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President: Mr. RAMANNA (India)

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[**] GC(XXX)/789.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXX)/INF/238/Rev.4.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985 (GC(XXX)/775 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. ALER (Sweden), describing the present situation in Sweden in the nuclear field, said that 1985 had been marked by the commissioning of the last two units of the Swedish nuclear programme. Nuclear and hydro now accounted for about equal shares of electricity generation in Sweden. The units in service had a very high availability factor, and Swedish industry maintained excellent standards of quality and reliability in its work on development, manufacture and services. Sweden remained convinced that the direct disposal of irradiated fuel was the best solution both from the economic and from the safety points of view. The central facility at Oskarshamn for intermediate storage of spent fuel had now been in operation for more than a year. The construction of an underground installation for final storage of low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes at Forsmark was proceeding according to plan and the facility would go into operation in 1988. He wished to reiterate his Government's opposition to disposal of wastes into the sea, a position now shared by numerous States. Sweden had shown that it was perfectly feasible to find other solutions acceptable from both the technological and the economic points of view, and also in regard to safety and environmental protection.

2. On several occasions during the year, Sweden had had the opportunity to show in practice that it regarded the Agency as the principal organization for international co-operation in the nuclear energy field. When the Agency's programme was discussed, it was now normal to begin by first examining co-operation in nuclear safety. At the special session of the General Conference held the previous week, the Swedish Minister of the Environment and Energy had proposed a large number of items which, in his Government's opinion, should figure in the revised safety programme. Sweden was in favour of the budgetary appropriations recommended by the Board of Governors, but believed it essential that the numerous new suggestions which had been submitted should be thoroughly examined by the Secretariat with the assistance of outside experts, and discussed by all interested Governments. Agreement on priorities should be reached as soon as possible, not least in view of the heavy burdens already resting on national authorities. During the coming

years the Board might have to reconsider certain other technical programmes in order to release resources for the expanded nuclear safety programme. Sweden also believed that the Agency should re-evaluate those programmes in the light of the priorities at present obtaining in national programmes as a result of new developments on the energy market and the austerity measures applied in the majority of countries.

3. Regarding the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, he believed that the arrangement of indicative planning figures fixed several years in advance offered a sound basis for financing the programme. Sweden had already pledged its full voluntary contribution for 1987. It likewise endorsed the Agency's technical co-operation programme by paying substantial extrabudgetary contributions, which were largely devoted to the Trieste Centre and to assistance in food and agriculture. Sweden further considered that a project approach should gradually give place to a programme approach. That would make it easier to evaluate priority areas for co-operation between the Agency and Member States, and would open the way to closer collaboration with national institutions in the receiving countries. Sweden was likewise of the opinion that the effectiveness of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation could be enhanced by certain changes in administrative procedures and by an increased delegation of authority to the Director General.

4. Sweden attached great importance to the Agency's safeguards system as an instrument in the service of peace. The experience gained from inspections might also suggest solutions in other areas of disarmament and armaments control, as the Director General had pointed out in his opening statement. In the previous year, the Third NPT Review Conference had reached a consensus on the principle of universal application of Agency safeguards to all peaceful nuclear activities in all States. The Conference had urged all nuclear-weapon States to take action to eliminate the present situation of inequality between States as regards peaceful nuclear activities. In his Government's view, the Agency should step up its safeguards activities in nuclear-weapon States. Sweden was also concerned at problems of safeguards associated with the backend of the fuel cycle. A rational basis was required for identifying the necessary controls, and studies should be undertaken on the Agency's statutory

obligations in connection with international plutonium storage, and on the possible analogies between the problem of growing stocks of spent fuel and that of separated plutonium. The volume of the Agency's safeguards programme was constantly increasing, and Sweden therefore believed it necessary periodically to re-examine the goals and the criteria used in assessing the achievements of safeguards operations. The present methods did not appear to be adequate. Sweden was at the same time convinced that the funds devoted to safeguards should be increased in the years to come. In that connection it welcomed, as an interim solution, the proposal by the Board to prolong for three years more the present formula for financing safeguards. During that period it should be possible to find a permanent solution. Sweden had decided to join those countries participating in the special support programme for safeguards, and hoped that other Member States would increase their extrabudgetary contributions, particularly for the development of safeguards techniques.

5. The Swedish delegation noted that the discussion on a more equitable system of representation on the Board of Governors was continuing. His Government maintained that the present distribution of seats, whether elective or designated, did not reflect changes in membership in the various regions or the technical capabilities of several countries. Sweden remained convinced that a reasonable solution could be found only by reviewing Article VI as a whole. His delegation noted with regret that the commendable efforts made by the Chairman of the Board in her consultations had not been successful. It was high time to act, and Sweden had co-sponsored a proposal (document GC(XXX)/780) which might offer a more balanced solution.

6. Mr. UMAR (Nigeria) said that the developing countries, and Africa in particular - where 26 of the 36 least-developed countries of the world were situated - had great need of the Agency's assistance. It emerged from the annual report that the volume of technical assistance supplied to Africa had decreased compared with 1984. The Agency should endeavour to increase its technical assistance to Africa, not only in relative but also in absolute terms. Agency training courses and study tours, especially those organized under the Joint IAEA/FAO programmes, were of interest to Nigeria, which hoped to benefit from a larger number of such training activities. It was also

satisfactory to note the emphasis in the programme for Africa on agricultural production and stockbreeding. The project for biological control of tsetse fly using the sterile-insect technique (BICOT project) was progressing well, and constituted a very successful aspect of the Agency's technical co-operation programme for Nigeria.

7. Turning to the generation of nuclear electricity, he wished to make two remarks. The first was that nuclear power had come to stay. However, most developing countries would be unable to take advantage of that new source of power owing to the inadequate level of their technology. The majority of the Members of the Agency, particularly the African Members, fell into that category. The Agency should make a conscious and deliberate effort to ensure that the Agency membership of those countries should be not merely symbolic but genuinely meaningful. The second remark he wished to make was that the impressive nuclear record of 1985, emerging from the annual report, reflected the situation before Chernobyl. It was now more than ever necessary to bolster public confidence in nuclear power by constructing safer reactors in accordance with very strict standards. In addition, training facilities would have to be supplied to the developing countries in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

8. Although Nigeria was an oil-producing country, it was also interested in the use of nuclear energy for electricity generation and in its applications in well-known and important peripheral areas such as medicine and industry. The Nigerian delegation believed that oil and gas were resources too valuable to be wasted for electricity generation, when there were other viable options available for that purpose. Apart from the fact that oil and gas were finite and depletable, they had more useful and profitable applications in the petrochemical and agro-based industries, whose by-products formed a chain of raw materials for other industries. The continued use of oil and gas as a fuel for power generation was therefore not in the interests of the country's economy. For that reason Nigeria had begun to evaluate other options. Nuclear energy had commended itself as one of the best options for meeting future energy demand, which was at present growing at an annual rate of 13%. When the final decision was taken by the Government, Nigeria would certainly need the Agency's assistance.

9. At present, two Nigerian universities were being supported by the Government in the area of research and development on nuclear energy. The University of Ife had already acquired a tandem accelerator, which was to be installed at the beginning of the following year. Nigeria had already requested technical assistance from the Agency in order to enable its technicians to participate in the installation and commissioning of a similar accelerator at Zagreb, Yugoslavia during the present month. If granted, that assistance would help familiarize Nigerians with the technical problems involved in installing an accelerator, and the experience gained would stand them in good stead when they returned to Nigeria for conducting a similar exercise. Also, the Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria had a particle generator for research and training purposes. The Agency's assistance would be needed there also.

