



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXV)/650

2 July 1981

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

Twenty-fifth regular session

Item 14 of the provisional agenda
(GC(XXV)/640)

AMENDMENT OF RULE 86 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Explanatory memorandum submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic

1. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic feels that the time has come for the International Atomic Energy Agency to adopt Arabic as a working language. In doing so, the Agency will be following a pattern already set in other United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Labour Organisation, to name only a few.

2. The arguments for the use of Arabic as a working language are numerous and, perhaps, already well known. A brief listing of some of these arguments should suffice:

- No fewer than 14 Member States have Arabic as their official language. None of the official or working languages of the Agency can claim this many countries. Even Spanish comes second to Arabic in terms of membership;
- The Arabic-speaking Member States account for as many as 150 000 000 people. Arabic, in terms of the population associated with it, has a very strong claim to working-language status;
- The Arabic-speaking Member States cover a vast geographical area extending from the Atlantic to the Gulf and from the Taurus Mountains to the Horn of Africa;

- The use of Arabic as a working language can help the Agency to achieve its objectives of "accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace". By using Arabic, the Agency can contribute to the acceleration of the process of developing research on and the practical application of atomic energy for peaceful purposes throughout the Arab World. Through the use of Arabic, the Agency's aim of encouraging the exchange of scientific and technical information and the exchange and training of scientists and experts can be best served.
3. The text of a draft resolution for the General Conference is attached.

Draft resolution for the General Conference

AMENDMENT OF RULE 86 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE

The General Conference,

Having considered the request from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to include Arabic as an official and working language of the General Conference,^{1/}

Decides to amend Rule 86 of its Rules of Procedure as follows:

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official languages of the Conference. Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the working languages of the General Conference. Speeches made in any one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

^{1/} See document GC(XXV)/650.

