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President: Mr. CHUNG (Republic of Korea)
later: Mr. WIRYONO (Indonesia)

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[*] GC(XXXII)/871 and Add.1-3.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXXIII)/INF/274/Rev.2.

APPROVAL OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL (GC(XXXIII)/872)

1. The PRESIDENT said that, as stated in document GC(XXXIII)/872, the Board, acting in accordance with Article VII.A of the Statute, had appointed Mr. Hans Blix to serve as Director General of the Agency for a period of four years from 1 December 1989. Under the same Article, the Board requested the General Conference to approve the appointment and accordingly recommended that it adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(XXXIII)/872.

2. Mr. LAVIÑA (Philippines) said that he had a number of comments to make on the draft resolution before the General Conference. The three preambular paragraphs - especially the third one - were correct, but they contained nothing to support operative paragraph 1, which requested the General Conference to approve the appointment of the current Director General for a third four-year term. In fact, only operative paragraph 2 followed from the preamble. No one doubted that the current Director General's qualifications, capabilities and personal experience made him worthy of a further term, but his reappointment raised an issue which went beyond his person and gave rise to a number of questions.

3. First, why had there been no candidate from a developing country? The main reason might have been that the vacancy for the post of Director General had not been officially announced. In order to meet the objectives of Article VII.A of the Statute, it therefore seemed necessary to circulate an appropriate vacancy notice to all Member States. Secondly, he understood that observers - who might have been able to point out shortcomings in the draft resolution submitted - had been excluded from the Board's deliberations when it had considered the matter of the appointment of the Director General and had decided to reappoint the present incumbent. The text of the Board's decision offered no justification for its main recommendation. The Board could not presume that everybody would approve the appointment of the current Director General for a further term. The appointment of the Director General had to be considered and approved by the General Conference which was the Board's parent body, and had a much larger membership. Even if the Board had had reason to suppose that the General Conference would approve its

recommendation, it should have submitted some justification for the appointment, or the approval of the appointment, of the current Director General for a further term. There was nothing to that effect in the records.

4. His delegation had difficulty in approving the draft resolution under consideration for two reasons. The first was the formal defects it contained: the preamble offered no justification for operative paragraph 1. The second pertained to the substance of the draft resolution: since the preamble laid so much stress on the need for appointing a Director General from a developing country, the Board should have explored the possibility of doing so and of thus putting an end to the unfair situation whereby the Director General of the Agency had always come from a developed country of the Western world. Indeed, a single country had provided two out of the three Directors General, with a combined tenure of 28 years to date. That state of affairs was in total contradiction with the unwritten but fundamental principle of rotation in the United Nations system, to which even the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations was subject.

5. Without wishing to question the qualifications of the current Director General, even if it did not always agree with the manner in which he had exercised his discretion, his delegation felt that a candidate from a developing country should have been appointed. Article VII.A of the Statute should be reviewed and re-interpreted as to limit the term of office of the Director General to an ideal maximum of, perhaps, two consecutive terms. Consequently, if the draft resolution was put to the vote unamended, his delegation would abstain.

6. The PRESIDENT assured the delegate of the Philippines that he had taken note of his remarks. If there were no other speakers, he would take it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XXXIII)/872 and thus approve the appointment of Mr. Hans Blix as Director General for a further term of four years starting on 1 December 1989.

7. The draft resolution contained in document GC(XXXIII)/872 was adopted.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Blix entered the meeting.

8. The PRESIDENT informed Mr. Blix that the General Conference had approved his appointment to the post of Director General for a further term. He was pleased to be the first to congratulate Mr. Blix and invited him to take the oath of office.

9. Mr. BLIX took the following oath:

"I solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to discharge these functions and to regulate my conduct with the interest of the Agency only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other authority external to the Agency."

10. The DIRECTOR GENERAL, having taken the oath, thanked Member States for the confidence they had shown in him in appointing him for a further term. His reappointment came at a time when various processes were taking place which could affect the role of nuclear power in the world and on which the Agency could have some influence. First, while hostility to nuclear power was increasing in certain sectors of public opinion, there was at the same time a growing awareness of the unacceptable risks for the environment of excessive reliance on traditional sources of energy, and a growing realization that the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power needed to be assessed not in isolation but in comparison with those of other sources of energy. Secondly, an international nuclear safety culture was gradually emerging which encompassed quality assurance, operational safety and the legal framework of all conventions and standards governing the use of nuclear energy. Thirdly, advanced models of current types of reactor and designs for new types of reactor were appearing. Fourthly, repositories were actually being constructed for low- and medium-level wastes and a consensus had been achieved on the requirements for high-level waste repositories. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, although there were still differences in the world and although the gap between rich and poor countries remained enormous, the climate of international relations had improved; whether it was East-West or North-South relations, there was now more talk of practical co-operation and less talk of confrontation. That had led to a greater role for international organizations and to the initiation of more ambitious forms of co-operation. He felt privileged to be part of the Agency's destiny in such a context and would do his utmost to serve the Agency well.

