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President: Mr. ADEKANYE (Nigeria)
later: Mr. WAGNER (Czechoslovakia)

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[*] GC(XXXVI)/1027.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document
GC(XXXVI)/INF/313/Rev.2.

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Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CNESTEN	National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Sciences and Technology
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
INF Treaty	Treaty on the Elimination of Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles
IRRT	International Regulatory Review Team
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
JET	Joint European Torus
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NUSSAG	Nuclear Safety Standards Advisory Group
Pre-OSART	Pre-Operational Safety Review Team
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
START	Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNSCEAR	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
WAMAP	Waste Management Advisory Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WWER	Water-cooled and -moderated reactor

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991 GC(XXXVI)/1004) (continued)

1. Mr. BELLO (Philippines), after welcoming Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan as Members of the Agency, thanked the Director General for his report on the Agency's activities. His delegation shared the Director General's concern about the organization's financial situation and joined the appeals for timely payment of contributions to the Regular Budget. In 1991, in response to the Director General's appeal, his country had paid its 1992 contribution in advance.
2. His country was pleased to note the successful implementation of technical co-operation activities. It shared the view that the biennial programming cycle was an improvement on the annual cycle and welcomed the Board's decision to continue that cycle beyond the initial four-year trial period. Thanks to the Agency's technical assistance, the Philippines had been able to set up the scientific infrastructure required for research and development in the field of peaceful nuclear applications. The approval of funding for its technical assistance requests for the 1991-92 programme had increased the resources - in terms of expert advice, training opportunities and, most importantly, equipment - which were available to the country for implementing its national nuclear science and technology programme. His country particularly appreciated the technical assistance provided for its one nuclear research reactor. It also thanked the United States Government for its assistance in the upgrading of two footnote-a/ projects and the Agency for the expert assistance it had provided in February 1992 for a national workshop on project design, management and evaluation.
3. The importance of technical co-operation activities could not be overemphasized. His delegation was therefore concerned at the continuing decline in pledges and payments of contributions to the TACF. That unfortunate trend clearly showed up the vagaries of a voluntary system. His delegation believed that technical assistance projects should be financed on a more secure and reliable basis and proposed once again that appropriations for those activities be included in the Regular Budget.
4. He noted with satisfaction that the RCA had been extended for five years and hoped that, as a result, the uncertainties surrounding the

implementation of ongoing and future projects had been removed. The agreement had clearly attained its objective of promoting the more effective utilization of the resources available in the region, particularly with regard to the TCDC component of the programme. To demonstrate its firm support for the RCA, his Government was hosting the 15th Working Meeting in March 1993. However, he noted with concern the delay in the decision on UNDP funding for the RCA project on the use of isotopes and radiation to strengthen technology and support environmentally sustainable development. He hoped that the remaining problems would be resolved so that the momentum gained so far could be maintained.

5. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency was continuing to give very high priority to strengthening radiation protection in the region. Indeed, an adequate radiation protection infrastructure played a cardinal role in the peaceful uses of ionizing radiation in all activities, whether industrial, medical or research. His country's active participation in the RCA project on the strengthening of radiation protection infrastructure had contributed significantly to the improved level of radiation protection in the Philippines. His country also fully supported the Australian proposal for an RCA project on the application of isotope and radiation technology to regional development with special reference to industry and nuclear medicine.

6. His delegation was pleased to note the initiatives taken by the Agency in promoting nuclear safety and recognized its crucial role in that area. The safety issue was receiving increasing attention in the Philippines in connection with the current governmental review of the possible reactivation of the country's nuclear power plant. His country had sought the Agency's advice on the timing of the proposed Pre-OSART mission and of an IRRT mission to review the plant's state of preservation.

7. His country had actively participated in the meetings on the revision of the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and had made several proposals aimed at making the Convention more effective. He reiterated his country's position that the Convention should include military nuclear facilities in its scope. In that connection, it looked forward to the convening of a diplomatic conference to deal with the proposed revisions. His

delegation also intended to play an active part in the Review Conference of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material scheduled for the week following the General Conference.

8. Through its safeguards activities, the Agency played a crucial role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear devices. Several measures had been proposed for further strengthening the safeguards system, and he agreed with the Board's conclusion that those proposals warranted further study in view of their far-reaching implications. His delegation also hoped that the comprehensive safeguards agreement with the DPRK and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would be properly implemented.

9. With regard to the long-standing issue of the financing of safeguards, the current review should be continued in co-ordination with the study of the financing of technical assistance. He reaffirmed the principle that nuclear States should bear the main burden of the cost of the safeguards system. He was nevertheless encouraged by the Secretariat's efforts, in response to Member States' requests, to use the resources available for safeguards more efficiently within the constraints imposed by the zero-real-growth budget. Recalling that at its previous session the General Conference had adopted a resolution regarding the need for a better balance between the Agency's main activities, his delegation urged the Secretariat to continue making every effort to achieve that objective. Safeguards certainly had a crucial role, but it was important not to lose sight of the Agency's other main function, namely the development of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

10. His delegation had been very active in the initiatives to revise Article VI of the Agency's Statute, particularly with regard to the composition of the Board of Governors. It had joined other delegations on several occasions in appealing for provisions clearly defining the conditions for membership of the Board. The Philippines supported the proposals to review the system of division into geographical areas used in the Statute as the basis for representation on the Board.

11. Finally, he noted with satisfaction the increased recruitment to high-level posts of personnel from developing countries. However, that increase

was still not sufficient. A greater effort should be made to disseminate information on vacancies and to encourage applicants from developing countries.

12. Mr. ONSY (Egypt), after congratulating Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan on their admission to the Agency, said that the experience of past decades had highlighted the importance of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the promotion of development activities, both from the point of view of responding to growing energy needs that could not be met by traditional sources, and resolving problems in various key sectors such as medicine, industry and agriculture. The peaceful use of nuclear energy had become one of the rare tools available to developing countries enabling them to accelerate their progress. The Agency played an important role in that respect through its three main activities, namely nuclear safety, technical assistance and the implementation of safeguards, which contributed, on the one hand, to increasing confidence among Member States and, on the other, to ensuring a minimum level of balance between the developed North and the developing South in terms of technological capabilities, an essential factor in development in all areas. Although the Cold War had worked against efforts in support of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and had limited opportunities for the peaceful application of nuclear energy, radical changes in the world over the past few years had resulted in a climate of détente and co-operation among the major nuclear powers and the accession of several States to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. If the various nuclear States continued on that path, all efforts, including those of the Agency, could be channelled towards expanding co-operation with respect to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

13. Since its adoption by the General Conference in September 1991, the Agency had made strenuous efforts to implement the resolution on the strengthening of the safeguards system. Such strengthening was needed in order to increase international confidence in the effectiveness of the system, but must be applied to all the States without discrimination and without delaying the transfer of modern nuclear technology to developing countries. Greater attention and interest should be devoted in future to the position of States which had not yet acceded to the NPT and the safeguards system, and everything possible should be done to persuade those States to change their

position, particularly in view of the possible implications of the present situation for the balance between those States and the parties to the Treaty in terms of their obligations.

