



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXI)/OR.298

March 1988\*

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION: 21-25 SEPTEMBER 1987

RECORD OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna,  
on Wednesday, 23 September 1987 at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. COLOMBO (Italy)  
later: Mr. MAIORSKY (Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics)

## CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda**</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
6	General debate and annual report for 1986 (continued)	1 - 163
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Ghana	1 - 14
	Israel	15 - 28
	Brazil	29 - 36
	Czechoslovakia	37 - 49
	Austria	50 - 62
	Viet Nam	63 - 73
	Indonesia	74 - 82
	Costa Rica	83 - 89
	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	90 - 98
	Philippines	99 - 106
	New Zealand	107 - 117
	Morocco	118 - 133
	Portugal	134 - 140
	Mongolia	141 - 146
	United Arab Emirates	147 - 152
	Greece	153 - 163

[\*] A provisional version of this document was issued on 18 November 1987.

[\*\*] GC(XXXI)/818.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
GC(XXXI)/INF/246/Rev.3.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986 (GC(XXXI)/800) (continued)

1. Ms. ARYEE (Ghana) expressed her gratitude to the Austrian Government for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of the General Conference, and, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency, took the opportunity of congratulating the founders, the Director General and the staff of the Agency on their contributions to the organization's success. Without taking stock of the activities of the Agency over the last 30 years, as one would be tempted to do on such a momentous occasion, she would confine herself to touching on certain broad areas of the organization's work.

2. The safeguards system applied by the Agency was a confidence-inspiring mechanism which had achieved a large measure of success. It was encouraging to note that many Member States, including the superpowers, were now willing to submit some or all of their nuclear installations to Agency safeguards. At the same time her delegation remained concerned at the continuing failure of some parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to submit their facilities to Agency inspection in accordance with their Treaty obligations. That situation should be put right with the utmost urgency.

3. As the Director General himself had said in his opening statement, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament were the ultimate goals to which all States subscribed. Although the number of signatories had increased, the Ghanaian delegation considered that the nuclear-weapon States should take positive steps to reduce their arsenals, or agree to renounce the use thereof, in order to encourage States which were not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it.

4. In that connection she welcomed the agreement in principle between the United States of America and the Soviet Union to conclude a treaty which would ultimately eliminate medium- to long-range nuclear missiles. It was equally encouraging that the two countries were considering large reductions in their strategic nuclear armament. Like all peace-loving developing countries, Ghana wished to urge the two superpowers to accelerate the process of achieving a world free from nuclear weapons.

5. Until 26 April 1986 most people had never heard the name Chernobyl. The accident had shown that radiation knew no national boundaries, and had emphasized the need for an effective international early warning system.

Among the numerous reactions to the events at Chernobyl there was the inevitable one of opposition to nuclear power. Fortunately, the consequential action taken under the auspices of the Agency had ensured greater confidence in the future of nuclear energy. Accordingly, increasing emphasis would now be placed on the need to ensure operational safety at nuclear facilities, and her delegation commended the useful work performed by the Agency's Operational Safety Review Teams (OSARTs), and welcomed the expansion and strengthening of the Agency's Incident Reporting System.

6. The adoption, also in 1986, of two important conventions, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, demonstrated the spirit of co-operation that could exist between sovereign States, provided that goodwill was there. That spirit of goodwill which States had so vividly manifested on the occasion of Chernobyl and at the subsequent adoption of the two conventions should be maintained in dealing with any other problems of a similar nature.

7. The Agency's performance in delivering technical assistance had been substantially satisfactory. Larger resources had been made available for projects under the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF), but it nevertheless remained essential to establish a system of financing which was predictable and also ensured a steady increase in the volume of funds available for provision of technical assistance. Her delegation wished to call upon developed donor countries to recognize their essential role in that important area of Agency activity.

8. She wished to take the present opportunity to reiterate her Government's support for the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. Ghana, which was prepared to place its facilities at the Agency's disposal for regional, interregional or other training courses, was pledging the sum of \$6000 to the TACF for 1987.

9. Like every organization, the Agency had to evolve and adapt to changing situations. The question of amending Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, which had been the subject of discussion in the Agency's policy-making organs for a good decade, needed to be seriously addressed. Considering the numerical

representation of the areas of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia on the Board of Governors, it would appear unjust to continue denying additional seats to those two areas. Her delegation called upon all groups to exhibit political goodwill in facilitating the implementation of proposals aimed at redressing the balance. The establishment of a link between amendment of Article VI.A.2 and revision of Article VI of the Statute as a whole tended to complicate what were two clearly distinct issues.

10. Ghana's domestic nuclear programme firmly demonstrated its commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The applications of atomic energy for peaceful purposes at present receiving special attention included agriculture and medicine.

11. The Ghanaian delegation considered that, in spite of the abundant evidence of the nuclear capability of the racist régime in South Africa, little had been done to stem the tide of nuclear build-up in that country. It should not be necessary for her to enumerate the various grounds clearly justifying the taking of positive action against the Pretoria régime. It had emerged unmistakably from the discussions in the Board of Governors in February and June 1987 and from the contents of document GC(XXXI)/807 that South Africa was not about to abandon its intransigence and adopt reasonable conduct or behaviour. What could one say for a régime which terrorized its majority black population, embarked on a systematic programme of economic and political destabilization of neighbouring States and consistently ignored resolutions by the United Nations General Assembly and the Agency? The attitude of the South African régime had confirmed how wise the General Conference had been to adopt resolution GC(XXX)/RES/468 at the thirtieth regular session. The time had now come for the Agency to take specific measures with regard to South Africa's membership of the organization.

12. Even if South Africa was now claiming that it wished to sign NPT, that circumstance - contrary to what some governments might believe - did not solve the immediate problem facing the General Conference, which went far beyond mere signature of NPT. Ghana would begin to believe in the sincerity of South Africa when that country placed all its nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards, unconditionally and spontaneously.

13. Ghana was likewise most concerned at the nuclear co-operation between South Africa and Israel and by the development of the latter's nuclear capability, and likewise by the potential danger which that capability represented for the other countries of the Middle East, which were already embroiled in conflicts. It was essential for Israel to abandon the nuclear option, to accept the denuclearization of the Middle East and to live in peace with its Arab neighbours.

14. In conclusion, she wished to express her delegation's gratitude to the Agency for the assistance received by way of equipment, fellowships, expert and scientific visits, traineeships, research contracts and so on. Ghana was determined to make the maximum use of the opportunities annually afforded by that assistance. On the threshold of the twenty-first century, Ghana trusted that the Agency would retain its effectiveness and that mankind would collaborate in the establishment of a world freed from the dangers of a nuclear holocaust.

15. Mr. PELEG (Israel) recalled that on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency's establishment the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Mr. Shimon Peres, had addressed to the Director General a message in which he paid tribute to the excellent work done by the Secretariat in discharging its multiple functions and in trying to maintain the integrity of the Agency. The Israeli Foreign Minister had also expressed the wish that the Agency should continue to be guided by the terms of reference entrusted to it thirty years before.

16. The twentieth century had been the century of oil. Nevertheless, the events of the preceding two decades had indicated that it was dangerous to rely exclusively on fossil sources of energy, which were not inexhaustible and which had environmental drawbacks. That had underlined the need to develop alternative sources of energy, and nuclear energy had played an important part in that respect, the efforts put forth during the past decades to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy having favoured its introduction in many countries. However, recent years had seen a slowdown in its development -- for economic and ecological reasons. Additional constraints had been imposed by nuclear accidents, and safety had emerged as a vital issue. The adoption at the recent session of the General Conference of two conventions intended to

strengthen international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety could be regarded as a response to that situation. The Israeli Government took the view that those measures represented a first step on the way to restoring the confidence of the international community in nuclear energy: that was why it supported the Agency's initiatives aimed at learning the lessons from the nuclear accident of 1986, with a view to improving reactor safety and the procedures and the international co-operation required for dealing with severe nuclear accidents in the future.

17. The Agency should also lead the way in the effort to incorporate the latest developments in artificial intelligence into the control rooms of nuclear facilities. The complex processes occurring in a power station during fast-developing transients imposed very high levels of stress on the operating personnel, not only during the initial stages of an accident but also during the longer-lasting processes of diagnosis and selection of the course of action to be followed in the case of a complex accident.

18. The concepts of small and medium-sized power reactors embodying passive safety features, which had been proposed in recent years, should be used as the basis for seeking a viable short-term solution for the developing countries. The Agency could also play a major role in directing integrated efforts toward simplifying nuclear reactor designs. In addition to the generation of electricity it was also possible to use nuclear energy for desalination of water, a growing shortage of water resources being ever more acutely felt in numerous countries. He believed that the Agency had a role to play in that field also.

19. The financial problems which the Agency was facing meant that it was much more difficult for it to discharge effectively its international obligations and its important technical functions. That being so, it was essential that the numerous and valuable activities which required the General Conference's attention should not be neglected in favour of political issues which could only hamper the work of the Conference and ran counter to the Agency's Statute. It was therefore most regrettable that, in spite of the present financial stringency, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic had seen fit once again to put a purely political item on the agenda. It would seem that

narrow political interests were more important than the future of the Agency, and those delegations which had sponsored the inclusion of item 7 on the agenda were inviting the Israeli delegation to take the floor on a redundant issue, whereas it would have preferred to intervene on other matters. He would therefore proceed immediately to offer his remarks on item 7 of the agenda, also because, owing to the celebration of the Jewish New Year on 24 and 25 September, his delegation would be unable to participate in the Conference's discussions on that item.

20. The irrelevance of item 7, and of the draft resolution which would undoubtedly be submitted on the subject, already emerged from the explanatory memoranda presented by Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, which were no more than a rehash of a long series of sensationalist reports and books published during the past three decades, and which had already been repeatedly quoted at the United Nations and the Agency. The arguments of Iraq also relied almost entirely on a series of purely political resolutions adopted by various United Nations bodies. None of that fell within the Agency's competence.