10. He now wished to turn to a very vexing issue, not only for his delegation but for all delegations which believed in the equality of man and in human dignity - the issue of the racist minority régime in South Africa and its nuclear capabilities. It was worth repeating that the nuclear capabilities of South Africa constituted a threat not only to the African continent but also to international peace and security. In resolution 40/64A, the General Assembly of the United Nations had again expressed its anxiety over the evil policies of the South African régime, not only by calling upon the Security Council to apply sanctions against the racist régime under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter but also by urging all organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations that had not already done so forthwith to exclude South Africa from membership. It was now time for the International Atomic Energy Agency, which had a central role to play in the atomic energy field, to decide whether South Africa should continue to enjoy the rights and privileges of membership of the Agency.

11. The racist régime had been deceiving the Agency for many years past. It had not respected the principles of the United Nations, on which the Agency's Statute was founded. For years it had treated the Agency's resolutions with contempt and disdain, and had approached all negotiations with the Agency in a spirit of unbridled arrogance. Recently, there had been a

breakdown in the negotiations between the Director General and the South African authorities due to the intransigence of the latter and the unacceptable conditions demanded of the Agency before conclusion of an agreement on the so-called semicommercial enrichment plant. The Director General's report[1] on the matter to the Board of Governors in September stated that South Africa had made proposals for amendments, "the most substantive [of which] raised issues fundamental to South Africa's basic undertaking under the Agreement and to the provisions of termination of the Agreement. They would have required the introduction of concepts which have not been used in any safeguards agreement concluded so far on the basis of document INFCIRC/66/Rev.2". There one had a régime which claimed to have sincere and honourable intentions as regards the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but which demanded from the Agency the freedom to withdraw safeguarded materials for unspecified purposes. South Africa obviously wanted to have all the advantages. It wanted the advantages and respectability of membership, but it was ready neither to behave like a responsible member of the international community nor to abide by the purposes and provisions of the Agency's Statute as did all other Members of the organization.

12. The racist régime was flaunting the conclusion of a safeguards agreement on a semicommercial enrichment plant before the eyes of the Agency merely in order to gain time, as usual. It had more diabolical intentions. In pretending to talk about a semicommercial enrichment plant, South Africa wanted to lull the Members of the Agency into a sense of false security, while covertly perfecting its bomb of mass destruction using its many unsafeguarded facilities. South Africa had made no secret of its ultimate purpose - to possess nuclear weapons for use in defence of its so-called "supreme national interests". Nobody knew what those interests were, but highly placed officials of the racist régime had said many times that they would defend apartheid by any means at their disposal. It could easily be imagined what a threat that posed to the African continent, in particular to the "front-line

[1] See document GC(XXX)/785, Annex 2, page 10, para. 78.

States". The nuclear threat from South Africa had consistently frustrated the decision by the OAU in 1964 to denuclearize Africa, a decision which had been reiterated each year in resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the latest one being resolution 40/89A.

13. The situation was rendered even more complex by the fact that South Africa had been emboldened in its recalcitrance and defiance by the support it enjoyed from a group of countries, many of them prominent Members of the Agency. Those countries engaged in double-talk. In one breath they spoke of their abhorrence of apartheid and in the next they defended the membership of a country that practised a policy akin to Nazism and which violated a basic principle of the United Nations Charter. They proclaimed the rights of man and human dignity, while at the same time supplying arms, equipment and sensitive technologies to the racist régime, thus making possible the continuation of apartheid. Everyone knew who was continually providing South Africa with a range of strategic items for nuclear weapons, while deluding themselves by using phrases such as "dual-purpose". The fuel for the reactors of one of the South African facilities would be provided until 1992 by a major world power, and the supply of pressurized-water reactors was undertaken by a consortium of three important Member States of the Agency. That was why the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolutions 40/415 and 40/57, drew attention to the continuing assistance rendered to the South African racist régime in the military and nuclear fields by certain Western and other countries. That continued collaboration had encouraged South Africa consistently to disregard the Agency's resolutions. South Africa had not complied with resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/442 by the Agency's General Conference, it had refused to submit all its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards, and neither had it halted its illegal mining, utilization, exploitation and sale of Namibian uranium.

14. For the Nigerian delegation, the decision which the General Conference should take in the matter was quite clear. South Africa should be suspended forthwith from the exercise of its rights and privileges as a Member. It had conducted itself in a manner incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, upon which the Statute of the Agency was based. Furthermore, it had repeatedly disregarded the Agency's resolutions. Consequently, the Nigerian

delegation was convinced that South Africa should be suspended from membership until it complied with the various General Conference resolutions and conducted itself in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Agency's Statute.

15. Before concluding, he wished to say a few words on another issue of importance to his delegation - the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute. The representation of the areas of Africa and of Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors was inequitable in the light of the number of countries from those regions which were Members of the Agency. The total African membership of the Agency was 27, but only 5 seats were allocated to that continent on the Board, and out of those 5 seats only one was designated. In contrast, Western Europe, which had a total membership of 23, nevertheless held 8 seats on the Board. That arrangement was blatantly unfair. For nine years the Nigerian delegation had been attempting to redress that imbalance, but all its efforts had been frustrated. As long ago as 1977 Nigeria had proposed three additional seats for Africa and two for Middle East and South Asia. That had not been acceptable to a certain group. Nigeria had therefore proposed that two additional seats should go to Africa, one to Asia and one to Latin America. That proposal had likewise not met with general acceptance. It was high time for the General Conference to find a solution for that problem pursuant to resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/454. The Nigerian delegation was aware of the proposal put forward by a number of countries to improve the situation by reviewing Article VI as a whole. His delegation would study the proposal closely in an appropriate forum, and he would for the moment merely observe that, for his delegation, it was the amendment of Article VI.A.2 which had priority.

16. Mr. DHARMAWARDENA (Sri Lanka) said that he endorsed the President's contention that matters which did not contribute to science and technology should not take up the time of delegates to the General Conference. The Agency's functions should retain their specialized and scientific character, and extraneous issues liable to spread dissension should be avoided. However, legitimate political concerns connected with the use of nuclear energy by Member States should be meaningfully and rationally dealt with in the present forum.

17. The present year had seen the need to perform an essential function connected with nuclear safety which would not have been possible if the Agency had not existed. The Sri Lankan delegation wished to express its sympathy to those who had suffered as a consequence of the unfortunate accident at Chernobyl. It trusted that there would never be another similar accident. Nevertheless, the Agency together with the international community should seek ways and means of preventing any spread of harmful radiation, whatever its origin, including the wilful destruction of nuclear facilities. The essential need for the Agency had been proved by the role which it had played after the accident in question. His delegation greatly admired the work accomplished by the Director General, the Secretariat and experts from several countries in preparing the two conventions which had been approved the previous week, with a view to strengthening international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiological protection. The Sri Lankan Government hoped to become party to those conventions after the necessary legal procedures had been completed in Colombo.

18. There was no doubt that nuclear energy would remain an important source of power for many Member States of the Agency, particularly those which were inadequately endowed with other energy resources. The only locally available source in Sri Lanka was hydro power. Soon, the demand for electricity would exceed the total hydro capacity of the country, which would thereafter depend on imported oil, coal or uranium.

19. The uses of nuclear energy in Sri Lanka were at present limited to the applications of radioisotopes and radiations in agriculture, medicine, industry and hydrology. In the area of radiation technology, Sri Lanka was now producing rubber made by pre-vulcanization of latex, which would subsequently make it possible to transform the manufacture of some rubber articles from a factory industry into a cottage industry. Rubber products made by that method were safer, as no chemicals were added. During the past year Sri Lanka had held a national seminar for executive management and a national course on non-destructive testing with the assistance of Agency experts. In the following month Sri Lanka would be hosting a regional workshop on tissue banking.