14. Safeguards were therefore very important as a means of ensuring non-proliferation, particularly in regions of conflict and especially in the Middle East, which was first on the list. While supporting the efforts made to achieve a peaceful, global and just settlement of the conflicts in the Middle East, his country believed that, if that settlement was to be stable and lasting, the States of the region would have to accept that their territories should be free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Over the past ten years Egypt had made several proposals along those lines at international conferences and meetings. At the previous session of the General Conference it had also presented a draft resolution on the application of safeguards in the Middle East, which had received unanimous approval, and he hoped that the same would happen at the present session. The application of safeguards in that region would be a significant step towards establishing confidence among the States. He emphasized the importance of the Agency's role in that area and hoped that it would continue its efforts. He also invited the States of the region, and particularly those with developed nuclear capabilities, such as Israel, to accede to the NPT.

15. The signing of safeguards agreements with the Agency in 1991 by the Governments of South Africa and the DPRK would certainly help to strengthen security and stability in Africa and on the Korean Peninsula, and he hoped that the co-operation of those two countries with the Agency would result in full implementation of the two agreements. He also welcomed the unceasing efforts to maintain the dialogue in South Africa, which he hoped would lead to the establishment of a democratic regime supported by the entire population. If those initiatives were successful, South Africa would certainly be able to return to its activities in all the organizations and participate once again in all international meetings.

16. The technical co-operation programme was one of the Agency's main activities. The developing countries attached particular importance to the programme from the point of view of planning their development projects and bridging the gulf separating them from the developed countries. The General Conference resolutions regarding the financing of the programme from secure,

predictable and assured resources rather than from voluntary contributions should be implemented as soon as possible, and the resources in question should be distributed among the technical assistance projects in such a way as to ensure their benefit to the peoples of the developing countries. Regional technical co-operation could provide an appropriate and effective instrument for that purpose as it would assist co-ordination between the different countries and take account of each region's special circumstances and needs. The AFRA was a practical example of such regional co-operation, and his delegation invited the donor countries to take a greater interest in the projects proposed in that context. He welcomed the initiatives taken by France and Spain in that area.

17. Nuclear safety was an essential part of the Agency's activities and was supported by world public opinion as it helped to bolster confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. His delegation appreciated the efforts made to establish a convention to promote international co-operation in that vital area and looked forward with eager anticipation to the results of the working group of experts. In that connection, it wished to state its belief that the convention should include all nuclear activities in its scope. The Agency would have a more important role to play in the developing countries, where it should provide the necessary technical assistance and take charge of co-ordination and follow-up of activities in the light of the international standards adopted.

18. The Egyptian nuclear programme was going through a new phase of intense activity based on 35 years of experience in the field of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It was a phase of modernization, with Agency assistance, of the Atomic Energy Organization's nuclear facilities. New facilities, including a research reactor (ET-RR-2) had also been built. In addition, a contract had been signed in Cairo on 19 September between the Atomic Energy Organization and the Argentine firm INVAP for the purchase of a 22 MW research reactor. It had been necessary to buy a new reactor because the first Egyptian research reactor, which had been in service for over 30 years, had been designed around 40 years back when nuclear safety standards were far less strict. The new reactor would enable Egypt to improve its capacity for isotope and radiation source production and to carry out material

tests as well as biological, medical and other research. The project would entail collaboration with the Agency and, in particular, technical support with regard to nuclear safety and quality control. The reactor would be placed under safeguards in accordance with Egypt's obligations under the NPT.

19. A 20 MeV cyclotron would also be built in collaboration with the Agency and the Russian Federation and would be used for the production of short-lived isotopes for nuclear medicine and basic research to be applied in various areas.

20. Egypt was developing its food preservation programme and was drawing up construction plans for an experimental unit for that purpose. It also intended to use radiation for the sterilization of medical items and in industry and, in addition, had launched a programme based on nuclear techniques for the development of desert areas.

21. Environmental problems were a major concern in Egypt, where a national monitoring network had been set up including a facility at El-Daba, where the nuclear power plant was situated, as well as radiation measurement laboratories in the region of the Suez Canal whose design was based on the Agency's laboratory at Monaco. A training centre for the medical applications of nuclear energy was also planned. A liquid radioactive waste-processing centre had also been built with assistance provided by the Agency and the former Soviet Union, and a radioactive waste-management training programme was planned for October as part of the programme.

22. His country had always planned to use nuclear energy for electricity production and was closely following the progress made with regard to power reactors, including low- and medium-power reactors. Egypt had almost finished installing the infrastructure required to introduce sufficient and safe nuclear power plants and was about to embark on an intensive programme of exploration of nuclear raw materials in the country and evaluation of the available reserves.

23. Convinced of the importance of co-operation between the States of the African continent, Egypt had taken an active part in the AFRA programmes and was doing everything possible to further African and international co-operation. Egypt shared the great interest taken by all the North African

countries in the desalination of sea water by means of nuclear energy and was counting on the Agency's support in that area.

24. In conclusion, his delegation approved the planned increase in the Agency's Programme and Budget for 1993-94 and hoped that the non-safeguards programmes would receive similar attention in the future in accordance with General Conference resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/587. His delegation urged Member States to pay their contributions in a timely manner in order to avoid delaying the implementation of the programme activities.

25. Mr. VILLAMIL de la CADENA (Ecuador) congratulated the President on his election and the Director General on his achievements as head of the Agency and on his statement. He also welcomed Slovenia, Croatia and Uzbekistan as new Members of the Agency. The President of Ecuador, Mr. Duran Ballen, had asked him to commend the Agency for its role in promoting peace and the development of mankind. The President was keen to support science and technology as activities necessary to the development of the country and of society in general. In view of the dramatic changes which had taken place in international affairs in past years, the Agency should firmly grasp its leading role, insist on the removal of every threat of nuclear warfare and leave room only for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

26. His delegation attached great importance to safeguards. It welcomed the negotiation of new agreements and encouraged the Agency to continue its activities in that area. He noted with satisfaction the active collaboration of the DPRK with the Agency with a view to implementing the safeguards agreement concluded with that country. He also welcomed South Africa's co-operation with the Agency with a view to the implementation of safeguards on its territory. He was sure that Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715 (1991) would be implemented. He also fully supported the steps taken to permit the implementation of the Tlatelolco Treaty along with the recently approved amendments to the Treaty.

