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# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna,  
on Monday, 21 September 1987, at 10.30 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. SRINIVASAN (India)

President: Mr. COLOMBO (Italy)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the thirty-first regular session of the General Conference open.

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

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said the Conference's thirty-first session was of special significance, since it marked the Agency's thirtieth anniversary. He extended a special welcome to the Federal President of Austria, who would be addressing the opening meeting, to Mr. Bertrand Goldschmidt, and to three past Presidents of the General Conference, namely Mr. Keblusek (Czechoslovakia), Mr. Barreda Delgado (Peru) and Mr. Manouan (Côte d'Ivoire).

4. The General Conference was meeting for the first time in the Austria Center, a fine symbol of Austria's planning skills and sophisticated technology.

5. In the three decades of its existence, the Agency had succeeded in establishing itself as the main international clearing-house for the exchange of information on nuclear science. However, much still remained to be done if it was to achieve its statutory objective, namely to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. In its thirty-first year, the Agency should not only reflect on its achievements, but should also find ways of more effectively meeting the needs of developing countries. Those countries were looking forward to the many social and economic benefits to be derived from nuclear energy in such areas as the protection of crops, the combating of disease, improved use of water for farming, increased industrial efficiency, and the provision of low-cost electrical power.

6. The events at Three Mile Island, and particularly the accident at Chernobyl the previous year, had given rise to considerable concern in the

developing world as to the safety, and therefore the future, of nuclear energy. The Director General and his staff were to be congratulated for the prompt and effective way in which they had acted to allay that concern. The lessons learned from those accidents had led to the enhancement of international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiological protection, and nuclear power was now regaining widespread recognition as a safe and economic source of energy.

#### ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

7. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.

8. Mr. ZANGGER (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of the Western Europe regional group, proposed Mr. Colombo, delegate of Italy, as President of the General Conference at its thirty-first regular session. He had occupied positions of high responsibility both in the academic world, as Professor of Industrial Chemistry at Genoa University, and in the public domain, as Chairman of Italy's Nuclear Energy Commission. He had served on a variety of international committees concerned with scientific and technological subjects within the framework of the European Economic Community, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the United Nations, and was the author of over 150 scientific publications as well as editor or co-editor of a number of works on science and energy policy. Those qualifications rendered him eminently suited to the post.

9. Mr. HERRINGTON (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the North America regional group, seconded the nomination of Mr. Colombo.

10. Mr. COSTANZO (Uruguay), on behalf of the Latin America regional group, Mr. KOLYCHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), on behalf of the Eastern Europe regional group, Mr. CHERIF (Algeria), on behalf of the Africa regional group, Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), on behalf of the Middle East and South Asia regional group, Mr. KONGSIRI (Thailand), on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific regional group, and Mr. LAVIÑA (Philippines) on behalf of the Far East regional group, supported the nomination.

11. Mr. Colombo (Italy) was elected President of the General Conference for its thirty-first regular session by acclamation.

12. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT congratulated Mr. Colombo on his election.

Mr. Colombo (Italy) took the Chair.

13. The PRESIDENT expressed his sincere appreciation of the honour conferred upon him by his unanimous election as President. The role entrusted to him was both important and sensitive and it was his earnest hope that with the goodwill and co-operation of delegates he would be able to fulfil his responsibilities with fairness and resolution.

14. On behalf of the General Conference, he thanked Mr. Ramanna for his valuable work as President of the thirtieth session of the Conference.

15. The thirty-first session of the General Conference represented an important milestone in the history of international co-operation in the nuclear field. The thirtieth anniversary of the Agency - which had come into being with the entry into force of its Statute on 29 July 1957 - coincided with the first session of the General Conference in the impressive new complex at the Austria Center. He wished to express the deep gratitude of the Conference for the hospitality extended over the years by the Government of Austria.