20. Regional co-operation in nuclear energy was a very important Agency activity in his part of the world. The Regional Co-operative Agreement (RCA) in the area of Asia and the Pacific was going to be extended during the present year for the third time, and Sri Lanka would sign in due course the renewal of the Agreement which in the following year would have been in existence for 15 years. The RCA working group had decided to hold its next meeting in Sri Lanka in 1987. His Government was planning to host that anniversary meeting in March 1987 in such a manner as to celebrate the success of the RCA project during the preceding 15 years. The second phase of the UNDP-IAEA industrial project under the RCA would receive the strongest support from the Sri Lankan Government.

21. As in the past, Sri Lanka would pay its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

22. Mr. CUEVAS GANCINO (Mexico) said that his Government welcomed the positive results obtained during the special session of the General Conference, which had manifested a strong overall will to reinforce international co-operation. The Mexican Government was convinced that the decisions to be taken - together with the Agency's future programme on nuclear safety and radiological protection - would take due account of the interests and the particular requirements of the developing countries. He wished to restate his belief that the expansion of Agency activities in that sphere should not involve a reduction in other specific projects designed to meet what were regarded as priority needs by the countries of the Group of 77.

23. The justified concern of governments and of world public opinion regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection was intimately linked with the Agency's essential purposes. That was how the matter had been understood by the Heads of State or of government of various countries - Argentina, Greece, India, Sweden and Mexico - and the Prime Minister of Tanzania who had met a short time before at Ixtapa in Mexico, where they had proclaimed the right of mankind to peace and reaffirmed their intention to protect that right in order to make possible the survival of the human race. They had likewise stressed how fragile was safety based only on a complex technology, and how vividly the recent accident had shown up the terrible consequences which the

use of even a small part of the nuclear arsenals existing in the world would have. The Mexican delegation proclaimed its belief that the protection of the planet was incumbent upon all nations and that it was unacceptable that a few countries alone should decide the fate of the entire world. It similarly reiterated its appeal for the immediate suspension of nuclear tests as a preliminary measure to a treaty on the general prohibition of such tests, that measure being in its turn a first step towards general and complete disarmament. The Mexican delegation was dwelling on those peaceful themes because it considered that the special objectives and responsibilities of the Agency should remain closely linked with those matters of world concern.

24. As the Director General had pointed out in his statement, one such immediate task concerned the efforts to reach an international agreement on the prohibition of attacks on nuclear installations. It had been stated by some that that matter was one for the Committee on Disarmament, but the Mexican delegation believed that, thanks to its technical aspects, the matter fell within the Agency's terms of reference. It wished to point out how different would be the attitude of Member States if, in connection with the construction of a nuclear power station, they had to take into consideration its defensive capacity. It was essential that in that field mankind should be free to develop without being obliged to think of the sword of Damocles which hung over so many of its other activities. In nuclear energy, direct responsibility rested with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was called upon to play an important role in identifying the démarches necessary to protect safeguarded nuclear installations against armed attacks. The Mexican delegation was favourable to the idea of the Agency drafting a convention on the subject, as had been proposed by the Group of 77.

25. Similarly, the Mexican Government hoped for the success of the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) which was to take place in 1987, and trusted that that conference would yield acceptable results, taking due account of the role of nuclear energy in the economic and social development of States, particularly the developing countries.

26. Reviewing the principal items on the agenda of the General Conference, he said that his delegation was not satisfied that the portion of the budget allocated to the safeguards programme was every year greater than the resources earmarked for technical co-operation and assistance. It wished to stress the need to find a way of financing technical co-operation from the Agency's Regular Budget, rather than through voluntary contributions. While recognizing that on a provisional basis the procedure of indicative planning figures represented an acceptable compromise solution, his delegation considered that the tendency which had emerged during the preceding years was genuinely alarming. The situation was characterized by the following features: policy of budgetary zero growth, constant reduction in the rate of growth in funds available for multilateral technical co-operation, including UNDP resources, use of extrabudgetary funds for financing certain footnote-a/ projects, and assessment of the importance of those projects in a bilateral context, instead of an objective evaluation based on a multilateral approach to international co-operation. In order to counter that negative tendency, the Mexican delegation urged that the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund should be integrated into the Agency's Regular Budget.

27. He then indicated his wish to turn to a problem which, for more than a quarter of a century past, had been a subject of concern to the developing countries without their having been able to satisfy their justified aspirations. The problem was how to make up for the delay in introducing the nuclear option to meet the growing demand for electric power. As nuclear techniques were perfected, investment expenditure increased substantially. Furthermore, the majority of developing countries did not possess electric power grids sufficiently large to accommodate nuclear power units of the size supplied at present. In addition, various obstacles associated with the severe economic crisis which weighed particularly heavily on the developing countries had rendered access to other sources of energy more difficult and more costly. To the initial expenditure on equipment there had to be added the rapid development of a technology which rendered equipment obsolete almost as soon as it had been purchased, and the fact that installations were expensive and complex. Countries such as Mexico were faced with the dilemma of continuing an obsolete project so as not to lose their substantial earlier

earlier investments or of starting again from scratch without taking account of those investments, in so doing ignoring the fact that the danger due to the rate of change in technology remained the same.

28. Nuclear electric power was in a position to meet increasing energy needs on less expensive, more stable and safer conditions. That was why Mexico was particularly interested in small and medium power reactors, on grounds of their specific features, their total cost, their efficiency and the fact that their design and fabrication were well planned. Such reactors would be well suited to the special requirements of the developing countries. In that connection the Director General had referred to the establishment of a group of experts to advise the Agency on the procedures necessary to assist developing countries in promoting and financing their nuclear power programmes. His delegation also considered that some limitations could be removed, at least in part, if the countries concerned had available medium power reactors, of a simpler design, and endowed with greater inherent safety and greater reliability. The fundamental problem remaining to be solved was how the developing countries were to acquire that type of reactor.

29. In view of the meagre results obtained during the preceding 27 years, one solution might be to establish an international undertaking, formally and operationally associated with the Agency. Designed as an independent body, it would have available technical and financial resources adequate to conduct a long-term programme on the design and construction of small and medium power reactors. It would be desirable that, as a preliminary step, the Secretariat should conduct a feasibility study on such matters as the following: structure and formal links of the new body with the Agency, sources of financing, for example assessed contributions of States, special contributions of countries which might be potential purchasers, voluntary contributions and loans or other forms of international financing, and production policies guaranteeing that the project would be profitable, would meet the requirements of the developing countries and would adequately protect the interests of other producers. In putting forward that proposal his delegation was not attempting to meet an urgent requirement of the Mexican Government, since Mexico's immediate nuclear electric power programme had adopted a different approach and was on the point of entering the production

phase. The Mexican delegation was rather trying to help solve a problem, namely access to nuclear power in order to meet the energy requirements of the developing countries, a problem which had remained unsolved since the 1960s.