21. The sponsors of the item had attempted to justify it by claiming that Israel's activities constituted a genuine nuclear threat, and on the strength of that the Iraqi delegate had launched into a political diatribe which had nothing whatever to do with the work of the Agency. Under those conditions, the Conference could find itself discussing other political issues such as the war between Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran. As far as threats were concerned, the real and immediate one proceeded from that war, a war which had cost hundreds of thousands of lives and in which chemical weapons had been used. In addition, the Syrian Arab Republic was engaged in building up its chemical warfare capability, and Iraq had boasted that it had developed a missile with a range of over 615 km.

22. The Iraqi and Syrian initiatives should be rejected for several reasons. Firstly, the Agency was an autonomous international technical body, accepting instructions from its Board of Governors and General Conference and not from the General Assembly of the United Nations, as was clear from Articles II and III of the Statute and Article I, paragraph 2 of the agreement governing the relations between the United Nations and the Agency. To compel

the latter to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations, as Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were attempting to do, would jeopardize the independent status of the Agency - whose objectives were defined by its Statute as being essentially functional and not political - and all the more so because the United Nations resolutions in question were of a very specific nature.

23. Furthermore, the matter had been repeatedly discussed in the past, with the General Assembly of the United Nations considering it since the year 1979, thanks to the narrow and partisan attitude of Iraq. The Secretary-General of the United Nations had already published two reports on the subject, from which no precise conclusion could be drawn. At a press conference held in June 1987 the Secretary-General had stated that the United Nations had no proof that Israel possessed an atomic weapon (press communiqué SG/SM/4016). Nevertheless, the item was still on the agenda for the forty-second session of the General Assembly. Neither had the statement prevented Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic from wanting to make the subject a permanent feature of the agenda at the Agency's General Conference: if they got their way, the Agency would waste its time and resources instead of pursuing its important scientific and technical functions.

24. The General Conference resolutions mentioned in the explanatory note by Iraq concerned the issue of the Iraqi reactor, and not item 7 of the agenda. It should be recalled that at its 1985 session the General Conference had decided to close the discussion on that item by adopting resolution GC(XXIX)/RES/443, recognizing that Israel had satisfied the requirements of resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/425. In 1986, with a similar draft resolution before it, the General Conference had decided that it was an important issue requiring a decision by a two-thirds majority - whereupon the sponsors had withdrawn their draft. It was certainly not logical to raise the matter again in connection with Israel.

25. The issue furthermore constituted unacceptable discrimination against Israel. Many countries throughout the world had a proven nuclear capability and were free to conduct their programmes without any questions being asked. The only pertinent issue was the declared policy of successive governments of

Israel: firstly, Israel would not be the first country to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East; secondly, Israel supported the principle of non proliferation and believed it necessary to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East along the lines laid down by the Tlatelolco and Rarotonga Treaties; thirdly, it was Israel's firm policy to have no relations with South Africa in the nuclear field.

26. It should also be recalled that there was no statutory link between membership of the Agency and the application of safeguards. The General Conference could not compel Member States to submit all their nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards, since the Statute laid no such obligation upon them; if such an obligation existed, numerous States Members of the Agency should have been called upon to fulfil it. Safeguards agreements could be concluded only if the States concerned so wished, as provided in Article III.A.5 of the Statute and as the Board of Governors had recognized in 1976. Each Member State was sovereign in that respect and it was up to it to decide whether to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency.

27. The present situation in the Middle East and neighbouring areas gave rise to concern in view of the growing dangers of proliferation involved. Thus, India, Pakistan and certain Arab States which were not party to NPT had not submitted all their nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards - and neither for that matter had the Syrian Arab Republic, which was nevertheless a party to the Treaty. As for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, also a party to NPT, it was the only country to have gone shopping for nuclear weapons, and Colonel Qadhafi had recently called upon the Arab countries to consider doing the same. It was scarcely reassuring to witness such defiance of the control measures designed by the international community in a region so unstable as the Middle East. Israel was in favour of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, on the basis of arrangements freely modelled on the provisions of the Tlatelolco Treaty, as was attested by its consistent statements, its voting record and its own initiatives in that direction. Unfortunately, all its proposals had been rejected by various Arab states, most significantly by the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.

28. The Iraqi and Syrian initiatives were thus clearly an attempt to turn the Agency into an instrument of political warfare against Israel, whereas the decisions taken by the General Conference at its two preceding sessions left no doubt that a great many Member States desired that political issues should not be discussed. The General Conference should therefore decide not to re-open a useless and potentially damaging debate and instead to stay within the framework of the Statute. The Agency should be allowed to concentrate on the purely technical obligations and responsibilities which it was statutorily called upon to undertake. It faced problems of substance and urgency and it was in the interests of all Member States that the Agency should be in a position to carry out its work under the best possible conditions. Efforts should be made to ensure that at future sessions of the Agency's policy-making organs no extraneous issues were introduced. That was why the General Conference had a duty to reject the Iraqi and Syrian exercises.

29. Mr. ALVES (Brazil) said that his Government appreciated the work done by the Agency during its thirty years of existence. Regarding the activities in the field of nuclear safety which it had undertaken during the past twelve months, special mention should be made of the excellent results obtained in a short time with the evaluation of the Chernobyl accident, and the measures taken thereafter to strengthen international co-operation in that domain. That effort should of course be continued, but in a balanced manner taking into consideration other equally important areas of the Agency's work, such as technical co-operation and safeguards. In that connection his delegation urged the need for a balanced budget and expected that the supplementary activities in the nuclear safety sphere undertaken during the past year would be reconsidered after they had reached their objectives.

30. Turning to safeguards, he had pleasure in confirming the agreement between the Brazilian Government and the Agency to hold a regional training course on national nuclear materials accounting and control systems at which, for the first time, the safeguards document INFCIRC/66/Rev.2 would receive proper attention. The Brazilian Safeguards Laboratory was performing useful work by training experts from Brazil and neighbouring countries in methods and techniques for measurement and control of nuclear materials, in co-operation

with institutions in the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany. The work of the Laboratory was being progressively co-ordinated with the Agency's system for nuclear materials measurements.

31. Brazil wished to thank the Agency's Secretariat for the high-quality technical assistance which had been provided and for the high rate of implementation of the projects assigned to Brazil. In particular, the Brazilian Amazon Project (BRA/0/010) had just benefited from a substantial grant pledged by the Swedish Government. He was also grateful for the fellowships offered by the Agency to Brazilian experts. Regarding the Agency's training programme, he wished to reaffirm Brazil's intention to continue accepting trainees from any part of the world. Brazil's contribution to the TACF for 1986 had been paid in full and the contribution for 1987 would be made available punctually. In spite of budgetary and financial constraints, his Government's voluntary contribution for 1988 would be 5% higher than that for 1987.

32. On the subject of the Brazilian nuclear programme, he recalled that he had, the previous year, stated his country's commitment to develop nuclear energy in the public interest, and that he had at that time also referred to his Government's decision to continue co-operation with the Federal Republic of Germany, particularly in the financial sphere, while taking account of the readjusted schedule for implementation of the programme in accordance with the present economic constraints. A five-year investment programme now being proposed included the allocation of resources for completion of the Angra 2 and Angra 3 power plants. With regard to bilateral co-operation with Argentina, which covered a wide range of projects, he was pleased to report that that had been strengthened thanks to the joint declarations signed by Presidents Raúl Alfonsín and José Sarney in December 1986 in Brasilia and in June 1987 in Viedma, reaffirming the strong commitment of both countries to the promotion of all peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to close co-operation for that purpose. It was in that framework that a working group on nuclear policy, composed of members of the two governments and their respective national nuclear energy commissions, had been meeting approximately every four months, either in Brazil or in Argentina. After President José Sarney had been invited to visit the nuclear facilities at

Pilcaniyeu in Argentina, the working group on nuclear policy had met at Bariloche for the purpose of seeking areas in which the nuclear programmes of the two countries could further complement each other.

33. It had always been the policy of the Brazilian Government to pursue nuclear development on the one hand by means of international co-operation and transfer of technology and on the other hand through the development of local, autonomous technology. Experience was showing that those two approaches yielded good results. In that connection the President of Brazil had just announced a most important technological breakthrough in the nuclear fuel cycle: Brazilian scientists and technicians had, without any assistance from abroad, mastered the technology of uranium enrichment by centrifuging. That remarkable achievement had been secured through technical and scientific co-operation among Brazilian universities and research institutes, and with the indispensable support of Brazilian private industry. The short-term goal of the new enrichment installations was to produce uranium enriched up to 20%, so as to ensure the continuous and efficient operation of research reactors, as well as to increase national production of radioisotopes and radiation sources, in order to meet the growing national demand.

34. In his speech on 4 September, President José Sarney had emphasized the determination of Brazil to have free access to all forms of scientific knowledge in strict accordance with the overall priorities established. His Government insisted on the right of all countries to unrestricted access to that knowledge, without which the world would be divided into groups of suppliers and of importers of high technology. The President had also recalled the peaceful purposes of the Brazilian nuclear programme and had restated the long-standing policy of Brazil to promote all the peaceful uses of atomic energy for the benefit of society. Those commitments, which had led to Brazil's active participation in the establishment and in the work of the Agency, would certainly be respected by all, just as his Government respected the internal concerns of all countries and their commitment to the peaceful uses of the atom.

35. Brazil had consistently defended non-discriminatory policies aiming at nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and he recalled that Brazil had been one of the group of 18 nations given a mandate to draft an international

treaty to that end. The negotiations held at that time had led, in 1965, to the approval by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution containing a set of principles to which Brazil fully subscribed, for they respected the sovereign equality of States. According to the resolution to which he had referred, the treaty to be proposed should not permit any country to promote the dissemination of nuclear weapons, whether that country were a nuclear Power or not. That set of principles had been incorporated in the Tlatelolco Treaty, which had been signed, ratified and strictly applied by Brazil in elaborating its national nuclear policy. In the United Nations and in other fora Brazil had always supported measures aiming at complete disarmament on a non-discriminatory basis. At the last session of the United Nations General Assembly his Government had also taken the initiative in submitting a draft resolution, co-sponsored by many delegations and approved by a large majority of countries, the purpose of which was to establish a South Atlantic Zone of Peace and Co-operation, free from nuclear weapons.

36. Finally, Brazil continued to lend full support to the Agency's safeguards system. Safeguards constituted an effective means for the prevention and control of nuclear proliferation whenever they resulted from sovereign negotiations and were applied in strict accordance with the Statute of the Agency, namely on a non-discriminatory basis and binding on all countries.

