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### RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

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on Thursday, 20 September 1990, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. VAJDA (Hungary)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXIV)/INF/287/Rev.2.

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GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989 (GC(XXXIV)/915) (resumed)

1. Mr. HANGALA (Namibia) said that his country, which was for the first time taking up its rightful place in the Agency as an independent and democratic nation, welcomed the election to the Presidency of the General Conference of a representative of Hungary, a country which had provided political and material support throughout Namibia's struggle for national liberation. He conveyed to the Director General and his staff the best wishes of the President of the Republic of Namibia, who assured the Agency of his country's full co-operation. Lastly, he thanked all Member States which had supported his country in its struggle for independence and which continued to assist it in the reconstruction and development of its devastated economy.
2. Namibia provided a significant percentage of the world's uranium production from its mine at Rössing. That mine, which had started work in 1976 and could produce about 5000 tonnes of uranium oxide per year, had never achieved its full capacity, largely as a consequence of the uncertain political situation in the country. Since independence, the negotiation of new contracts in a depressed uranium market had been difficult, and in 1990 sales of Rössing uranium had been 30% below production capacity, with significant financial implications not only for the industry but for the country as a whole. In years to come, access to previously closed markets and the improving fortunes of the world uranium industry should enable Namibia to exploit its full potential.
3. In addition to the one at Rössing, several other uranium deposits had been discovered in the western part of the country, mainly in Tertiary to Recent sediments and calcretes. The development of those deposits was subject to an increase in uranium prices and improved investment in the country. The uncertain situation in the country before independence had resulted in a capital drain, particularly during the past 10 years. To remedy that trend, his Government was currently formulating an investment code as well as mining and taxation policies which would encourage foreign investment and stimulate economic growth. His Government was firmly convinced that the democratic values enshrined in his country's Constitution, together with advantageous investment and fiscal regimes, would help attract investment.

4. Namibia had exported uranium concentrates for the past 14 years and would continue to do so in the foreseeable future. No uranium enrichment or conversion or development of a nuclear capability was envisaged. Consequently, source material legislation would be simplified, as in the case of other non-nuclear countries, covering only the issues of prospecting, mining, selling and exporting uranium. Under Article 140 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, whereby existing legislation remained in force until it was specifically amended or repealed, the industry was currently subject to source material legislation which was more complex than necessary. Namibia's uranium exports had to pass through the contentious enclave of Walvis Bay, of which South Africa still arrogantly claimed ownership, and were thus also subject to South African legislation under which that country required the certification of such exports by the Namibian Government. His country thus found itself ensnared in a web of legislation and regulations - as a novice in the field of international trade and handling of source materials with a limited knowledge of international source material agreements, conventions and safety standards. In that situation, his country would be grateful for the Agency's assistance in providing a sound basis for a safe uranium industry. In addition, it would like to benefit from progress made in nuclear know-how and applications in the areas of hydrology, medicine, soil fertility and agro-industry.

5. In taking up its long overdue seat in the General Conference, the Namibian Government wished to state categorically that it would honour and adhere to the provisions, regulations and guiding principles of the Agency. It had indicated its firm intention of developing its uranium industry as its export earnings depended increasingly on sales of uranium concentrates. Conversion and enrichment facilities were not envisaged, since the country had cheap hydroelectric power potential. As to exports of uranium, the Namibian Government was fully determined to apply all safeguards and regulations designed to ensure the responsible and safe utilization of uranium worldwide.

6. Finally, the issue of foreign nuclear and toxic waste dumping in Namibia had been addressed in Parliament and a provision of the Namibian Constitution categorically denied any possibility of using the country as a dumping ground for any toxic or radioactive waste.

7. Mr. PROUKAKIS (Greece) said that the statement made the previous day on behalf of the Member States of the European Community by the delegate of Italy, the country which currently held the Presidency of the Community, fully reflected the views of the Greek Government. However, he wished to make some points which were of particular importance for his own country.

8. His delegation greatly appreciated the Secretariat's tireless efforts to attain the Agency's objectives, commended it on its effective management during the fifth consecutive year of zero real budget growth, and assured it of its full co-operation for the future. It fully shared the Director General's concerns about the Agency's serious financial situation, which was due to late and uncertain payments. In that respect, he was happy to announce that his Government, despite severe financial constraints, had recently transferred to the Agency's account its full contribution to the Regular Budget and its voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund (TACF) for 1990.

9. His delegation greatly appreciated the activities undertaken by the Agency to promote co-operation between Member States in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It also noted with great satisfaction the role which the Agency continued to play in maintaining world peace and security through its safeguards system and the fact that, in 1989, no event had been detected which would indicate the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material for any military or unknown purpose. It further noted the efforts made by the Agency to improve the safety of nuclear reactors, sharing its concerns regarding the effects of ageing on reactor safety, and welcomed the Agency's activities aimed at ensuring the safety of nuclear reactors worldwide.

10. In the area of safe long-term disposal of radioactive waste, his delegation supported the proposal to establish a new integrated series of publications under the Radioactive Waste Safety Standards (RADWASS) programme. It also commended the Agency on the encouragement it was giving to the peaceful uses of atomic energy in areas such as health, environmental research and electricity generation, and attached great importance to numerous other activities of the Agency such as the radiation dosimetry services, the promotion of nuclear medicine, the sterilization of medical articles including

biological tissue graft implants, the monitoring of fallout radioactivity, the formulation of recommendations concerning the transport of radioactive materials, the study of new safe techniques for the preservation of food and the prevention of food-borne diseases, and the establishment of scientific data networks.

11. Greece had no nuclear power plants, but it was following closely both the activities aimed at enhancing the safety of power reactors and the research on renewable energy sources. It had always striven to avoid all forms of local or global pollution, especially that associated with energy production. Fear of nuclear accidents and of climatic changes due to the greenhouse effect thus acted as obstacles to electricity production, whether by nuclear or conventional techniques.

12. No effort should be spared to minimize the risk of a nuclear accident and to study more extensively the phenomena related to the greenhouse effect. In that connection, international co-operation under the auspices of the Agency and other international organizations was extremely important for further clarifying the greenhouse effect. His country's attitude towards nuclear power would depend, among other factors, on an in-depth examination of the potential harmful effects which the generation of electricity by either nuclear or conventional techniques could have on the environment. Greece was following with interest the work being done on climate change and the potential role of nuclear power in avoiding carbon dioxide emissions. It was observing the development of nuclear energy and noted that, in 1989, 12 new nuclear power plants had come on line, construction work had started on five, and five reactors had been shut down permanently.

13. Greece was proud to be a member of both the Agency and the European Community. In the important sector of radiation protection, the new Greek regulations guaranteed the utmost safety of peaceful nuclear activities carried out in the country. Those regulations followed the trends prevailing both in the Agency and in the Community and were based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP).

14. In addition, his country was trying to establish close co-operation with other Agency Member States to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy and research on related subjects. Since the previous session of the General

Conference, it had paved the way for co-operation with Argentina, developed the second technical stage of a bilateral agreement with Bulgaria for early notification of nuclear accidents, and undertaken, under the auspices of the Agency, the necessary preparations for concluding a co-operation agreement with the Chernobyl International Research Centre.