30. Mr. HOSSAIN (Bangladesh) said that at the special session held the preceding week the question which had engaged the attention of the majority of delegations was not whether the peaceful use of nuclear energy should continue but whether all countries were capable of contemplating measures, developing systems and making determined efforts to ensure that such peaceful use was also risk-free. The success of the special session had proved that the international community was unhesitatingly taking a very constructive stand in that regard. The Bangladesh delegation was in favour of entrusting to the Agency an ever-more important role in co-ordinating and strengthening all international efforts in the domain of safety. In that task the Agency would enjoy Bangladesh's full support. The fact must be stressed that responsibility for nuclear safety, by the very nature of things, lay primarily with national authorities, but effective nuclear safety regimes also called for meaningful and sustained international co-operation. In that context Bangladesh would be prepared to support any proposal to establish regional environmental monitoring, reporting and rescue centres under the auspices of the Agency. Such centres would make it possible to take quick and appropriate action in times of nuclear emergency. Furthermore, it might be appropriate to consider launching co-ordinated research and development programmes to prepare effective methods for reducing exposure to radiations and for treatment of irradiated persons, and on methods for arresting the passage into the soil of radioisotopes, particularly long-lived fission products. Bangladesh would be extremely happy to use its modest nuclear research facilities for such work.

31. Concern for nuclear safety was at present in the forefront of people's minds, but the problem of a balanced growth in nuclear power generation in Member States was regarded as equally important by his Government. The trends noted in the annual report showed the undiminished importance of nuclear energy as one of the principal sources of power at present. In that connection, the Bangladesh delegation appreciated the Agency's efforts to help strengthen, in various ways, nuclear power planning in developing Member countries.

32. The progress of the Agency's technical co-operation activities likewise appeared positive and encouraging to his delegation, which wished to take the opportunity to inform the General Conference of certain very important developments in the Bangladesh National Nuclear Research Programme. On 14 September 1986 the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction had been effected in Bangladesh in the TRIGA 3 MW research reactor operated by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Research Establishment. The total cost of the reactor and of its facilities had been borne by the Bangladesh Government. The contract was not of the turnkey type, which had made it possible to maximize local participation, an important factor in the transfer of technology in Bangladesh. The reactor had been supplied and installed by the United States General Electric Company, but the design and construction of the reactor building together with various related services had been entirely performed by Bangladesh scientists and engineers. The assistance supplied by the Agency in training had been extremely valuable, and his delegation was grateful for it. The reactor in question, which possessed great inherent safety, would generate neutrons and gamma rays, which had a broad field of use in isotope production and applied research. In addition, it would contribute to establishing a scientific and technological base vital to preparing Bangladesh for its nuclear power programme.

33. In fact, given the acute shortage of primary energy resources in Bangladesh, it would certainly be necessary to incorporate into the national power grid a nuclear power plant of an appropriate size in order to meet the country's rapidly growing energy needs. Unfortunately, the efforts to implement the first nuclear power project in Bangladesh had not thus far been successful owing to a number of unfavourable factors, including the question of finance. The recent initiatives taken by the Agency to examine the feasibility of the planning and installation of small and medium power reactors in developing countries might constitute a pragmatic approach to that highly complex problem. His delegation therefore fully endorsed those initiatives. It was happy to note that during the first phase of the study new and valuable insights had been obtained. However, the matter should not rest there, and a second phase of study on the subject should be undertaken in 1986 with particular emphasis on country-specific research aimed at

providing more accurate information on the constraints and economics of introducing small and medium power reactors in developing countries. The Bangladesh delegation was of the opinion that, if the implementation of suitably-sized projects in developing countries was being hampered by lack of adequate financial resources alone and not by doubts regarding the overall economic viability of such projects, the Agency should widen the scope of its action and address the problem urgently, if necessary with the co-operation of potential investors, prospective donors and international agencies such as the World Bank.

34. As in previous years, the present session of the General Conference afforded an opportunity for examining the progress achieved by various programmes under the Asian Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA). Bangladesh actively supported those programmes and had benefited from them in various ways. His delegation thanked the Agency and UNDP for the assistance provided to Member States in the region. It trusted that that assistance would be continued, and that the scope of projects would be widened in conformity with the requirements of the receiving countries. In that connection he recalled that at a meeting held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) Bangladesh had proposed the establishment, in one of the RCA countries, of a Regional Centre for Research, Development and Application of Nuclear Science and Technology, to enable researchers to effect a fruitful exchange of ideas within a proper institutional framework. Bangladesh had also submitted, in the same spirit, a project on an Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia (INSTA). However, no action had been taken on that proposal, and the Bangladesh delegation was looking for action by the Agency on the subject.

35. The General Conference met every year in order objectively to analyse whether the Agency had discharged its prime responsibility of effectively contributing to the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In a few months' time, the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) would convene at Geneva in order to discuss, in a broader context, whether the international community as a

whole had been successful in that task. Bangladesh had supported the idea of holding that conference, and trusted that it would once again highlight the need for equitable sharing of the fruits of progress in peaceful nuclear applications between developed and developing countries, in a framework of international co-operation without any type of discrimination.

36. Mr. TETENYI (Hungary) remarked that the recent months had shown how important the Agency was for all its Member States. It had also been confirmed that the Agency was capable of meeting their expectations when circumstances called for a rapid shift of emphasis and pace of work without, however, forgetting its routine functions. The Hungarian delegation believed that the Agency's three main functional domains would remain, as before, the promotion of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, safety and safeguards. The Agency was coping very well with all those tasks, and Hungary therefore recommended approval of the annual report for 1985. It also unreservedly supported the Agency's programme and budget for 1987. Finally, in order to underscore its support for the technical assistance programme, his Government wished to announce a voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund equivalent to \$76 611 in national currency, which was 6% above the amount corresponding to Hungary's share of the target figure for contributions to the Fund.

37. Hungary was committed to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. For more than 30 years past it had been applying various nuclear techniques, which had always proved useful and in many cases irreplaceable. The third Hungarian nuclear power reactor had been connected to the power grid a few days previously. Another unit should go into operation the following year, and in the coming ten years Hungary intended to commission two further units of 1000 MW each. As to safety, it devoted exceptional attention to equipment, which comprised multi-layer safety hardware, to the recruitment of highly qualified personnel, and to "danger awareness" on the part of operators and all plant personnel. Hungary highly appreciated the Agency's safety activities, which had been useful to it in various ways.

38. In return, Hungary was making an active contribution to the Agency's programmes. It organized or received on the average three or four study groups each year. It also offered fellowships to trainees from numerous countries all over the world, ranging from Latin America to South East Asia. That spirit of co-operation prevailed not only in government departments and research institutions but also among facility operators. Thus, it had recently been possible to test at the Hungarian nuclear power plant Paks an Austrian surveillance system developed for Agency safeguards use.

39. The Hungarian Government had repeatedly indicated that it strongly supported NPT and the Agency's safeguards system. During the current year it had issued new regulations governing nuclear exports, intended to ensure that nuclear materials, equipment or know-how from Hungary would not be misused for military purposes contravening the aims of NPT. It was indeed extremely important to prevent scientific and technical progress from serving the ends of war and destruction. It was clear that the denunciation and complete abandonment of nuclear weapons constituted a major task which would require much time, but for that very reason the Hungarian Government specifically welcomed every step in that direction, such as the Soviet moratorium on nuclear weapons tests which had already been extended several times. The arguments advanced against a world-wide formal moratorium by the other side might be intended to soothe people's nerves - but in reality they created unprecedented anxiety.

40. The Hungarian delegation believed that the General Conference should do everything in its power to influence events in the direction of genuine peaceful solutions. Fortunately, there were signs that that could be done. In the preceding November, a Soviet-United States meeting held at Geneva had led to a common statement concerning the desirability of international co-operation on the development of nuclear fusion for peaceful purposes. In June 1986, two initiatives which fell within the competence of the Agency had originated in the Hungarian capital. By one of them, the leaders of the States members of the Warsaw Pact voiced the opinion that the role of international organizations such as the Agency and the United Nations with its specialized agencies should be strengthened for the purpose of establishing an

international nuclear energy safety development system. At another meeting in Budapest, the General Secretary of the USSR Communist Party Mr. Gorbachev, had publicly stated that it would be useful to organize, within the framework of the Agency, international co-operation with the aim of developing a new, intrinsically safe design of economically viable reactor.