11. Ms. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that the Group of 77 endorsed the appointment of Mr. Blix, and recalled that her delegation had expressed its support for his reappointment in June. The Group of 77 felt that the very

diverse experience acquired by Mr. Blix in the course of his career, particularly as a Professor of international law and the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and his lofty vision of the Agency's role in the modern world justified the confidence Member States had shown in him. The Director General had shown perspicacity and determination at some difficult moments, especially after the Chernobyl accident when he had been one of the first on the spot to assess what measures were necessary. The Group of 77 also appreciated the Director General's positive attitude towards developing countries, and specifically his willingness to increase the number of inspectors and other staff from those countries so as to ensure that they were more equitably represented. Finally, Mr. Blix had shown himself to be a firm supporter of dialogue between the Agency and the Group of 77, particularly during the preparation of the budget, and it was to be hoped that during his new term the Agency would continue, at his prompting, to help developing countries gain access to the benefits of nuclear energy.

12. Mr. QIN (China), Mr. XYDAS (Greece), speaking on behalf of the Western Europe and Others Group, and Mr. STEPANENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on behalf of the Eastern Europe Group, also congratulated the Director General on his reappointment.

Mr. WIRYONO (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988 (GC(XXXIII)/873) (resumed)

13. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that his country was convinced that the Agency could play a crucial role in protecting the environment by promoting a greater use of nuclear power, in strengthening the non-proliferation regime through safeguards and in accelerating economic development through the promotion of peaceful nuclear techniques.

14. During the past 50 years, over 150 billion tons of carbon had been released into the atmosphere, and the annual rate now exceeded 6 billion tons. The catastrophic consequences of the greenhouse effect, acid rain and climatic changes were taking their toll in different parts of the world. No one could remain indifferent when faced with the slow suffocation which resulted from the silent destruction of the environment. It had been estimated that, if per

capita consumption of fossil fuels in developing countries reached even half the level found in advanced countries, carbon emissions would double to 12 billion tons per year.

15. However, developing countries - where per capita energy consumption was only one tenth of that in advanced countries - could not be asked to stop using fossil fuels, forgo industrial growth and practice conservation. For those countries, nuclear power represented a great hope, and to deny them nuclear power in the name of non-proliferation was to invite environmental disaster. The large-scale and worldwide use of nuclear and other environmentally benign technologies for power generation should be encouraged. The advanced countries, which were responsible for 70% of the world's pollution, bore a grave moral responsibility for developing such technologies and making them available to poor countries, whose resources they had exploited for the benefit of their own industrial development. The Agency could play a major role in launching a high-priority programme of North-South co-operation aimed at developing small- and medium-power reactors for use in the Third World. There should also be South-South co-operation in that area, since a number of developing countries had now advanced to the point where they could profitably share their experience with other Third World countries.

16. In view of the reservations and misconceptions about nuclear safety which persisted in many industrialized countries, the Agency should embark on a vigorous information campaign. It was time to stop being defensive and apologetic about using an energy source which was the safest currently available.

17. His delegation commended the positive role which the Agency was playing in strengthening nuclear safety. It also welcomed the recent establishment of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO). For its part, Pakistan had already acceded to the two safety conventions adopted previously by the Agency's General Conference.

18. The question of amending Article VI.A.2 of the Statute had been before the General Conference and the Board of Governors for 13 years. In 1978, the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(XXII)/RES/361, in which a majority of Member States had agreed to a moderate expansion of the Board to

make possible an increase in the representation of the Africa and Middle East and South Asia (MESA) regions. However, no concrete progress had been made towards implementing that resolution. While Pakistan was not opposed to the amendment of Article VI as a whole being considered by the Conference in response to the legitimate concerns of other countries, priority should first be given to rectifying the injustice done to the Africa and MESA regions, which represented almost 40% of the Agency's membership and about 25% of the Board's membership. Many of those countries had reached an advanced stage in nuclear technology, produced substantial quantities of nuclear materials and had active nuclear programmes. Consequently, they could neither accept continuing under-representation nor agree to any amendment of Article VI as a whole which was made at their expense.

19. Safeguards and technical assistance constituted the two pillars on which the future of the Agency rested, and one could not exist without the other. Pakistan fully supported the Agency's safeguards activities. However, the safeguards budget had now risen to some US \$52 million, outstripping the resources allocated to technical assistance. If the Agency was to retain its effectiveness and credibility, a clear and equitable balance between those two activities would have to be maintained. The best way of achieving that was to finance technical assistance through the Regular Budget or other equally assured and predictable resources, as envisaged in resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388.

20. Resolution GC(XXV)/RES/386, adopted by the General Conference in 1981, called for a substantial increase in the number of Professional staff members drawn from developing countries at all levels and for the imbalance which existed at that time to be rectified within four years (in other words, by 1985 at the latest). Eight years later, developing countries held 164 Professional posts out of a total of 631 compared with only 74 in 1981. That was a welcome improvement. Nevertheless, developing countries represented two thirds of the Agency's membership and could now offer candidates of the highest competence and qualifications in very different areas. According to indications given in 1981, those countries should now occupy at least one third of Professional posts. That target was still far from being met, and at the policy-making level in particular representation remained poor. His delegation therefore requested the Director General to intensify his efforts to correct that imbalance in the coming four years.

