicine, the application of radioisotopes to agriculture, veterinary medicine and the irradiation of food-stuffs; industry was also beginning to use nuclear techniques. In each of those areas, Uruguay had first-class technicians who had already worked as Agency experts. Uruguay would in the near future have to deal with energy problems and find new energy sources to replace oil, natural gas and coal.

2. Various steps were being taken to that end, including a study by the National Electricity Company into the possibilities of the hydroelectric network, an investigation into a number of energy conservation measures applicable in particular to the industrial sector but also to domestic consumption and transport, an increase in the amount of work being done on the evaluation of uranium resources and finally the development and implementation of a research reactor programme which would lead to the setting up of nuclear power plants. During the previous year, the uranium prospecting programme had been speeded up and a 10-kW research reactor had been installed.

3. An Agency expert was collaborating in a long-term technical assistance programme. Under his direction, and with the support of the Agency and the co-operation of friendly countries, a group was being set up to deal with the purchase and operation of nuclear power plants.

4. Uruguay had been among the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)^{1/} and had been a member of the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) since its inception, which clearly showed that it had no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons and constituted a form of reassurance for the countries which were providing it with nuclear technology and fuel.

5. Other countries were, like Uruguay, turning to nuclear energy and so the need for safeguards and technical assistance could only increase. Uruguay noted with satisfaction the efforts the Agency was making to improve its technical assistance despite the difficulties created by the growth in its programmes at a time when funds were limited and the dollar was undergoing a crisis. Uruguay was happy to have been chosen to benefit from a planning mission.

6. As he had already stated at the 1977 session of the General Conference, Uruguay supported the move to carry out multi-year projects within the Agency's regular programme. It urged that technical assistance be financed from the Regular Budget and be independent of voluntary contributions, which could be used as supplementary funds. The experts who provided assistance should be chosen from among the most highly qualified personnel available.

7. Uruguay reiterated its confidence in the Agency and would make a voluntary contribution in line with the target proposed for the next financial year.

8. Mr. INHAN (Turkey) said that the Turkish nuclear energy programme, which was geared to the economic development and welfare of the people, was progressing in a satisfactory manner. The demand for electrical energy in Turkey had grown at an average rate of 11% during the previous 12 years. That rapid increase seemed certain to continue and the 1978 figure of 4500 MW for the generation of electricity was expected to rise to 35 000 MW in the 1990s. An extra 10 000 MW would probably be needed to meet Turkey's energy demands by the year 2000. Nuclear power generation would therefore be playing an important role towards the end of the century.

9. Several countries, including Turkey, considered nuclear energy to be the only possible replacement for oil, as had been reaffirmed at the Tenth Session of the World Energy Conference in Istanbul in 1977.

10. Most countries, and especially the developing ones, were interested in nuclear power generation and the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE). The Turkish Government hoped that the INFCE working groups would help to establish guidelines which would be generally acceptable and would take into account the special needs of developing countries.

11. Despite certain delays, the Turkish nuclear programme was under way. Authorization for the construction of the first nuclear power plant (at Akkuyu, and with a capacity of 600 MW) had been issued to the Turkish Electricity Authority in 1976 and the reactor would probably be put into operation about 1985. A preliminary siting study for a second nuclear plant (of 1000 MW) had just been started.

12. Turkey was grateful to the Agency for the aid it had provided. Nine Agency experts had visited Turkey during the current year and had participated actively in the task of evaluating tenders, carrying out safety analyses and studying

^{1/} Reproduced in document INF/CIRC/140.

fuel management problems. The Turkish Government was basing its work on the Agency's codes of practice and safety guides. It would still need Agency experts to take part in studies on the safety of nuclear plants.

13. Turkey attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance programme and would continue to support the Agency's activities related to the peaceful uses of atomic energy in Member States. In that connection, it had already pledged for 1979 a voluntary contribution to the General Fund in line with its base rate of assessment. Moreover, Turkey would soon ratify NPT, which it had signed in 1969.

14. The Turkish Atomic Energy Commission had recently decided to raise the power of the TR-1 research reactor from 1 MW to 5 MW in order to increase the production of radioisotopes for use in nuclear medicine, agriculture and research. Work on the construction of the TR-2 research reactor was continuing.

15. In 1975, the Agency had assisted in setting up a Nuclear Research Institute for the application of radioisotopes in veterinary medicine and agriculture. The buildings for the Institute, whose estimated cost was LT 15 million, were under construction.