Mr. Maiorsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) took the chair.

37. Mr. HAVEL (Czechoslovakia) said that the Agency, whose thirtieth anniversary had been commemorated in Czechoslovakia on 29 July, had under frequently difficult conditions achieved a performance which gave grounds for contemplating its future with optimism and confidence. The experience of the past thirty years showed that the development of nuclear energy, whether for power generation or not, was closely connected with effective international co-operation conducted in an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding between States and of respect for the principle of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

38. His Government was gratified to note progress in, for example, the Soviet-United States negotiations on elimination of medium-range and tactical missiles from Europe, showing that there was no real obstacle in the way of a

constructive dialogue which would contribute to the reinforcement of security in Europe and throughout the world and which would make it possible to speed up all aspects of the disarmament process. That improvement had been confirmed by the conclusions of the recent meeting of the Soviet and United States Ministers for Foreign Affairs, which had represented a definite contribution to solving the problems of security in Central Europe - a matter of vital importance for Czechoslovakia. Every country could and should play an active part in carrying out the essential task of mankind, which was the prevention of war, whether nuclear or non-nuclear.

39. Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic had jointly put forward the idea of creating a denuclearized corridor 150 km wide in Central Europe. Czechoslovakia was a strong advocate of respect for existing denuclearized zones and the establishment of new ones in northern and southern Europe, and also in South-East Asia or the Korean peninsula.

40. Turning to a review of the Agency's activities during the past thirty years, he wished to place particular emphasis on the results obtained by the Agency the preceding year, a year which had been extremely difficult and certainly exceptional. Czechoslovakia, which was thoroughly aware of that situation, was most satisfied with the Agency's achievements as described in the annual report and commented on by the Director General in his statement.

41. He wished to congratulate the Agency's Secretariat and the Director General on their extremely positive attitude to implementation of the USSR's programme for introduction of an international regime governing the safe development of nuclear power, and of other measures aimed at strengthening international co-operation in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection, adopted at the special session of the General Conference held the previous year. Czechoslovakia was one of the States Members of the Agency which had begun to apply the Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Those two conventions, concluded under Agency auspices, were convincing evidence of the interest which the international community and States had in joint action to promote the safe development of nuclear energy.

42. In that field Czechoslovakia was actively applying other measures to bring about an overall solution of the problems of international safety in the nuclear sphere, in particular the implementation of the programme of OSART missions. The results obtained highlighted the value of the services offered by the Agency under that programme, and the interest which Member States manifested in those missions. Czechoslovakia was therefore prepared to collaborate in that work not only by making its experts available for OSART missions but also by admitting missions to its own nuclear power plants. Czechoslovakia was likewise ready to participate actively in a wide exchange of information under the various technical programmes of the Agency. In that connection he wished to inform the General Conference that his Government would be offering to host in Czechoslovakia an Agency symposium on quality assurance in nuclear power plant operation, to be held in 1989.

43. The Czechoslovak delegation was keenly interested in improving the Agency's safeguards system, which could play a significant role in strengthening international confidence, in the context of scientific, technical and commercial co-operation on nuclear matters. His Government believed that the irreplaceable international control system represented by safeguards should in future be based on rational and technically viable principles, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy and theoretical speculations without relevance to real situations. It was in that spirit that Czechoslovakia was prepared to lend its aid and support to the Agency's safeguards activities, with particular emphasis on projects which contributed to improving the effectiveness of the safeguards system by simplifying the administrative formalities at inspections, so as to enable inspectors to devote more time to verification of nuclear materials. At its own nuclear power plants Czechoslovakia was preparing special technical devices and methods for the non-destructive control of nuclear materials, which it was going to offer to the Agency for the purpose of carrying out rapid and effective independent tests. His Government would like the Agency's Secretariat to consider organizing working seminars, which would enable experts from various countries regularly to exchange their experiences of inspection operations, to consider jointly how to make better use of the inspection facilities available to them, to examine the features of nuclear

installations themselves for purposes of safeguards, and to study ways and means of reducing the volume of administrative procedures associated with inspections.

44. He believed that safeguards obligations undertaken in the context of the nuclear non-proliferation regime were essential preconditions for the further development of genuinely peaceful nuclear exports and multilateral co-operation. In that connection Czechoslovakia was concerned at certain nuclear activities, particularly at various "hot spots" around the world, which were contributing to the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. In particular his Government firmly condemned the defiant attitude of the racist régime in South Africa and its odious policy of apartheid, and urged that country to submit its nuclear programme to Agency safeguards, as it had been called upon to do for several years past by the resolutions of the Agency's General Conference and of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The dangerous development of South Africa's nuclear capability represented a flagrant contradiction of the basic objectives of the Agency's activities, particularly as regards the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

45. At the last General Conference and at the recent United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (UNCPICPUNE), he had had the opportunity to set forth in detail Czechoslovakia's plans involving the use of nuclear energy for implementation of a long-term programme of national socio-economic development. Those ambitious plans were well under way. With the commissioning of two new units of the Dukovany power plant the previous year, the share of nuclear energy in electricity generation in Czechoslovakia had considerably increased and now exceeded 26%. Czechoslovak experience of operation of nuclear power plants showed that nuclear energy was an exceptionally stable, reliable and safe source of power which would benefit the national economy and, thanks to the interconnection of power grids, would benefit certain neighbouring countries also. The safety and the reliability of Czechoslovak atomic power stations had even been recognized at international level, as attested, for example, by the periodical negotiations between Czechoslovak and Austrian representatives on the implementation, since 1982, of the agreement governing questions of mutual interest in connection with nuclear facilities.

46. Apart from the above-mentioned positive features, additional measures had been taken in Czechoslovakia, as in other countries, after the accident at Chernobyl in order more closely to supervise conformity with the nuclear safety provisions ensuing from the overall legislation, from the operating instructions and from the decisions of the Czechoslovak regulatory body. Particular attention had been paid to the work of operating staff, to stricter control of production and assembly processes, and to regular checks during the entire operational life of nuclear power stations. In view of the increased workload on the inspectors permanently assigned to nuclear power stations, the scope of the activities of the Czechoslovak Atomic Energy Commission's corps of inspectors had been considerably widened.

47. In Czechoslovakia, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were not limited to the generation of nuclear power but comprised the development, production and application of isotopes and radiations in medicine, the food industry and agriculture. Production and utilization of radioimmunoassay kits was increasing by an average of 50% per year, in particular for the detection of infant hypothyroidism at national level and for other endocrinological, gynaecological and oncological examinations carried out using more than 40 radioimmunoassay kits designed and manufactured in Czechoslovakia. With those kits it had also been possible to evolve a veterinary care system known as "Diskot", and to evaluate the quality of animal feeds and other agricultural products. In 1986 more than 260 herds, comprising 150 000 dairy cattle, had been thus checked. Those examples showed that Czechoslovakia was one of the countries for which nuclear energy as applied to the generation of electricity and to other peaceful purposes constituted an essential element of economic and social progress on the national and international levels.

48. He indicated that his delegation supported the draft budget for 1988, which accorded with the Agency's objectives, and also the target of \$38 million recommended for voluntary contributions to the TACF. In that connection he wished to inform the General Conference that his Government had decided to pay to the Fund in 1988 a sum corresponding to Czechoslovakia's assessed contribution to the Regular Budget. As in previous years, Czechoslovakia would continue to offer short- and long-term fellowships to specialists from the developing countries, to enable them to undertake

advanced studies at higher educational establishments and research centres in Czechoslovakia. The specific results already obtained had confirmed the importance of seeking ways and means of rendering the various forms of technical assistance more effective. The system of financing technical assistance based on voluntary contributions; which left countries free to choose the level of their contribution and the currency in which it would be paid, remained a viable one and did not hamper the development of the Agency's activities in that field.

49. Referring to the exceptional nature of the recent period and the difficulties which had marked it, he wished to congratulate the Agency's representatives and above all the Director General and the Chairman of the Board of Governors on their energetic and positive contribution to solving a number of complex problems which the Agency had been and still was facing. He also wished to thank the rest of the Agency's Secretariat, which had worked to strengthen and develop international co-operation in the peaceful and safe uses of atomic energy.

50. Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria) said that the present session of the General Conference, which coincided with a major Agency anniversary, furnished an opportunity to review thirty years of competence and achievement in a sensitive field of international relations. Representing the organization's host country, his delegation wished to assure the Agency of Austria's continuing collaboration and its unvarying support with regard both to issues of substance and to the Headquarters arrangements. The present session likewise afforded the first opportunity to discuss and assess the development of the Agency's activities in the light of the views expressed and the decisions reached under the immediate impact of the Chernobyl accident and, in particular, during the special session of the General Conference.

51. The main issue in that context was of course the future role of nuclear power in the world energy supply, and the Director General had devoted a large part of his introductory statement to that matter. He had expressly referred to Austria as a country which had decided not to opt for nuclear power, in contrast to other countries for which nuclear power was an increasingly important source of energy. The world population growth anticipated over the

next few decades would lead to an enormous increase in energy generation. Given the dangers of global warming, acidification and atmospheric pollution associated with fossil fuels and the limitations on renewable energy sources, the conclusion was drawn that recourse to nuclear power would be necessary. If that were so, the rejection of nuclear power by a particular country might be valid at its own national level, in view of that country's hydropower potential and ability to import energy, but would not be valid beyond that level.

52. In that context, Austria considered that the issue of nuclear safety was less a reflection of fears which existed in the public mind than a genuine concern based on experience and reasoning. A continuing rise in the number of nuclear power plants operating on a global scale would increase the possibility of further accidents accompanied by large scale radioactive releases. Such accidents might be due to equipment failure, in spite of ever more stringent safety standards, to factors lying in the sphere of operator responsibility, or to external causes such as damage by armed attack. Since such a scenario would present numerous hazards over the next few decades, the essential issue was to find alternative solutions and to convert those numerous people who still believed that such alternatives did not exist.