21. His delegation was in a position to approve the Agency's programme and budget (GC(XXXIII)/875), on which it had already expressed its views in the Board of Governors. However, the Agency should place greater emphasis on nuclear power and nuclear safety and should also give more attention to the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture and medicine. The latter were very important for a large number of developing Member States and had proved to be highly cost-effective. There was room for economies in the Agency's administrative expenditures and for even greater savings in the safeguards area.

22. As Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister, had repeatedly stated, Pakistan was fully committed to using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. It was in favour of the speedy conclusion of agreements leading to the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and supported efforts to draw up a complete test-ban treaty. As far back as 1972, at the time of the inauguration of its first power reactor, Pakistan had proposed the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. That remained the corner-stone of its nuclear policy. That proposal had been repeatedly endorsed by an overwhelming majority of States at the United Nations General Assembly. Pakistan had also made concrete proposals for strengthening the non-proliferation regime in South Asia. Recently, Pakistan and India had signed an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. Pakistan had already ratified that agreement. That represented a small but significant confidence-building step which his country hoped would be followed by other measures in response to its proposals. The poor peoples of South Asia, who made up one fifth of the world's population, could not afford to waste their scarce and precious economic resources on the luxury of a futile nuclear-weapons race.

23. Pakistan was among the countries least endowed with conventional energy resources. It was estimated that by the turn of the century an installed capacity of 20 000 MW(e) would be required. Of that, 12 000 MW(e) could be generated through local hydroelectric, gas and coal resources, leaving a gap of more than 8000 MW(e). It was expected that half of that gap would have to be filled by nuclear power, and his Government had therefore embarked on a vigorous nuclear power programme. That programme included co-operation with

other countries in the construction - under Agency's safeguards - of nuclear power plants to meet short-term requirements. In the long term, Pakistan planned to develop its domestic capability to design and construct nuclear power plants in order to achieve greater self-reliance in the energy sector and to reduce foreign currency expenditure. It had already created a sizeable industrial infrastructure in various areas of nuclear technology: it had, for example, acquired comprehensive capabilities in the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle. Locally manufactured fuel had performed satisfactorily for the past ten years in Pakistan's power reactor. In spite of difficulties in obtaining spare parts and supplies for the safeguarded Karachi nuclear power plant (KANUPP), Pakistan had successfully operated that facility since 1976. In June 1989, Pakistan had joined the Candu owners group, a move which would help it to exchange operating data and to obtain safety-related information. His country was grateful to the Agency for its assistance in enhancing the safety of the KANUPP plant by sending Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) and Analysis of Safety Significant Events Team (ASSET) missions.

24. Pakistan also attached great importance to nuclear applications in agriculture, medicine and industry. Research carried out in the country's three specialized centres had enabled new varieties (for example, of rice and cotton) to be obtained which had been introduced for general cultivation and had produced significant economic gains. For example, the development of the NIAB-78 cotton mutant had revolutionized national cotton production and had increase farmers' income by US \$300 million annually. An irradiation facility used for sterilizing medical and agricultural products was now operational. Services of that type could be very useful in Pakistan. Nuclear medicine techniques had been used to treat more than 170 000 patients in 1988. Pakistan was willing, either through the Agency or bilaterally, to share with other developing countries the fruits of the experience it had gained in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the fields of electricity generation, agriculture or medicine.

25. His country continued to organize each year an international summer college on physics and contemporary needs. That course was held in conjunction with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, whose achievements were to be commended, as was the leadership of Mr. Salam. The activities of the ICTP were of immense value to the countries

of the Third World. Pakistan had also actively participated in regional programmes within the RCA framework, hosting a number of activities under that programme.

26. As the twenty-first century approached, countries and peoples were becoming increasingly aware of the need to work together to strengthen world peace, reduce pollution and overcome poverty. For all countries the long-term availability of clean and safe energy resources was indispensable for achieving sustainable economic development. The nuclear option had to be preserved, since it offered the possibility of both protecting the environment and conserving fossil fuel resources for future generations. The Agency could play a major role in meeting those objectives.

27. Mr. EMOVON (Nigeria) welcomed the increase in the total resources available for technical co-operation activities in 1988, which were nearly 10% higher than the previous year. Those activities provided the most tangible benefits of membership of the Agency for the majority of developing Member States, which were generally unable to benefit directly from the advantages of nuclear power and which, in many cases, would not be able to do so in the foreseeable future. In appreciation of the Agency's technical assistance activities, Nigeria had pledged US \$91 000 to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) for 1990.

28. The problems of financing nuclear power programmes in developing countries would have to be dealt with before such countries were able to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power. His delegation therefore urged the Agency to implement the recommendation which the senior expert group had made on that subject.

29. During the past year, the Agency had paid greater attention to the problems of developing countries in the areas of waste management and radiation protection. Waste Management Advisory Programme (WAMAP) and Radiation Protection Advisory Team (RAPAT) missions had been conducted in about a dozen developing countries in 1988. A RAPAT mission had visited Nigeria from 19 to 25 November 1988 and as a result a long-term co-operation agreement between the Agency and Nigeria was now being prepared. Furthermore, draft national legislation on radiation protection and nuclear safety would

shortly become law. Nigeria considered it important that, in one of its recommendations, the RAPAT mission had recognized Nigeria as a potential host country for a number of activities under a regional co-operation agreement. His delegation was therefore pleased that the Agency had convened a meeting during the present session of the General Conference to discuss a draft legal framework for establishing a regional co-operation agreement for Africa. He very much hoped that negotiations between the Agency and African States on that subject would be completed before the next session of the General Conference.