27. Emphasizing the importance of technical co-operation for the developing countries in general and for Ecuador in particular, he thanked the Agency and the Member States concerned for their significant co-operation in the programmes and projects carried out in Ecuador. If further assistance was

provided, the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission could continue its beneficial activities and make the results available to interested countries.

28. His country had recently begun to devise regulations to take account of the new recommendations for radiation protection. Advice had been provided to all the nuclear medicine services concerning their quality control programmes, an iodine-131 distribution laboratory had already been commissioned and a technetium-99 production laboratory would soon be operational too; with regard to the environment, a system had been set up to monitor natural background radiation and measures had been taken to protect the ecology of the Amazon Basin from possible damage due to oil and mining works; data had also been collected on precipitation in order to determine the influence of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on the Amazon, the Pacific shore and the Andean Cordillera, while studies had been initiated on the effect of pesticides and fertilizers on plants and foodstuffs. Ecuador attached particular importance to studies and to applications relating to animal husbandry, plant nutrition, the breeding of new varieties, seeds and the improvement of production. His country was also involved in efforts to eradicate the medfly and was trying to improve animal health. As for industry, advisory and further training activities had been carried out and services provided, particularly in the area of non-destructive testing. Finally, at the regional and sub-regional levels, Ecuador was supporting ARCAL activities to promote the free transfer of technology.

29. His country intended to continue to participate in the work of the Agency, which should further develop its activities in order to meet its statutory obligations and enable Member States to obtain the assistance they needed, while at the same time endeavouring to contribute to a better future for the world and a peaceful and harmonious civilization.

30. Mr. FAROUQUE (Sri Lanka), after welcoming the admission of Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan to the Agency, noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Agency in the past 35 years. The Agency had proved to be one of the most efficient, if not the most efficient, specialized agency of the United Nations in its promotion of science and technology for the purposes of improving the quality of life and economic development while ensuring that human beings and the environment were protected against the potential risks of

radiation and applying safeguards to prevent the destructive use of nuclear technology.

31. Recent times had seen unprecedented political changes on a global scale. The Agency's ability to perceive those changes, adapt to new situations and play a prominent role in promoting nuclear science and technology as well as the efficiency of its management and its communication and information systems were the keys to its success. Nevertheless, as in many multilateral organizations, the Agency had not been spared two major constraints which had hindered its efficiency over the past two years: the reduction in its budget and the increasing politicization of its work. His delegation earnestly hoped that Member States would do their utmost to overcome those constraints by paying their contributions to the Agency in a timely manner and by refraining from using the organization as a platform for political controversies to the detriment of its scientific and technical work and its safeguards activities.

32. His delegation recognized the importance of the Agency's safeguards activities for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and welcomed the Board's current efforts to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system. However, it was equally important that resources should not be allocated to current safeguards activities at the expense of activities relating to the use of science and technology for peaceful purposes. In other words, the Agency's resources should be distributed in a more rational and balanced manner. He noted with satisfaction that the Director General intended to take measures to make the safeguards system more efficient.

33. In the international arena there had been major successes such as the completion of the INF Treaty, the signing of the START Agreement and the unilateral and bilateral measures taken by certain nuclear powers further to reduce their nuclear arsenals. The recent accession of China and France to the NPT, the desire expressed by the new States emerging from the former Soviet Union to accede to it as non-nuclear-weapon States and the French moratorium on nuclear tests were of particular importance for the Agency. The recent conclusion by Argentina and Brazil on a joint accounting and control system followed by the signing of a comprehensive safeguards agreement between

the Agency and those two countries was a commendable co-operative achievement. Similarly, the entry into force of the Tlatelolco Treaty in the near future promised to be a significant step towards nuclear non-proliferation. His delegation hoped that those examples would be followed in other regions.

34. Despite those positive developments, the outbreak of new violent conflicts and the emergence of volatile situations in various parts of the world were setting a dangerous trend. In view of those trends, which were both favourable and disturbing, it was essential for an important multilateral organization such as the Agency to renew its efforts to perform its extremely sensitive role with efficiency and impartiality. Although the Agency was fully committed to achieving the objectives defined in its mandate, unfortunately there was as yet no international mechanism to promote a wider acceptance of the provisions relating to non-proliferation, particularly by countries with significant nuclear activities. Their lack of participation in the regime established by the NPT was a cause for concern for countries such as Sri Lanka which were entirely dependent on the relevant international systems, and particularly that of the Agency, to provide satisfactory safeguards. His delegation hoped that the 1995 NPT Review Conference would deal with those problems in depth and find solutions.

35. His delegation attached importance to the safety of nuclear power plants, radiation protection, safety in the context of other applications of nuclear science and technology, the strengthening of radiation protection regulations and their enforcement capabilities as well as education and training in those fields. In that connection, UNSCEAR had contributed to increasing awareness of radiation levels and radiological effects and risks relevant to development, while also strengthening radiation protection measures for radiation workers and the public. The Committee had played an important role in enhancing public awareness.

36. His country had completed the draft revision of its national radiation protection regulations which had benefited from the many training courses organized by the Agency on various aspects of radiation safety. In November 1991, with the assistance of Agency experts, Sri Lanka had also organized a national workshop on radiation safety for medical personnel.

37. His country had benefited from most of the regional co-operation activities organized within the context of the RCA, which now covered almost all aspects of nuclear science and technology. His delegation was particularly pleased that the IAEA/UNDP/RCA project on industrial applications had obtained its objective of increasing the use of nuclear technologies in regional industries for the purpose of improving productivity and competitiveness. Particular benefit had been derived from that project, which had increased national awareness of the potential of nuclear technology in industry and had permitted the training of scientists in radiation processing in various areas.

38. A national capability had been developed for training in non-destructive testing methods and for providing services in that area to industry. Radiotracer techniques had been used in Sri Lanka in 1992 to test leaks in oil pipelines and problems that could be solved using such techniques had been identified in various national industries such as cement, paper, petroleum, tyre, ceramics and steel. Research and development work in his country on the radiation vulcanization of natural rubber latex and the preservation of spices by means of irradiation had shown that those techniques were suitable for commercial application in Sri Lanka. Medical applications had been among the more successful nuclear activities. In 1991, Sri Lanka had held two meetings for national co-ordinators of RCA projects in the medical field. The regional project on thyroid hormones had achieved its objective of reducing the cost of treatment per patient.