15. During 1990, Greece had also become one of the 35 Member States of the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation, set up under the auspices of the Agency, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to improve the preservation of foodstuffs and prevent food-borne diseases.

16. In conclusion, he stressed that his country, which played the dual role of donor and recipient in the Agency's technical assistance programme, would continue to support Agency activities in all areas, and reiterated the importance it attached to international co-operation through the Agency to meet the new challenges of a changing world. Joint efforts by all would help to make the world more productive, peaceful, pleasant and safe.

17. Mr. WAGNER (Czechoslovakia) said that the recent past had been marked by fundamental political changes not only in his country, but also in other States of Central and Eastern Europe. Those countries had seen an extensive economic and social democratization process which had given rise to hope and optimism. Real possibilities were being offered to reform structures based on confrontation and to turn them towards co-operation and integration on a European and global scale. That development must not be undermined by the situation brought about in the Middle East by the aggression of Iraq against Kuwait. His country resolutely condemned that aggression and supported the measures to implement the pertinent Security Council resolution which the Agency's Director General had announced in his opening statement.

18. At previous sessions, his delegation had informed the General Conference of progress made by the nuclear power programme in his country, where nuclear power plants currently accounted for about 28% of electricity production. Nuclear power would necessarily continue to play an important role in energy production in Czechoslovakia, as the availability of economically viable fossil fuels was diminishing and it was planned to shut

down several thermal power plants with a total installed capacity of 1200 MW(e) over the next four years in order to resolve the most pressing environmental problems. It went without saying that nuclear power could only play such a role if the strictest safety standards were applied, both during the construction and the operation of the plants. In that connection, he wished to emphasize the high performance standards of his country's nuclear power plants from the point of view of stability and operational reliability, both recently and in earlier years. The eight WWER-440 reactors of the Jaslovské Bohunice and Dukovany plants had produced a total of 23 TW·h in 1989. Their operating characteristics were excellent, as demonstrated by an average availability factor of 80% and average unplanned outages of less than 1 unit per year.

19. The operational safety of all those reactors received continuous attention from the operators and the regulatory bodies, and the Czechoslovak Government was aware of the concerns on that subject at both national and international level, especially in the case of the Jaslovské Bohunice V-1 plant, which was equipped with old WWER-type V-230 reactors similar to those installed at some nuclear power plants in the German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. The matter of guaranteed safety of the Bohunice nuclear power plant had recently been the subject of many discussions and doubts in Austria, stemming partly from objective and partly from misleading information.

20. He wished to recall that the Czechoslovak authorities had already taken a number of technological, organizational and inspection measures to enhance the operational safety of the power plant in question, and the Austrian authorities and the IAEA had been fully informed of those measures. It was unfortunate that certain countries did not regard nuclear power simply as a problem of technology and safety, but used it for psychological, and even political, purposes.

21. The change in his country's political and economic structures had opened up vast new possibilities for resolving problems related to the installation of further nuclear power plants, since previously the country had been oriented exclusively towards the Soviet Union and the other countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). Czechoslovakia was

currently building four WWER units of 440 MW(e) at the Mochovce nuclear power plant and two WWER units of 1000 MW(e) at the Temelín site, which would be commissioned in stages up to the year 2000. It was planned to equip all those reactors with advanced western technologies, including control and diagnostic systems, so as to enhance their operational safety. The plans for plants to be constructed after Temelín were soon to be submitted for his Government's approval on the basis of results of an overall energy policy review and taking into account information received in the course of a call for bids for the supply of an advanced pressurized water reactor.

22. Naturally the construction of new nuclear power plants in Czechoslovakia would bring with it corresponding changes in the area of nuclear fuel cycle management. Intensive studies were under way on the possibilities for long-term storage of spent fuel on Czechoslovak territory, the feasibility of reprocessing of such fuel by an appropriate partner, and a convenient way of assuring supplies of fresh fuel.

23. His country continued to hold the view that national bodies bore the primary responsibility for the safety of their nuclear facilities, but it nevertheless hoped for effective bilateral and multilateral co-operation to help it in the safe construction and operation of its nuclear power plants. In that area the Agency played a very important role. His Government appreciated the objectivity of the Agency's safety expert missions to the Dukovany power plant in 1989 and to the Temelín site in 1990 and wished to participate in the activities of the new engineering safety review service as well as the recently established extrabudgetary project to review ageing reactors.

24. Problems related to providing the public with objective information were among the most prominent concerns, and his country would willingly join in promoting new Agency activities in that area.

25. There was no doubt that confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was linked to the strengthening of the nuclear-weapon non-proliferation regime. Less than a week previously, the Fourth NPT Review Conference had completed its deliberations - which, in his country's opinion, had been fruitful even though no consensus had been reached on a final document. That

Conference had highlighted the outstanding role of Agency safeguards, which were a reputable and irreplaceable instrument of international verification of non-proliferation.

26. The basic document for safeguards implementation within the framework of the NPT had been drafted more than 20 years previously. It had hitherto played an important role, but experience showed that the application of the principle of full verification of the material balance at each nuclear facility no longer corresponded to current needs in view of the limited financial and human resources available to the Agency. For that reason, his country had proposed the adoption of a "selective" approach to the application of safeguards. Flexibly implemented, that proposal would eliminate certain existing shortcomings, reduce financial burdens and contribute to the establishment of safeguards that could ensure effective and reliable control of the development of nuclear energy into the next century.

27. His delegation approved the Agency's draft programme and budget for 1991-92 and the planned expenditure for 1991, which showed a fair distribution of resources between all the more important Agency programmes that contributed to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It also approved the proposal to set the 1991 target for the TACF at \$49 million. His Government had decided to pay to that Fund for 1991 a contribution in local currency corresponding to its full share at the basic rate of assessment. In addition, as in the past, his country would offer Type II fellowships representing a total of 48 man-months for the training of specialists from developing countries in Czechoslovak institutions.

28. He concluded by saying that his delegation welcomed the results of the Agency's activities during the past year and attributed their success to the Director General and the Secretariat, who deserved sincere thanks for their fruitful work to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

29. Mr. NGUYEN DINH (Viet Nam) said that, in attending the 1990 session of the General Conference, his delegation was motivated by a sincere will to co-operate with other delegations to attain the noble objective set forth in the Agency's Statute, namely "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

30. Over its more than 30 years of existence, the Agency had already done much to attain that objective. The number of Member States had grown considerably and the Agency had developed its safeguards and technical co-operation activities with increasing efficiency. His delegation welcomed those results and wholeheartedly supported the Agency's work, in which it would make every effort to co-operate actively.

31. His delegation highly appreciated the development of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in its different forms: bilateral, multilateral or regional. The Agency's technical co-operation projects and training programmes, and the Regional Co-operation Agreement for Asia and the Pacific (RCA) had brought considerable benefits to his country. The technical co-operation programmes had been of great help in the improvement of the skills of Vietnamese scientists and technicians, the transfer of methods and technology, and the establishment and operation of laboratories required for the application of radioisotopes and nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and industry. His country therefore took great interest in the RCA and was becoming more and more actively involved in activities under that agreement which were in line with his country's conditions and needs.