16. Among the many changes in the nuclear scene witnessed over the past thirty years, including the take-off and growth of nuclear power, an outstanding feature had been the strengthening of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the enhanced role played by the Agency in that respect. The increased use of the Agency as an instrument of international co-operation had borne fruit, as had been evident in the past year, and Member States should strive to build on that foundation by actively seeking out areas of common agreement rather than concentrating on matters which obviously divided them. It was his profound belief that co-operation must spring, not just from appreciation of the virtues of solidarity, but also from an awareness that economic systems were now so closely interdependent

that it would be impossible to avoid recession unless every effort was made to defeat shortsighted selfish attitudes and protectionism through whole-hearted co-operation.

17. In order to protect the Agency's role as a driving force and an instrument for international co-operation, Member States must diligently pursue the search for consensus, guided by the community of purpose which was the keynote of the United Nations Charter and the Agency's own Statute. Differences existed and must be respected where no violation of fundamental principles was involved; while the sovereignty of States was sacred and was the foundation of multilateral co-operation, the objectives of such co-operation were equally important and must always be borne in mind. Any weakening of that co-operative spirit could only lead to grave harm to the common interest of Member States. In that context, it was useful to remember that the Agency was a technical organization with a well-defined mandate and that seeking to resolve issues which were clearly political and beyond the scope of the Agency's competence would only weaken it and diminish its capacity to serve its Members in the areas in which it could help most effectively.

18. The importance of the Agency's technical role had come to the fore in the wake of the Three Mile Island accident and, even more so, the Chernobyl accident, when the Agency had taken important new steps in the field of nuclear safety in close co-operation with Member States and with other international organizations. He had in mind in particular the rapid conclusion of two international conventions on safety and many other initiatives aimed at preventing accidents, strengthening technical controls on the safe use of nuclear energy and developing systems designed to limit any potentially harmful effects.

19. He wished to express his great appreciation of the excellent work carried out during the past year by the Agency under the expert and dynamic leadership of its Director General, especially in promoting international co-operation in such fields as nuclear safety, radiation protection and technical assistance to developing countries.

20. Nuclear energy, by its very nature, demanded a high degree of international co-operation, and while safety issues were primarily the responsibility of sovereign States, effective international co-operation was essential in order to optimize the performance of the tasks entrusted to national authorities. It was necessary now to increase the momentum and move towards the goal of strengthening public confidence in nuclear power. Effective co-operation in nuclear safety would help to restore the climate of trust necessary for further promoting nuclear energy, which had an important role to play in the future global energy supply. To that end, the continuing process of revising safety codes and guidelines would, it was hoped, lead to commonly accepted safety standards which would result in readier acceptance by the public of the benefits of nuclear power.

21. There were already widespread signs of environmental degradation caused by the ever-increasing use of fossil fuels: the creeping impact of such pollution, though not immediately evident, could produce serious consequences, including undesirable climatic changes that would affect present and future generations. Nuclear fission, if properly managed, was a clean and cheap energy source and should therefore be fully exploited for a long time to come. The greatest possible attention to every aspect of safety, at all stages of the fuel cycle, the rigorous training of operators -- in short, the worldwide diffusion of a real safety culture -- would ensure a significant share for nuclear fission in the energy mix well into the next century.

22. Looking into the more distant future, nuclear fusion offered an energy option of great potential interest. There was still a long way to go before its scientific and technological feasibility could be demonstrated, and international co-operation was therefore all the more important since it would enable efforts to be pooled and risks to be shared. The recent international initiative for new co-operation in the field of nuclear fusion under the auspices of the Agency, now embracing both East and West, was thus a matter of great satisfaction.

23. Another important task deserving further expansion, was the one that the Agency performed in the area of non-power uses of nuclear energy. That

was of great importance for the improvement of the quality of life, especially in the developing world, and involved applications in medicine, agriculture and industry.

24. Prospects for international co-operation had also been considered by the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) which, while it had not been able to resolve differences in politics and principles, had succeeded in comprehensively reviewing the wide range of opportunities for nations to work together for development.