30. His delegation noted with great satisfaction that, pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/490, an expert group meeting had been convened in Vienna to formulate a draft code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear waste. The active participation of the Nigerian expert in the work of that group underlined Nigeria's determination never again to be the victim of illicit dumping or transactions involving any kind of hazardous wastes. His country hoped that the planned code would become a binding international convention.

31. He wished to announce that his Government intended to ratify in the near future both the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Emergency Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

32. The assistance which the Agency continued to provide to developing Member States through the joint FAO/IAEA Division to enable those countries to improve their agriculture and food production through the use of isotopes, irradiation and related techniques, including biotechnology, was more vital than ever. The application of nuclear techniques in medicine also made a significant contribution to the welfare of developing nations. Nigeria very much appreciated the dosimetry services which had been provided to it and to two other Member States where such services were not available locally. His delegation therefore urged that additional resources be made available for that programme area.

33. The agreement reached recently in Geneva on a set of principles for the acceptance of trade in irradiated food was a step in the right direction. The

problem of feeding the enormous populations of developing countries was often exacerbated by high post-harvest losses. The extension of the shelf-life of food was thus a vital tool in the fight against hunger worldwide.

34. The previous year his delegation had drawn the General Conference's attention to the importance which the Nigerian Government attached to Phase II of the BICOT project, which was included as a footnote-a/ project in the 1989-90 programme. The primary objective of that phase was to eradicate a second species of tsetse fly from the original project area and to devise practical means of preventing re-invasion of the area which had already been cleared. To implementate that phase, donor funding of US \$730 600 was required for the period 1989-91. In that connection, his country wished to thank the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Belgium for their extrabudgetary contributions to the financing of that and other Nigerian footnote-a/ projects. It hoped that additional donors would assist Nigeria in that area.

35. His delegation supported the Agency's programme and the budget of US \$162 852 000 for 1990, which represented an increase of 0.2%. However, it was concerned at the declining rate of implementation of activities financed from the TACF: the unused balance of US \$7 958 083 in 1988 represented 15.3% of the funds available. Given the importance for developing countries of promotional activities involving the provision of expert services, training, equipment and the applications of nuclear energy in agriculture, medicine and industry, the Secretariat should make efforts to correct that trend.

36. In view of that situation, his delegation, although ready to accept the compromise reached on indicative planning figures for 1990, 1991 and 1992, wished to join others in urging the Agency to take the necessary steps, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that technical assistance was financed on a more assured basis, as envisaged by General Conference resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388.

37. He welcomed the proposal to organize a senior expert symposium on electricity and the environment in 1991 and endorsed the steps taken by the Agency to postpone or cancel certain meetings in order to release the financial and human resources necessary for the preparation of that important

symposium. In that connection, he also welcomed the emphasis given in the 1989-90 programme to the processing and storage of nuclear wastes, and in particular, spent sources used in industry, medicine, research and training.

38. The question of the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute was a matter of some concern. The gross under-representation of the regions of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia had persisted for too long and must be corrected. It was regrettable that, although the issue had been on the General Conference's agenda for a decade, no solution was in sight. The Agency should therefore strive to find an equitable solution. The need to correct the present imbalance was a prime concern of his delegation. His delegation had also given careful consideration to the proposal to amend Article VI as a whole put forward by Italy, Spain, Belgium and Sweden in 1986. While stressing the independent nature of the proposal made by the African group, he felt that the time had come for all those interested in enlarging the Board of Governors to work conscientiously to find a formula that would be equitable and in the interests of the Agency as a whole.

39. The Nigerian Government considered that the abundant energy resources with which Nigeria was endowed should be exploited in a rational manner that would ensure sustainable economic development. To that end, it had announced a new national science and technology policy and had drawn up guidelines on energy. The Energy Commission of Nigeria, set up in December 1988, had been given the task of formulating national policy and of charting the course of energy development and utilization in the country. The rational and optimum use of available energy resources was dependent on balanced exploitation, and it was the Commission's function to ensure that a rational mix of options was found. Nigeria felt that it should consider all energy options, including nuclear power. An institutional framework was being established to promote and carry out research activities in a systematic manner based on clear national objectives.

40. South Africa's nuclear capabilities were a source of grave concern to his delegation. The previous year, the General Conference had adopted resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/503 in which, after strongly condemning South Africa, it had stated that it would take a decision in 1989 on the recommendation made in 1987 by the Board of Governors, calling for the suspension of South Africa

from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership of the Agency. Another year had elapsed without any sign of progress or even any movement in the right direction. Instead, there had been the usual flurry of activity and utterances designed to thwart the efforts and aspirations of those concerned about the issue. The time had come to ask South Africa for action, not promises which were never kept. His delegation urged all those who believed in the universal brotherhood of man and in the principles of the Agency's Statute and the United Nations Charter to prevail upon South Africa to show good faith and heed the requests of the world community.