16. A TRIGA Mark II research reactor was being installed on the new campus of the Nuclear Energy Institute of the Technical University of Istanbul. It would be used for training technical personnel and promoting research into nuclear energy.

17. Mr. CARDENAS VALDES (Cuba) welcomed the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which was present for the first time in the history of the General Conference.

18. The development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy raised political and economic problems whose solution, Cuba was convinced, depended on international co-operation. If the threat of a third world war - which was aggravated by the existence of nuclear weapons - was to be averted, the entire international community must strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons; in that connection, the nuclear-weapon States bore a particular responsibility.

19. Recalling the words of the Vice-President of the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly, he endorsed the developing countries' concern about obstacles to nuclear development and the resultant risk of restrictions on the international

transfer of technology. Concern about non-proliferation must not stifle development. The Agency was the organization most eminently suitable as a forum for dealing with those problems.

20. Cuba was convinced of the important role that nuclear energy could play in development and was installing its first nuclear power plant with assistance from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Work was also in hand for the establishment of a centre for nuclear research and the application of nuclear technology to various sectors of the economy.

21. Cuba had made initial contact with the Agency on the question of a safeguards agreement.

22. Technical assistance provided by the Agency was highly important to Cuba, which hoped to begin carrying out a UNDP nuclear project in 1978.

23. He noted with regret that the Agency's provision of technical assistance was still subject to considerable delays. The situation had to be remedied; meanwhile, however, Cuba would continue to contribute to the General Fund.

24. Co-operation as exemplified by the important agreement the Agency had concluded with the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) must be fostered.

25. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy could contribute to the well-being of future generations, although the threat which it represented to peace must be averted.

26. Mr. AUWÄRTER (Liechtenstein) said his Government hoped that the work of the current session would help to dispel the current confusion of public opinion concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The language of the physicist and the technician in that field was often hard for the layman to grasp; as a result, it inevitably led to misunderstandings. Scientists should try to make clear, in simple and convincing terms, to those unfamiliar with the undoubtedly intricate subject that the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was a compelling requirement. Tables, graphs, and comparative safety studies were of little real help in that respect. For instance, talk of the "small probability of an accident" would lead many laymen to believe that something was being concealed behind the notion; arguments based on such beliefs were often advanced by opponents of the use of nuclear energy.

27. Present-day society should be made aware of its selfishness and made to think about what the consequences of its carelessness would be for future generations. The world was living in an age of synthetic materials whose production, being derived from fossil raw materials, was still inexpensive. But the question had to be asked whether such materials would still be available 50 years hence and, if the answer was no, how they could be economized at present. The only answer was the use of electrical energy.

28. A further example was the reduction, because of growing pollution, in the renewal of oxygen. The highly-industrialized countries in Europe already showed a negative balance in that respect because of the large-scale consumption of oxygen for combustion purposes. Problems of that sort were independent of national frontiers, and they affected large and small countries alike.

29. With regard to the situation in Liechtenstein, the availability of sufficient energy sources was essential to maintaining and promoting the country's economy. Only a link with Switzerland in energy matters would enable energy requirements to be satisfied. Agreements involving Liechtenstein's financial participation had therefore been concluded with Swiss companies. His country's technological contribution to the development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was through the investment, by national industrial enterprises, of considerable funds for the development and manufacture of instruments and machinery for theoretical and applied nuclear research. Liechtenstein, being fully aware of the risks inherent in any abuse of nuclear energy, accepted the obligations arising from its agreement with the Agency for the application of safeguards pursuant to NPT. It would continue to support the Agency in carrying out its tasks.

30. Mr. RODRIGUEZ VELIS (Chile) said that his country was highly satisfied with the efforts being made by the Agency in one of its basic activities, namely technical assistance, through which nuclear energy in its peaceful applications was being placed at the service of mankind's development.

31. His delegation could report with satisfaction and pride on the progress made in Chile in connection with a variety of non-military applications of nuclear energy. It would, however, limit itself to commenting on the most important among them.

32. The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission had designed and built a pilot plant for the production of uranium concentrates as a by-product of copper. Chilean engineers had been entirely responsible for executing the work, drawing on the country's own technology, and the facility was giving satisfactory results; Chile was therefore now considering moving to the industrial production stage. The success of the enterprise, which was acknowledged by the Agency, had enabled Chile to put its facilities at the disposal of interested countries of the region.

33. The first nuclear power station in Chile was due to enter into service in 1988; work was proceeding satisfactorily with the help of the Agency and also with substantial support from UNDP.