25. If international co-operation was to succeed, it must take place in a climate of mutual trust. Governments and public opinion in many countries attached great importance to the assurance that the promotion of nuclear power did not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The corner-stone of the non-proliferation regime remained the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), complemented by the treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga. Substantial progress had been achieved in the past year, with a significant number of new accessions to NPT and the extension of Agency safeguards to more nuclear installations and material. Universal coverage of the safeguards system must remain the Agency's primary objective.

26. To enable the Agency to fulfil its task in as broad a frame of reference as possible, the participation of a greater number of countries in its decision-making processes should be secured, due consideration being given to geographical representation and to the role and standing of Member States.

27. Lastly, it was to be hoped that, in dealing with the many difficult problems on its agenda, the General Conference would be inspired by a spirit of co-operation and goodwill aimed at achieving a consensus, so that the final results would be acceptable to all. It was his fervent wish that during the present session delegates would prove that they could work constructively and in harmony for the common good, and that the thirty-first General Conference would mark a real step forward for the Agency.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

28. The PRESIDENT said he understood that informal consultations were still in progress on the appointment of the General Committee. However, some area groups had already put forward nominations. On the basis of those nominations, he proposed that the delegates of the following Member States be elected as Vice-Presidents of the General Conference: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Federal Republic of Germany, Nigeria, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

29. He proposed, in conformity with Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, Mr. Guyer of Argentina as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and, pursuant to Rule 40, that the delegates of the following Member States be elected as additional members of the General Committee: Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Hungary, Tunisia and the United States of America.

30. The General Conference accepted the President's proposals.

31. The PRESIDENT suggested that further consideration of the matter be suspended until informal consultations had been completed.

32. It was so agreed.

PROCEDURAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

33. The PRESIDENT said that document GC(XXXI)/INF/252, entitled "Statement of financial contributions to the Agency as at 21 September 1987", contained a list of those Member States to which Article XIX.A of the Statute applied on 21 September 1987. Article XIX.A stated that any Member in arrears in the payment of contributions should have no vote if the amount of the arrears equalled or exceeded the amount of contributions due for the preceding two years, but that the General Conference could permit such a Member to vote if it was satisfied that failure to pay was due to conditions beyond the control of the Member. He drew attention in that connection to document GC(XXXI)/INF/253, a communication from the Government of Nicaragua requesting that Article XIX.A not be applied to Nicaragua during the current session of the General Conference.

34. He suggested that, in accordance with Rule 42(b) of the Rules of Procedure, the matter be referred to the General Committee for consideration.

35. It was so agreed.

36. He further suggested that, as in previous years, pending the report of the General Committee on the agenda, the Conference take up items 2, 3, 5 and 6. Those were formal items or items specified in the Statute.

37. It was so agreed.

#### OPENING STATEMENTS

38. The PRESIDENT said that, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Agency, he had pleasure in extending a welcome, on behalf of the Agency, to many distinguished guests from Austria, the host country, and elsewhere, including a number of persons who had been closely associated with the Agency's activities for many years and were honouring the General Conference with their presence.

39. He welcomed the Federal President of Austria, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, whose presence served to underline the cordial relations that had existed between the Republic of Austria and the Agency over many years, and had great pleasure in inviting Dr. Waldheim to address the Conference.

40. Dr. WALDHEIM (Federal President of Austria) said that it was an honour and a pleasure for him to address the General Conference. Almost exactly 30 years before, on 1 October 1957, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which had come into being in July of that year, had opened its first session and one of his predecessors, the late Federal President Dr. Adolf Schärf, had welcomed scientists and diplomats from 55 countries to the opening meeting in Vienna's Konzerthaus. Today, representatives from almost all Member States were welcomed for the first time to the Austria Center in Vienna. He had great pleasure in extending to them the most cordial greetings and congratulations, both personally and on behalf of the Republic of Austria.

41. Over the past three decades, the Agency had made a significant contribution to international co-operation, peace, security and the

strengthening of an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between States. Thus, on the happy occasion of its thirtieth anniversary, the Agency was entitled not only to congratulations but also to gratitude from the international community for fulfilling a unique task and bearing a great responsibility.