32. Everyone knew that, along with its considerable benefits for humanity, atomic energy also brought with it serious potential dangers. Following the accidents which had happened in the past, opposition to nuclear power was growing in many countries and there was great demand for nuclear safety. Adopting a highly reliable global policy on radiation protection and nuclear safety was the only way to overcome those psychological barriers and to create favourable conditions for the safe and steady development of atomic energy. Accordingly, his delegation strongly supported the fruitful activities of the Agency in the field of radiation protection and nuclear safety and welcomed the precious assistance which the Agency and the RCA had given to many countries to help them strengthen their infrastructure in that area.

33. In Viet Nam, despite many difficulties, nuclear science and technology were beginning to develop and were contributing more and more to the development of the national economy and to improving the health and welfare of

the population. The Dalat nuclear research reactor now made it possible to produce radioactive isotopes and compounds to meet the demands of the country's hospitals.

34. Under an Agency technical co-operation project, a pilot facility for gamma irradiation was under construction in the suburbs of Hanoi. The building which would house the facility was completed, the assembly of the processing equipment would soon be finished, and it was planned to put the irradiation facility into operation at the end of 1990. The Viet Nam Ministry of Health had recently authorized the irradiation of many foodstuffs and it was hoped that the opening of that facility would mark a turning-point in the promotion of irradiation techniques in his country and in the development of international co-operation between Viet Nam and others, especially the countries of Asia and the Pacific, in the field of food irradiation and radiation technology in general.

35. Lastly, his Government wished to reiterate its firm intention to use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes and to continue to develop international co-operation in that field. His Government strongly supported all efforts to make South East Asia a peaceful, co-operative, stable and prosperous region free of nuclear weapons.

36. Mr. KABBAJ (Morocco), commending the Agency on its successes in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, said that his country had paid close attention to the Agency's nuclear safety activities in 1989, noting in particular the establishment of basic safety principles for nuclear power plants and the work it had done in elaborating guidelines on fundamental radiation protection criteria, the protection of workers and the environment, the transport of radioactive materials, emergency planning and preparedness, the control of radiation sources, the radiological safety of nuclear fuel activities, and the evaluation and treatment of cases of exposure. At a time when Member States, in particular developing countries, were seriously concerned about the problem of nuclear safety, it might be good for the Agency to draft an international nuclear convention or uniform regulations in that area.

37. His delegation had been very interested to note the decision taken by the Board of Governors to publish a Safety Series document which, for the first time, reflected an international consensus on ways to ensure the safe underground disposal of high-level wastes with a view to achieving the long-term radiological protection of man and the environment. The developing countries in particular welcomed the work carried out within the framework of the Waste Management Advisory Programme (WAMAP) which had enabled missions to be sent to eight developing Member States wishing to undertake programmes in that area. Furthermore, aware of the need to maintain the ecological balance and to protect the environment against the hazards associated with the dumping of industrial waste, including radioactive waste, his delegation was gratified that the Agency had prepared a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste and hoped it would be adopted by the General Conference. That Code, which laid useful foundations for the co-ordination of the surveillance and control of transboundary movements of radioactive waste, should be backed up by a binding international agreement.

38. The New World screwworm, which was now rampant in some regions of the Maghreb, also threatened other countries in the Mediterranean basin and Africa. Morocco welcomed the action undertaken by the Agency in collaboration with FAO to establish plans aimed at eradicating that pest by means of the sterile insect technique, and noted with satisfaction the efforts made to find the necessary technical resources for transporting sterile flies from the Mexican breeding facility to the regions affected. He appealed to the Agency and to States advanced in the field of pest-control techniques to provide increased technical assistance to the programmes and projects aimed at eradicating the screwworm, in co-operation with other specialized institutions of the United Nations dealing with that matter.

39. Many countries were suffering from lack of water, both for domestic and for irrigation needs. In view of the socio-economic problems caused thereby, particularly in African countries, and given resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/515 requesting that the technical and economic potential for using nuclear heat reactors for the low-cost desalination of sea water be assessed, his delegation hoped the Agency and countries with appropriate technologies would support the programme to produce potable water for countries in North Africa.

40. His delegation welcomed the noteworthy efforts made by the Department of Technical Co-operation to help developing countries and to encourage them to implement their nuclear energy programmes. It was gratifying to note that Africa's share in the total assistance financed from the TACF had increased to 24% in 1989-90. Despite that improvement, however, Africa was still the least well endowed region. The Agency should therefore continue to provide assistance taking into account that imbalance and the current situation of African countries which urgently needed its help.

41. With regard to nuclear power plants, the Annual Report for 1989 showed that no significant progress had been made in the developing countries during the previous year, especially in the African countries, which for the most part lacked energy resources such as coal and oil. For that reason, his delegation considered it essential to have regional co-operation between developing countries, including the African countries. Morocco had extensive experience as well as human and material resources in that area and was ready to co-operate and collaborate with other African States under regional programmes for the exchange of information and skills in fields such as the use of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, physics and chemistry. In that spirit, he looked forward to the entry into force in 1990 of the African Regional Co-operative Agreement (AFRA). That Agreement was a new element in the technical co-operation programme for the Africa region, based on the principle of technical co-operation between developing countries. It was to be hoped that AFRA would promote co-operation between African countries and thereby further enhance the value of the technical assistance given to national and regional programmes.

42. His country had recently signed an agreement for the acquisition of a 1.5 MW TRIGA Mark II research reactor; it was to become operational in 1993 and would be the kingpin of the National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Technology (CNESTEN), which would be called upon to play a decisive role in the promotion and development of nuclear techniques in Morocco.

43. With regard to Morocco's nuclear power programme, a site which would meet all the requirements was currently being sought for the first nuclear power plant to be built in the country. As part of those activities, a Nuclear Power Planning Advisory Team (NUPAT) had gone to Morocco to evaluate

the national capabilities and skills which would be called upon during the different stages of project implementation. He wished to underscore the importance of the work performed by that mission.

44. Morocco could not refer to the expansion of the safeguards system and to non-proliferation without deploring the obstinate attitude and irresponsible behaviour shown by Israel with regard to the recommendations of the General Conference and the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. Indeed, the Israeli Government was persistently refusing to apply the United Nations Charter and the decisions of all international authorities, in particular the resolutions of the Agency's General Conference. His delegation regretted that the Director General's report on the modalities of application of safeguards in the Middle East had not brought forward new elements which might have overcome the obstinacy of Israel and its attitude of refusal and induced the Tel Aviv Government to implement the Agency's resolutions. Accordingly, his delegation requested the Director General to continue his consultations with the States concerned with a view to placing the nuclear installations of the region under Agency safeguards in conformity with the recommendations listed in paragraph 75 of the report contained in document GC(XXXIII)/887.