41. The events of the recent months were a salutary reminder of the joint responsibilities of States regarding the future of the planet Earth. It was possible to contribute to its preservation by using nuclear power to replace other energy sources which in the long run were much more harmful to the environment -- but only by doing everything to ensure that nuclear energy remained safe and to prevent and suppress any possibility of its military application.

42. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba) said that the Agency's General Conference could not remain indifferent to the seriousness of the international situation. It constituted a suitable forum in which to stress how important it was to maintain peace and prevent the dangers of a nuclear confrontation which would be fatal for all countries of the world. Since the beginning of the century mankind had suffered two world wars, thanks to the philosophy of pillage and partition of the planet which were the aim of certain forces. The Cuban President had spoken on that matter at the eighth summit of the movement of non-aligned countries which had been held at Harare. According to him it was that philosophy which was at the root of the enormous accumulation of nuclear arsenals and of imperialist military bases throughout the world. It was also the reason for the wild desire to deliver weapons even into extra-terrestrial space, so that one day man would be unable to look at the stars without his vision being darkened by the thought of a murderous, ubiquitously lurking arsenal, to such an extent that no country on earth could feel itself in safety. Faced with the awesome choice between war or peace, death or life, eminent statesmen in a number of countries had launched an appeal to sanity, for the cessation of the armaments race, particularly the nuclear arms race and its extension to extra-terrestrial space. In that connection he wished to stress the proposals for nuclear disarmament and general disarmament by the year 2000 put forward by the Soviet

Union, and also the constructive posture adopted by that country regarding suspension of nuclear tests, since the unilateral moratorium declared on 6 June 1985 and extended until 1 January 1987. Those were attitudes and gestures which wise and peace-loving men were glad to approve, in the hope that mankind would not have to face a third and final world conflagration.

43. But the issues confronting the present world were not confined to war and peace. Countries which were essentially exporters of raw materials were now obliged to pay much more for manufactured goods which they purchased from the advanced countries, and they found themselves face to face with one of the most serious economic crises which the world had ever known. The foreign debt of those countries, which they had been unable to service for several years past, had in 1985 reached the incredible figure of \$950 thousand million. The fall in the price of basic commodities had obliged certain countries to pay, in 1985, 25% more than in 1980 for the same volume of imports. Those figures were explained by the resources necessary to finance a colossal armaments race, star wars, the gigantic budgetary and trade balance deficits and the other ills which rendered unbearable the life of the least developed peoples of the modern world. That was why peace, disarmament, the elimination of the foreign debt and the new international economic order were indissolubly linked.

44. The present international situation and the economic crisis had a direct bearing on the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy was one of the most important and safest sources of power available to mankind for the future, in spite of the unfortunate accident which had occurred at Chernobyl. The body of measures to establish an international regime governing nuclear safety should guarantee the truth of that statement. For many countries of the Third World, nuclear energy represented practically the only option for the development of electricity generation in the absence of other sources of energy on their territories. However, it was disquieting to note that in 1985 the nuclear option represented only 2.4% of the electrical energy generated in the countries of the Third World, and that hopes of increasing that percentage were slender because the economic crisis made it impossible for those countries to develop their nuclear programmes on a regular basis. The available statistical data

showed that the growth of nuclear power in the Third World would remain confined, between the present time and the end of the century, to the dozen or so countries which had already crossed the threshold. It was impossible to ignore the full starkness of those facts when conducting analyses and discussions in the General Conference.

45. Cuba enthusiastically supported the increase in the resources available to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF), which should make it possible to meet the growing requests of the developing countries for assistance in implementing their nuclear programmes, and also welcomed the fact that the resources of the Fund would increase by 12% per year for the three coming years. However, for that decision to be put into effect and for it to guarantee a real increase in the resources of the Fund, it was essential for Member States to undertake to pay their share of the voluntary contributions promptly and in full. It was intolerable that in 1985 some countries, particularly industrialized countries, had not kept their promise to pay their voluntary contributions to the TACF.

46. The Agency's budget for 1987 showed a real increase of more than 2%, which represented a departure from the policy of budgetary zero growth. The Cuban delegation naturally welcomed the increase, for it had always been opposed to that policy. Despite the financial burden which it implied, it also supported the revised expanded nuclear safety and radiation protection programme.

47. The matter of changing the present arrangements for financing safeguards was before the General Conference. In that connection the position of his delegation was that any new arrangements to be applied in the future should, like the present formula, ensure preferential treatment for the developing countries.

48. Another item which had been under discussion for many years was the modification of the composition of the Board of Governors. A group of countries had submitted in that connection a new proposal for review of Article VI of the Statute as a Whole. The well-known position of his

delegation was that it was prepared to examine any objective and soundly based proposal which took account of the interests of all the geographical regions concerned and which did not appreciably reduce the present representation of the area of Latin America.

49. Along with other States Members of the Agency, Cuba had taken part in the preparations for the United Nations Conference for Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), which was to be held the following year. The success of that important conference would be partly linked with that of the Committee on Assurances of Supply (CAS), where agreement on the principles of international co-operation had encountered difficulties for five years past. The Cuban delegation considered that the necessary effort should be made to arrive at a consensus on that matter.

50. At its present session the General Conference was to consider the implementation of resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/442 on South Africa's nuclear capabilities. That country was defying the world by its obstinate refusal to conform to the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations or of the General Conference of the Agency, by maintaining and consolidating the apartheid régime and its occupation of Namibia and by organizing bands of mercenaries for the purpose of destabilizing neighbouring States and launching surprise attacks against them. It was quite possible that the racist apartheid régime had access to nuclear weapons, with the covert support of certain Western countries, and that it thus possessed a means of political blackmail which was fraught with danger. It was regrettable that the negotiations which the Secretariat had opened with the South African Government on a draft safeguards agreement relating to the semicommercial enrichment plant had failed, the South African Government having put forward proposals described by the Secretariat as unacceptable. For those reasons the Cuban delegation condemned the policy pursued by South Africa, believed that that policy was at variance with resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/442, and considered that the spirit and the letter of that resolution should be most energetically reaffirmed.

51. The General Conference had before it another equally critical matter, under the item of the agenda entitled "The Israeli nuclear threat". Since the policy and attitude of the Israeli Government towards its neighbours were well known, the Cuban delegation expected that the General Conference would give all the necessary attention to the matter and adopt effective measures to force Israel to change its attitude.

52. Cuba was continuing to implement, at an increasingly rapid pace, its programme to harness nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The construction of the first Cuban nuclear power station was proceeding according to plan, and the most careful attention was being accorded to safety, whether regarding design, construction, assembly, the future operation of the station, or the strict and well-planned training of the staff who would be directly responsible for that operation. The Cuban delegation could thus reaffirm what it had had occasion to state at the special session of the General Conference, namely that none of Cuba's neighbours need feel concern or anxiety as to the safety of Cuban reactors. Conscious of its duty towards the Cuban population and the international community, Cuba was respecting and would respect, in a responsible manner, the established regulations and would work to perfect the international nuclear safety regime. The fact that it had promptly signed the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency was tangible proof thereof.