42. Only two years after regaining its full sovereignty in 1955, Austria had been particularly pleased at the choice of its capital, Vienna, as the site of the Agency's Headquarters, a decision seen as one of the first steps towards international acknowledgement of Austria's new position as an independent and neutral meeting place in the heart of Europe. Since then, Austria had revived its historical role as a place of encounter, drawing on experience gained through fruitful co-operation with the Agency. The fact that Austria's policy in that respect had received wide recognition and that Austria was now host to many international organizations and conferences could to a large extent be attributed to the early establishment of the Agency's Headquarters in Vienna.

43. As a Member State of the Agency, Austria had the highest respect for what had been achieved through that organization's dedicated work. The Agency had effectively pursued its two statutory objectives of promoting the use of nuclear energy and ensuring that such use did not serve any military purpose. Over the years the Agency had earned international respect and trust for carrying out that twofold task with exceptional competence, particularly during recent events when increased public attention had been directed to the safety of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Those developments had ultimately led to a significant strengthening of the Agency's safety programme and the formulation of two new international conventions, and had confirmed the Agency as the international forum for information, analysis and joint action in the nuclear field.

44. Today, almost 400 nuclear power plants produced 16% of the world's electricity, so that safety-related measures and the development and supervision of an effective safeguards system were legitimately among the Agency's main activities.

45. From personal experience, he remembered vividly the new dimensions that had been added to the Agency's safeguards responsibilities by the NPT in 1970. As chairman of a committee drawing up recommendations for the application of safeguards under the new regime of the Treaty, he had had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Agency's manifold activities and to work with its highly motivated and skilled staff.

46. While the development of the safeguards system had undoubtedly been one of the most important elements of the Agency's work, its valuable output in other fields should not be underestimated. He had in mind particularly the nuclear safety standards programme, the international exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and experience - of which the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) was an important example - the valuable research done in the fields of agriculture and life sciences supported by the Seibersdorf and Monaco Laboratories and the work of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste.

47. The past thirty years had undoubtedly produced a growing number of tasks for the Agency, tasks which had been accomplished to the satisfaction of Member States. The Agency's activities demonstrated convincingly how an international organization could contribute effectively to the promotion of peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, thus becoming a model for international co-operation.

48. The Agency was now facing new challenges. The present era required a concept of the peaceful use of nuclear energy that took changing perceptions into account. Looking back on thirty years of fruitful work, there was every reason to believe that those challenges would be met with the same enthusiasm and professionalism as in the past.

49. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, he offered the warmest congratulations on an anniversary of which the Agency could be proud. His country would continue to give the Agency its full support.

50. The PRESIDENT thanked Dr. Waldheim for his address and for his welcome words of continued support for the Agency.

51. Ms. ANSTEE (Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations) said she wished to convey a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

52. The Secretary-General had great pleasure in extending congratulations to the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary and wished it every success for the thirty-first session of its General Conference.

53. The experience of recent years had shown with great clarity the importance of the responsibilities entrusted to the Agency and the effectiveness with which it was carrying them out. The Agency's safeguards system had stood the test of time, affording a basis for international confidence that would not otherwise have existed. That was indicative of the potential of multilateral organizations for providing verification services for future arms limitation agreements. At the same time, the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programmes had been extremely helpful in meeting the needs of developing countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was clear that the economic disparities existing in the modern world affected not only the well-being of the peoples of the poorest countries but might also have negative repercussions on global economic co-operation, commerce and development. It was therefore in the interests of the international community for the Agency to continue to expand those programmes to meet the growing needs of developing countries in various areas of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

54. Another vital function of the Agency had been the development of safety standards for nuclear installations and nuclear waste management. Chernobyl had shown - if further evidence had indeed been required - that where the release of radioactive substances into the environment was concerned, the world was a single entity. The spirit of co-operation that had animated so many governments following the accident had been a strong reminder of the value and the necessity, in an interdependent world, of international co-operation in nuclear matters. The efforts of the Agency which had led to the adoption of conventions on nuclear safety constituted a significant contribution to global well-being and afforded reassurance on the continued use of the atom as a source of energy.