45. Furthermore, his country condemned the nuclear co-operation between Israel and the racist Government of South Africa, as it constituted a grave danger to peace and security in Africa and the Middle East. At the thirty-third regular session of the Agency's General Conference, the South African Government had let it be understood that it intended to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards. Despite those declarations of intent, the General Conference had strongly condemned the wavering of the Pretoria Government, which had led Member States to question the real intentions of that régime. A year had since passed and the South African Government had still not acted on its promises. Resorting to the same procedure as in 1989, it had issued, on 17 September 1990, a document in which it declared its willingness to begin negotiations with a view to adhering to the NPT. His delegation doubted the credibility of those statements and felt that the General Conference should treat the matter with all necessary caution and implement the relevant decisions already adopted, pending the honouring by the Pretoria Government of the commitments which it had itself made.

46. Lastly, his delegation wished the General Conference every success in its work and reaffirmed Morocco's strong support for the Agency's efforts.

47. Mr. PAREJA CUCALON (Ecuador) said that at a time when new threats endangered world peace, the Agency must remain vigilant so as to stop any attempt to use atomic energy for non-peaceful purposes. Only by dispelling the nuclear threat could a state of mutual understanding be reached, and that was the only proper spirit for international behaviour. For example, by complying with Security Council resolution 661, the Agency would be helping to strengthen peace.

48. In that context, the matter of nuclear safety was of great importance, and the Secretariat accorded it particular attention. Faithful to its traditional policy, his country had acceded to all international instruments on that subject.

49. Ecuador continued to believe it essential that safeguards be accepted as widely as possible so as to ensure the peaceful use of all nuclear facilities. In that connection, he wished to commend the Secretariat's efforts to include a greater number of Latin American nationals in the inspectorate.

50. With regard to the expanded programme of nuclear safety and radiation protection, it was desirable that funds intended for technical co-operation should not be allocated to it.

51. The environment issue affected many technical assistance programmes and was therefore of particular concern to his Government, which had decided to declare the 1990s a "Decade for ecodevelopment" because of the need to reconcile economic development with environmental protection in the interests of the well-being of present and future generations. It had also decided to set up an Undersecretariat for Reforestation and Natural Resources within the Ministry of Agriculture and an Undersecretariat for the Environment in the Ministry of Energy and Mining. In the same spirit, the problem of dumping of nuclear waste called for the closest attention, since such wastes could radically alter the ecosystem and jeopardize the health of entire future generations. His country had supported the joint effort to find strategies

for avoiding transboundary radiological consequences, pointing out that economic growth and social development could lead to serious deterioration if the quality of the environment was neglected.

52. At a regional level, his country continued to take great interest in the Regional Co-operative Arrangements for Latin America (ARCAL), an indispensable instrument for co-operation between the countries concerned. In that context, it was worth recalling that the presidents of the member countries of the Andean Group had decided at their Machu Picchu meeting to add the nuclear sector to their energy co-operation programme, which could open new perspectives for co-operation between the Agency and the Cartagena Agreement.

53. As a long-standing Member of the Agency, his country attached the highest importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, and the firm support given by his Government, which was convinced of the vital role played by science and technology in development, had permitted the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission to continue to strengthen its work programmes and research projects.

54. In the field of agriculture and stockbreeding the Commission had undertaken work on the improvement of seeds through radiation-induced mutations, on the use of labelled fertilizers and on the improvement of livestock that was of inestimable value for the agricultural sector. The same went for research which had been undertaken in various areas - physics, chemistry, biology and electronics - to try to resolve specific national problems in order to encourage the country's development. The agreement concluded with a company for the determination of pesticides present in plants and agricultural products would permit stricter control to be exercised in that area and the health of the population to be improved.

55. In industry, the Commission had introduced nuclear techniques for the quality control of piping welds, for determining the condition of oil storage tanks and for the quality control of aircraft components.

56. In radiation protection, the purpose of the Commission's work was to protect the population against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. Ecuadorian technicians had calibrated cobalt-60 instruments for cancer treatment and had controlled the quality of X-ray instruments in both urban and rural areas of the country.

57. The Commission's work programme also included prospecting for radioactive ores, particularly uranium. Although its energy system was based on oil and hydroelectricity, his country would in the long run have to resort to nuclear energy and must take the measures necessary to ensure a stable and safe energy future for later generations. The Commission had concentrated on proven techniques which helped to promote the economic and social development of the country.

58. Thanks to assistance from the Agency and from countries participating as donors in certain of its projects, Ecuador had been able to implement successfully a number of very fruitful programmes and to meet the challenge of history by laying sound foundations for a national scientific and technological infrastructure.

59. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his delegation's faith in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to create a peaceful and just world free of fear and mistrust, a world which sought freedom and well-being above all, and he was convinced that the Agency would continue, as in the past, to play an important role in the pursuit of those objectives.

60. Mr. OGADA (Kenya) observed that the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference was taking place at a turning-point in international relations. For four decades, the world had been divided into ideological compartments, whereas now, where there had been confrontation, there was understanding and compromise, which of course promoted peace and progress throughout the world. The events in the Gulf could therefore only be regretted, and his delegation hoped that the crisis would soon be settled peacefully. It also hoped that the Member States involved in that crisis and the Agency's Secretariat would come to an understanding with regard to technical assistance which might be affected by international sanctions.

61. On the subject of the Fourth NPT Review Conference which had just ended, it would be wrong to pretend that it had been a success, since no consensus had been obtained on the wording of the final document. It was significant that the disagreement had centred on the sensitive issue of a comprehensive test-ban treaty, although that was the key to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the future. It seemed that non-proliferation remained an empty word since there apparently existed no trust between nations. His delegation was firmly convinced that the NPT must be the basis for non-proliferation. However, given the present structure of the system, under which nuclear-weapon States kept the weapons which they already had but renounced the possibility of acquiring or developing any more, that negative security assurance was vital to non-nuclear-weapon States. At all events, his delegation appealed to those States which had not acceded to the NPT seriously to consider doing so.

62. Safeguards were a vital instrument for the non-proliferation regime. However, the current system was not sufficiently transparent, and the world would be a far safer place if that system were universally applied. Kenya strongly supported the idea of making the African continent a nuclear-weapons-free zone, but that would only be truly possible if all the States of that continent acceded to the NPT and to the safeguards system.

63. The matter of the revision of Article VI of the Statute had been on the General Conference's agenda for nearly ten years, and the imbalance in geographical and regional representation in the Agency's policy-making organs continued. The question of the composition of the Board of Governors should be rethought, given that there was no longer the problem of a delicate balance between divergent ideologies.

64. It was clear that the safety of nuclear facilities and the management of nuclear wastes remained crucial for the development of the nuclear industry, the more so in developing countries where the handling of very sophisticated systems undoubtedly presented practical problems. It was to be hoped that reliable but relatively simple methods for disposing of nuclear wastes could be devised.

65. His delegation was sincerely grateful for the technical assistance which his country had received and continued to receive from the Agency. That assistance had enabled it to establish capacities which, however modest, were of great importance, allowing the use of nuclear techniques in areas such as agriculture, medicine, water resources and non-destructive testing of materials. Kenya was increasing its efforts to intensify and diversify that invaluable co-operation, inter alia by joining the recently concluded AFRA. His delegation thanked the Agency for having sent a WAMAP mission to Kenya in 1989. During its visit, the team had helped Kenyan experts to contain caesium and radium sources used in Kenyan hospitals. It had also demonstrated the safe disposal of hot sources. That exercise, conducted jointly with the Kenya Radiation Protection Board, had been filmed by the local media and recorded, together with a text prepared by WAMAP, on a video cassette which would be used for training in developing Member States. That was a small but significant example of co-operation between Kenya and the Agency.