53. Everyone knew of the enormous material and intellectual efforts which had gone into the initial stages of nuclear energy development for military purposes, laying also the foundations for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A significant effort was at present still being made to continue the development of nuclear technology. Austria believed that it would be possible to find energy sources other than fossil fuels and power produced by nuclear fission, provided that a commensurate amount of material and intellectual effort were devoted to the task. His Government believed that it was quite natural for a Member State to review the objectives of the Agency in the light of historical events and of changes in values and priorities, without its loyalty to the organization and its active involvement in its work being impaired. The Austrian Government was therefore convinced that its views on nuclear power were not incompatible either with its estimate of the important role played by the Agency in present and future international relations or with its involvement in the Agency's activities.

54. In the world of today, in which nuclear power was a fact, the Agency was playing such an important role in the field of nuclear safety, non-proliferation and safeguards that its optimal functioning should be an overriding concern for all Member States. Austria welcomed the continuing expansion of the Agency's safeguards responsibilities. As the Director General had pointed out, the objective of safeguards in the form of an enhancement of confidence would only be achieved if the safeguards system were administered in a credible manner. If the Agency were not enabled to conduct its own research and development programme on novel safeguards techniques, it would have difficulty in adapting its safeguards provisions to new developments in nuclear power technology. Austria continued to believe firmly that the universal acceptance of NPT should lead to a maximum extension of the Agency's safeguards system. He had already emphasized that nuclear safety was, for Austria, the most crucial problem presented by nuclear power. His Government therefore unreservedly supported the Agency's work in the sphere of nuclear safety, such as the NUSS, OSART and INSAG programmes.

55. With regard to the expanded nuclear safety programme at present being implemented, he acknowledged the need to accord greater priority to the nuclear safety issue, as had been recognized by the Agency's policy-making organs, although other delegations had been right in urging that more ambitious goals should be set for that programme by Member States. The traditional view that it was each State's sovereign responsibility to promulgate its own safety standards for nuclear power installations appeared to need reconsideration. The Austrian delegation supported the two Conventions on Early Notification and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident, although they did not deal with the central question of nuclear safety, i.e. the prevention of nuclear accidents and of any other form of accidental release of ionizing radiation. Austria believed that the adoption of internationally binding nuclear safety standards, whose observance should be compulsorily supervised by the Agency in all countries having nuclear facilities, should be the central item of any expanded nuclear safety programme.

56. It would also be important to prepare an international convention on State liability for damage caused by accidents at nuclear power installations. The adoption of clear-cut rules on international liability in that field and

also of the generally accepted principle of State-State compensation would certainly encourage governments to promote nuclear safety at national level. Such State liability should cover not only damage to health and property following direct exposure to accidentally released nuclear radiation but also damage resulting from measures required to protect the population from dangerous consequences such as contaminated foodstuffs.

57. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that the method recommended by the Agency for defining the relevant intervention levels had been generally accepted and that WHO and FAO were now working for similarly acceptable levels within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. He likewise saw no objection to the conduct of preparatory work for an international liability convention to cover from the outset the question of compensation for damage resulting from the type of measure which most European countries had been forced to adopt after the Chernobyl accident.

58. However, because of the opposition to the concept of such a convention, the Secretariat proposal to discuss the subject initially and tentatively at expert level within the framework of the Agency had not been adopted. His Government was puzzled by that opposition, and appealed to Member States to reconsider their position. The philosophy which at present prevailed in that field, as embodied in the Paris/Brussels and Vienna Conventions, i.e. the civil law approach limited to individual claims to damage directly resulting from accidental releases of radioactivity, reflected the realities of the interests in play, but was applicable only to States with comparable legal systems.

59. Austria welcomed the establishment of a joint IAEA/NEA working group on the subject of harmonizing the Paris/Brussels and the Vienna Conventions and would take an active part in its deliberations. On the other hand, Austria was convinced of the need to establish immediately, without any period of waiting, an Agency working group on State liability in that context. In the light of what had been experienced the preceding year by a majority of European countries, there seemed to be no doubt about the need to settle the issue of State liability for nuclear facilities and, in particular, for large-scale transboundary releases of radioactivity from them.

60. Recognizing the true importance of nuclear safety in international relations, Member States should do more to meet the concerns of other countries in their region, in particular neighbouring States, with regard to the transboundary implications of nuclear power. The conclusion of bilateral agreements between neighbouring States in order to institutionalize consultation and information mechanisms could play a major role in that context. Austria had concluded such an agreement with Czechoslovakia, the application of which was giving satisfaction to both sides. In a few weeks' time a similar agreement would come into force between Austria and Hungary. That type of agreement, which was the result of speedy negotiations conducted in a spirit of confidence and understanding, was particularly significant because it extended its consultation and information arrangements to nuclear facilities throughout the territory of the two parties, and showed that actual experiences with the transboundary effects of a nuclear accident had rendered obsolete the previous concept of neighbourhood arrangements applying only to a very limited border area.

61. Finally, with regard to the Agency's activities in the sphere of technical assistance and co-operation programmes dealing with sectors other than energy generation, the Director General had rightly stated that most developing Member States benefited chiefly from the programmes in non-power areas, such as the use of radiation and isotope techniques in agriculture, medicine, biology, industry and hydrology. Given the position which it had adopted regarding nuclear power, Austria naturally attached particular importance to the Agency's programmes in the areas of nuclear co-operation not concerned with power generation, areas which provided great benefit to both industrialized and developing countries.

62. In that context he wished to recall that in addition to its annual contribution to the Agency's Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, Austria had in November 1986 promised to contribute the sum of US \$750 000 in order to finance the extension of the training facilities at the Seibersdorf Laboratory, subject to the balance of the total cost of \$2 million being provided from other sources, particularly by other donors. Since it appeared that the overall financing of that project was on the way to being assured, its implementation should begin shortly. In providing additional financing

for Agency activities in the non-power areas of nuclear co-operation, Austria was demonstrating its support for that important aspect of the Agency's activities.

63. Mr. LE BA CAP (Viet Nam) said that during its thirty years of existence the Agency had achieved substantial successes, particularly in the fields of international co-operation and assistance to the developing countries in promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Vietnamese Government greatly appreciated the positive role played by the Agency, and welcomed the fact that since Viet Nam had become a Member of the Agency, ten years previously, its relations with the organization had progressed satisfactorily. The technical assistance projects had improved the material and technical conditions necessary for the development of nuclear science and technology, and the Agency's training programmes had raised the levels of skill of Vietnamese scientific and technical staff.

64. With the assistance of the Soviet Union and of the Agency, the Triga Mark II reactor, which had been out of action for several years past, had been restarted in 1984 with an increased power of 500 kW. The reactor in question was used for the training of scientific and technical staff, for radioisotope production and for the activation analysis of geological, biological and environmental samples. The Agency had lent its scientific co-operation to expanding nuclear medicine facilities with the use of scanners and radio-immunoassay methods for the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the thyroid, kidney and liver, among others.

65. In agriculture, Viet Nam had carried out research work on the radio-stimulation of the growth of maize and soya, and also on the improvement of certain cereal varieties by radio-induced mutagenesis using a 16 kCi research irradiator supplied by the Agency. Studies had been conducted on the use of radioisotopes in stockbreeding, in land improvement and in prospecting for underground water. Viet Nam considered that the technique of irradiation preservation of foodstuffs was of great interest for the purpose of reducing post-harvest losses. A multi-purpose 220 kCi cobalt-60 irradiation facility was in the course of construction under an Agency technical assistance project.

66. Turning to industrial applications, he said that, in addition to a non-destructive analysis technique being developed, Viet Nam was preparing to apply the radiotracer method, nucleonic control systems, radiation sterilization, and radiation treatment of materials. Preliminary results on radiosterilization of medical supplies and instruments had been obtained, and research was under way with a view to setting up a commercial-scale sterilization centre.

67. Accompanying the non-power-generation applications of nuclear energy, Viet Nam had undertaken comparative studies on various energy sources with a view to demonstrating the need to introduce nuclear power, and had embarked on preparatory work for long-term energy planning, the drafting of regulations governing radiation protection and nuclear safety, and site selection for nuclear power plants.

68. Viet Nam had undertaken to contribute to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities. It had complied with the formalities necessary for accession to the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance drafted during the special session of the General Conference in 1986. Viet Nam, which was party to the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology, had taken the important decision to accede to NPT and had signed in 1981 a safeguards agreement relating to the Dalat 500 kW research reactor.

69. Viet Nam intended to use atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes. It strongly supported any international effort aimed at progressively eliminating the threat of a nuclear war, particularly any action ensuring the safety of non-nuclear-weapon States. That was why it supported the important peace initiatives of the Soviet Union, the New Delhi message for a world without nuclear weapons, and the declaration of the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries relating to nuclear disarmament. It likewise supported the initiatives to establish a denuclearized zone in South-East Asia and a zone of peace, co-operation and development in Asia and the Pacific.

70. At the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva in March-April 1987, the Vietnamese delegation had affirmed its support for the principles of equality, mutual respect, independence and sovereignty in the development and peaceful use of atomic energy. It was clear that the primary objective of the Agency was to assist the developing countries in implementing their peaceful nuclear programmes. Although those countries, which made up two thirds of mankind, possessed considerable national resources, a hard-working labour force, powerful intellects and brilliant civilizations, their economic backwardness prevented them from using the progress of technology, particularly nuclear technology, for developing their industry, agriculture and medicine, and for raising the standards of living of their populations and ensuring their energy supplies.

71. Like other developing countries, Viet Nam would be facing numerous difficulties in promoting nuclear science and technology, but it hoped to succeed in that sphere with the assistance of the Agency and thanks to bilateral and multilateral co-operation agreements, and thus effectively to contribute to its national social and economic development. Viet Nam also desired to strengthen friendship, co-operation and mutual understanding between nations. In that connection it attached great importance to the Regional Co-operation Agreement for Asia and the Pacific, in which it intended actively to participate in order to dissipate the hesitations which still persisted in that connection.

72. The peoples of the world desired peace, national independence and the expansion of their economies. The struggle against the warmongering and reactionary forces of the present age had the essential aim of preserving peace and international security, reinforcing friendship and co-operation between peoples, encouraging dialogue and détente, and favouring peaceful co-existence between countries with differing social systems. The foreign policy of Viet Nam was a policy of peace, friendship and co-operation. It was more important than ever to pursue the dialogue, to create a framework for peaceful co-existence in South East Asia, and to put an end to all aggression, intervention and external threats in the region in order to establish a zone of peace and stability.