55. The myriad peaceful uses of nuclear energy had brought impressive benefits in fields such as health, agricultural production and scientific research as well as energy. The United Nations Conference on the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE) held earlier in the year in Geneva had provided an opportunity for extensive consideration of the subject and its report should constitute a useful contribution to the development of the future agenda of the Agency.

56. While he was convinced that nuclear science could continue to contribute to better conditions of life, those benefits would never be fully secure as long as nuclear weapons existed. The progress achieved in ensuring the safety of the peaceful use of nuclear technology must be matched by progress in reducing the danger inherent in its military application. In that connection, the announcement of the agreement in principle between the Soviet Union and the United States to eliminate their intermediate-range and shorter-range nuclear missiles and to pursue negotiations on a complete test ban and the reduction of their strategic nuclear weapons was to be welcomed as a development of major importance. With that agreement, including the provisions foreseen for verification, it should be easier to make progress on other disarmament negotiations. In order to take full advantage of such a positive development to move towards the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons altogether, it was of critical importance to avoid both the vertical and horizontal proliferation of such weapons.

57. In his annual report to the General Assembly of the United Nations, he had had occasion to comment on the improving climate of international affairs. Notwithstanding the political and ideological divisions between States and the stresses and strains of international events, he detected an increasing, commonly accepted interest in meeting successfully certain vital global challenges. Aware of the dangers of immobility, countries of disparate political orientations and economic systems had begun to tackle the problems of an interdependent world with a new pragmatism.

58. The Agency was at the forefront of such efforts and had been for over thirty years. He commended the Agency for its contribution to multilateral

co-operation. There could be no doubt that the safety and well-being of the global population would need the effective services of the Agency in ever-increasing measure.

59. Mr. CEIRANO (Holy See) said he wished to convey a message from His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who extended his greetings and good wishes to the Agency as it began the thirty-first session of its General Conference. He prayed that the present session would further international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, while ensuring the protection of the environment precisely at a time when steps were being taken to eliminate from the use of the atom the possibility of destruction which for so many years had dominated the development of atomic science.

60. Upon all participants His Holiness invoked God's blessing of wisdom and peace.

61. Mr. PANDEV (Bulgaria), conveying a message from the Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of State, Mr. Todor Zhivkov, congratulating the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary, said that in thirty years the Agency had developed into an organization whose competence regarding co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, expansion of nuclear power and application of the atom in science, industry and agriculture could not be questioned. It was an outstanding example of an efficient international body in which the knowledge and experience of countries with differing political systems and levels of development were actively exchanged.

62. Bulgaria attached great importance to the Agency's activities and was actively co-operating in its efforts to attain the noble goals set out in its Statute. Atomic energy for peaceful purposes, which was increasingly being exploited by all of mankind, must be more widely used for the advancement of all peoples and mobilized for the creation of a world in which all could live in peace. Bulgaria valued highly the role played by the Agency in monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons: in the nuclear age, that work was of profound importance for the preservation of mankind from a nuclear disaster. There was no doubt that the Agency would continue successfully to promote the use of atomic energy in the interests of peace and world progress.

63. Mr. JIANG (China) said that he had pleasure in conveying a message of congratulation from Mr. Zhao Ziyang, Premier of the State Council of China, to the General Conference on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Agency.

64. Over the past thirty years the Agency had played a positive and effective role in promoting and ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in fostering international co-operation in that field. He sincerely hoped that such a role could be further enhanced.

65. Since becoming a Member of the Agency, China had enjoyed satisfactory co-operation with it. The Chinese Government wished to strengthen further its co-operation with the Agency and the other Member States as well its participation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the world.