66. A regional training workshop for Africa on nuclear law would be held in Nairobi in November and would help Member States in the region to translate safety standards and recommendations into national legal mechanisms in their own countries. His delegation would welcome the distinguished nuclear law specialists from various parts of the world who would participate in that workshop sponsored by the Agency. African lawyers would thus have an opportunity of learning from and exchanging ideas with those specialists, which in a small way would promote better understanding of nuclear science and industry in Africa.

67. His delegation warmly welcomed the Republic of Namibia, which had taken its place in the General Conference for the first time as an independent and sovereign State, and was very pleased to see it take its rightful seat. The independence of Namibia was a highly significant fact since it marked the end of the colonial era on the continent of Africa. It also showed that one of the major aims of the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had been achieved. His delegation hoped that event would herald the dawning of peace and prosperity, not only in southern Africa but in Africa as a whole as well.

68. Mr. AL-SAIED (Kuwait) said that his country, which was desirous of peace and international co-operation for a better world, was now toiling under the yoke of the Iraqi invader. Iraq was systematically practising rape, destruction and pillage, and had removed all the equipment from scientific and technological establishments and burnt all the documents it had found there. Despite those tribulations, the Kuwaiti Government continued to take great interest in the Agency's activities, including the work of the thirty-fourth session of the General Conference. Kuwait and the Agency had exemplary co-operation on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Thus, the Agency had sent many trainees to Kuwaiti training centres and his Government had made financial contributions to projects carried out in a number of friendly countries. In addition, his country had taken an active part in the interregional courses organized by the Agency in various regions of the world.

69. The Director General's remarks in his opening statement concerning the Middle East and the dangers which threatened that region showed how important it was to establish peace and trust in that part of the world. His country felt that the States in the region should work together to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and he called on the Director General to intensify efforts to achieve that objective, requesting him not to limit his visits to only two countries but to consult all the countries concerned in that region. Furthermore, it was essential that the international community should call upon Israel to respond positively to the international appeals that it place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards, as that would be an important first step towards establishing peace in the region.

70. His delegation welcomed the action taken by the Agency aimed at reducing environmental pollution caused by fossil fuels. However, it wished to stress that the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be accompanied by measures to ensure safety, as the hazards of nuclear power were a threat to all States and not only to users.

71. His delegation supported the draft co-operation agreement between the IAEA and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency contained in document GC(XXXIV)/924 and the draft executing agency agreement between the United Nations Development

Programme and the IAEA in document GC(XXXIV)/923, as that type of agreement could only strengthen the technical co-operation links between the Agency and other international organizations and institutions.

72. The Director General had said that he had received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations the text of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council concerning the act of aggression committed by Iraq against the State of Kuwait and that he had decided, as a consequence, to suspend all provision by the Agency of technical assistance to Iraq. The Kuwaiti delegation supported that decision. Since the IAEA was a specialized agency of the United Nations, it would have been inconceivable for a State which violated the Charter of the United Nations to continue to benefit from the services of such an agency. Furthermore, there was reason to fear that staff members sent by the Agency to Iraq might be taken hostage by the Baghdad régime. In that connection, his country wished to reiterate that all States and all international organizations must implement the Security Council's resolutions until Iraq submitted to the unanimous will of the international community.

73. Lastly, emphasizing that co-operation between his country and the Agency would continue, he thanked all those countries which had defended the just cause of the State of Kuwait, whose sole objective was peace.

74. Mr. RASHID (Bangladesh) said that one of the most urgent and complex of the Agency's tasks was to provide a healthy and well-developed energy system for the developing countries. In order to achieve tangible benefits which would not be confined to the industrially advanced countries, serious thought should be given to ways of promoting a sustainable energy system worldwide. The present session of the General Conference provided an opportunity to take stock of the energy situation in the world in general and in the developing countries in particular, especially in the least advanced countries.

75. The nuclear option, which had proved mature and viable, had been expected to reach the developing countries, but the majority of those countries, although in need of nuclear technology, had not been able to take advantage of it for lack of resources. According to estimates, the average

annual growth in commercial energy demand in Bangladesh over the following two decades would have to be at least 6% in order to sustain some level of economic development over that period. The average growth rate of electricity production would have to be increased to at least 10%. However, the lack of resources, particularly of indigenous fuel, would make it difficult to achieve even those modest objectives.

76. The Agency had rightly identified the pressing need for small and medium-sized power reactors (SMPRs) to meet the requirements of small power grids in developing countries such as Bangladesh. So far, however, the efforts in that area had been limited mainly to conducting studies and organizing seminars and symposia. The time had come for the Agency to take action. No short- or medium-term solutions had yet been found to the problem of meeting energy needs. The Agency should give urgent consideration to those issues and take the necessary action, particularly with regard to strengthening radiological safety and protection.

77. Many countries with limited fossil fuels needed to find other energy sources. That was the case of Bangladesh, where the nuclear option seemed a viable approach to meeting electricity demand, as indicated by various feasibility studies carried out by reputable international companies. However, the problem of financing was a major obstacle, and without sufficient funds, construction of the planned nuclear power plant at Rooppur could not even be started. The financing of nuclear power plants in developing countries which had signed the NPT and a safeguards agreement with the Agency was an area in which the developed countries and the Agency could play a significant role.

78. In that connection, he recalled resolution GC(XKVIII)/RES/439, adopted by the General Conference in 1984, in which the Director General had been requested to provide, upon request, assistance in securing financing from outside sources for nuclear power projects in developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries. The results of the Director General's efforts to follow up that resolution had not yet become apparent. In that context, he also recalled the recommendations relating to Article IV of NPT, which had recently been approved at the Fourth NPT Review Conference, particularly those in paragraphs 4, 10, 11 and 28 of the document produced by the Drafting Committee of the Review Conference.

79. Public confidence in nuclear power had been shaken by several accidents. The Director General, in his introductory statement, had referred to the present stagnation in the construction of new plants and stated that public confidence could only be restored if the Agency gave urgent attention to three issues, namely the safety of nuclear installations, the safe management and storage of nuclear waste, and non-proliferation, and established an appropriate balance between them. The Agency should renew its efforts to gain public confidence in nuclear power, and in that connection his delegation welcomed the plan of action for public information which the Agency had set up with the help of a special contribution from the Japanese Government.

80. Bangladesh appeared to be one of the victims of climatic change, being not only affected by environmental deterioration but also vulnerable to the greenhouse effect. If corrective measures were not taken to remedy environmental degradation, the consequences would be disastrous, not only for Bangladesh but for the entire world. His delegation therefore welcomed the Agency's contribution to combating the greenhouse effect.

81. Bangladesh was essentially an agricultural country, and assessment of its water resources and their potential use on a large scale was vital. Nuclear techniques were an invaluable tool in that endeavour, and the Agency could provide assistance to meet his country's needs in that area.