73. Anxious to make its modest contribution to strengthening the Agency, Viet Nam trusted that the thirty-first regular session of the General Conference would yield fruitful results.

74. Ms. SUDIRDJO (Indonesia) noted that in the present year the General Conference provided an opportunity to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to reflect on the performance of the organization during the past three decades and to anticipate the further long-term contributions that it might make to the international community in accordance with its Statute.

75. "The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world." That sentence, so often quoted during the last thirty years, reflected an ideal whose concrete manifestations were also - and justifiably - frequently mentioned, because they served as a reminder of the value of the Agency for the entire international community. As one of the most effective and efficiently managed organizations of the United Nations system, the Agency served as a model for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

76. Indonesia had joined the Agency at the outset in 1957, but even before that, in 1956, it had been involved in the activities leading to the establishment of the organization. In 1958, Indonesia had also had the privilege of providing the President for the General Conference, and likewise in that year it had first received technical assistance from the Agency. By affording that assistance to numerous countries, the Agency had greatly contributed to the development of nuclear technology in the fields of agriculture, biology, health, industrial applications, prospecting, mining and processing of radioactive materials, energy planning, and particularly in nuclear power surveys and studies.

77. It should be noted that the number of technical assistance projects had continued to increase steadily, thanks to the dedication of the present Director General and his predecessors, and of the members of the Secretariat. While technical co-operation between developed and developing countries continued to be necessary, regional co-operation should also be promoted.

Indonesia had always attached great importance to the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA), which in June 1987 had been extended for the third time.

78. Since the establishment of Indonesia's National Atomic Agency almost thirty years previously, six nuclear research centres had been set up in the country. The sixth, at Serpong near Jakarta, had been inaugurated in August of the present year. The commissioning tests of the principal facility at that centre, a 30-MW multi-purpose research reactor, would be completed by the end of the year. The reactor used low-enriched uranium fuel, which would be supplied by a fuel fabrication plant that had likewise become operational. Construction of the centre had been possible thanks to the assistance and co-operation of a number of friendly countries, and Indonesia was ready to share the facilities with other Member States. The Indonesian authorities had remained in close contact with the Agency at all stages of the establishment of the centre, and would continue to maintain that close contact in order to achieve optimum utilization of the facilities. In that connection it was her Government's intention to remain faithful to the spirit of the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to NPT, held in 1985, which had reaffirmed the need further to promote international co-operation with a view to facilitating the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information connected with the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

79. In recent years, several energy studies had been carried out in Indonesia. In 1986, figures from previous nuclear power studies had been updated, and the economic justification for a nuclear power programme had been discussed. The conclusions had indicated an equivalence in coal and nuclear generating costs, but owing to the country's limited renewable energy sources and the prospect of increasing coal prices during the 1990s, it would seem that the establishment of the initial infrastructure for a future nuclear power programme would be fully justified for Indonesia.

80. As was indicated in the annual report for 1986, one of the significant achievements in the Agency's programme was undoubtedly the setting up of a senior expert group on the promotion of nuclear power in developing countries, whose report had recently been published. The Indonesian delegation wished to

congratulate the Secretariat on having completed the study in a relatively short time. It welcomed the recommendation by the expert group to promote closer co-operation with finance institutes, and urged the Secretariat to plan the implementation of the experts' proposals according to agreed priorities. The concern regarding the safety of nuclear power plants, initiated by the events at Three Mile Island in 1979, had become a crucial issue for everyone as a result of the accident at Chernobyl in 1986. In spite of those sobering events, there was no doubt that under normal operating conditions nuclear power generation was still to be considered a significant source of energy, acceptable both economically and environmentally. During the days following the Chernobyl tragedy, it quickly became evident that the Agency was the accepted and respected instance for initiating international assessment and action. The nuclear world had then proved itself to be united, in spite of its political differences.

81. The annual report for 1986 had also comprehensively covered the Agency's activities on nuclear safety and radiation protection, which, in the wake of the Chernobyl accident, was wise and appropriate. Praise had also to be accorded to the Agency for having been able, with the assistance of Member States, rapidly to initiate remedial action, so as to limit the negative impact which the accident might have had on public opinion. The convening of the special session of the General Conference, followed by various special meetings on nuclear safety and radiation protection, appeared to have restored confidence in nuclear power.

82. Now also appeared to be the time to reflect on future activities related to safety. It was obvious that emphasis needed to be placed on the prevention of accidents - an activity to which the Agency had been devoting attention for many years past. However, in view of the financial difficulties which weighed on the entire world, it would seem appropriate that the Agency should endeavour to draft a more balanced budget for the coming years, giving particular attention to higher priority activities.

83. Mr. CONSTENLA (Costa Rica) said that the thirty-first regular session of the General Conference coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency and with an enhancement of the latter's activities in the peaceful

and safe uses of radioisotopes and nuclear energy, a situation which the Costa Rican delegation welcomed.

84. Thirty years had also passed since the establishment of the first National Nuclear Energy Commission in Costa Rica. Thanks to the Agency's support, nuclear activities benefiting the Costa Rican people had been intensified and diversified. That trend had had an indirect impact on the other countries of Central America, with which Costa Rica wished to share its know-how in the application of nuclear techniques.

85. Costa Rica thus supported the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), which aimed at co-ordinating efforts to solve regional problems using nuclear techniques. Costa Rica was also participating in the ARCAL programme, which promoted nuclear development in areas of joint interest for the participating Latin American countries.

86. In 1986, Costa Rica's national programme for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been strengthened, as attested by the substantial number of projects implemented in the areas of agriculture and stockbreeding, hydrology, radiation protection, applied nuclear physics, nuclear medicine and nuclear information.

87. As a participant in the ARCAL programme, Costa Rica had organized the second joint FAO/IAEA meeting of the regional network for improving the reproductive management of meat- and milk-producing livestock in Latin America.

88. The Costa Rican delegation approved the Agency's report for 1986, supported the organization's programme of work and paid tribute to the efforts of its staff. At the same time it trusted that the Agency would not waste its time and resources and would not jeopardize its prestige by taking up problems of a political nature which lay within the competence of the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations.

89. Costa Rica was a proponent of the universal character of the Agency and considered that the exclusion or discriminatory treatment of one of its Member States would have a negative impact on all. It trusted that, aware of the importance of its role, the Agency would remain unaffected by political influences foreign to its objectives.

90. Mr. KOLYCHAN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, at a meeting held at Minsk to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency, the participants had noted that the organization had secured good results in the implementation of its statutory functions. Ever since its establishment the Agency had been playing an essential part in international co-operation for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and was effectively collaborating in the promotion of international security by performing its control functions under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Agency had become a generally recognized centre for international co-operation and a significant scientific and political authority in the field of nuclear science and technology. The success of the special session of the General Conference had, once again, shown that the international community had available a reliable and effective mechanism for co-ordinating activities concerning the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The special session had highlighted the general proposition that it was essential, at the present stage of development of nuclear energy, to expand and strengthen international co-operation in all areas of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, particularly that of nuclear and radiological safety.

91. The Byelorussian SSR, like all the other socialist countries, was in favour of enhancing the authority and role of the Agency in solving the fundamental problems facing mankind.

92. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Agency activities to which it attached the greatest importance, namely the programmes on nuclear and radiological safety, safeguards, nuclear power, technical co-operation and the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) had been well planned and executed. Active support should be lent to the expanded nuclear safety and radiation protection programme designed to strengthen international co-operation in improving nuclear power safety. That programme covered the most topical aspects of the matter, ranging from the development of advanced systems and technologies to decommissioning of nuclear facilities. An international system for the overall monitoring of radiological safety could achieve a similar objective by using telecommunications satellites.

93. It was likewise logical and necessary to organize, under Agency auspices, international co-operation to develop new-generation power reactors, whose safety would be enhanced thanks to experience and present knowledge, as

had been proposed at the 1986 sessions of the General Conference. An international convention against nuclear terrorism in all its forms could make an important contribution to the safety of nuclear power. His delegation fully supported the move rapidly to draft and effectively to implement such a convention.

94. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Agency's activities to supervise its application were of extreme importance for world security. During the last thirty years the Agency had evolved a sophisticated control system which guaranteed reliable and adequate inspection and information. Implementation of the safeguards programme had been improved by more complete automation and the use of computers at all stages of inspections and information analysis and treatment. However, his Government shared the concern expressed by the Director General regarding the lack of funds for further developing that extremely important aspect of the Agency's work. It was likewise essential to apply safeguards in connection with the supply of technical assistance in various forms, something which would in no way detract from the effectiveness of such assistance. International co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy had to be accompanied by effective Agency control.

95. The Byelorussian SSR was gratified that the draft budget for 1988 had been prepared on the basis of a minimum increase in expenditure, thanks to the efforts of the Secretariat and of the Board of Governors, which had endeavoured to submit a balanced budget and to apply various economy measures. The priorities assigned to the Agency's programmes were on the whole correct and reflected the effort made to enhance productivity and efficiency. The Agency's financial difficulties, due to unprecedented indebtedness and to delays in the payment of their contributions by certain advanced countries, nevertheless remained a source of extreme anxiety.

96. A substantial and ever-growing proportion of the Agency's budget was earmarked for expenditure under the technical assistance programme. Each year, the target laid down for voluntary contributions to the TACF increased by 12%, and the volume of the resources derived from the Regular Budget had also increased. His Government desired that growth to continue. The total of

voluntary contributions to the TACF for 1988 was \$38 million, constituting a clear success for the Agency. The present system of indicative planning figures had proved its worth, and ensured reliable and predictable financing for what was a vital Agency programme. The Byelorussian SSR regularly and in full paid its contribution to the Fund, the sum for 1988 amounting to the equivalent of \$129 200 in national currency.

97. Turning to the items of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, and of the revision of Article VI as a whole, the Byelorussian SSR believed that it would be unreasonable at the present time to change the composition of the Board of Governors, which could point to a long period of effective work. However, he did not deny the value of consultations and additional discussions on the matter, in order to submit in due time proposals for improving the composition of the Board.