53. The preparations for establishment of a nuclear research centre which would constitute, together with the first nuclear power station, the cornerstone of nuclear power development in Cuba, were continuing. At the same time progress was being made in the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and industry. During the present year there would be inaugurated the Food Irradiation Centre, the first of its kind in Latin America and established with the Agency's technical assistance. That would initially be a semi-industrial centre, where economic studies would be undertaken whose results would subsequently be used in the application of the food irradiation technique on an industrial scale. The organization of radiological protection and monitoring services was continuing, and hundreds

of scientists, engineers, and technicians continued to be trained in order to meet the requirements of the Cuban nuclear programme. Cuba owed much in that field to the valuable collaboration of the Soviet Union and other States members of CMEA, which were its principal partners in economic, scientific and technical co-operation, and also to the governments of friendly countries in the Third World, to the Agency and to other United Nations bodies. The implementation of the Cuban nuclear programme showed what a people could do when a more just social system, effective international collaboration and political and economic independence all combined to guarantee a better future.

54. On the eve of the Agency's thirtieth anniversary, it was appropriate to stress the importance of the role which it played. The Agency symbolized the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the only uses which should exist in a world free from colonial ambition, hegemony and tension. The work performed by the Agency on behalf of peace and the development of nuclear energy was fertile with results. Numerous peoples in the Third World had benefited from it. Every effort must be made to ensure that the present session of the General Conference saw the triumph of reason, peace, and the concept that nuclear energy would always be a factor promoting the welfare and the development of all the peoples of the world.

55. Mr. SUCRE FIGARELLA (Venezuela) said that the thirtieth regular session of the General Conference was taking place at a time of particular importance for the future work of the Agency, whose credibility had been put to the test during recent months. It was satisfactory that the Agency had been able to rise to the occasion, thus proving its effectiveness and seriousness of purpose. There was no doubt that international co-operation had emerged in strengthened guise. It would, however, be mistaken to associate all the Agency's objectives with the exceptional circumstances which it had had to face. However important and valuable the lessons learnt had been, it was necessary that at its present session the General Conference should deal with the routine functions of the Agency. The Venezuelan delegation noted with interest that the Agency had continued more than ever to discharge its functions by striving to enhance the positive contribution of the atom. Although it was true that the risk of a nuclear cataclysm remained

very real, in view of the antagonism between the super powers, it was not less true that the peaceful use of nuclear energy had become a symbol of the action which should be taken to improve the life of mankind. It was readily apparent from the annual report for 1985 that the policy of "putting one's money" on the atom had paid off. In Venezuela people had spoken of the need to "put one's money" on oil, to convert that valuable raw material into a tool for creating a diversified and modern society, and for making an effective civilizing force out of human stock-in-trade. That was also true of the atom, that other great force. Such was the sincere belief of Venezuela, a belief which had induced it to support the way in which the Agency operated in the service of peace and co-operation.

56. There were aspects of the Agency's activity which were not entirely new, but which on the contrary kept all their topicality and called for decisions on which the Venezuelan delegation wished to state its position. The first question was that of financing technical co-operation. His delegation believed that the controversy whether technical co-operation should be charged to the Regular Budget or financed by extrabudgetary resources could easily be settled if one agreed on certain principles. The first principle concerned the importance of technical co-operation as such. No delegation was opposed to the technical assistance programme. All were in agreement on the aims, there only remained the question of means, i.e. financial resources. Those resources could not be obtained by magic, by luck, or by generosity. Reliance could be placed only on the actual contributions of each Member State, paid promptly and regularly, and fixed in an appropriate manner. Furthermore, in order to meet programming requirements, those resources had to be predictable and assured; there was no short-term programming, and long-term forecasts, covering several fiscal periods, were inevitable. Those were, he believed, the considerations motivating the General Conference when it had adopted, in 1981, resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, requesting the Board of Governors to arrange for an increase in the resources devoted to technical assistance, and to take the measures necessary to ensure that technical assistance was financed from the Regular Budget or from other comparable, predictable and assured sources. It had then been a matter of deciding by how much those resources should be increased, and on the basis of what criteria.

The matter had been settled in 1985, when an agreement had been reached on indicative planning figures for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989, involving an annual increase of 12%. The Agency could, therefore, when planning its technical assistance and co-operation activities, rely for three years on assured and predictable resources. That being so, it was of scant importance whether those resources came under the Regular Budget or not. In any case, there was no point in evolving financing procedures if Member States were not prepared to pay their contributions regularly. On those regular contributions there depended the very operation of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF).

57. In that context the Venezuelan delegation wished to express its concern at the fact that during the past year Latin America had benefited less, in percentage terms, from the programmes financed by the TACF. According to the annual report, the resources of the Fund had increased by \$38.1 million in 1985, in other words 3.5% in comparison with the previous year, whereas the share of Latin America had fallen from 24.7% in 1984 to 22.6% in 1985. Similarly, his delegation was alarmed at the decrease in the number of fellows in 1985 by comparison with the preceding years.

58. Still in the realm of technical co-operation, the Venezuelan delegation wished to stress the importance which it attached to regional activities. In agreement with other States members of the Andean Pact, Venezuela had been an originator of one of the most successful programmes in that area, the ARCAL programme (Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America), in which other Latin American countries also participated. Venezuela, supporting the effort to promote the Agency's objectives, had hosted and would continue to host numerous regional seminars and courses on such subjects as nuclear instrumentation, instrumentation and control for research reactors, the treatment of persons exposed to radiation or the use of radioisotopes in animal breeding. In a general way, agriculture was a priority sector for the Venezuelan Government, and an institute of nuclear agriculture was under construction, which should make it possible to improve breeding techniques, product quality, seed varieties, land fertilization and melioration and so on.

59. Regarding the control of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, he said that it was clear that the Agency's safeguards system occupied a dominant place in the policy of nuclear safety. All countries, whether large or small, were becoming ever more aware of its importance. There was no such thing as a safe world without control of the atom. It was encouraging that almost all nuclear-weapon States had agreed to accept a degree of control of their peaceful nuclear facilities. But there was still a long way to go, and the most recent events had shown that no one could be certain of his own nuclear potential. Thus far it had been possible to avoid the proliferation of nuclear weapons, or at least their horizontal proliferation. However, the outlook was not very promising. The Third NPT Review Conference, held in 1985, had not yielded substantial results. Undoubtedly the international political climate was not very favourable. One could only hope that the great Powers would revert to the spirit of the 1960s, which had led to the signature of the Partial Test-Ban Treaty, the first step on the long road to the total prohibition of tests and the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons. It was desirable that that first step should be followed by many others, 15 years later. Latin America, on its side, had not delayed before signing, quite a long time previously, the Tlatelolco Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in the region.

60. Turning to the political aspect of financing the safeguards system, he said that there was no basic obstacle to agreement, but that no solution had yet been found for the deadlock which had arisen by reason of the unfavourable international economic situation. The importance of the safeguards system was recognized by all, but for the time being it was extremely difficult for the developing countries to shoulder fresh financial burdens for financing the system. Venezuela had honoured its international engagements. It had always punctually paid its contributions to United Nations bodies, and it had in addition financed numerous programmes of emergency assistance to a total value of several hundred million dollars - and that in spite of the impact of the oil crisis which had been reflected in a reduction in per capita income, a reduction in gross domestic product and a reduction in real income. Venezuela had paid its 1986 contributions to the Agency and other similar organizations. But, in view of the financial difficulties, it was impossible

for it to accept new fiscal commitments, particularly an increase in its share of financing the safeguards system. That was why, considering that the share of each country should be directly proportional to its technical development and to the use which it made of safeguards, Venezuela had submitted a draft resolution with the support of the Group of 77 and of the Latin American Group. His delegation had no wish to make a discordant issue of the matter. It was necessary to find a solution, but he believed that the time was not yet ripe, and that the criteria which had led to the proposed increase in assessment should be re-examined. The best approach, with the aim of achieving a consensus, would therefore be to defer for some time the adoption of a final resolution, and in the meantime to authorize the President to take whatever action he considered necessary.