41. Many people regarded the events currently taking place in South Africa and in the region as signs of progress and urged those who were concerned about the situation to give South Africa more time. Unfortunately, the situation had lasted a long time and there was no evidence to indicate that the leopard was about to change its spots. There were good grounds for concern since, despite numerous Agency resolutions, South Africa had contemptuously failed to submit its nuclear facilities to safeguards. The elections which had recently taken place in South Africa, without the participation of Blacks, showed that the racist régime was determined to hold power to the exclusion of the black majority. Nigeria, and others who shared its beliefs, therefore maintained that, since the racist régime of South Africa continued to disregard the basic principle of equality of all races and to promote the non-peaceful uses of nuclear energy, that régime could not participate in the work of the General Conference, where the principle of universality was observed irrespective of the colour of a man's skin.

42. He urged all delegates at the present session of the General Conference to send a clear message to the racist régime in Pretoria when item 21 of the agenda was considered. Pressure on South Africa to abolish its apartheid policy would have to be intensified.

43. Mr. STEPANENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the thirty-third session of the General Conference was taking place at a time of positive changes in international relations. As a result of the realistic and responsible attitudes that were increasingly being adopted in that area, there was a trend for global security to be guaranteed not by proliferation of

weapons, as had previously been the case, but by their reduction, the strengthening of trust and greater multilateral co-operation. The positive changes occurring in the world created the right climate for extensive and active international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in which the Agency had an important role to play.

44. Accidents at nuclear power plants could lead to serious consequences if not brought under control. One such example was the Chernobyl accident, which had had a significant impact on Byelorussia. It had led to major changes in Byelorussia's economic and political activity and cleanup operations had required considerable human and material resources.

45. At present, 18% of Byelorussia's agricultural land (more than 1.5 million hectares) was contaminated to varying degrees and nearly 115 000 people were living on land where contamination exceeded 15 Ci per km². The number of persons registered for special treatment as outpatients in Byelorussian health establishments was 173 000, including some 37 400 children.

46. The set of measures taken after the accident in the contaminated areas had substantially reduced the internal and external doses received, but those measures could obviously not totally eliminate the consequences of what had happened. It was therefore vital to continue to provide comprehensive outpatient services and treatment for the population of the contaminated zones and to increase medical supervision in general, since it was at present impossible to predict with certainty the long-term effects. Furthermore, difficulties were being experienced in obtaining medicines, modern medical and biological equipment and radiation monitoring instruments.

47. Matters relating to the continuation of work to eliminate the consequences of the accident had been specially included on the agenda of the July meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR, which had considered a draft programme for 1990-95 for the elimination in Byelorussia of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. The draft programme was based on the principle that the population should be able to live in the contaminated area without restriction of its activities and should be able to obtain uncontaminated agricultural produce. It foresaw the evacuation, in the first

stage, of 87 villages (more than 11 000 inhabitants) and, in the second stage, of 423 villages (104 000 inhabitants). The implementation of all the measures planned would require more than 10 000 million roubles. The preparation of the draft programme was continuing and it would be submitted for the approval of the Supreme Soviet of Byelorussia at its October meeting.

48. He had discussed the consequences of the Chernobyl accident at such length because he believed that such information was of interest to the participants in the General Conference. That accident was a very sad and expensive lesson which mankind should never forget.

49. It could be seen from the documents submitted to the General Conference how successfully those Agency programmes which his delegation, like others, considered to be very important had been implemented: those included programmes in the areas of the technical co-operation, nuclear power, nuclear safety and radiation protection, safeguards, and information and technical services. The programme which had been prepared and implemented in the area of nuclear safety and radiation protection was particularly deserving of support.

50. The efforts made by the Agency to create a climate of confidence, mutual understanding and co-operation between States were highly appreciated. An important factor in that process was the effective application of Agency safeguards which had, in a relatively short space of time, developed into an excellent system of control that provided reliable and adequate surveillance and information. He was pleased to note that more States had signed safeguards agreements and that no anomaly had been detected in 1988 which would indicate the diversion of safeguarded nuclear material for the manufacture of any nuclear explosive devices for military purposes.

51. His delegation approved the Agency's budget for 1990. That document properly reflected those areas of the Agency's activities which were most strongly supported by the majority of Member States, namely nuclear power, the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear safety, environmental protection and nuclear applications. The allocations for 1990 provided a stable financial basis for the implementation of the programme. The balance achieved in the budget was the result of considerable hard work on the part of the Secretariat and the Board of Governors.

52. His delegation appreciated the Agency's technical co-operation activities and fully supported their expansion. Growth in that programme was, of course, impossible without a corresponding increase in resources, and such an increase had in fact been reflected in the rise in the total volume of voluntary contributions for technical assistance, to US \$46.5 million. The system of indicative planning figures had demonstrated its effectiveness and provided reliable financing for that programme.

53. With regard to the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and the revision of Article VI as a whole, he considered that the present composition of the Board of Governors correctly reflected the existing balance of forces, ensured fair representation of the interests of Member States and was in line with the objective of improving efficiency.

54. In conclusion, his delegation hoped that the Agency's leading role in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in solving the world's energy and ecological problems would continue to be strengthened in the future.