98. The Byelorussian SSR consistently supported all the Agency's activities and was participating in its most important programmes. Its own long-term programme for peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and the achievements it already had to its credit enabled it to take an active part in international co-operation in that field. There was no doubt that the responsibilities of the Agency would increase as science and technology developed and their practical applications became more widely spread. The achievements of the Agency during the past thirty years gave grounds for hoping that it would in future contribute worthily to the cause of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and to the establishment of confidence and security on the planet Earth.

99. Mr. LAVIÑA (Philippines) recalled that the thirty-first session of the General Conference was coinciding with the thirtieth anniversary of the Agency's establishment. During that short time the Agency had displayed intense activity in the fields of nuclear safety, safeguards, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The achievements of the Agency in those fields redounded to the benefit of mankind. On the present momentous occasion the Philippines trusted, as did many other countries, that the General Conference would take important decisions.

100. At the present time, 15% of the world's electricity was of nuclear origin. It was expected that that figure would rise and that nuclear power would represent for a considerable number of countries a reliable source of energy for their economic and social development. Although the Philippine Government had stopped the operation of its nuclear power plant, it did not deny the benefits of nuclear power, provided that safety conditions were respected. In that connection the Philippines hoped that the Agency would continue to secure the highest level of safety for all nuclear activities, and to further international co-operation in the nuclear safety field.

101. The Agency had with remarkable speed succeeded in re-establishing confidence in nuclear safety, which had been shaken following the accident at Chernobyl, by the adoption of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Although those two conventions possessed considerable importance, certain circumstances were at present making it difficult for the Philippines to accede to them. The Philippine Government was nevertheless studying the conventions and their implications for its own policies, and hoped to be able to take a decision as soon as the present difficulties had been overcome. The main drawback of the texts was that they did not take account of the basic legal principle that "he who pollutes pays".

102. The Philippines also attached great importance to the other peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The increasing number of licensed users of radioactive materials was an indication of the extent of utilization of nuclear energy. Industry had wide recourse to the application of nuclear techniques. Research and development work was at present under way, with Agency assistance, in the spheres of food and agriculture, public health, the environment, industry and services related to the uses of atomic energy and to radiation protection.

103. On the matter of the technical assistance supplied by the Agency, the Philippines trusted that the two-year programming cycle scheduled to start in 1989 would make it possible to improve the delivery of technical assistance and the quality of projects. His delegation welcomed the fact that the system of evaluating technical assistance requests placed emphasis on programmes

rather than on projects, and that the resources allotted by the Agency in recent years to programmes in non-power areas had increased. His delegation trusted that that trend would continue. The Philippines had benefited substantially not only from the Agency's technical assistance but also from its membership of the Regional Co-operation Agreement (RCA), and it was involved in nine projects under that heading. His country was also the centre of excellence for regional training in nucleonic control systems for the mineral industry. His Government also welcomed the transfer of the co-ordinating body for the RCA from the Agency's Department of Research and Isotopes to the Department of Technical Co-operation. That should improve co-ordination between RCA projects and the Agency's co-operation activities in the area of Asia and the Pacific. In addition, as a signatory of the RCA, the Philippines was supporting the Agency's role in promoting goodwill and co-operation among Member States within the same geographic areas.

104. Regarding the proposed increase in the Regular Budget, the Philippines delegation called for an improvement in the procedure associated with its adoption. Countries which were not members of the Board of Governors should be afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Board, particularly on matters of contributions and assessments. Yet those States, the majority of which were developing countries, did not participate in discussions which were of concern to them, and their contribution to the budget was imposed upon them without their representation or consent. The Philippine delegation believed that even what appeared to be a limited increase in the Regular Budget would increase the burden upon numerous developing countries, particularly those with external debt problems.

105. Turning to the amendment of Article VI of the Statute, his delegation wished to reaffirm its support for the principle of universality in the membership of the Agency. That principle should find its expression in an equitable representation of Member States on the Board of Governors.

106. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the General Conference would be able to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear safety and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and that Member States would show more flexibility and political will in seeking solutions to the problems on the Agency's agenda, taking into account the overriding interests of international peace and security and the safety of mankind.

107. Mr. FORTUNE (New Zealand) wished first to read a message from the New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Mr. Russell Marshall, who warmly congratulated the Agency on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of its establishment. According to the Minister, New Zealand - as a founder Member of the Agency - was most satisfied with the strength and vitality of the organization, which now boasted a membership of more than one hundred nations. New Zealand would continue to support the work done by the Agency that contributed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The safeguards responsibilities of the Agency were onerous, but they were of crucial importance to the future of the world.

108. The Minister had added that the confidence which New Zealand placed in the Agency had yet again been justified by the concerted measures, taken under the Agency's auspices, to improve international co-operation in nuclear safety in the wake of the serious accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. Promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was important, but it should be pursued under the most stringent of safety conditions. Finally, the Minister had stated that New Zealand looked forward to a long-lived and mutually satisfying relationship with the IAEA as the Agency proceeded into its fourth decade.

109. During its thirty-year history, the Agency had grown in stature and expanded its capacity to furnish technical progress and assistance, and to contribute to disarmament and arms control, to the development of economic resources, to nuclear research and development, to environmental planning and to nuclear safety awareness. The Agency provided an important link in a network of multilateral institutions through which the international community could take up the challenges flung at it by the build-up and escalation of armaments world wide.

110. At the time of the Agency's foundation, there had been three nuclear-weapon States. Now there were five. The number of States estimated to have either the capability of, or an interest in, acquiring nuclear weapons was rather larger. In 1987, even more acutely than in 1957, the importance was being realized of the verification system operated by the Agency to prevent the diversion of nuclear material by non-nuclear-weapon States for use in

nuclear explosive devices. The system was already invaluable, but it could be extended. New Zealand continued to support the application of full-scope safeguards to all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, and to all aspects of trade in nuclear materials and technology. It hoped that every nuclear supplier, whether an advanced or a developing country, would recognize the application of full-scope Agency safeguards as a condition for the delivery of equipment or technology. World security deserved no less. The New Zealand delegation welcomed the fact that, at the end of 1986, 164 safeguards agreements were in force in 96 States.

111. On the other hand it was a matter for concern that by the end of the same year 46 States party to NPT had not complied with their obligations thereunder to conclude safeguards agreements with the Agency. The fact remained that for all States parties, including States only marginally involved in nuclear activities, the implementation of Agency safeguards would represent a clear commitment to the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Similarly, adhesion to NPT itself by all countries would add immeasurably to world security and stability. That would also help to remove some of the present suspicions surrounding the nuclear programmes of the minority of countries remaining outside the NPT non-proliferation framework. Confidence in the non-proliferation regime and in the safeguards system was enhanced by the voluntary offers of the nuclear-weapon States to submit some or all of their peaceful nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards. New Zealand had welcomed the decision of China to place some of its peaceful nuclear installations under Agency safeguards.

112. The global non-proliferation system was sustained not only at technical level by the work of the Agency. It was strengthened at the regional and local levels by the decision to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones where circumstances permitted. Both the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty) and its recently created counterpart, the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), constituted regional efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to preserve the non-nuclear status quo of the areas concerned. In each case, Agency safeguards were an important element in the verification mechanisms. New Zealand welcomed the recent decision of the Board of Governors to note the

role and functions of the Agency under the Treaty of Rarotonga. While efforts to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation contributed to general global security, they did not in themselves reduce the latent threat to international stability posed by the armaments race, particularly in its nuclear dimension.

113. New Zealand therefore applauded and supported the efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union to achieve real and verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons. It also welcomed the recent agreement in principle between the United States and the Soviet Union to conclude a treaty which would eliminate intermediate-range nuclear missiles globally. His Government trusted that the initiative which had led to the first ever negotiated reduction in nuclear arms would have a positive effect on the talks covering other classes of weapons, in particular, strategic and space weapons. The conclusion of an agreement on intermediate-range nuclear forces would indicate that the major powers had accepted the principle that security could indeed be maintained at lower levels of armament. That was perhaps the most important and most promising result which had been achieved, the origin of which went back to the Reykjavik Summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. The joint announcement by the United States and the Soviet Union that they would commence stage-by-stage negotiations to limit nuclear testing also represented a positive move and a political commitment in the sphere of arms control, from which New Zealand expected great results. Although the ultimate goal, a complete ban on nuclear testing, still appeared a long way off, that final state nevertheless remained the aim. Ways should also be sought of including peaceful nuclear explosions within such a prohibition, and of bringing other nuclear-weapon States within the negotiating framework.

114. A great deal of present nuclear technological expertise and much of the available nuclear materials and equipment were being channelled into the production of increasingly more sophisticated and more deadly nuclear weapons. It was both urgent and vital better to co-ordinate international efforts to harness nuclear energy exclusively to peaceful applications under stringent and verifiable controls. New Zealand believed that that had been amply demonstrated by the recent United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. His

Government considered that the Agency should continue to play a part in promoting a judicious and carefully considered application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.

115. Public consciousness of the benefits of the civil uses of nuclear energy had been overshadowed by the accident at Chernobyl, which had resulted in a significant release of radioactive materials. New Zealand commended the speed with which measures were taken under the auspices of the Agency at inter-governmental level to improve international co-operation on nuclear safety, and his Government had been particularly encouraged by the prompt conclusion and opening for signature by the Agency of two nuclear safety conventions. His Government, which had acceded to the conventions, was gratified that both instruments had now come into force. It also looked forward to the outcome of the Agency's revision of its nuclear safety standards, in particular the review of the five Codes of Practice.

116. The environmental hazards caused by significant radioactive releases and the accompanying need to develop the appropriate preventive measures were matters of public concern, as was also the disposal of dangerous nuclear wastes. The international standards set for the storage of low-activity wastes should be supplemented by more work on the safe disposal of high-activity wastes. Regional efforts to contribute to the safe management of nuclear wastes should also be intensified. During the previous year, a convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region, together with protocols on dumping and pollution, had been concluded and opened for signature. Its provisions on the dumping of nuclear waste complemented those on the disposal of radioactive wastes at sea set out in the Treaty of Rarotonga.

117. At the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the New Zealand delegation had stated that "the peaceful use of the atom will benefit no one in a world laid waste by the military use of nuclear energy. Nor can its potential be properly realized in a world that permanently faces that threat". At its thirty-first session, the General Conference still had that challenge before it.