34. Work had just been completed on the building and fitting out of a multi-purpose irradiation facility with help from the Agency and the Spanish Junta de Energia Nuclear.

35. A seminar on "International Dimensions of Nuclear Policy" was to be held in Santiago starting in a few days' time; many international organizations, including the Agency, would be participating.

36. In conclusion, he expressed his country's gratitude for the valuable technical assistance it had received from the Agency, as also its thanks to such countries as Spain and Argentina which had given Chile the benefit of their own experience.

37. Mr. ZIMBA (Zambia) said that his Government wished to reaffirm its support for the two main functions of the Agency, namely the provision of technical assistance and the implementation of safeguards.

38. Zambia had continued to receive technical assistance from the Agency at a modest level in 1977. Two projects in particular had benefited, one on radioactive raw materials prospection and the other on the strengthening of the nuclear physics programme at the University of Zambia. The first had already been carried out and the second would, it was hoped, soon be undertaken.

39. Further, the Agency had helped organize an advisory meeting on the uranium deposits of Africa in November 1977, which Zambia had been privileged to host. The main objectives of the meeting had been to discuss the geology of uranium ore deposits in Africa, to outline problems requiring further study, to stimulate research and to make recommendations on ways and means for instituting co-operation among African countries on uranium geology problems. Geologists coming

from Africa, Europe and North America had presented papers on the results of recent research and stimulating discussions had taken place on unconformity- and sandstone-type deposits and the possibilities of finding such deposits in the African continent. Attention had been focused upon the uranium potential of the phosphate deposits in northern and western parts of Africa, definition of metallogenic epochs in ore deposits, exploration techniques and the effect of different climatic, morphological and vegetational conditions on their potential usefulness and, lastly, sophisticated laboratory procedures involved in the study of fluid inclusions. Case histories had been presented by a number of the participants relating, inter alia, to the Gabon deposits, the mineralization in the Katanga metasediments and the sandstone of Zambia, uranothorite in Madagascar and pitchblende in Togo, together with accounts of exploration activities in Zaire, Sudan, Nigeria, Morocco, Algeria, Ethiopia and Libya. The meeting had been of great importance for several African States which, like Zambia, were planning to start soon on exploring for and exploiting uranium deposits. Zambia hoped that assistance of the same kind and also in other forms would continue to be rendered by the Agency, in order to help exploit the vast resources of energy in the African continent.

40. It was Zambia's considered opinion, however, that it was not enough to give help only in the exploitation of raw materials; it would like to see an equally ready responsiveness by the Agency extended to Zambia's other requests for technical assistance intended to develop its capacity to exploit atomic energy in its peaceful applications in various fields.

41. While appreciating the effort made by the Secretariat to establish an effective technical assistance programme for the coming five years, his delegation nevertheless saw no guarantee of effective execution in the way in which the programme would be funded. The programme would continue to be financed mostly from voluntary contributions and little or no heed seemed to have been taken of the pleas made by the majority of the Agency's Members to have the technical assistance programme funded more than was now the case from the Regular Budget. His delegation hoped that the somewhat hardened attitude of those opposing such a move would change, so that the technical assistance programme might have a real developmental impact in the developing Member States which, despite their rich potentialities, had as yet benefited little from nuclear energy.

42. Zambia also hoped that a common ground, paying due regard to the needs of the majority, would soon be found with respect to the draft Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency. It took the view that the conditional requirement relating to NPT was discriminatory and would not by itself solve the problem of nuclear weapons proliferation; other factors had a larger bearing on the matter.

43. His country welcomed the Agency's planned promotional activities in other areas and believed that the Agency should play a significant role in the development of new nuclear energy applications likely to be of benefit to the developing countries in the short as well as the long term, including, in particular, the technology of controlled nuclear fusion as a relatively cheap source of energy for the future. The Agency's participation in such work should, however, be on the understanding that any such new technologies developed should be applied for the benefit of all countries and not merely the industrialized ones.

44. Referring once again to the presence of vast uranium resources in the African continent, he pointed out that, in a few years' time, the African Member States as a whole would become significant suppliers of uranium, most of which would be destined for power reactors abroad. Indeed, Africa's uranium resources had already been put to use in industrialized countries. His delegation accordingly believed that the African Member States should have a say commensurate with their importance in atomic energy matters and should certainly be able to determine the fate of their own natural resources. The African region, however, was under-represented in the Board of Governors. His country therefore supported the moves that had been made towards remedying the situation, by ensuring equitable representation which took due account of the region's importance as a supplier of a significant energy source. His delegation did not believe that the proposed increase in Board seats allocated to Africa and to the Middle East and South Asia would be detrimental to the Board's efficiency. In any case, even if that were to be true, why should the maintenance of efficiency be at the expense of the two regions in question?