55. Mr. TETENYI (Hungary) said that the present session of the General Conference was taking place against a background of extremely rapid change in international relations, and of increasing recognition of the importance of co-operation. The Soviet Union and the United States had an historic opportunity to provide the political basis necessary for those changes by moving firmly towards nuclear disarmament.

56. While agreements on other forms of disarmament were of prime importance, it remained essential to continue to promote the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Comprehensive and effective safeguards arrangements for all peaceful nuclear facilities should be worked out by and for all countries. His delegation attached great importance to the Agency's safeguards programme. Safeguards activities, including the work of inspectors, should be carried out routinely and free of any technical and administrative hindrance and should be conducted in all Member States. In that connection, the slowness of designation procedures for inspectors in some countries was a cause for concern. Since such delays had implications for the credibility of the system, his delegation favoured a wider application of simplified procedures for the designation of safeguards inspectors.

57. Adequate resources were required to maintain the efficient functioning of that system. He therefore supported the proposed modification of the safeguards financing formula which the Board of Governors had submitted to the General Conference, although further negotiations must be undertaken without delay in order to find a long-term solution which would enable the safeguards system to cover all peaceful nuclear facilities.

58. The date of the fourth review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was approaching. The value of the Agency's work in applying the Treaty had been recognized during the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee, which had been held recently in Geneva. His country supported the non-proliferation regime and the universal application of the Treaty, and felt that all proposals that might increase the number of parties to NPT or strengthen the Treaty should be considered. He urged all Member States not party to NPT to accede to it, and to all parties which had not yet done so to conclude safeguards agreements with the Agency in conformity with the Treaty's provisions. The desire to make NPT and the Agency's safeguards system universal in application should not, however, serve as a pretext for heated political debate and accusations.

59. He was pleased to note that the use of nuclear power had continued to increase worldwide in 1988. The nuclear industry was performing well, and the availability factor of nuclear power plants was improving. In Hungary, the four nuclear reactors in Paks had provided almost 50% of the electricity generated in the country, with a cumulative average load factor in 1988 of 85.4%, which was the highest in the world.

60. In spite of the ever-growing share of nuclear power in world electricity generation and of the side effects of fossil fuels, public opposition to nuclear power remained strong. An increase in electricity demand and the need to replace some installations meant that Hungary had to make a decision on the future of nuclear power. In order for that decision to be taken in a rational manner, it would be necessary - inter alia - to increase public confidence in nuclear energy. It was thus essential to maintain an excellent safety record, to present those results to the public, and to support educational programmes on the various aspects of nuclear

energy. The Agency's studies on the risks and benefits of various energy sources were very useful in that connection and could facilitate dialogue with representatives of environmental protection movements. Other governmental and non-governmental organizations such as WHO and the International Radiation Protection Association could also help make nuclear power more acceptable by focusing on problems of particular relevance to their field of activity. Co-operation between several organizations had led to the holding of an international conference in Hungary the previous September on energy options and risk education. Great interest had been shown in the papers presented by the Agency on that occasion.

61. There was growing international interest in the legal aspects of the use of nuclear energy. The international conventions drafted with the Agency's assistance had made an important contribution to strengthening international co-operation in that area. On 20 September, Hungary had signed the Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention on civil liability for nuclear damage, and it continued to monitor the progress of the working group on liability for nuclear damage.

62. His delegation welcomed activities aimed at improving nuclear safety and noted with satisfaction that not a single accident with radiological consequences for the environment had taken place in nuclear power plants during the previous year. The completion of the Basic Safety Principles for Nuclear Power Plants and the revision of the NUSC codes were very important for the dissemination and use of the knowledge and experience acquired by the Agency and its Member States. A programme had been initiated in Hungary to check the compliance of existing regulations with the Agency codes. The preliminary findings of that programme indicated that basically Hungary's safety standards met the requirements laid down in those codes.

63. An OSART mission to Hungary in November 1988 had visited a WWR-type plant for the first time. The mission had been very well organized and the team included experienced specialists, who had concluded that the level of safety at the Paks nuclear power plant was high. The team's suggestions and recommendations had been carefully analysed and corrective measures had been taken. Hungary had requested the Agency to organize an INSARR (Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors) mission to evaluate the safety of the research reactor at the Central Research Institute for Physics in Budapest, renovation work on which was nearing completion.

64. The quality of the Agency's technical assistance programmes was to be commended. Hungary had benefited from the programme but had also participated in it as a donor by awarding fellowships and hosting training courses. Hungarian experts had also been invited to several countries. International co-operation and Agency technical assistance were indispensable to the financing of research on nuclear techniques and their applications. His country's contribution to the TACF was increasing and in 1990 would reach the local currency equivalent of US \$95 000, which was in line with its share of the target.

65. The next few years would be crucial for the nuclear industry and would decide the future of nuclear power in the world. He was confident that, by working together within the Agency in a climate of mutual respect to make the nuclear industry safe and reliable and to prevent its misuse for non-peaceful purposes, the challenges of the future would be met.

66. With those comments, his delegation approved the Agency's Annual Report for 1988 and commended the activities undertaken by the Director General as reflected in the documents submitted by the Secretariat.

67. Mr. KRSTIC (Yugoslavia) stated that the present session of the General Conference was taking place at a time when other important international meetings had been organized with a view to intensifying efforts to resolve the problems of world peace, security and economic development. Under such circumstances, the results of the Conference's work took on even greater significance.