118. Mr. KABBAJ (Morocco) said that he wished to take the occasion of the Agency's thirtieth anniversary to congratulate it on the serious manner in which it had discharged the tasks entrusted to it, and on the major contribution which it had made to the development and strengthening of international co-operation in the nuclear field, in spite of various difficulties and numerous political and financial crises. Morocco was proud to belong to an organization which held a prime place within the United Nations system.

119. It emerged from the annual report for 1986 that total installed nuclear power had increased by 9%, reaching about 270 GW(e) at the end of 1986, and that in Europe, America and Asia 23 new nuclear power plants had been built. Although the developing countries had not registered significant progress in that field, the Agency had continued its work to assist countries to install their own nuclear infrastructures, particularly by furnishing them assistance in the fields of planning and implementation of programmes, training, expert services and the publication of reports, communiqués and other important documents.

120. The serious accident at Chernobyl had had an important impact on the design and operation of nuclear power stations on the one hand, and on the work of the Agency on the other, particularly that dealing with nuclear safety and radiation protection. Although the accident had provoked reservations in numerous political circles and had weighed heavily on public opinion in many countries, it had not led to the cancellation of nuclear programmes or to the shutdown of operating power plants. On the contrary, national authorities remained confident, and instead of rejecting nuclear power they had taken action to strengthen methods of prevention, surveillance and intervention in order to bring about improvements in that sector.

121. In the sphere of international co-operation, the Chernobyl accident had led to the drafting of two conventions on early notification and on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident, which had been very favourably received throughout the world. In addition, the Agency had taken action to strengthen its existing structures, particularly as regards nuclear safety and radiation protection, and to create new mechanisms aimed at preventing the potential

hazards of radioactive fallout. Several meetings and symposia on nuclear safety had been organized under the Agency's auspices, an expanded programme to strengthen international co-operation in that field had been prepared and a series of important documents had been issued on the subject.

122. The discussions on international co-operation concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection had revealed some constructive ideas, including that of co-operation between neighbouring countries, which had given rise to a lively debate. Although Morocco considered that that type of co-operation should be confined to a strictly bilateral or regional context, it thought that the Agency might lay down guiding principles defining the procedures for negotiations aimed at concluding bilateral or regional agreements on that subject. The Agency might also collect and disseminate information on existing bilateral and regional arrangements, and assist Member States in creating further similar ones. Morocco was situated near to a number of States advanced in the nuclear field, with which it maintained close economic ties. It was therefore much interested in the principle of co-operation between neighbouring countries and believed that the Agency could assist Member States to apply that principle and evolve effective measures, at both bilateral and regional level, in the areas of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

123. Terrorist action and attacks against peaceful nuclear installations could have much more serious consequences than was generally thought. That was why, at its regular session in 1983, the General Conference had recommended, in resolution GC(XXVII)/RES/407, the adoption of mandatory international rules prohibiting attacks against nuclear installations. However, that recommendation had remained a dead letter and the lacuna in that area remained unfilled. It was therefore up to the Member States, which were all opposed to terrorist attacks and actions against nuclear installations, to prepare rules with mandatory force in that field, in order to prevent the occurrence of dangerous situations of that kind instead of waiting for them to happen. The Agency had an important role to play in that department.

124. Apart from its numerous other activities, the Agency was implementing, in the field of technical co-operation and assistance, measures which made an essential contribution to promoting, strengthening and controlling the

peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that connection, he noted with satisfaction that the volume of technical assistance supplied by the Agency had increased significantly, since in 1986 the programme of assistance included 854 ongoing projects in such areas as agriculture, nuclear safety, reactor technology, industry, hydrology and nuclear physics. The total sums earmarked during that period had increased by \$35 million. The Moroccan delegation was gratified that evaluations now formed an integral part of technical co-operation activities, whose effectiveness they helped to increase. Although the Agency had made an effort as regards training and the grant of fellowships, the amount of training provided fell far short of the requirements of the developing countries, particularly by comparison with the other components of technical co-operation such as the supply of material, expert services and so on.

125. The senior expert group on the promotion of nuclear power in developing countries had issued a report and put forward significant recommendations. The Moroccan delegation gave its full support to the proposal to associate the World Bank and other international and regional financial institutions with the task of creating in the developing countries nuclear infrastructures capable of making a positive contribution to the economic and social development of those countries. Similarly, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the principles of regional co-operation and exchanges of information, which in its view represented an effective means of expanding the infrastructures of the developing countries.

126. At a period of industrial restructuring, and of world economic recession, nuclear power had an important role to play in reducing energy costs in the advanced countries. But the situation was not the same in the developing countries, particularly in non-oil-producing countries, for which energy costs always represented a heavy charge. That was why some of those countries had considered opting for nuclear power in order gradually to free themselves from their energy dependence. However, the launching of a nuclear programme called for patience and thorough regional and international co-operation, which the Agency could very well co-ordinate. That option also had economic, financial and other implications which called for an important contribution on the part of international financial institutions in such

sensitive areas as economic and social development. In that regard Morocco was particularly interested in the Agency's studies on the introduction of new planning procedures, and above all on the problems of financing which represented the main obstacles to the implementation of nuclear electric power projects in the developing countries.

127. Turning to technical co-operation, he said that his delegation particularly welcomed the fruitful and constructive co-operation between the national authorities in Morocco and the Agency Departments dealing with technical assistance and co-operation, which were helping Morocco to implement its nuclear programmes. Furthermore, he greeted the Agency's action to organize training sessions and regional courses in the developing countries, and wished in that connection to mention a regional course on nuclear power planning in the developing countries which had been held in Morocco in February 1987. The visit which the Director General of the Agency had paid to Morocco on that occasion had had positive effects on the Moroccan nuclear programme. He announced that his Government would also be prepared to host a regional course on radiation protection organized by the Agency for States in that region.

128. Morocco had first embarked on the nuclear era by applying nuclear techniques initially to the economic and social realms, and then to agriculture, particularly agronomic research and animal production. It had available adequate scientific and technical infrastructures and likewise substantial human resources, and was preparing to set up, with Agency assistance, a regional training and research laboratory specializing in radio-immunological techniques applied to animal production, which might serve as a scientific training centre for the African countries. In addition, it used a number of other nuclear techniques in the important fields of health, education and so on. Convinced of the essential role of scientific and technical structures in the implementation of nuclear programmes, Morocco had set up a National Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology Centre, which would soon be equipped with research reactors.

129. Referring to the Agency's activities in the safeguards area, he was pleased to note that, during 1986, there had been no diversion of nuclear materials and that the safeguarded material had continued to be devoted to

peaceful nuclear activities. Morocco hoped that the Agency's safeguards system, which it strongly supported, would be extended to the whole world. However, his Government noted with regret that Israel persisted in its errors and continued to defy the international community and ignore all the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Agency's General Conference, particularly those envisaging the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and in South Africa, and condemning Israel for its refusal to renounce the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Israel was further persisting in its refusal to apply resolution 486 (1981) of the United Nations Security Council, calling upon it to place its nuclear facilities under the Agency's safeguards system. The racist régime in Pretoria also continued to flout the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Agency's General Conference. The communiqué published by the South African Government, of which the Moroccan delegation had been informed, was no more than a mere declaration of intention and did nothing to change the position of the South African Government, which continued systematically to violate the United Nations Charter and the Agency's Statute.

130. Turning to agreements and treaties, he recalled that during the past year two important conventions, namely the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, had come into force. It was to be hoped that the same would soon apply to the other agreements and treaties. The work of the Agency's Civil Liability Committee, in which Morocco had participated, had led to the convening of a group of governmental experts from States Members of the Agency and of the NEA, with a mandate to examine the relationships between the Vienna and Paris Conventions on civil liability.

131. Morocco, long conscious of the damage liable to be caused by nuclear accidents, had requested the Agency to assist it in drafting legislation governing its nuclear activities as a whole. It had acceded to the convention on those matters, as indeed it had to all treaties and agreements drafted under the aegis of the Agency, and had taken all the necessary constitutional steps to ratify the documents in question, which it regarded as constituting a consolidated body of legislation for use in facilitating all aspects of the

problem of nuclear power. Morocco thus hoped that the legal framework regulating the greatest possible number of those aspects would continue to expand.

132. On the subject of Morocco's financial obligations towards the Agency, he recalled that his Government had paid its contribution to the Agency's budget for 1986, and was at present taking the appropriate administrative action to discharge its obligations for the current year. Furthermore, the competent Moroccan authorities were preparing shortly to transfer their voluntary contributions to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1987-88.

133. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the work of the present session would lead to a strengthening of international co-operation in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and would also buttress the role of the Agency.

134. Mr. BARBOSA FERREIRA (Portugal) said that it was with the greatest interest that his Government was following the expansion of the Agency's safety and radiation protection programme, which was playing an extremely important role, as attested by the two conventions adopted at the special session of the General Conference.

135. Like all other countries, Portugal was alarmed at that disquieting aspect of atomic energy, and considered that the conventions should represent the first phase of a process of improvement aiming at more clearly defining the intervention level - which should include all significant nuclear accidents - and at enhancing international co-operation as far as possible, particularly between neighbouring States. In that connection Portugal attached particular significance to the ideas expressed in Attachment 1, paragraph 2 of the document prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Board of Governors (GOV/INF/512), dealing with consultation arrangements, for existing and planned nuclear activities, with regard to nuclear safety, radiological protection, physical security and environmental acceptability. He hoped that the Agency would continue its efforts to convert those ideas into guiding principles governing inter-State relations.

136. The hazard constituted by nuclear activities was a reason why States, even if they had not or not yet opted for nuclear power, should be interested in more active participation in the work of the Agency's policy-making organs, in order to contribute more dynamic support to the sound decisions which were taken there. Hence, Portugal had co-sponsored the Italian proposal for revision of Article VI of the Statute as a whole. His Government thought it appropriate to supplement the two criteria of technical expertise and geographical distribution with a third not less important criterion, namely the potential hazards for countries situated close to large concentrations of nuclear facilities. Mention should also be made of the importance of the OSART missions and the first ASSET mission in 1986.