61. Mr. KABBAJ (Morocco) said that nuclear energy was the most recent of the great sources of energy, and that it would continue to play a major role in spite of the fears to which its various uses might give rise, the risks of nuclear accidents and the danger of its use for non-peaceful purposes. The Agency's annual report indicated that the number of power reactors at present in service in the world had increased, that nuclear power was now contributing about 15% of world electricity generation and that in certain industrialized countries that percentage would even exceed 50%. It was to be expected that that increase would be accompanied by an expansion of international co-operation, and in particular by a reinforcement of the central role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency, in connection with the establishment of a world non-proliferation regime. It was also necessary to enhance co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to assist developing Member States, the majority of which were poor in conventional energy sources such as oil and coal, to adapt themselves to the changes which had occurred.

62. Regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection, recent events had shown that the general approach to those matters should be revised. The first special session of the General Conference had revealed a capacity for quick reaction on the part of Member States, which had been able to adopt by consensus various measures intended to improve nuclear safety and radiation

protection. The Moroccan delegation warmly welcomed the substantial results which had been obtained, and trusted that the General Conference, and also the Agency's other principal organs, would ensure the necessary follow-up and implementation of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the special session. Morocco was convinced that the Agency would discharge the tasks entrusted to it with success.

63. His delegation noted with satisfaction the developments which had occurred or which were planned regarding expansion of the area of application of safeguards, particularly in the nuclear-weapon States. The decision of the Soviet Union to submit some of its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards, the wish expressed by the Chinese delegate at the preceding session of the General Conference, and the safeguards agreement concluded with Albania would contribute to reinforcing and rendering more universal the safeguards regime, and thereby the very principle of non-proliferation. In that context, however, the Moroccan delegation deeply deplored that the régimes in Israel and South Africa still refused to submit to the safeguards regime and to place their nuclear installations under Agency control.

64. The present year had witnessed important activities regarding the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Morocco. The first phase of the preliminary studies for construction of the first Moroccan nuclear power station had led to the selection of two sites, one of which would shortly be chosen for erection of the power station in question. Similarly, Morocco had established a national centre for energy and nuclear science and technology, which would make an essential contribution to the optimum development of nuclear applications in Morocco, and would be equipped with a research reactor for that purpose. In addition, the Moroccan authorities had launched an important national radiation protection programme intended to strengthen existing facilities in that field and to develop safety and radiation protection activities in accordance with the guidelines contained in Agency documentation and with the principles adopted by the International Commission on Radiological Protection. Conscious of the important role of regulations in nuclear affairs, Morocco had acceded to the various international agreements adopted under the Agency's auspices and had undertaken, with the assistance of specialist services from the Secretariat,

the drafting of the basic texts for a national regulatory system governing all nuclear activities in Morocco. In that connection his delegation wished, on behalf of his Government, to say how much it appreciated the fruitful co-operation between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Moroccan authorities concerned. It expressed to the Agency its gratitude for the valuable aid which the latter had accorded the Kingdom of Morocco in the development of its nuclear programmes, particularly in the form of fellowships and of experts to assist the Moroccan national authorities.

65. In a general way, he wished to stress the importance of the training activities conducted by the Agency and covering all the subjects connected with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Moroccan delegation was in favour of the idea of organizing, with the assistance of the authorities in the host countries, courses in developing countries, believing that that would be a way of enhancing the effectiveness and soundness of training. Morocco had already hosted a number of courses of that type, and in the following year would host a regional course on energy planning in the developing countries.

66. His delegation welcomed the formation of a team of experts to examine the possibilities of promoting and financing nuclear electricity generation programmes in the developing countries. It trusted that that team, which had begun to analyse the existing difficulties and constraints and to propose solutions, would continue its work and would achieve the objectives laid down in its terms of reference.

67. However, while recognizing the extent of the work done, the Moroccan delegation considered that the volume of technical assistance still fell short of the requirements of the developing countries. The present system of financing assistance, in spite of the effectiveness of the indicative planning figures arrangement, still did not meet the requirements of General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388 because it continued to be based on the principle of voluntary contributions, which was contrary to the philosophy of that resolution.

68. Although it had joined the general consensus on the Agency's budget for 1987, the Moroccan delegation regretted that the budget remained subject to the rule of zero real growth, in spite of the special nature of the Agency's

activities, of the new situation which had arisen since the Chernobyl accident and of the clear improvement in the economic situation of contributing countries.

69. He greeted the Agency's efforts to increase the percentage of Secretariat officials recruited from developing countries, in accordance with General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, which had been unanimously adopted, but thought that that percentage was still much too low. He noted that some developing countries, including Morocco, had so far not been able to obtain posts in the Agency Secretariat, although Morocco had sponsored numerous candidates with that aim in view, and in the hope of being able to contribute, along with other States, to implementation of the Agency's programmes. The Moroccan Government therefore requested that due attention be devoted to the matter and that efforts to secure better implementation of the resolution in question should be redoubled.

70. Mr. POZO (Ecuador) said that his country believed ever more firmly in the Agency's role of supervising nuclear science and technology. That was a historical challenge, and a challenge that must be taken up. The statements made at the present session of the General Conference should not be allowed to fall into oblivion. Much had been said on the international consequences and the effects on international public opinion of the Chernobyl tragedy, which constituted a most serious warning and which should make it possible to avoid other nuclear catastrophies and their transboundary effects in the future. All Member States were under an obligation to strengthen the multilateral aspects of nuclear safety and resolutely to support the Agency's objectives. The time had come for the latter to redouble its efforts to prevent the uncontrolled and irresponsible utilization of nuclear facilities. In order to re-establish confidence in nuclear power, there must be universal adherence to the strictest standards of safety and to the principle of mutual assistance.

71. Ecuador believed that nuclear safety was an obligation which was required just as much of countries possessing nuclear installations as of those which had no such facilities, and that consequently all States should make joint efforts to achieve ongoing mastery of safety procedures. That

presupposed the acceptance of nuclear safety and radiation protection standards based on a continuous exchange of information at international level, and the putting forth of a financial effort by all States. It followed that nuclear safety and radiation protection programmes should be priority matters both for the Agency and for the national authorities of Member States.

72. Two conventions, on early notification of an accident and on assistance to countries where an accident had occurred, had been adopted at the special session. In that connection, Ecuadorian experts were in favour of establishing a network of detection facilities throughout the world and of systematically measuring the levels of natural radiation and radioactivity present at each point of the globe. The data thus obtained should be promptly interpreted and disseminated throughout the world. But that isolated action would not, in his delegation's view, be sufficient. Preventive measures were more important. The two conventions adopted were essential and enjoyed the support of the Ecuadorian delegation, but those documents dealt with only one part of the problem in that they concerned the consequences of accidents. His delegation therefore drew the attention of States Members of the Agency to the priority matter of preparing conventions of a preventive character.

73. The technical assistance programme was one of the cornerstones of the Agency, for it was of direct benefit to the countries which had greatest need thereof and favoured their development. The Agency should do everything it could to continue to furnish that kind of assistance, and the funds allocated to technical assistance should be included in the Agency's Regular Budget. In general, the Ecuadorian delegation welcomed the progress made in Latin America during the past year thanks to work undertaken in the framework of the Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America (ARCAL). Ecuador supported that programme and was placing the facilities of the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission at the disposal of projects undertaken thereunder.