39. His Government would continue its policy of harnessing nuclear science and technology effectively in order to increase national production and improve the population's quality of life without damaging the environment. The programmes of the National Atomic Energy Authority were implemented in accordance with those national policy objectives, which were, however, difficult to attain in Sri Lanka because of the lack of local resources for infrastructural development.

40. The interest shown by Member States and the initiatives taken by WHO and other international bodies in promoting the subject of food irradiation had been encouraging. In view of the expertise and experience available to the Agency and other United Nations organizations such as FAO and WHO, he

hoped the Agency would play a central role in bringing the subject of food irradiation to the forefront in order to initiate an international plan of action, particularly for the benefit of developing countries. Such an action plan would benefit not only those in possession of food irradiation technology, but also those in the business of producing and marketing food.

41. In conclusion, he reiterated his delegation's support for the Agency's programmes and activities, which had been very effective in promoting the application of nuclear science and technology for development purposes and without which developing countries such as Sri Lanka would have made little or no progress.

42. Mr. UMAR (Nigeria) warmly welcomed the Agency's new Member States Slovenia, Croatia and Uzbekistan, whose presence testified to the principle of universality to which the organization was committed.

43. His delegation had carefully studied the annual report contained in document GC(XXXVI)/1004, which confirmed that the Agency remained steadfast in the pursuit of its statutory objectives. In particular, it commended the Agency's activities relating to nuclear applications in the fields of food and agriculture, human health, industry and earth sciences, and physical and chemical sciences.

44. His delegation was concerned at the drop from 67.8% in 1990 to 63.6% in 1991 in the overall implementation rate of the technical assistance programme. However, it had noted in document GC(XXXVI)/INF/308 that a recovery was possible by the end of the biennial cycle and every effort should be made to ensure such a recovery. His delegation wished to see an increase in the number of scientific visits made to developing Member States so that their ability to derive the greatest possible benefit from the technical assistance programme might be enhanced.

45. Nigeria continued to attach great importance to the Agency's role in promoting international co-operation in the sphere of nuclear technology and its applications and appreciated the contribution made by such co-operation to its own national development. The four recently completed projects in Nigeria relating to the establishment of a nuclear science laboratory, nuclear analytical techniques, RIA in animal production and food irradiation had had a

considerable impact. Nigeria was confident that the remaining 18 projects still active would further the country's development and increase the benefits it derived from the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme.

46. Recently, Nigeria had successfully held its first National Conference on Nuclear Methods, hosted by Nigerian organizations together with the Agency and the International Programme in Physical Sciences based in Uppsala, Sweden. Other participants had come from Ghana, Hungary and Kenya, and papers had been sent from, inter alia, Australia, Denmark, Madagascar and Sweden. The Conference had focused chiefly on the usefulness of neutron activation analysis involving neutron generators in trace element analysis in geology, industry and food production and preservation, as well as research on environmental pollution. Neutron generators with a capacity of 14 MeV were the main neutron sources at Nigeria's two nuclear research centres, which had received assistance from the Agency. With further assistance from the Agency, Nigeria hoped to acquire a small research reactor as a high neutron flux source for one of the two centres.

47. The significant decrease in pledges and actual contributions to the TACF was a major source of concern to his country. The percentage of the target met through pledges to the TACF had declined from 85.3% to 78.4% in the year under review. Nigeria appealed to Member States to pledge more and pay the pledged amounts more promptly, and expressed its gratitude to the major donors.

48. The past year had seen the start of implementation of the first AFRA programme. It was an indication of the growing interest in the programme that membership of AFRA had risen from 12 to 14 since the previous session of the General Conference. His country wholeheartedly welcomed that development and wished to thank the donor countries, in particular France and Spain, for their continuing support, while urging them not to slacken their efforts. However, the spirit of the AFRA agreement could not be sustained without adequate funding. Unlike the two earlier regional co-operative agreements AFRA had come into being at a time of worldwide economic recession that had made donors scarce. Nigeria therefore appealed to the Agency to consider making more funds available from regular sources to help AFRA overcome its initial difficulties.

49. Having noted with satisfaction the progress reported in the areas of radioactive waste management and radiation protection, his delegation commended the Agency for its work in those areas and urged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to develop a comprehensive proposal for the programme of education and training in radiation protection and nuclear safety.

50. As in previous years, all Member States had praised the Agency for its vigorous approach. Nigeria noted with satisfaction the professionalism with which the Agency - at times under very arduous conditions - had implemented the special task assigned to it in the area of safeguards under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

51. His delegation had noted the action taken by the Board and the Director General in response to operative paragraph 3 of resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/559 requesting them to continue their efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system. It shared the concern expressed by the members of the Group of 77 and urged that the questions raised by the Group be satisfactorily resolved and all the implications clearly defined before a decision was taken on the envisaged system.

52. Nigeria had taken part with keen interest in the discussion of issues concerning the financing of technical assistance and had noted the report of the informal working group established in pursuance of operative paragraph 1 of resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/562. His country commended the efforts of the working group and urged it to persevere with a view to making it easier for the Agency to take the measures necessary to ensure the funding of technical assistance from predictable and assured resources.

53. His delegation had noted the encouraging findings reported in document GC(XXXV)/INF/298 concerning the possibility of producing potable water economically using nuclear heat. His delegation had contributed to the debate on that matter in the past and given the project its support. It was convinced that the economic production of potable water by such means could be of great use to developing Member States, particularly those in the arid and semi-arid zones, in helping to improve their standards of living.

54. The Agency's Programme and Budget for 1993 and 1994, contained in document GC(XXXVI)/1006, had been the subject of much discussion and

compromise. His delegation hoped that the budget which succeeded would correct any imbalance which might remain in the current one. While he was pleased to note the steady upward trend in the target set for voluntary contributions to the TACF, which had risen from \$52.5 million in 1992 to \$61.5 million in 1995, there was nevertheless an urgent need to tackle the problem of the decreasing level of payments to the Fund.

55. Nigeria had always attached great importance to its obligations in respect of the Agency's Regular Budget and had always endeavoured to meet them in a timely manner, despite an average annual increase of over 8% in its contribution over the past four years. As the timely payment of contributions to the Regular Budget was vital to the smooth functioning of the Agency, he urged all the Member States to endeavour to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible.