137. Turning to safeguards, he said that Portugal, as a country in favour of nuclear non-proliferation and a signatory of NPT, must necessarily support the Agency's efforts towards increasing the number of States party to that treaty. He considered that an important achievement was constituted by the fact that in 1986, as in previous years, the Agency had detected no anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material - or the misuse of facilities, equipment or non-nuclear materials subject to safeguards - for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device, or for purposes unknown.

138. Portugal was continuing its work of prospecting for and mining uranium, and its annual production was about 130 tonnes of uranium concentrate; there were plans to increase that figure.

139. On the subject of research and development, he described Portuguese activities in the fields of medicine, agriculture, radiation protection and radiological safety, radioecological studies, including marine radioecology, and the use of a research reactor for radioisotope production and the application of nuclear techniques.

140. Finally, Portugal was highly appreciative of the excellent co-operation which had been maintained over the years with the Agency.

141. Mr. TSEREN (Mongolia) said that, since its establishment, the Agency had become a recognized centre for the co-ordination of the efforts of States to develop international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and nuclear safety. Mongolia shared the view of the Director General that the Agency was serving its Members effectively and in a professional manner. Having always attributed great importance to strengthening co-operation between all States, Mongolia participating in all Agency activities. The Agency's anniversary had been marked in Mongolia by a solemn meeting of the scientific community, and the media had stressed the work of the Agency and co-operation between the latter and Mongolia.

142. In the course of the year which had just passed, the Agency had carried out important work on nuclear safety. As a result of the Agency's efforts and at the urging of the Director General, two important conventions, which would serve as the legal basis for the safe development of nuclear power, had been drafted in record time and adopted in the Agency, and had already come into force. Mongolia, which had already signed and ratified them, further approved the expanded activities in the field of nuclear safety. His Government believed that the implementation of the proposals for establishment of an international regime governing the safe development of nuclear power would significantly promote those efforts. Mongolia also believed that it was time to take effective action against the possibility of nuclear terrorism.

143. The prevention of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons through observance of NPT on the one hand and the striving for nuclear disarmament on the other were closely linked. It emerged from an article recently published by Mr. Gorbachev that it would be possible to achieve a non-nuclear and non-violent world on the basis of a universal regime of international peace and security and of genuine collaboration between States for the use of the atom in the service of mankind. In that connection he wished to emphasize the basic importance of the agreement in principle between the Soviet Union and the United States of America for the elimination of two types of nuclear weapon. Attention should also be drawn to the fact that the Agency's experience in applying safeguards to civil nuclear installations was beginning to be widely used as a model for implementing disarmament measures in other

than nuclear fields. It was noteworthy that during the discussions on the prohibition and abolition of chemical weapons in progress at Geneva in the framework of the Disarmament Conference, reference was often made to that Agency experience.

144. Mongolia noted with satisfaction the implementation of the Agency's main programmes and was prepared to approve the annual report and the accounts for 1986, the Agency's budget for 1988 and the scale of assessment recommended by the Board of Governors. His Government was in favour of the 12% increase for 1988 in the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund, and would pay its national currency contributions to the Fund punctually and in full. Mongolia appreciated the technical assistance delivered by the Agency to implement national programmes involving nuclear energy. In that connection he wished to stress that that type of co-operation made a significant contribution to establishing and developing the necessary scientific and technical infrastructures, and to solving numerous economic problems.

145. The Mongolian Government attached great importance to the Agency's programme for the protection of the environment and for the application of radiations and radioisotopes in agriculture, geology and the health field. He was pleased to note that, in recent years, the Agency's projects in Mongolia in the above-mentioned areas had been crowned with success. Those projects had yielded a better knowledge of the processes occurring in the macrocosm and in the microcosm, and were also of great importance in diagnosis and treatment, in selection work on the creation of new varieties of cereals, and in bringing about greater profitability of geological and prospecting work. With the assistance of the Agency's highly qualified experts, training courses had been organized to develop the skills of young Mongolian scientists.

146. Finally, the Mongolian Government and scientific community wished to assure the Agency of their support, and were prepared to strengthen their collaboration with all Member States of the Agency in the peaceful application of the achievements of nuclear science.

147. Mr. DARWISH (United Arab Emirates) said that the large attendance at the General Conference bore witness to the importance of the items on the agenda, the most crucial of which were the uses of nuclear power, the

technical, administrative and financial problems associated with it, and the action to be taken to reinforce international co-operation in the prevention of nuclear accidents and in the radiation protection sphere.

148. Before going into the matter of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and describing the measures taken in that connection by the United Arab Emirates, he wished to stress the growing anxiety experienced by the peoples in the region of the Gulf and throughout the world in the face of the threat of nuclear conflict or of the risk of radioactive fallout. The whole world was today the scene of discussions of unprecedented seriousness not on the positive aspects of nuclear power and its peaceful uses, but on the risk of the destruction of mankind.

149. There were at present in the world arms so destructive that one quarter of them would suffice to annihilate the entire human race. In a message to the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had observed that existing nuclear arsenals created fear and mistrust among the peoples of the world and gravely threatened the whole of mankind, that there would be no effective international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy until the world had definitively rejected its destructive uses, and that it would be wise and logical to eliminate nuclear weapons once and for all, in order to enter into the full benefit of the peaceful uses of the atom. The world was fully aware of the dangers represented by the nuclear threat. That was why the United Arab Emirates urged the Agency and all international organizations and institutions to redouble their efforts to put an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to strive for a strengthening of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

150. The United Arab Emirates had always endeavoured to develop nuclear power and its peaceful uses for the benefit of mankind. Nuclear techniques were being applied in industry, agriculture, medicine and water prospecting. Nuclear medicine laboratories were employed for therapeutic purposes and hormone analyses, and the country was provided with radiological apparatus. With the Agency's assistance, a laboratory had been installed and equipped for

the detection of the radioactive content of food commodities. He also stated that the Council of Ministers of the United Arab Emirates had recently approved the establishment of an overall authority governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

151. The United Arab Emirates was making a great effort to reinforce international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and had agreed to sign the Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

152. The time had come to prohibit the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to take specific measures to that end. The United Arab Emirates was convinced that the General Conference would accord all due attention to examining action to strengthen international co-operation in the prevention of nuclear hazards and in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

153. Mr. CLADAKIS (Greece) said that the crucial role of the Agency in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was now beyond doubt. The Chernobyl accident, its impact and the responses to it had, in 1986, continued to influence the decisions, options or measures taken throughout the world regarding the peaceful use of atomic energy. Some countries had decided to forego or defer the nuclear option as an energy source, while others had reaffirmed their confidence in and reliance on nuclear power as a necessary precondition to their growth and prosperity. However, the need to improve nuclear safety and the absolute necessity of international co-operation on the subject of safety were universally recognized. The pivotal role of the Agency in that field was now uncontested, and the Greek delegation approved the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Agency since Chernobyl.

154. In the same context, he was happy to announce that the upgrading and re-organization of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission had been recently approved by Parliament. The purpose of that upgrading was to secure improvements in various areas - the effectiveness of regulatory activities, radiation protection, and the promotion of research and applications in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Although the Greek Government continued to exclude the nuclear option for energy generation, the above action showed that

it recognized the ever more important role of nuclear activities and the need to acquire the expertise in order to follow the development of nuclear technology in all its applications.

155. In the area of nuclear safety, which had dominated the Agency's activities in 1986 owing to the Chernobyl accident, his delegation approved the measures which had been taken, namely: a meeting of government experts to draft the Conventions on Early Notification and on Emergency Assistance; the examination by international experts of a report by Soviet experts on the accident, in the light of the experience gained from other accidents; the convening of a special session of the General Conference in order to strengthen international co-operation; and the expansion of the Agency's programme on safety accompanied by a review of its plans and priorities by experts from Member States.

156. The Greek delegation noted with satisfaction that the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency had been signed by a majority of Member States. It urged other States to follow suit. It also hoped that the Agency would rapidly undertake the tasks assigned to it under the conventions, and in particular would make use of the World Meteorological Organization's Global Telecommunications System for rapid notification and exchange of data and information in a radiological emergency. His Government firmly believed that an Agency function of that kind would play a key role in promoting nuclear safety and developing international co-operation. The Greek delegation congratulated the Agency on having gathered, analysed and disseminated all the Chernobyl-related information, and particularly commended INSAG, which had prepared a complete report on the Chernobyl accident on the basis of the extensive information supplied by the Soviet experts.

157. The special session of the General Conference held in September 1986 had concluded that nuclear power would continue to be an important source of energy world wide. Recognizing that fact, Greece fully subscribed to the conclusion of the Conference that each country was responsible for securing the highest level of safety, with the Agency having the central role of encouraging and facilitating further international co-operation on safety.

Consequently, his delegation also supported the Agency's expanded nuclear safety and radiation protection programme approved by the Board of Governors in December 1986, and in particular the accreditation of operator training programmes, safety assessment, severe accident management, emergency response and advanced safety technology.

158. In the radiation protection field, the Greek delegation wished to stress the importance of follow-up studies on the Chernobyl releases, as regards atmospheric transport of radionuclides, radionuclide deposition on land surfaces, food chain transfer and the long-term impact of various dose levels on health.

159. In the interests of strengthening international co-operation, the Greek delegation welcomed the efforts of various organizations - IAEA, WHO, FAO, CCE and NEA - to harmonize the derived intervention dose levels in responding to emergencies arising in Member States.

160. The indispensable role of the Agency in safeguards should of course be mentioned. His delegation believed that that was the most significant Agency activity in the sense that its contribution to non-proliferation was substantial.

161. The Greek delegation noted with satisfaction the absence of any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material - or the misuse of facilities, equipment or non-nuclear materials subject to safeguards under certain agreements - for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device, or for purposes unknown. Nevertheless, the Greek delegation felt some concern at the increased number of unexplained discrepancies or anomalies which had been recorded in 1986, and urged their speedy resolution.

162. Greece, which was both a donor and a recipient of technical assistance, greatly appreciated the Agency's assistance in the fields of uranium exploration, research reactor safety and radiological protection, the development of radiopharmaceutical products and many others.

163. In conclusion, he wished to re-state his Government's firm intention to continue supporting the Agency's activities. Thus, Greece had already promised to pay in full its increased assessed voluntary contribution for 1987 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.