66. Mr. CASTRO DIAZ-BALART (Cuba), reading out a message from Mr. Fidel Castro Ruz, the President of the the Cuban Council of State, said that for the past thirty years, the Agency had promoted the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and contributed to the dissemination of experience in that field, thereby benefiting the economies of many countries. During that period, the use of nuclear energy had expanded rapidly: 400 reactors were now in existence, producing 15% of the world's electricity. For many developing countries, particularly those which had no other renewable or secure energy sources, nuclear energy was the sole means of meeting energy requirements. However, as events had shown, the boom in the use of nuclear power was accompanied by potential dangers. That was why a key facet of the Agency's activities would continue to be the study and application of measures to ensure the safety of nuclear facilities and the radiation protection of workers.

67. Cuba was introducing nuclear power, which was indispensable for its development, in full accordance with its international commitments and with due regard for security and safety. Special attention was being given to the nuclear safety requirements established for the type of power station that was being built: strict measures were being applied at a number of levels, including the planning, construction, assembly and future use of the plant and

the training of the staff who would be responsible for its operation. Cuba was equally safety-conscious concerning the use of nuclear technology in various sectors of the economy and in health care.

68. The experience of the thirty or so countries which already had nuclear power programmes was encouraging, but unfortunately it was now impossible for the benefits of that valuable resource to be extended to other countries which required it. That lamentable situation had to be attributed to the arms race, in which billions of dollars were invested annually, which escalated the threat of a nuclear holocaust day by day, and the adverse effects of which were compounded by the severe international economic crisis that afflicted all countries, particularly the neediest.

69. As the Agency celebrated its thirtieth anniversary, mankind called out for an end to the arms race, the resolution of the economic crisis and the means of ensuring that nuclear energy would be man's ally, and not his ruin. Cuba would continue to support the Agency's programmes fully: the Agency could count on the active help of the Cuban Government in fulfilling the high responsibilities conferred upon it by the international community.

70. Mr. HAVEL (Czechoslovakia), transmitting a congratulatory message from the President of Czechoslovakia, Mr. Gustáv Husák, said that, as one of the Agency's founding Members, Czechoslovakia was deeply committed to the Agency's activities and worked constantly to enhance the authority it commanded within the complex mosaic of international relations.

71. Thirty years of fruitful work by the Agency had shown that the use of the atom for exclusively peaceful purposes had contributed to the development of international co-operation and the maintenance of peace. In an age of nuclear and space technology, such a course was the only reasonable and realistic one. For that reason, Czechoslovakia had consistently supported efforts to avert the threat of nuclear war and to halt the arms race, and had urged the adoption of concrete disarmament measures, particularly in the nuclear field. In concert with its allies and other peace-loving States, Czechoslovakia was working for the speedy implementation of a programme for the gradual abolition of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass

destruction by the year 2000. If the programme were implemented, the threat of a nuclear catastrophe would be removed and all the nations of the world could enter the new millennium in security, free from fear for their survival. The financial, material, scientific, human and other resources thereby released could be used to promote social and economic progress and to assist developing countries.

72. Nuclear energy represented an indispensable and promising resource for future development. In implementing its programme of nuclear power generation, Czechoslovakia would continue to expand its comprehensive co-operation with the Agency. It had a high regard for the safeguards system, which was a recognized instrument of international control designed to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and attached great importance to the creation of a regime for the safe development of nuclear power. Through voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, it would continue in future to assist the developing countries, and it would also take an active part in implementing other useful Agency programmes. It would, in short, do everything in its power to ensure that those Agency activities which contributed to the preservation of international peace, the strengthening of security and the expansion of co-operation were pursued successfully in future.

73. Mr. SITZLACK (German Democratic Republic), conveying a message from Mr. Erich Honecker, Chairman of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, said that the Agency was commemorating its anniversary at a time when there was a chance that genuine disarmament measures might be achieved, thereby enabling a solid foundation for peace to be built and mankind freed from the nightmare of a nuclear catastrophe. At a session of the Political Consultative Committee held recently in Berlin, the Warsaw Pact States had reaffirmed their intention to do everything they could to help eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction by the end of the twentieth century. An agreement on the abolition of intermediate-range nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union would be a major step in that direction. Soviet proposals had brought such an agreement within close reach.