56. His delegation believed that the time had now come to reach agreement on the amendment of Article VI.A.2 of the Statute in order to correct the imbalance in the representation on the Board of Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. With more Member States, including African countries, joining the Agency, the divergent points of view on the matter should and could be reconciled if all parties were willing to demonstrate the necessary political will.

57. Nigeria accepted that safeguards constituted one of the principal areas of the Agency's activity and noted that their role in promoting world peace had repeatedly been acknowledged by the international community. Confidence in the Agency's safeguards activities had been strengthened by the 1991 Safeguards Implementation Report, which confirmed that the nuclear material under safeguards had remained within the confines of peaceful nuclear activities or had otherwise been adequately accounted for.

58. Nigeria had followed with interest the recent political developments in the Middle East and commended the willingness of all parties to tackle the issues which had so far impeded the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. It urged them not to relax their efforts to resolve all the outstanding problems.

59. There had also been significant changes in the African region. His delegation noted the satisfactory start to implementation of the safeguards

agreement between South Africa and the Agency, following that country's accession to the NPT. As a consequence, the prospects for nuclear non-proliferation in Africa had brightened considerably. An era of free and unhindered co-operation between African scientists in the area of the peaceful application of nuclear energy should now begin.

60. Those developments testified to the wisdom of previous decisions of the General Conference with regard to the situation in southern Africa. The steps which had been taken by South Africa in the nuclear field should be reinforced through continuing co-operation with the Director General aimed at ensuring that South Africa's safeguards were adequate and effective and that all its people could enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy.

61. There remained the need to create a climate conducive to the flourishing of democratic and constitutional institutions. The direction of the developments depended to a great extent on the South African Government. The Nigerian Government, together with the member States of the Organization of African Unity, had continued to encourage constructive change in South Africa in the hope that its Government would quickly take the last and irreversible steps in the process of dismantling apartheid and establishing democracy and peace in that part of Africa.

62. When the General Conference convened for its 35th session in 1991, there had been prospects of important developments in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. Those hopes were now being realized. In particular, Nigeria welcomed the decision of France and China to accede to the NPT, the first safeguards inspections carried out in South Africa under the NPT and the signing of the NPT safeguards agreement by the DPRK. Those developments, together with the trend towards non-proliferation emerging throughout Africa and in other regions, were important for the non-proliferation regime, which it was the Agency's task to promote.

63. The further the frontiers of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, science and technology were pushed back, the greater the responsibilities devolving upon the Agency. His delegation had no doubt that, provided it was given the necessary means, the Agency was capable of rising to those challenges, as shown by its activities in connection with Security

Council resolution 687 (1991). It was to be hoped, therefore, that during the present session all the Member States would amply demonstrate their determination to strengthen the Agency. His own delegation, for one, would continue to give the Agency its unstinting support.

Mr. WAGNER (Czechoslovakia) took the Chair.

64. Mr. PLUG (Netherlands), having congratulated Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan on becoming Members of the Agency, said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

65. The Netherlands attached great importance to the principle of universality espoused by the organizations of the United Nations system, and was therefore in favour of South Africa's resuming its participation in the Agency's activities. Its doing so would be fully in line with the NPT, to which it had acceded in 1991.

66. In his opening statement the Director General had placed the Agency's current serious budgetary difficulties against the background of the new challenges it was now facing. His delegation shared the Director General's concern and hoped that the circumstances which had forced him to make deep cuts in the budget for 1992 would not recur. His delegation therefore joined the Director General in his plea to Members to pay their contributions in a timely fashion. It would be regrettable if the discussion on the Programme and Budget for 1993 and 1994 was overshadowed by the need to provide for drastic cuts in order to compensate for shortfalls in Member States' contributions. As his delegation had stated on many occasions, full and timely payment of regular contributions was essential for the proper functioning of the Agency. In a similar connection, he called on Member States to pay in full their pledged amounts for technical assistance and co-operation. The Netherlands intended to make a contribution to the TACF of \$826 950 for 1993 in accordance with the target figure set.

67. The five possible areas for new or increased co-operation mentioned by the Director General were certainly all worthy of further consideration. The delegation of the Netherlands would be interested, in particular, in the further development of his remarks concerning radioactive waste disposal and the conversion of military nuclear material into non-military reactor fuel,

subjects which raised a number of issues, including that of how the accompanying safeguards measures should be determined.

68. It was evident that the safeguards system - the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation - was placing an ever greater encumbrance on the Agency's resources. New challenges were emerging. The efficiency of the system ought to be improved wherever possible, although not, of course, at the cost of its effectiveness. For that reason, his delegation warmly welcomed the creation of a special working group to review and analyse the Agency's long-term safeguards tasks. It also felt that improvements could be made in the non-proliferation regime through new forms of assistance for Member countries.

69. As the delegate of the United Kingdom had mentioned in his statement on behalf of the European Community, the Twelve had agreed to provide the Agency on a voluntary basis with information on nuclear exports, imports and inventories and on exports of certain relevant items of equipment and non-nuclear material. He hoped that other countries would follow that example, thereby reinforcing the international safeguards regime and at the same time strengthening confidence that no nuclear material was being used for purposes other than that declared.

70. The problems confronting the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the republics of the former Soviet Union operating older types of nuclear power plant were a source of great concern to all States. The Agency acted as a catalyst to international efforts to improve nuclear safety in those countries. The extrabudgetary programme relating to WWER-440/230 reactors had yielded vital information and enabled an order of priorities to be established for safety problems, that being of incalculable importance to countries operating such plants, especially when they needed to take decisions on their future. His country, which was the principal contributor of funds to the programme, would be making a further contribution of 500 000 guilders (approximately \$300 000) in 1992. The Netherlands was also highly appreciative of the technical advice and other inputs provided by the Agency's Secretariat to the activities of the Group of 24 aimed at improving nuclear safety in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

71. The work of the expert group responsible for preparing a nuclear safety convention represented a further step towards the introduction of internationally accepted and binding nuclear safety principles. The elaboration of

Basic Safety Standards by NUSSAG was a sign that the international aspects of nuclear safety were being increasingly acknowledged. Bearing in mind what had been said on behalf of the EC, his delegation considered that in order to implement the conclusions of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power held in 1991 it was necessary to establish a broad-scope convention defining the process leading to a truly international safety regime. Such a regime would also strengthen public acceptance of nuclear power as a possible source of energy.