82. The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission provided services for the application of radioisotopes in various industrial activities in his country, and trained local personnel in both the public and the private sector in the safe and effective use of those techniques. A cobalt-60 gamma source had become jammed at the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, and foreign experts had advised abandoning it and burying it in concrete. However, the country's own experts and engineers had succeeded in salvaging the facility at the modest cost of US \$700, which bore witness to the local experts' competence. A study of the movement and deposition of sediments on the river beds leading to Chittagong harbour had been launched using isotopes produced by the country's research reactor, which had gone critical at the end

of 1986. The research programmes in various areas had been expanded, in collaboration with international organizations such as the Agency, WHO and FAO and within the framework of the RCA.

83. In the biological sciences, research was continuing in several major disciplines, including agro-industry. A project for a demonstration irradiation unit was under way as part of the Agency's technical assistance programme. That commercial installation was a joint venture with the private sector and would come into operation early in the following year. The application of nuclear and other advanced techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases was continuing in close collaboration with various national institutions. The research reactor was being used at present for a number of research and development projects, and new measures had been taken to ensure better utilization of the reactor. The installation, with the Agency's assistance, of a triple axis spectrometer was making good progress and the unit should enter into service at the beginning of 1991.

84. His Government wished to thank the Agency for the technical assistance it had provided in various sectors of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and sincerely hoped that it would continue to benefit from that assistance in the future. However, it believed that the Agency's technical assistance programmes for developing countries, which were based mainly on voluntary contributions, should be financed on a predictable and assured basis; he trusted the General Conference would make every effort to find an appropriate solution.

85. Bangladesh was a signatory of NPT. The inability of the Fourth NPT Review Conference to reach a consensus on a final document was disappointing. The Conference had reached agreement on several issues to which his Government attached importance, such as the strengthening of the Agency's work on both energy and non-energy applications in developing countries, the recommendation that nuclear suppliers should require the application of full-scope safeguards as a condition of supply to both NPT and non-NPT countries, and the strengthening of the Agency's safeguards system by special inspection procedures. His delegation hoped that the positive achievements of the Fourth NPT Review Conference would have the intended effect. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to the objectives of NPT and the norm it sought to

establish by deterring any attempt to legitimize the existence or promotion of nuclear explosives. The NPT was a major instrument for achieving progress towards disarmament and consolidating peace and security throughout the world.

86. In conclusion, he wished to emphasize again the glaring imbalance in the representation of the regions Middle East and South Asia and Africa on the Board of Governors. The legitimate interests of the countries in those regions must be honoured and the present imbalance corrected. To that end, his delegation had co-sponsored a draft resolution seeking revision of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute at an early date, and he hoped the draft would be adopted at the present session of the General Conference.

87. Mr. CHOI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that in the previous year, the Agency's activities in the areas of the nuclear fuel cycle, radioactive waste management, food and agriculture, human health, industry, radiation protection, safety of nuclear facilities, and safeguards had greatly contributed to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and thus also to achieving the Agency's objectives.

88. Although public concern about nuclear safety had led to a conspicuous stagnation in nuclear power worldwide, the importance of nuclear energy for electricity production should not be underestimated. Despite all the difficulties encountered, the present share of nuclear power in world electricity production had reached 17%, and with the advent of safer and less expensive types of reactor, nuclear power would undoubtedly have even greater development potential.

89. The Agency's extensive work in the area of radiation protection had related to basic principles and criteria, occupational radiation protection, environmental assessment and protection, and emergency planning and preparedness.

90. He commended the Agency on its nuclear safety activities, particularly those following the Chernobyl accident. The establishment of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), the revision of the NUSS codes, the Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste and other accomplishments in the area of nuclear safety should help convince the public that nuclear energy could serve as a reliable and safe source of energy.

91. His Government noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Agency to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards.

92. For its part, his Government was seeking to increase the contribution of nuclear power to economic development and the well-being of the population. It had taken measures to respond to the increase in electricity demand, and by the end of the third 7-year plan (1987-1993) electricity production was to reach 100 thousand million kilowatt-hours. Hydroelectric and thermal power plants were under construction in several places, and preparatory work on the siting of four pressurized water reactor units had been completed.

93. Various institutions in industry, agriculture, medicine, and research had begun to use nuclear techniques, and development projects to promote those activities had been successfully implemented.

94. The national regulatory bodies were giving due attention to nuclear safety and environmental protection in order to ensure the sound development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Progress in that area was closely linked to technical co-operation activities for which the Agency deserved thanks.

95. Nuclear energy, if misused, could bring about the annihilation of mankind. His delegation had put forward a proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-weapons-free zone in order to eliminate the danger of touching off a nuclear war which existed there, and thus to contribute to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

96. With regard to the safeguards agreement between his country and the Agency, the negotiations which had taken place on several occasions had failed to reach a solution acceptable to both parties, as the Director General had mentioned in his statement. In that connection, he wished to express his profound gratitude to the Secretariat for the efforts it had made to find a reasonable and fair solution. His delegation had clearly stated its point of view on that issue at the Fourth NPT Review Conference. As soon as a Depositary Power for the Treaty gave assurances, through a legally binding commitment, not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against his country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would immediately conclude and implement the relevant safeguards agreement.

97. Finally, he endorsed the Annual Report for 1989. His country had the firm intention of strengthening its co-operation with the Agency with a view to promoting the safe and rational development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

98. Mr. SANTOS (Portugal) said that he fully supported the statement made by the Italian delegate on behalf of the 12 Member States of the European Community, and that the Agency had shown itself to be one of the most important and competent organizations facing rapid changes of emphasis in sensitive technological areas; he hoped the Agency's vital role would continue to develop.

99. His delegation was very pleased with the Annual Report for 1989 and wished to congratulate the Agency on its excellent financial management, which had again made it possible to draw up balanced budget estimates for 1991 and 1992 while maintaining near-zero growth for 1991. In his delegation's view, the Agency's main activities were those in the areas of safeguards, nuclear safety and technical co-operation.

100. On the subject of safeguards, he noted that, as in preceding years, the Agency had not found any anomaly indicating the diversion of a significant amount of safeguarded nuclear material for non-peaceful purposes. That was an important achievement which should always be highlighted, as also should the efforts made by the Department of Safeguards to establish a coherent set of criteria to serve as a basis for the planning, implementation and assessment of safeguards inspection and nuclear material accountancy during the period 1991-95. That effort could contribute in the near future to increasing the efficiency of safeguards, which was particularly important in view of the growing number of facilities to be inspected.

101. With regard to nuclear safety, the Agency had played a leading role in the organization of meetings on various subjects related to nuclear power: climate changes and the gathering of information on the potential role of nuclear energy in avoiding aggravation of the greenhouse effect; promotion of an international meeting of nuclear power plant operators with a view to improving operational safety; and development of reactors with improved safety characteristics and a simpler and more economic design to facilitate a significant increase in the use of nuclear power.

102. Recognizing the importance of information on radioactivity in the environment, and taking into account public concern, his country was establishing two continuous monitoring networks, one for air and the other for fluvial waters.