74. The Agency's commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the safe development of nuclear energy was highly commendable: the Agency had long played an outstanding role in promoting scientific and technological co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in assisting developing countries. In so doing, it made an important contribution to the strengthening of international security, the building of confidence among States and the expansion of international co-operation. In performing its important tasks, it could in future rely on the continued active participation of the German Democratic Republic.

75. Mr. ZILLER (Federal Republic of Germany), transmitting a message from the Federal Chancellor of his country, Dr. Helmut Kohl, said that since its establishment in 1957, the Agency had proved to be an important instrument for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It had established an exemplary system of international safeguards and gave technical assistance to a wide variety of Member States. It was committed to the cause of nuclear safety and, after the nuclear accident in the Ukraine, it had served as a forum for consultation and discussion: the speedy adoption of the early notification and emergency assistance conventions had underlined its efficiency and usefulness.

76. The Federal Republic of Germany continued to espouse the aims and principles of the Agency and to support its work as a most valuable contribution to peace and development.

77. Mr. TETENYI (Hungary), reading out a message from Mr. Károly Grósz, the President of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, congratulating the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary, said the Agency had gained an outstanding international reputation within a comparatively short period of time. Its task in connection with the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the international monitoring of nuclear materials to ensure that they were used solely for peaceful purposes was quite unique. It had successfully organized extensive co-operation among its Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thereby contributing to the scientific, technical, social and economic progress of nations, and had worked effectively to promote the use of nuclear power and to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants.

78. In line with its foreign policy and political objectives, Hungary would continue its active and constructive participation in the Agency's work. His country was convinced that the activities carried out under Agency auspices represented an outstanding contribution to the building of confidence among the nations of the world.

79. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India), conveying a congratulatory message from Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, said the Agency's primary role was to promote the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Developing countries could derive immense socio-economic benefits from such peaceful uses of nuclear energy as power generation and the application of radiation technology in agriculture, medicine and industry. Future programmes of the Agency should be focused even more directly on achieving the objective of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

80. India, as one of the Agency's founding Members, would continue to support the organization.

81. Mr. TSEREN (Mongolia) reading out a message from the Chairman of his country's Council of Ministers, Mr. D. Sodnom, said the Agency was an international organization of high repute whose activities were directly related to the strengthening of international security and thereby served the interests of all States. In the thirty years of its existence, it had become a widely recognized centre for co-ordinating the efforts of governments to develop international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and to ensure nuclear safety. His country lent full support to the Agency's activities and took an active part in its work.

82. At the present critical stage of human history, ending the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race, was a task of capital importance. The Agency, whose mandate was to maximize the opportunities for mankind to live in peace, was making and would continue to make a unique contribution to the quest for a non-nuclear, non-violent world. Against that background, reinforcing the non-proliferation regime and improving the effectiveness of

the safeguards system took on even greater significance. The Agency's experience in monitoring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons could be used for the solution of other disarmament problems as well.

83. The Government of Mongolia welcomed the Agency's efforts to strengthen conditions for the safe development of nuclear power: the early notification and emergency assistance conventions, which had already entered into force, afforded an international legal framework for the safe development of nuclear power.

84. Mr. SOWINSKI (Poland), transmitting a message of congratulations to the Agency from the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, Mr. Zbigniew Messner, said that, as a specialized agency established thirty years ago in a climate of rapprochement among nations, the IAEA had greatly facilitated the expansion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and thereby helped strengthen the cause of international security and human advancement.

85. The co-operation of a great many States under Agency auspices, on a number of aspects of atomic energy, had yielded tangible results, and it continued to enable nations to make safe use of the benefits of atomic energy, due regard being paid to the principles of non-proliferation.

86. As a founding Member of the Agency, Poland commended the dedication of the staff to the fulfilment of important and difficult responsibilities: that would help the Agency to multiply its achievements and to contribute to the improvement of the well-being of mankind. Poland would spare no effort to help the Agency carry out its tasks to the full.