72. Thanks to financial assistance and expertise from the Netherlands, a hospital had been founded at Gomel in Belarus to provide medical care for the population after the Chernobyl disaster. The hospital had been fully operational since January 1992 and, according to first evaluations, seemed to be functioning in a highly satisfactory manner.

73. As to nuclear power in the Netherlands, as a result of the Chernobyl accident his Government had postponed all decisions concerning new nuclear power plants until the end of its current term of office in 1994. In the meantime, the nuclear option remained open and a number of in-depth studies were being carried out in key areas such as nuclear safety and radioactive waste management.

74. Mr. CHANG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), recognizing that in the past year the Agency had once again fulfilled its basic mission to prevent nuclear proliferation, preserve world peace and promote the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, supported the Director General's statement and the Annual Report for 1991.

75. In recent years the Agency had endeavoured to accelerate the development and use of nuclear energy in various fields, maintain the expansion of international co-operation aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and safeguards and increase technical co-operation in the developing countries, all of which the DPRK appreciated highly.

76. In accordance with its philosophy of self-reliance or "juche", the DPRK strongly encouraged the establishment of a nuclear energy industry fully capable of meeting the growing daily demand for energy in various sectors of the national economy. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Fourth Congress

of the Korean Workers' Party to develop the nuclear industry, his country was using radiation and radioactive isotopes extensively in various sectors of the national economy. His Government had, moreover, formulated an independent nuclear power development plan and was promoting research aimed at harnessing nuclear power in efforts to build an independent national economy.

77. Although it gave priority to the construction of thermal and hydraulic power plants, the DPRK had long attached great importance to nuclear power, which it had endeavoured to develop using its own resources. At the same time, in accordance with its plan for a self-reliant nuclear power programme, the DPRK had built a nuclear research centre near Nyongbyon and scientific research centres at Pyongyang and elsewhere, which conducted research on peaceful applications of nuclear energy and systematically trained scientific and technical personnel in that field.

78. The country's scientists and technicians, working tirelessly in a spirit of self-reliance, had, for instance, succeeded in the construction and operation of a 5 MW(e) pilot power plant. Using that valuable experience as a basis, they had begun construction on nuclear power plants of 50 and 200 MW(e) capacity to be completed by 1995. The DPRK was also planning to build large nuclear power plants in co-operation with other countries and was making arrangements accordingly.

79. Such were the DPRK's achievements resulting from its efforts to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. The legal basis for all such activities in the DPRK was a law, passed by the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly in 1974, entitled the "Law on Atomic Power", according to which the objective of research and development work in the field of nuclear power was to assist the rapid scientific and economic development of the country and improve its people's living standards and quality of life. The law also stipulated that exchanges and technical co-operation activities with other countries relating to peaceful applications of nuclear energy should be based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and that co-operation with international organizations, including the Agency, should be strengthened.

80. Co-operation between the DPRK and the Agency in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was making daily advances. The technical information and various data sent regularly by the Agency was being used

effectively in R&D work in nuclear power and isotope applications, and also in the establishment of radiation protection, nuclear safety and safeguards systems. In the future, the DPRK expected to strengthen further its co-operation with the Agency and other countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

81. It had always been his Government's policy to faithfully implement its obligations under the NPT, and hence to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only and to work towards making the Korean Peninsula a nuclear-weapon-free zone as soon as possible. Thanks to his Government's efforts and to the Agency's active co-operation, the problem of inspecting the DPRK's nuclear facilities was in the process of being solved. On 30 January 1992 his Government had signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency which had come into force after being examined and approved by the Supreme People's Assembly on 9 April 1992. In accordance with that agreement, his Government had submitted to the Agency on 31 May 1992, ahead of schedule, an initial report giving an inventory of the country's nuclear materials and all its nuclear facilities and a list of equipment located in the DPRK.

82. In mid-May, acting voluntarily and in a spirit of co-operation, the DPRK had invited the Director General to visit its nuclear installations. As a confidence-building measure, the DPRK had issued Agency officials with a standing invitation to visit all its sites or installations, whether or not they were included in the initial report, thereby demonstrating its intention to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

83. The three subsequent ad hoc inspections carried out by the Agency to verify the initial report had all confirmed that the DPRK had done what it had said it would do and that it never made empty promises. In the future too, the DPRK would co-operate actively with the Agency in order to ensure the smooth conduct of inspections at its nuclear facilities and to fulfil its obligation under the NPT to confine its use of nuclear energy to peaceful purposes.

84. His delegation was astonished by the statement by the delegate of Japan, who had made irresponsible and unfounded remarks to the effect that the DPRK had a nuclear weapons programme and had requested the unconditional and rapid implementation of its comprehensive safeguards agreement. The DPRK had

emphasized on more than one occasion that it had neither the intention nor the means to develop nuclear weapons. It had already signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency and received three ad hoc inspections. It had opened all its nuclear facilities to the inspection teams and provided them with all necessary assistance to enable them to discharge their responsibilities.

85. Nevertheless, the delegate of Japan had made unjustifiable and unacceptable remarks contrary to the spirit of the Agency's safeguards regime, remarks which his delegation felt must have been made out of ignorance of the facts. The Japanese delegation had also unilaterally requested the DPRK to implement the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. As his delegation had stated very clearly at the Board's meetings in June and September 1992, implementation of that Declaration was a matter to be discussed and settled by both Koreas. The joint North-South committee on nuclear control was discussing the matter, which could be resolved if both parties made an honest effort to do so. At the Board's meeting in June, his delegation had cited the main reasons why the problem had not yet been settled. If anything, the remarks made by the delegate of Japan hindered rather than helped the implementation of the Declaration.

86. The delegate of Japan should explain why his country had accumulated an enormous quantity of plutonium far in excess of its needs before fretting about North-South mutual inspections. His statement implied that the Agency's inspections of nuclear facilities in Japan had credibility, while those conducted in the DPRK did not, despite having passed off smoothly. All that showed was that in the long term Japan had no sincere desire for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but sought rather to hasten its nuclearization.

87. Japan was accumulating an emergency stock of plutonium far in excess of its needs despite the unanimous objections of peace-loving peoples. There could be only one conclusion: that Japan, under all kinds of pretexts, was endeavouring to become a nuclear power. Japan contended that it had the right to stockpile plutonium as its nuclear facilities were subject to Agency safeguards. Why, then, was it dissatisfied with the inspections carried out by the Agency in other countries?