45. His Government, he recalled, had taken a consistent stand against apartheid. The Agency's assistance to South Africa benefited only a minority of its population, which was absolutely unjustifiable. Until there was a return to respect for human values, all collaboration between the Agency and South Africa should be discontinued. The Agency, rather than merely refusing to support that

system, should play its part in bringing about the end of apartheid. His delegation would like to know how many of the South Africans employed in the Agency were drawn from the indigenous majority of the population. If none, as was highly likely, his delegation would request the Secretariat to institute immediate measures to ensure that further recruitment from South Africa should represent all the ethnic groups among the population.

46. Mr. BARREDA DELGADO (Peru) recalled that his country had signed and ratified NPT and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America^{2/} (the Tlatelolco Treaty) and said he wanted to refer to some of his country's achievements in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

47. The objective of the first stage in the Peruvian nuclear development plan was to provide the country with the equipment that would enable it to benefit from peaceful nuclear technology. To that end, the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute had negotiated directly with the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission a contract relating to the design, construction and commissioning of a nuclear research centre in Peru. The negotiations had been carried out in a spirit of brotherly co-operation and had been marked by the desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries. The contract, signed in November 1977, would go down in the history of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in South America since it was the first case of the transfer of nuclear technology between two countries in that area. Bearing in mind the necessity of training staff, the two signatory organizations had first constructed a training reactor, which had been officially put into service in July 1978 at the Institute's headquarters.

48. During the first stage, the supply of enriched uranium had necessitated the signing of a quadripartite instrument between Peru, Argentina, the United States of America and the Agency, and had involved the conclusion, between the Government of Peru and the Agency, of agreements (under the general agreement on safeguards and technical assistance) in line with the spirit of the Tlatelolco Treaty.

^{2/} Reproduced in IAEA Legal Series No. 9 (STI/FUB/387).

49. Construction of the nuclear research centre had started in October 1978 and should be completed in 1982. The centre would enable Peru to gain the experience in nuclear matters which it needed to place nuclear energy at the service of national development. On the basis of principles laid down by the Agency, the Government of Peru was drawing up regulations to govern the utilization and application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Peru had undertaken a study on uranium prospecting in close collaboration with UNDP.

50. A nuclear power planning study had been carried out under the auspices of the Agency and the Peruvian authorities concerned were now considering the preliminary report. For the long term, Peru had set itself the following objectives: to develop the scientific and technical infrastructure needed for placing nuclear energy at the service of national development; to ensure the transfer of nuclear technology to different socio-economic sectors; to train the scientific and technical staff needed to provide the country with a nuclear power capability; to encourage teaching and research in nuclear subjects; to promote the development of nuclear medicine with the possible participation of other Latin American countries; to ensure protection of the population and the environment; to co-ordinate the participation of all sectors of the national economy in the peaceful application of nuclear energy.

51. The achievement of those objectives would be especially facilitated by the active support of the Agency and UNDP and by collaboration with friendly countries which were more developed and to which Peru wanted to express its sincere gratitude.

52. Speaking in his capacity of President of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission, he then said that, in accordance with decisions taken at the tenth meeting of that Commission, the necessary steps had been undertaken to obtain the approval of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) for a new statute which would transform the Commission into a dynamic, permanent and non-political technical organization capable of systematically planning its medium-term activities.

53. In that context, it was planned to organize in Lima, in December 1978, with the Agency's co-operation, a seminar on uranium geology in Latin America. The aim was to provide a basis for an exchange of experience between Latin America countries and to lay the foundations for a medium-term plan of action. He invited interested countries to contact the Agency's Section of Nuclear Materials and the Fuel Cycle in order to obtain full information regarding that seminar.

54. The Commission's technical committee was to meet in January 1979 in order to draft the medium-term plan of activities, which would then be submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Commission for its examination.

55. In conclusion, as a Latin American country and as a member of the Group of 77, Peru appealed to the delegates to ensure that technical assistance, instead of being regarded as a forced concession, be assigned the position accorded to it by the Director General, who had referred to it as a cornerstone of the Agency's very existence. A majority of countries in the world would be incapable of reaching certain development objectives if the nuclear technology assistance requested by them were meted out so grudgingly.