87. Mr. PETROSYANTS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), transmitting a message of congratulations to the Agency from Mr. N. Ryzhkov, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, said the IAEA was rightly regarded as one of the most competent international organizations and as a centre for co-ordinating and harmonizing the efforts of States in the peaceful use of atomic energy and the monitoring of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Agency's entire 30-year history had demonstrated beyond doubt that its establishment had been a landmark in the development of

international co-operation to ensure that atomic energy was used for peace and to meet social and economic development needs. The Agency's practical assistance to countries in such areas as nuclear power production and the use of radioisotopes and radiation in industry, agriculture, medicine and science was of great value.

88. Co-operation among States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would enter a qualitatively new stage if real progress was made in instituting nuclear disarmament and universal security. The Soviet Union viewed co-operation in that field as an alternative to the nuclear arms race and to the expenditure of mankind's immense material and intellectual resources on the development of increasingly dangerous and sophisticated means of self-destruction. Guided by the idea that atomic energy should be used exclusively for creative purposes, the Soviet Union had advanced an entire set of initiatives which had opened up real prospects for progress towards a safer, non-violent world. That was concrete proof of his country's readiness to ensure, through practical steps, that the atom-for-peace principle developed into a universal norm of international relations.

89. The Agency was making a substantial practical contribution to the strengthening of international security and the creation of an atmosphere of confidence and understanding among States. The Agency's safeguards against the diversion of nuclear materials and civilian facilities for military purposes were an effective barrier to the spread of nuclear weapons throughout the world. The Agency was the only international control mechanism operating today in the nuclear arms limitation field, and its experience in that area could be used for solving other nuclear disarmament problems.

90. The Soviet Union, which was among those countries that had proposed the establishment of the Agency, was prepared to continue giving it generous assistance in key areas of its activities. It favoured extending the scope of the Agency's functions, a purpose which would be served by the implementation of the Soviet proposals to establish an international regime for the safe development of nuclear power; those proposals had already elicited a positive response and support from the Agency.

91. His country recognized the importance of the Agency's safeguards activities and sought to enhance their effectiveness and reliability. It was prepared to continue, in strict compliance with the principles set out in the Agency's Statute, to share its experience and technical know-how with those countries that used atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, and thereby to contribute to their prosperity and progress.

92. Mr. HERRINGTON (United States of America), transmitting a message from Mr. Ronald Reagan, the President of the United States, congratulating the Agency on its thirtieth anniversary, said that over the past three decades, the Agency had served as a model of effective international co-operation and had fostered peace and prosperity world wide. Through its safeguards activities, the Agency had been an invaluable part of efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, and it had also worked with competence and success to promote the peaceful uses of the atom through its technical co-operation, nuclear safety and research programmes. Its prompt response to the Chernobyl accident had been particularly noteworthy.

93. The Agency had been, and remained, an organization of singular importance to the United States, one which, within the broader United Nations system, had demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the purposes and principles for which it had been established. His country would continue to provide strong support for the Agency's work in the years ahead.

94. Mr. LE BA CAP (Viet Nam), conveying a message from Mr. Pham Hung, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the Agency's thirtieth anniversary, said that in its 30-year history, the Agency had chalked up remarkable successes in promoting the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes and in contributing to the economic and social development of its Member States, particularly the developing countries. The fact that peoples throughout the world were stepping up the struggle for peace and international security, for an end to the arms race and for disarmament, particularly in the nuclear field, and that the Soviet Union and other countries had advanced constructive proposals to eliminate the nuclear threat and to establish nuclear-free zones, had created favourable

conditions in the international arena for the Agency to intensify its activities in accordance with the principles of international co-operation endorsed by UNCPICPUNE earlier that year.

95. Viet Nam's association with the Agency over the past ten years had been fruitful, which boded well for the future. Under difficult conditions, when it had been necessary for his country to heal the wounds inflicted by war and to achieve social and economic development, the Agency had actively helped to create the material and technical foundation required for the development of nuclear energy and to train a growing number of specialists in nuclear science and technology. Viet Nam was grateful for that effective co-operation, and would do everything in its power to help achieve the Agency's goals.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