88. Once again, the DPRK urged the Japanese authorities to be honest and open before the entire world about their nuclear policy instead of resorting to the transparent device of finding fault with other countries while pursuing their own policy back home of turning Japan into a nuclear power. Japan would also benefit from making its intentions known.

89. In addition, his delegation felt bound to reply to the delegate from the Republic of Korea, who had acted as if his country alone took an interest in implementing the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK's interest was most sincere, and it was sparing no effort to implement the Declaration. Those with the key to the issue were the Koreans themselves, and only the joint efforts of North and South Korea could bring results. His delegation therefore strongly urged South Korea, firstly, not to use international fora to slander the other party to the Joint Declaration on a matter of concern to the Korean nation only and, second, to show sincerity, honesty and loyalty at meetings of the joint North-South committee on nuclear control. Such behaviour would be conducive to settling the matter, creating a good atmosphere at the General Conference and preventing an unnecessary waste of time.

90. All the DPRK's nuclear facilities had been placed under Agency safeguards.

91. The DPRK knew what needed to be done to ensure the safe operation of its nuclear reactor. His delegation believed the concern affected by the delegate of the Republic of Korea with regard to the safety of that reactor to be completely groundless and urged that country to calm down and behave normally.

92. In conclusion, the DPRK assured the General Conference that it would co-operate with the Agency with a view to carrying out its obligations under the NPT and under its safeguards agreement.

93. Mr. DE VILLIERS (South Africa), after welcoming Croatia, Slovenia and Uzbekistan, said that even before formal accession to the NPT South Africa had supported the goals and principles of the Treaty and also the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and it would continue to conduct its nuclear policy accordingly. South Africa also supported the limitation and ultimate

prohibition of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and had recently acquired observer status at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament.

94. South Africa reaffirmed its support for the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted by the OAU in July 1964, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the second meeting of the group of experts set up to examine the modalities and elements for the preparation and implementation of a convention or treaty on the denuclearization of Africa, held in Lomé from 28 to 30 April 1992. South Africa was ready to contribute actively to the achievement of that long-standing objective.

95. The only means available for limiting the spread of nuclear weapons were the NPT and the Agency's safeguards. In order to generate international confidence and contribute to peace and security, full disclosure of information on all nuclear facilities and material was needed, together with the continued implementation of safeguards in a transparent, professional and co-operative manner. South Africa therefore intended to make a constructive contribution to the Agency's safeguards activities by continuing to facilitate control of its own nuclear activities.

96. As a member of SAGSI, South Africa would contribute actively to the strengthening and improvement of the Agency's safeguards. It would report to the Agency all exports of nuclear material, including natural uranium, and also exports of sensitive nuclear technology and equipment.

97. Excellent progress had been achieved in the implementation of safeguards at all South Africa's nuclear facilities. He thanked the Agency's staff for the manner in which they had carried out their inspections and verified South Africa's Initial Report and nuclear inventory. It was largely thanks to their competence and enthusiasm that the Director General had been able to give such a conclusive report to the Board and to the General Conference. In the light of those developments, South Africa saw no need to include a separate item on South Africa's nuclear capabilities in the agenda of future meetings of the General Conference.

98. South Africa believed that nuclear energy could make a safe, economic and environmentally friendly contribution towards meeting the growing demand

for electricity and would continue to contribute to improving the safe operation of nuclear plants and facilities. Its national electricity company, ESKOM, was a member of WANO. South Africa was also a signatory to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. It hoped soon to be in a position to ratify the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Through its national competent authorities, South Africa was co-operating with the Agency and contributing to activities organized in connection with its various programmes and committees for promoting the safe operation of nuclear power plants and facilities and the safe use of isotopes and radiation.

99. In addition to the Koeberg nuclear power plant, consisting of two 960 MW(e) light-water reactors operated by ESCOM, South Africa had established a sophisticated nuclear industry and technological base encompassing the entire nuclear fuel cycle with the exception of reprocessing, i.e. uranium mining and extraction, conversion to UF_6 , enrichment and nuclear fuel manufacture to internationally accepted standards. It also operated a well-equipped hot-cell complex for the post-irradiation inspection of nuclear fuel and a national low- and intermediate-level nuclear waste repository. That facility was currently being equipped for the interim storage of spent fuel.

100. South Africa's R&D programmes included activities relating to isotope production, food irradiation preservation and nuclear applications in industry, medicine, biology and agriculture. Regarding the environment and geophysical sciences, activities were focused on nuclear site evaluation, groundwater studies, advanced mineral exploration and extraction technology and also atmospheric and environmental dispersion and pollution technology. Nuclear medicine was well-established in South Africa, and a number of universities and technical colleges provided education and training in nuclear science and technology. The Atomic Energy Corporation also contributed to the technological development of South Africa's industry by supplying it with advanced technology and products on a commercial basis.

101. South Africa trusted that in future it would be able to contribute more actively to the Agency's various programmes. However, it was concerned at the

Agency's financial situation and the increased demands on its budget, especially those due to its enlarged safeguards responsibilities. For that reason, South Africa had paid in full its contributions to the Regular Budget and the Working Capital Fund.

102. Noting the concern expressed by some African countries that Africa was not receiving as much as it should from the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, his delegation considered that South Africa could make a significant contribution to the economic and social welfare of all the countries in that region by taking an active part in co-operation, training and assistance in the field of nuclear and related technologies. South Africa had recently acceded to AFRA and, as a first step, would be exploring ways and means of contributing directly to the technical assistance and co-operation programme through AFRA and bilateral co-operation agreements with various countries in the region. It had already invited a number of African colleagues to visit its facilities, and some of them had already done so.

103. Finally, South Africa trusted that in due course it would be in a position to resume its seat on the Board as the member in the African region most advanced in the field of nuclear technology, including the production of source materials.

104. Mr. JAMAL (Qatar), having first of all welcomed the new members of the Agency, said that, like all countries that aspired towards peace, Qatar had acceded to the NPT out of its firm belief in the need to put an end to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to eliminate such weapons in countries that already possessed them, with a view to achieving a just and global peace based upon mutual trust and the desire to guarantee a better life for all peoples in the world. The Agency had two main tasks to perform in that regard: verification of the peaceful use of nuclear energy within the framework of safeguards agreements, and provision of technical assistance with nuclear energy applications in medicine, agriculture and industry for the purpose of raising the standard of living of people in the developing countries and accelerating progress in those countries.