56. Mr. SKALLI (Morocco) recalled that the Agency had been associated since 1961 with his country's projects for the peaceful application of nuclear techniques, especially in agriculture, health, geology and nuclear power production. As far as agriculture was concerned, Morocco had set up isotope research laboratories and had already obtained useful results as regards soil fertilization and the mineral nutrition of citrus fruits. In medicine it had carried out programmes on diagnostic and therapeutic applications, and in geology it had been prospecting for radioactive materials since 1946. It had benefited from the Agency's technical assistance for the first time in 1970; thanks to that assistance it had been able to estimate its reserves of radioactive materials. However, due to lack of funds, the Agency had not been able to participate in the financing of a regional exploration project drawn up jointly by Moroccan technicians and Agency experts; Morocco had therefore begun to carry out prospecting work alone. The first results were very promising and the search was being intensified. Morocco believed that uranium extraction techniques based on the use of phosphoric acid were very promising.

57. At present the electricity supply of the country came from hydroelectric and thermal power stations connected to a grid with a very high voltage. However, the energy demand was increasing by 10% per year and the present production level for the various types of fuel was fairly low. Morocco had therefore decided to proceed immediately with the construction of a nuclear power station. Preliminary studies had already begun and assistance from the Agency was to be provided in the drafting of regulations relating to nuclear installations and fuel and in the organization of training for the necessary staff. Morocco was also considering the installation of an experimental nuclear reactor which would stimulate research and training.

58. Having described the peaceful application of nuclear energy in Morocco, he said he wished to discuss the question of proliferation. His country, which had deposited its instrument of ratification of NPT in 1970, considered that, in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, it was necessary first to ensure the complete security of non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty, secondly to provide such States as quickly as possible with genuine assistance in the peaceful application of nuclear energy, thirdly to ensure that there was no vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons and fourthly to prevent horizontal proliferation by making NPT a universal instrument.

59. As an African country, Morocco believed that the achievement of those objectives could be furthered by setting up nuclear-weapon-free zones whose status would have to be respected by nuclear-weapon States and by increasing co-operation in order to enable non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty to benefit as much as possible from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy; such action was in line with the objectives of the safeguards agreements concluded with the Agency in the context of NPT.

60. Africa was going to become an increasingly important supplier of nuclear materials; it would certainly not be content merely to export its materials but, lacking the necessary technology, it would encounter difficulties in building nuclear power stations. At the most recent Lusaka symposium on prospecting for radioactive materials it had been proposed that the African States develop the technology for producing nuclear fuel from natural uranium with the help of the Agency. That proposal fitted in with the idea of the establishment of regional centres for the reprocessing of nuclear fuel and for the management of plutonium by the Agency. It should be pointed out further that developing countries experienced difficulties in embarking on nuclear power programmes not only because they did not possess the technology required but also because of difficulties they encountered with the introduction of nuclear power stations; those difficulties related to the types of nuclear power plant currently on the market and to the installed capacities of their power grids.

61. In conclusion, he recalled that the Agency played a role of primary importance in developing the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, a role that would certainly become even more important.

62. Mr. ABBAS HAMAD (Sudan) said he would like to assure the Conference of his country's full support for the Agency's activities, which it regarded as of great importance for the developing countries in particular. By contributing toward the raising of living standards in those countries, the Agency could help to bring into being the new and more equitable international economic order proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixth and seventh special sessions.

63. His Government supported the Agency's programme for 1978-84 as also the budget for 1979. Admittedly, it had been necessary to increase the budget as compared with the 1978 budget, but it was to be hoped that further restraint could be exercised without curtailing the effectiveness of the Agency's programmes, particularly in technical assistance. His Government had noted that allocations under technical assistance fell short of the funds assigned for other programmes. Technical assistance was, nevertheless, of vital importance for developing countries and it was to be regretted that those activities should continue to be financed out of voluntary contributions. In common with other countries, Sudan held that technical assistance should be financed under the Regular Budget and that the funds allocated for that work should be increased in real terms. In that regard, it was hardly necessary to emphasize the imperative need for maintaining a fair balance as between the Agency's promotional and safeguards activities.

64. His country had a need, in particular, for technical assistance from the Agency in order to develop its agricultural sector. Ambitious plans had been set afoot which could not be carried out speedily save by recourse to nuclear techniques. For that reason, the establishment of a nuclear research centre with important responsibilities in agricultural matters was under consideration and it was hoped that the Agency would assist the national efforts in that enterprise.