103. In the field of technical co-operation, it was still too early to evaluate the new biennial programming system, but it should be emphasized that the growing workload of the Department of Technical Co-operation had been absorbed through a more effective use of manpower, office automation and data processing. He hoped to see that positive tendency continue in the future.

104. As a recipient of technical assistance, his country had noted that the present biennial programming system made it possible to extend the period of project preparation and gave greater flexibility to the Agency in resource management. Pre-project support in the form of programming missions and RAPAT and WAMAP missions could contribute significantly towards improving the quality of projects proposed by Member States.

105. During the previous decade, his country had on balance received substantial assistance from the Agency in carrying out technical co-operation projects in most of the main areas of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The technical assistance officers had shown understanding whenever adjustments in project implementation had been required. The Agency's programme for 1989-90 included various projects for his country, relating to the modernization of a research reactor, the application of nuclear techniques in animal husbandry, hydrology and industry, radiation protection and environmental monitoring, and the disposal of wastes from uranium mining and processing.

106. In that connection, his delegation wished to express its gratitude to the United States and to France for the assistance they had provided during the period 1989-90 for two projects relating to nitrogen fixation and uranium exploration.

107. Portugal had not yet made a decision concerning the use of nuclear energy for electricity production. Studies were under way, as part of the national energy plan, to provide a technical and economic assessment of the various options. Uranium prospecting and mining work had continued, with an annual production of some 150 tonnes.

108. The research and development activities carried out in 1989 had included work in the areas of medicine, agriculture, radiological safety and radiation protection, radio-ecological studies and the use of the Portuguese research reactor for radioisotope production and the application of nuclear techniques. In all those areas, his country had greatly appreciated the co-operation of the Agency over the past several years.

109. Finally, his delegation wished to support the action taken by the Director General with respect to technical co-operation with Iraq.

110. Mr. JAMAL (Qatar) said that the Agency's mission, which was to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy throughout the world and to ensure that they contributed further to the well-being of humanity and to progress in medicine, agriculture and industry, deserved the full support of all Member States. The NPT, by entrusting the Agency with important responsibilities regarding nuclear non-proliferation, had given it a vital role in maintaining international peace and security and in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the past few years, the Agency had acquired another essential task, which was to ensure liaison between Member States for early notification in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, and to provide technical assistance aimed at preventing such events taking place.

111. The countries of the Middle East continued to face the permanent threat posed by the increase in Israeli nuclear and military capabilities, which could lead to an arms race jeopardizing peace and security in that region and in the rest of the world. The obstinate attitude of Israel and its persistent refusal to implement the resolutions of the General Conference and the United Nations were an open challenge to the entire international community. By refusing to adhere to the NPT and to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards, the Tel-Aviv Government was directly endangering the peace and security of the peoples of the Middle East.

112. Not content with remaining impervious to all international appeals to submit to the application of safeguards, it was continuing to co-operate closely with the racist Pretoria Government on the production of nuclear weapons, which posed a serious threat not only to the countries of the Middle

East, but also to all African States. His delegation accordingly requested all States desiring peace to counter that threat with a firm and constructive attitude in line with their responsibilities for maintaining international peace and security.

113. Having examined the report on the consultations held by the Director General with the Middle East States concerned with a view to the application of Agency safeguards to all nuclear facilities in the region, his country strongly denounced the behaviour of Israel, which was prevaricating, inventing pretexts, and hindering the full application of General Conference resolutions while giving priority to the achievement of its political aims and expansionist designs rather than to the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone. Noting the unsuccessful efforts made by the Director General to apply resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/506 entitled "Israeli nuclear capabilities and threat", he requested the Director General to renew his efforts to exert pressure on Israel and persuade it to submit its nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards.

114. Turning to two extremely important issues which were closely linked, namely nuclear safety and the management and disposal of radioactive wastes, his delegation noted that for the past few years a number of States using nuclear energy had been getting rid of their radioactive wastes by exporting them openly or in secret to Third-World countries and dumping them in the oceans or burying them in deserts, thereby endangering not only the environment, but above all human health. The Agency had a vital role to play in that area. It was helping solve the problems of radioactive waste management, studying the possible harmful effects of certain disposal procedures on various Third-World countries, and trying to give greater publicity to that issue, as well as establishing standards for safety and radiation protection in nuclear power plants. It should, however, also offer technical assistance and advice to developing countries to enable them to keep pace with technical progress and to facilitate more extensive use of peaceful nuclear applications.

115. If the Agency were to fulfil the noble mission for which it had been established, all Member States would have to renew their efforts and work together loyally, confident in the future of a world based on law and justice in which the safety and well-being of all were guaranteed. His country, for its part, would continue to support the work of the Agency.

116. Mr. OMARI (Albania) said that his country, which had been a Member of the Agency since its establishment, had always highly appreciated the Agency's role in promoting, accelerating and enlarging the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes with a view to increasing prosperity and progress throughout the world.

117. The assistance provided by the Agency was also vital for the assimilation, development and utilization of nuclear techniques to improve the economy, scientific research and health in Albania, which had made investments within the limits of its development capabilities, to set up the necessary infrastructure and equipment for the use of those techniques. Through co-operation with the Agency on technical assistance projects, Albania had extended its peaceful nuclear activities to areas such as the use of radioactive tracers for monitoring industrial processes, the measurement and monitoring of radioactivity in the environment and the use of radioisotopes in medicine and animal production.

118. The supply of measuring equipment, a major component of those projects for the development of modern nuclear techniques in Albania, had been complemented by staff training, which had usually been provided in the Agency's own laboratories. The Agency had also regularly sent experts from the Secretariat and from outside to give advice and assistance in solving various problems. In addition, the visits by the present Director General, a former Director General and a member of the Department of Technical Co-operation had done much to help strengthen the co-operation between Albania and the Agency.

119. Although the technical co-operation projects carried out with the Agency's assistance had been successful and had made it possible to solve certain economic problems, it would be desirable, in view of the conditions prevailing in Albania and probably in many other countries too, for the Agency

to continue to provide assistance for projects after their completion, particularly in the form of spare parts and services for the maintenance of systems and measuring equipment. Such assistance could only serve to enhance the efficiency of technical co-operation projects.

120. Positive developments were taking place in the world and a spirit of co-operation and understanding was now prevailing, accompanied by constructive efforts for peace and friendship between peoples and moves towards integration at regional, continental and even wider levels. Albania was following those developments with interest and was attempting to contribute to the extension of that process in the Balkans, Europe and elsewhere. It had signed a safeguards agreement many years previously, and it had recently acceded to the NPT and deposited the necessary instruments with the depositaries. Accession to that Treaty created more favourable conditions for the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and for the granting of assistance by the Agency and various friendly countries.

121. His delegation was following with interest the Agency's activities related to the drawing up of international conventions, recommendations, codes and standards in the area of nuclear technology. It was currently examining the Conventions on Early Notification and Emergency Assistance and had no difficulties in principle with their approval.

