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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi,
on Monday, 10 December 1979, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. SETHNA (India)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
- Report by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the following items: The Agency's accounts for 1978 The Agency's budget for 1979 The Agency's budget for 1980 Scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1980 Amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute	1 - 15
14 Appointment of the External Auditor	16 - 17
15 Elections to the Agency's Staff Pension Committee	18 - 19
16 Report on voluntary contributions pledged to the General Fund for 1980	20 - 21
- Closing of the session	22 - 32

*/ A provisional version of this document was issued on 29 January 1980.

**/ GC(XXIII)/620.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXIII)/INF/188/Rev.5.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Mr. COSTA ALONSO (Mexico), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, presented the Committee's report on items 8, 9, 10, 11 and 17 of the agenda, which had been referred to it by the General Conference for examination.
2. The Committee recommended the General Conference to adopt the following draft resolutions:
 - the draft resolution contained in Part I of document GC(XXIII)/611 (item 8 - the Agency's accounts for 1978);
 - the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/618 (item 17 - the Agency's budget for 1979), and
 - draft resolution A contained in Annex VII of document GC(XXIII)/612/Mod.1, and draft resolutions B and C contained in Annex VII of document GC(XXIII)/612 (item 9 - the Agency's budget for 1980).
3. The Agency's budget for 1980 (item 9) had been approved by the majority of delegations although some of them had stressed the need to rationalize the Agency's expenditure in order to offset the impact of world-wide inflation. Others had expressed their concern at the imbalance between the scant resources assigned to activities involving promotion and technical assistance and those allocated for Agency operating costs and expenditure on safeguards. Some delegations had advocated reclassifying the accounts in such a way as to permit the real cost of the safeguards item to be determined by including in it the part corresponding to operating and general service costs.
4. During the discussions some delegations had emphasized the need for revision of the staff recruitment procedures so as to bring them into line with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on establishing a balance between posts allotted to the nationals of the developing and developed countries.
5. In connection with item 9, the Committee had examined a draft resolution on including in the Agency's Regular Budget the funds for financing technical assistance. On that point the Committee had decided by acclamation to recommend the General Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/624.

6. The Committee also recommended the General Conference to approve the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/613, and the Annex to that resolution, contained in document GC(XXIII)/613/Mod.1 (item 10 of the Agenda - Scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1980).
7. As far as item 11 was concerned (Amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute), the Committee recommended the General Conference to approve the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/625. Some delegations had reserved the right to raise the matter of equitable representation on the Board of Governors when it next dealt with that point.
8. The PRESIDENT thanked the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and proposed that the draft resolutions and proposals relating to the items of the Agenda that had been referred to it should be considered by the General Conference with a view to their adoption.
9. It was so decided.
The Agency's accounts for 1978
10. The draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/611 was adopted.
The Agency's budget for 1979
11. The draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/618 was adopted.
The Agency's budget for 1980
12. The draft resolutions contained in documents GC(XXIII)/612, 612/Mod.1 and 624 were adopted.
Scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1980
13. The draft resolutions contained in documents GC(XXIII)/613 and 613/Mod.1 were adopted.
Amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute
14. The draft resolution contained in document GC(XXIII)/625 was adopted.
15. Mr. BARROSO FELTRER (Spain) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the adoption by the General Conference of the resolution on Article VI of the Statute (GC(XXIII)/625). His country fully understood the desire of certain Member States to serve on the Board of Governors more frequently, since Spain itself was not satisfied with the frequency of its participation in the work of the Board, as had been pointed out in his delegation's statement during the

general debate and in the Committee of the Whole. He would be interested to study any proposal for a change in the composition of the Board that could help to meet his country's wishes, as well as those of other Member States in the same position.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

16. The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr. Peschar, Auditor General of the Netherlands, should be reappointed to the post of External Auditor for 1980-1981.

17. The President's proposal was adopted.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

18. The PRESIDENT recalled that the General Conference was at present represented on the Staff Pension Committee by two members - Mr. Sastradidjaja (Indonesia) and Mr. Estrada Oyuela (Argentina), and by Mr. Modránszky (Hungary) and Mr. Scheller (Federal Republic of Germany), as the alternates. Since three of them were no longer able to serve on the Committee, he proposed that the General Conference should elect Mr. Scheller (Federal Republic of Germany) and Miss Castaño (Philippines) as members, and Mr. Rybka (Hungary) and Mr. Alvarez Vita (Peru) as alternates.

19. Mr. Scheller (Federal Republic of Germany) and Miss Castaño (Philippines) were elected as members of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee and Mr. Rybka (Hungary) and Mr. Alvarez Vita (Peru) as alternates.

REPORT ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR 1980 (GC(XXIII)/619/Rev.4)

20. The PRESIDENT stated that by 7 December 1979, 53 Member States had pledged voluntary contributions amounting to \$5 825 369, to which had to be added pledges of \$7350 by the United Arab Emirates, \$2100 by Zambia, and \$15 000 by Portugal, making a total \$5 849 819. Because of the dates fixed for the adoption of their national budgets, some Member States were not yet able to pledge their contributions, but would do so at a later stage.

21. He pointed out that the pledges so far amounted only to 55.7% of the target figure and were far below what had been achieved at previous sessions. He therefore appealed to Member States that had not yet done so to pledge their voluntary contributions at their earliest convenience, for which purpose they should get in touch with the Agency Secretariat in Vienna. Without the pledges it would be difficult for the Agency to plan its technical assistance programme and speed up its activities in that field.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

22. Mr. CASTRO MADERO (Argentina), on behalf of the countries of Latin America, commended the President for the skill and wisdom with which he had conducted the deliberations of the General Conference. India's achievements in the nuclear field were an example to everyone, and the hospitality of the Indian people had contributed to the success of the present session.

23. Mr. NGONGO KAMANDA (Zaire) wished to pay a tribute, on behalf of the countries of Africa, to the equanimity and understanding shown by the President and to convey the appreciation of the countries of his region to the Indian Government.

24. Mr. KIRK (United States of America), speaking for the countries of North America, thanked the President for the way in which he had conducted the deliberations of the twenty-third session and expressed his gratitude to the Indian Government.

25. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), acting as spokesman for the area of the Middle East region and South Asia, said that all credit for the results achieved during the present session was due to the President and that the hospitality of the Indian Government would never be forgotten.

26. Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary), speaking on behalf of the countries of Eastern Europe, expressed his appreciation for the wisdom and patience that the President had shown. He wished to convey his gratitude to the Indian Government and to commend it on the advances made in the nuclear field.

27. Mr. KHOR (Malaysia) said that the countries of South East Asia and the Pacific would always remember the present session with pleasure, and thanked the President for the skill with which he had conducted the discussions.

28. Mr. SIAZON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Far East, referred to the success of the twenty-third session, the credit for which was largely due to its President. All those attending it would be sorry to leave India, which had accorded them such a warm welcome.

29. Mr. CROMARTIE (United Kingdom), as spokesman for Western Europe, cordially thanked the President, who had been instrumental in making the work of the Conference a success, as well as the host country for extending such generous hospitality.

30. The PRESIDENT thanked all the delegates for their kind words and expressed his gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the Chairman of the General Committee, the Director General and the Secretariat, and to all participants for having helped to make the present session a success. Before closing the twenty-third session, he invited all those present to observe a minute's silence for prayer or meditation.

31. All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

32. The PRESIDENT declared the twenty-third session of the General Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 4.5 p.m.