65. The special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament, held in 1977, had adopted a programme of action which would decisively strengthen the international efforts to prevent proliferation. In that area, it was also relevant to recall the recommendations which had been made by the meeting of the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries held in Belgrade in July 1978. The second NPT Review Conference would be meeting in 1980 and, as suggested by the United Nations General Assembly, a second conference on nuclear energy and its fuel cycle was being planned for 1981 and 1982. His country hoped that the outcome of those meetings would further enhance the Agency's effectiveness.

66. His delegation fully supported the proposals put forward for amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. More equitable representation in the Board of Governors for two important regions, Africa and the Middle East and South Asia, was bound to be reflected in more effective work on the Board's part, and the General Conference should reach a decision by consensus in the matter at the present session.

67. Mr. MANZ (Austria) congratulated the President on his election to office; his delegation had every confidence that, under his able leadership, the session would produce successful results. He thanked the Director General for his opening statement, summing up the present situation in the nuclear power industry and expressing in clear terms the principles underlying the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, together with an account of the arguments being put forward today by supporters and opponents of nuclear energy.

68. Austria would continue to give full support to the Agency. Nevertheless, it was with a certain apprehension that it had observed a growing tendency over the past few years to abandon the well-established practice of seeking a consensus of all Member States on matters of importance for the Agency.

69. In his delegation's opinion, a fair and equitable balance should be maintained between the two most important functions of the Agency, i.e. non-proliferation and technical assistance.

70. Austria had always given the strongest support to the Agency's safeguards activities and it had learned with satisfaction that the number of countries acceding to NPT had risen to 104 and that several new safeguards agreements had been concluded during 1977. Safeguards procedures applicable to nuclear facilities in Austria had been further improved during the past year. His delegation was pleased to note the continued efforts the Agency was making to develop and expand the international safeguards system and to assist Member States in establishing and strengthening national systems through training seminars or direct consultative contacts.

71. On the other hand, Austria had always firmly supported the work of the Agency in technical assistance and would continue to do so. He had been authorized to announce Austria's pledge - subject to parliamentary approval - to make a voluntary contribution to the General Fund for 1979 in the amount of US \$57 800. In addition, it would make available - again subject to parliamentary approval - the sum of 170 000 Austrian schillings for Type II fellowships.

72. Austria's first industrial nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf had been completed. An information campaign, initiated three years before by the Austrian Federal Government, had given ample opportunity for both supporters and opponents of nuclear power to make known their views. The material thus assembled had formed the background for the Government report on the matter that had been submitted to the Austrian Parliament. After thorough and lengthy discussions in a sub-committee established for the purpose, it had become apparent that a reconciliation of the widely divergent views held by the different parties represented in Parliament could not be achieved. The Government report had been approved and a law authorizing the starting of operations at the Zwentendorf nuclear power plant had been passed by the Austrian Parliament by majority vote of the Government party, without prejudice to existing laws and statutes. It was stipulated in one provision that the law could be put into effect only after the holding of a referendum on the issue. But even should the outcome of the referendum prove to be positive, all the problems connected with the fuel cycle would still have to be resolved, at least to a reasonable degree, prior to the start of operations at Zwentendorf. In Austria, as in many other countries, the problem of the back end of the fuel cycle had been one of the most important aspects coming up in the discussions, and Austria would strongly welcome any steps towards international co-operation designed to find practical solutions in that area.

73. It was therefore supporting the important work that was being done in connection with INFCE and wished to thank the United States of America for taking the initiative in proposing the evaluation in question. Austrian participants in the work were of the opinion that special consideration should be given to the needs of industrialized countries with nuclear activities on a relatively small scale, as they were in the same position of dependence as the developing countries, in relation at least to some parts of the fuel cycle.

74. As for physical protection of nuclear material, his delegation had noted with satisfaction the efforts being made by the Agency to establish guidelines and draw up recommendations designed to help Member States in developing national physical protection systems. It welcomed the initiative taken by the United States regarding the convening of a conference to prepare a draft international convention on physical protection of nuclear material.

75. With reference to the Agency's programme for 1979-84 and the budget for 1979, as set out in document GC(XXII)/600, he commended the Director General and the Secretariat on the efforts made in the matter of the budget; despite the necessary restrictions, the budget would, he thought, fully support the useful statutory activities undertaken by the Agency. The transfer of the Agency's Headquarters to the Donaupark was due to take place in August 1979, as foreseen, and the Austrian Government was convinced that all staff members would find the most favourable working conditions there. The Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Vienna would continue to give particular attention to infrastructure matters, especially as regards traffic and transport to and from the Donaupark complex.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