122. Albania was engaged in a process of democratic reforms in all areas of its economic, political and social activity. The introduction of a new economic mechanism, the strengthening of co-operation with other countries, foreign companies and international organizations, the democratization of the country's economy and other measures were aimed at promoting the country's economic rise, the introduction of new technologies and the improvement of the population's welfare. Within that overall framework, the development of nuclear technologies had a special role to play in agriculture, industry, medicine and research, as well as in the prospecting and processing of raw materials.

123. With the Agency's assistance and in co-operation with UNDP, Albania was in the process of implementing a fairly large-scale project which involved the construction and commissioning of a research reactor, the production of short- and medium-lived radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, the expansion and

strengthening of the use of radioisotopes and the consolidation of the neutron activation analysis method. That project, which Albania regarded as very important, would be complemented by staff training, the extension and improvement of existing infrastructures and the reinforcement of radiation protection measures at the national level.

124. It was Albania's intention to make every effort to contribute to the Agency's activities by participating actively in the Agency's noble task of promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, strengthening understanding, safeguarding peace and eliminating the threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXXIV)/938)

125. The PRESIDENT recalled that, following the recommendation made by the inter-sessional working group to review the General Conference's working practices and approved by the General Conference the previous year, no secret ballot would be held where there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, the Conference simply declaring the agreed candidate or candidates duly elected. A secret ballot would take place only with respect to those areas for which there was no agreement on the candidates. Rule 79 of the General Conference's Rules of Procedure, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, would be suspended in respect of the areas for which no secret ballot was to be held.

126. He was pleased to announce that the Member States of all areas had reached agreement and that therefore no secret ballot was necessary. He was grateful to all groups for the efforts they had made to reach agreement, since that would greatly facilitate the Conference's work and help save valuable time.

127. The elective places on the Board which had to be filled were indicated in document GC(XXXIV)/938. Paragraph 2 of that document indicated the number of Member States that must be elected for each area to ensure that the Board was constituted in accordance with Article VI.A of the Statute. Paragraph 4 listed the 24 Member States which had been either designated by the Board of Governors in June for membership of the Board pursuant to Article VI.A.1 of the Statute or elected by the General Conference in 1989 in accordance with

Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and which would therefore be serving on the Board during 1990-91. Delegates had received an informal note showing the results of consultations among the eight geographical area groups regarding their candidates for the vacant seats.

128. Taking each of the areas for which there were vacancies in turn, he said that if there were no objections he would assume that the General Conference wished to elect Brazil, Cuba and Uruguay to the three seats to be filled in respect of Latin America.

129. Brazil, Cuba and Uruguay were duly elected.

130. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect Austria and Portugal to the two seats to be filled in respect of Western Europe.

131. Austria and Portugal were duly elected.

132. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the seat to be filled in respect of Eastern Europe.

133. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic was duly elected.

134. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no other proposals, he would assume that the General Conference wished to elect Cameroon and Morocco to the two seats to be filled in respect of Africa.

135. Cameroon and Morocco were duly elected.

136. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any other proposal, he would take it that the General Conference wished to elect the Islamic Republic of Iran to the seat to be filled in respect of the Middle East and South Asia.

137. The Islamic Republic of Iran was duly elected.

138. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, he would assume that the General Conference wished to elect Indonesia to the seat to be filled in respect of South East Asia and the Pacific.

139. Indonesia was duly elected.

safety standards and recommendations. Within the framework of their co-operation, the CMEA member countries were also devoting considerable attention to the preparation and implementation of backfitting work on nuclear power plants equipped with first-generation WWER-440 reactors.

149. A two-year co-operation programme between the CMEA and the Agency had been drawn up and adopted in 1989 with a view to further development of the agreement between those two organizations. That programme opened up new prospects for expanded co-operation. Under that programme, the CMEA regularly received from the Agency proceedings of international symposia and conferences, standard documents on radiation and nuclear safety, and information bulletins. The CMEA Secretariat, in its turn, sent relevant documents to the Agency.

150. The CMEA attached great importance to the Senior Expert Symposium on Electricity and the Environment to be organized by the Agency in Finland in May 1991 and had become one of its co-sponsors. The CMEA was also interested in other Agency initiatives, such as the establishment of the Inter-Agency Committee for Radiation Safety. The co-operation between the Agency and the CMEA had already resulted in certain achievements, and the CMEA was ready to broaden that mutually beneficial co-operation.

151. The PRESIDENT gave the floor to the delegates of Iraq and the United States, who wished to exercise their right of reply.

152. Mr. FAHAD (Iraq), noting that one of his colleagues claiming to be the representative of Kuwait had spoken some time earlier, recalled the reservations and objections expressed by his delegation at the beginning of the General Conference's work with regard to the statements made by that representative and the capacity in which he was speaking.

153. His delegation had already commented in detail on the statements by the Director General concerning the suspension of technical assistance to Iraq. Iraq considered that such a suspension was contrary to the recommendations of the Board of Governors, that it was illegal, that it was not provided for in the Security Council resolution, and that it stemmed from a biased and political interpretation of the text of that resolution.

154. Lastly, he noted that Czechoslovakia was taking advantage of the situation in the Middle East to make requests for donations and assistance from organizations and States known for their attitude towards developing countries and other States.

155. Mr. KENNEDY (United States of America), referring first to the comments which had just been made by the representative of Iraq, said that his delegation was firmly convinced that the Director General had taken the appropriate measures in the circumstances and therefore associated itself with the statements on that point made by a number of delegations in the plenary meetings the previous day and earlier the same day.

156. Replying then to the statement by the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he recalled that the delegate of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had stated that his country would immediately conclude and implement a safeguards agreement, provided it received certain assurances. Speaking as a representative of a Depositary Power of the NPT, he pointed out that the obligation under the NPT of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to conclude a safeguards agreement within 18 months of accession to the Treaty could not be conditional upon the resolution of any other issue or upon the conclusion of another agreement or provision of any guarantee. The obligation undertaken under the Treaty was absolute and unconditional.

157. Mr. AL-SAIED (Kuwait), exercising his right of reply, said that he did not intend to involve the General Conference in a consideration of political issues which his delegation had already explained and about which all delegations present were informed. However, his delegation was surprised that the representative of Iraq should dispute the lawfulness of the Director General's attitude, when the Baghdad régime was violating international law and Security Council resolutions, including resolution 662 which condemned the Iraqi invasion and rejected the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq.

158. Mr. CHOI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that his delegation's position on the subject of the safeguards agreement had been clearly expressed that morning and that he would merely recall that at the Fourth NPT Review Conference, the United States had opposed the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean

peninsula because it was continuing its military exercises directed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Under those conditions, it was difficult for his country to conclude a safeguards agreement, and he stressed that the Depositaries of the Treaty were bound to give non-nuclear-weapon States assurances against the use or the threat of the use of such weapons. That obligation had not yet been fulfilled owing to a lack of political will on the part of some of the Depositary Powers.

159. Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that he had no intention of politicizing a discussion which was essentially about whether or not an Agency Member State was fulfilling its obligations. The General Conference was not the appropriate forum to consider political or other issues which lay outside the Agency's sphere of competence. His delegation therefore urged Member States which had significant nuclear activities to fulfil their obligations in accordance with the Agency's Statute.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.