68. During the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-aligned Countries, which had taken place in Belgrade in September, the question of nuclear energy had figured prominently and had been mentioned in the final declaration as well as in some resolutions. With regard to the present world situation, the view of that conference had been that there was reason for hope but no cause for undue optimism.

69. In a document it had adopted on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Belgrade conference had declared that all States should have free access on a non-discriminatory basis to technology, equipment and materials relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that account should be taken of the

special needs of developing countries. The Heads of State and Government had deplored all pressures and threats aimed at preventing developing countries from pursuing their peaceful nuclear programmes. They had reiterated their view that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should not be used as a pretext to prevent States from exercising their right to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. In another document concerning science and technology, it had been stated that the relevant agencies of the United Nations system should arrange training programmes for experts from developing countries and other human resources development programmes in the field of science and technology.

70. In adopting a law prohibiting the construction of nuclear power plants, Yugoslavia had decided to meet its energy needs for a certain period from traditional energy sources. However, that did not mean that the country was not interested in expanding its co-operation with the Agency and its Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Yugoslavia's interest was particularly strong in the fields of radiation safety, technical co-operation, fusion research and nuclear applications in industry, medicine and agriculture.

71. All energy sources were available in Yugoslavia, and the use of nuclear energy was just one part of the country's development and economic policy strategy. The strategy included the possibility of achieving an overall reduction in energy consumption, which should contribute to environmental protection. Any neglect of those different aspects would have dire consequences. It was in that context that the Yugoslav moratorium should be understood, and it was for that reason that a certain period was required for a general review of all energy options.

72. His delegation could approve the Annual Report for 1988 (GC(XXXIII)/873), as the tasks foreseen in the Agency's programme had been successfully completed. It also approved the budget presented in document GC(XXXIII)/875, which was well balanced.

73. His country attached great importance to the strengthening of international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiation protection and had

therefore ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. As for the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the ratification procedure was under way.

74. He was pleased to report that Yugoslavia had achieved excellent results in its technical co-operation with the Agency. For the 1986-90 period, 19 out of 21 projects had already been completed. Of particular note were projects concerning the modernization of a research reactor, the construction of a cyclotron, the development of dosimetry techniques, radiological protection and personnel training. In 1988, with Agency assistance, seven experts from developing countries had received specialized training in Yugoslavia, while six Yugoslav experts had been able to study abroad. In addition, and also with the Agency's help, nuclear safety and inspection teams had been set up at the Krsko plant. Yugoslavia looked forward to further positive developments and co-operation with the Agency.

75. There was no doubt that the Agency's technical co-operation activities were one of its most significant functions. Technical co-operation was an excellent vehicle for the transfer of technology, and the Agency deserved full recognition for the results achieved in that area. He wished to point out that the Yugoslav scientific community was very interested in fusion. A special council had been set up to deal with that subject and to approve the research programme.

76. Finally, his delegation highly valued the Agency's contribution to environmental protection. Its activities in that sphere were of fundamental importance.

77. Mr. CACCIA DOMINIONI (Commission of the European Communities) said there was no doubt that, under the leadership of Mr. Hans Blix, the constructive and fruitful relationship which had been established between the Agency and the European Community would continue to be strengthened.

78. The previous day, the delegate of France, speaking on behalf of the Community and its Member States, had referred to the level of electricity production from nuclear power plants in the Community. In July 1989 the Commission had approved an updated version of its Illustrative Nuclear Programme, which had been drawn up in accordance with the EURATOM Treaty and

was to be published soon. It dealt with nuclear industries and - particularly the nuclear power plant industry - in the community and the completion of the single market by the end of 1992.

79. At the World Energy Conference in Montreal in October, the Commission had provided a preview of its study on major energy themes up to the year 2010, in which possible energy options were indicated. One was the conventional route, which involved continuing growth in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions. Another option suggested a way of controlling energy consumption and its environmental impact while at the same time maintaining economic growth; that was the challenge of sustainable energy growth.

80. At the Montreal Conference, the Commission had emphasized that European energy policy was increasingly being developed at the Community level. As a consequence, the energy market was also included in the plans for 1992. The Commission's blueprint for the completion of a single energy market had received political endorsement from the Community's Council of Ministers in November 1988. During 1989, the Commission had presented a first series of proposals which, if adopted, would transform the Community's energy sector. All of those initiatives were designed to increase competition in that sector and to remove national barriers. The establishment of a single market of 325 million people would reduce the price of energy, thus benefiting consumers and increasing the competitiveness of Community industries in world markets.

81. The Commission's other priorities in the energy field were security of energy supply - where nuclear energy could play an important role - and, of course, the environment.

82. As Mr. Blix had pointed out in his statement, the environment had been one of the most prominent issues in public debate during the past year. Nuclear power was now in a key position. He congratulated Mr. Blix and the Agency on helping to draw the attention of senior Government officials to the global environmental problems of the thinning ozone layer and the greenhouse effect.