74. Ecuador believed that the Agency should continue its efforts to become a centre of world inspiration in the field of nuclear science and technology, guiding Member States in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and advising them on the unparalleled possibilities which it offered as a source

of power. At the same time, Ecuador invited the Director General to ensure that the Agency remained in the vanguard of the development of safety mechanisms and programmes which would buttress the confidence of world public opinion in nuclear electric power. Everything should be done to ensure that in the years to come the Agency would implement programmes vital to the maintenance of peace in the world, with the effective support of Member States.

75. Mr. FERREIRA (Portugal), reviewing the main areas of Agency activity - technical assistance and co-operation, safeguards and the safe and secure development of nuclear energy - said that his delegation regarded the Agency's role in technical assistance and co-operation as positive and important. On the subject of safeguards, Portugal, which was committed to a policy of nuclear non-proliferation and was a signatory of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, welcomed the efforts made by the Agency to promote the universal character of the Treaty. He was happy to read in the annual report that in 1985, as in previous years, "the Secretariat, in carrying out the safeguards obligations of the Agency, did not detect any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material". On the subject of the development of nuclear power, he said that the Agency's role in safety matters had been highlighted by the work it had done after the Chernobyl accident, work which included the drafting of the two conventions adopted at the special session of the General Conference - the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency - which numerous States, including Portugal, had already signed.

76. Conscious like all other countries of that disquieting aspect of nuclear energy, Portugal believed that the two conventions were extremely valuable, while at the same time considering that they in fact only represented the first stage of a process of improvement regarding certain matters, which the Portuguese delegate had already had occasion to mention during the special session, particularly the strengthening of international co-operation between neighbouring States.

77. Turning to Portugal's nuclear activities, he said that there was no noteworthy event to report since the preceding session of the General Conference. His delegation nevertheless wished to mention that Portugal was continuing its activities in prospecting for and mining uranium, the annual production of which amounted to about 130 tonnes of uranium concentrate and which it was intended to increase. Among the research and development activities carried out in Portugal, reference should be made to those in the fields of medicine, agriculture, radiation protection and safety, radioecological studies on the environment, including marine radioecology, and the use of the research reactor for production of radioisotopes and the application of nuclear techniques. In all those spheres Portugal was extremely grateful for the co-operation, now of many years standing, with the Agency.

78. Mr. ABBADI (Sudan) wished, on behalf of his delegation, to congratulate Zimbabwe on becoming a Member of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

79. He hoped that the thirtieth regular session of the Agency's General Conference would be crowned with the same success as that which had rewarded the special session. The climate of constructive criticism which had imbued the work of the special session, together with the interest which it had aroused in the world, showed that in the matter of nuclear safety the destinies of countries were closely linked. The results of the special session represented an important step forward, which Sudan hoped would be followed by other action to reinforce nuclear safety to the maximum. It supported the expanded nuclear safety programme, trusting that that programme would be subsequently subjected to thorough examination and perhaps submitted to government experts for their opinion.

80. Nuclear safety should not be envisaged in isolation, and account should be taken of its regional implications. In that connection the Sudanese delegation wished to express its grave concern at the message contained in document GC(XXX)/785. The report submitted to the General Conference described the negative results of the consultations which the Director General of the Agency had had with South Africa on the subject of the submission of

the latter's nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards, in accordance with a resolution passed by the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Conference. There was nothing surprising in that negative result when one thought of the nature of the South African racist régime. It showed that Pretoria had nothing but contempt for the resolutions of the Agency's General Conference. The present session should adopt the measures necessary to ensure that all Member States fully complied with the resolutions in question.

81. The threat which weighed upon nuclear safety in the region where Sudan was situated originated not only from South Africa but also from the Middle East. He believed that that was a problem which should receive close attention. It was essential that States should accept the safeguards regime, and should specifically commit themselves not to launch armed attacks against nuclear installations in countries of the region, as had happened in the past.

82. The South African and Israeli régimes, which co-operated closely in nuclear matters, constituted a grave threat to the Middle East and Africa. The danger was all the greater in the light of the declared policy of those countries, which were, as was well known, not parties to NPT. The Sudanese delegation therefore believed that the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, in application of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, would make a substantial contribution to safety and security in the region where Sudan was situated.

83. On the whole, Sudan endorsed the Agency's programme and budget for 1987. In that connection his delegation had associated itself with the general consensus which had emerged in the Board of Governors. However, while fully appreciating the conditions which had prevailed during the preparation of the budget, his delegation found it difficult to accept retention of the principle of zero budgetary growth. That reservation applied in particular to the Agency's promotional activities and to priority programmes in favour of the developing countries.

84. While fully understanding that recent events had induced the Agency's Secretariat to place emphasis on the extremely important area of nuclear safety, the Sudanese delegation was concerned by the fact that the budget

accorded too much prominence to that sector, at the expense of other equally important Agency activities. It believed that the programmes on nuclear applications and the use of radioisotopes in agriculture, stockbreeding, medicine and research, together with training activities to strengthen existing infrastructures, were a vital necessity for the development of the Sudan and the satisfaction of its enormous requirements in terms of food and health. He trusted that the budgetary estimates for 1988 would be subjected to thorough discussion, and that account would then duly be taken of the remarks made by the Sudanese and other delegations on that subject.

85. Regarding the financing of technical assistance, he welcomed the consensus achieved in the Board of Governors concerning an annual increase of 12% in the resources of the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF). The Sudan hoped that the pledged contributions would be paid promptly and would thus permit the actual achievement of the objectives set. At the same time it continued to hope that the financing of the TACF would be based on regular sources of income in addition to voluntary contributions, or alternatively on voluntary contributions whose predictable and assured character had been guaranteed.

86. The Sudanese delegation noted with interest the Director General's statement on co-operation between developing countries, and particularly south-south co-operation between Asia and Latin America. It hoped that the African countries would not be forgotten in that connection. The activities of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, which were a positive example of north-south co-operation, proved that the strengthening of international solidarity was possible when circumstances were favourable.

87. He proposed to conclude his remarks on technical co-operation by taking up a matter with which various United Nations bodies had been dealing and to which his delegation and those of numerous other African countries accorded particular importance, namely measures to combat drought and the encroachment of the desert in Africa. The ideal solution for that problem would be recourse to modern techniques for prospecting and tapping of underground water reserves in Africa. He therefore urged all the parties concerned, the international organizations and friendly countries to work on preparing a

complete programme of prospecting for water resources, accompanied by practical scientific methods capable of radically solving that grave problem with which Africa was faced. The Sudanese delegation hoped that the Agency would take action in that sphere. In that connection it greeted the assistance accorded to Sudan by the Agency, particularly with regard to implementation of a project to study the specific nature of underground waters in certain regions of the Sudan.

88. He wished to make a brief remark on the matter of the representation of the areas "Africa" and "Middle East and South Asia" on the Board of Governors. That unsolved problem, which had regularly appeared on the agenda of the General Conference for the past eight years and had been the subject of lengthy discussions and exchanges of views, was nevertheless quite simple. It was just a matter of granting those two areas a representation on the Board of Governors appropriate to their growing interest in the Agency's work.

89. In conclusion, the Sudanese delegation wished to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency for its efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and for the technical assistance it had accorded to the developing countries in the transfer of nuclear technology. His delegation reiterated its support for the Agency's activities in the fields of nuclear safety and safeguards, activities which bore witness to the Agency's effective role in promoting the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.