83. Following the Chernobyl accident, the Commission had drawn up a number of reports on nuclear safety problems. On the basis of those reports, the

Community's Council of Ministers had announced its support in June 1989 for the Commission to play a more active role, both at the Community level and at a wider international level, in creating international understanding of the methods used to ensure the safety of nuclear installations, in research and development, and in the continuous critical review of all elements contributing to nuclear safety.

84. With regard to the medical aspects of safety, the Community had adopted or initiated further measures concerning health protection against contaminated food, the improvement of information systems for emergencies, the establishment of networks for protection and mutual assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, and the provision of information to the public on the dangers of nuclear energy and protection against them. By July 1989, the Community had established a regulatory system setting the maximum permitted levels of radioactivity in foodstuffs; that was a coherent instrument aimed at correcting some of the shortcomings which had been apparent in the action taken following the Chernobyl accident. A report on the activities undertaken by the Community following that accident had been published in April 1989.

85. The Community's nuclear research and development programme had been established within the framework of a five-year programme based on the Single European Act, which had entered into force in July 1987. Research and development work was performed through specific programmes implemented by the Community's Joint Research Centre or through cost-sharing projects carried out under contract. Under certain conditions, States which were not Community members could participate in those programmes. One of the main objectives of the programme was to contribute to the creation of an internationally accepted logical basis for the safety of nuclear plants. The Commission therefore attached great importance to collaboration with the Agency, whose role in such matters was absolutely crucial.

86. As part of the Community's research programme for the period 1987-91, research on radioactive waste management and disposal had been actively pursued during the previous year. In addition to studies on waste management systems, waste characterization and natural and artificial barriers between

stored or disposed-of waste and the biosphere, the Community was developing underground laboratories as part of pilot projects aimed at demonstrating the feasibility and safety of isolating radioactive waste in geological formations. Under the PAGIS (Performance Assessment of Geological Isolation Systems) programme, in which many experts from the Community had participated, the radiological consequences of high-level waste disposal had been evaluated. The study had shown that, provided sites were well chosen, clay, salt and granite were able to ensure safe disposal. The results had been presented on 30 June 1989 in Madrid to a public audience that included experts, decision-makers and political representatives. A new multi-year research programme scheduled to start in 1990 had been approved by the Commission.

87. In the field of radiation protection, the Community's Council of Ministers had approved in June 1989 a research programme costing 21.2 million ECU over two years, which placed special emphasis on human exposure to radiation and radioactivity, the consequences of such exposure (including assessment, prevention and treatment), the risks involved and risk management. As part of that work, the Commission would actively participate in several Agency co-ordinated research programmes.

88. The European fusion programme was an excellent example of commitment to co-operation. The twelve Member States of the Community, as well as Sweden and Switzerland, were working on a long-term programme aimed at constructing reactor prototypes with a view to industrial production and marketing.

89. The largest tokamak machine in the world had been constructed and operated through the Joint European Torus (JET) project. As had already been reported to the Conference, the conceptual design phase of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), initiated in April 1988 under the auspices of the Agency by the European Community, Japan, the United States and the USSR, was making progress and was due to be completed on 31 December 1990. The Community's special interest was not in the theory but in the possibility of practical co-operation for the design, construction and operation of a test reactor.

90. The Commission considered that, from the technical and scientific standpoint, research would have progressed sufficiently by the early 1990s for

the detailed design of a tokamak-type engineering test reactor to be undertaken. Such a "next-step" device would provide a further unique opportunity for international co-operation and might benefit from the support expressed at the highest political levels for increased collaboration on nuclear fusion.

91. The Commission greatly appreciated the continuing co-operation in the safeguards field between the Agency, the European Community and the Member States of the Community under the agreements of 1973, 1976 and 1978. The adherence of Spain in April 1989 to the relevant agreement was particularly important.

92. In 1988 EURATOM had applied its safeguards to plutonium, highly-enriched uranium and other nuclear material and heavy water in over 700 nuclear installations in the Community. Approximately 7300 man-days of inspections had been carried out. As for the Agency, it had again devoted approximately 40% of its worldwide inspection effort to the Community in 1988, which made the Community the Agency's largest customer for safeguards. From that the Commission concluded that the combined safeguards operations of the Agency and EURATOM confirmed the Community's commitment to non-proliferation.

93. The European Commission attached the greatest importance to its co-operation with the Agency not only in safeguards and, of course, safeguards research and development work, but also in all other spheres. One example of that collaboration was the Commission's contribution to the technical assistance programme in the form of fellowships to Asian and Latin American nationals for studies at the Community's Joint Research Centre. The Commission would endeavour to strengthen further the Community's support for the objectives set out in the Agency's Statute.

Mr. CHUNG (Republic of Korea) resumed the Chair.

94. Before ending the session, the PRESIDENT gave the floor to the delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who had asked to exercise his right of reply.

95. Mr. AYTOLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) asked whether he could exercise his right of reply on the following day, as his statement was in the process of being typed.

96. The PRESIDENT said that he had no objection to that request.

97. Mr. ALKITAL (Iraq) asked the Secretariat, through the President, whether it was permissible under the Rules of Procedure for Iran to defer the exercise of its right of reply until the following morning.

98. The PRESIDENT replied that the Secretariat had informed him that the Rules of Procedure contained no specific provision that related to the timing of the right of reply. He would therefore abide by the decision he had just taken.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