105. Despite the positive results achieved by the Agency in several areas, the Middle East was still threatened by the fact that Israel was continuing to

develop its nuclear capabilities, thus challenging the Agency's principles, and threatening peace and stability in the Middle East and throughout the world. Qatar was aware of the danger inherent in Israel's refusal to accede to the NPT and open its nuclear installations to Agency inspections in accordance with the many resolutions which had been adopted by United Nations bodies on that issue. He reaffirmed the need to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Having taken note of the Director General's report on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, his delegation noted with regret that no appreciable progress had been made with the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Conference during its preceding sessions.

106. The Annual Report for 1991 gave a positive picture of the Agency's activities and its efforts to implement its main activities within the limits of the budget. Owing to financial difficulties, certain major activities had had to be cancelled or deferred to later years, which was cause for concern to the developing countries, which needed the Agency's assistance in order to develop their industry and agriculture, through the incorporation of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, and thus improve the standard of living of their peoples. The Agency's technical co-operation projects should receive special attention and should enjoy secure and predictable funding which did not depend solely on voluntary contributions or the state of contributions to the Regular Budget; they should be given priority within the Agency's programme and budget. He therefore urged the more major contributors to comply with their financial obligations as swiftly as possible in order to ensure that the Agency could perform the tasks for which it had been created.

107. The developing countries attached great importance to the technical assistance and co-operation programme, which allowed them to benefit directly from nuclear applications in agriculture, the environment and health. He noted with concern that resources in the TACF had dropped in 1991, which had in turn lowered the implementation rate.

108. He stressed the numerous advantages of devising a plan to produce potable water economically through the desalination of sea water using nuclear techniques. Water shortage was a problem that affected several regions of the

world, and particularly arid zones in developing countries, where it threatened security and stability. He also attached special importance to the elaboration by the Agency of a project to assist the developing countries with food preservation by means of irradiation on an industrial scale.

109. His delegation was convinced of the importance of nuclear safety in increasing confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and welcomed the Agency's efforts in that area and the progress achieved. The results of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power held in 1991 had been satisfactory, and the same was true of the work on the drawing up of an international convention on nuclear safety. A convention of that kind would most certainly help consolidate the Agency's role as the international organization responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring compliance with safety standards and criteria, and providing the developing countries with technical assistance in order to help them improve their radiation protection systems.

110. Mr. CACCIA DOMINIONI (Commission of the European Communities) said that the year that had passed since the preceding General Conference had seen many important events, of which one of the most notable was probably the drawing up of the Maastricht Treaty. Also, 1992 was the last year before the establishment of a single market within the European Community.

111. In the energy sector, one of the foundations of that single market was the liberalization of the electricity and natural gas market within the Community. In January 1992, the Commission had submitted proposals to its member States which should result in progressive moves towards liberalization whilst improving the competitiveness of that sector.

112. The European Energy Charter, signed on 17 December 1991 in The Hague by around 40 countries, established a framework for co-operation in the energy sector between the world's main industrialized countries, on the one hand, and those countries which had previously had planned economies, on the other. The basic Protocol, which would permit the practical application of the Charter, and the nuclear Protocol, which established a specific framework for co-operation in the field between all signatories, would probably be signed before the end of the current year. The contribution made by the Agency to the negotiation of the latter Protocol had been appreciated by all the participants.

113. Economic development and the improvement of living standards were legitimate aspirations but could not be realized at the expense of the environment. The global significance of that problem had been recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. In October 1990, the Community's Council of Ministers had set the objective that CO₂ emissions should be kept down to their 1990 level until the year 2000. In May 1992, as part of efforts to counteract the greenhouse effect, the Commission had put forward a proposal comprising a draft directive for a tax on energy and CO₂, a draft directive on energy efficiency and a draft decision on renewable energy sources.

114. In that context, the role which nuclear energy played and could play within the range of energy sources available, given adequate operational safety, should not be neglected. At Community level, the harmonization of nuclear safety practices and regulations had progressed further and reached a more practical stage through the Council's adoption of two important resolutions in June of the current year.

115. The first related to the renewal of the action plan on radioactive waste up to the end of the current decade. That plan was a continuation of earlier plans and, in addition to waste generated by the nuclear power production, also covered waste produced by medical activities and by the concentration of radioisotopes in industrial processes.

116. The second related to technological nuclear safety problems and aimed at consolidating the progress already achieved and encouraging future work, in particular through joint efforts at Community level by the authorities responsible for nuclear safety in member States. Its priority objective was to bring nuclear facilities in countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the countries of the CIS progressively in line with safety levels in the Community and to facilitate the application in those countries of the safety criteria and requirements already recognized in the Community.

117. The two resolutions in question also encouraged member States and the Commission to intensify their co-operation with international organizations, and in particular the Agency.

118. The member States of the Community and the Commission had also played an active part in the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power

held in 1991. They hoped that an international convention on nuclear safety, providing the basis of an international safety regime, would be elaborated as quickly as possible.

119. There already existed a broad consensus on the need to work towards achieving a high nuclear safety level throughout the world. The European Summit held in Lisbon at the end of June and the G-7 summit held in Munich in July had concluded that special efforts should be made to improve the safety level of nuclear power plants in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in a number of CIS republics. In the short term, the assistance programme should concentrate on improving operational safety, improving plants from the technical point of view on the basis of safety evaluations and, of course, strengthening regulatory regimes.

120. In the longer term, with a view to replacing the intrinsically less reliable older design plants, it was planned to develop replacement energy sources, to use energy more efficiently and to move over to plants based on newer and improved designs.

121. As far as the Community was concerned, the Commission had already allocated significant levels of funding to PHARE (programme of assistance for the economic reconstruction of countries in Central and Eastern Europe) and TACIS (Technical Assistance to the CIS) projects in order to improve nuclear safety in countries with older-design reactors. As non-Community countries were also involved - on an individual basis - in that vast assistance programme, efforts needed to be co-ordinated. The G-7 summit had requested the Commission to play a key role in such co-ordination within the G-24. It was chairing the Committee of major contributors, at the last meeting of which, held in Brussels, important decisions had been taken with a view to implementing the conclusions of the Munich summit. Thus, a select steering committee had been set up, assisted by a secretariat and two technical working groups. The Agency would also be called upon to play a very important role as the main technical advisor to both contributors and beneficiaries.

122. In the context of international solidarity, it was also important to remember the initiative taken in March 1992 to set up an international centre for science and technology. The four parties behind that project, the United States of America, Japan, the European Community and the Russian Federation,

had agreed that the centre, which would be located on Russian territory, would have as its main objective the reorientation of the activities of scientists and engineers in the nuclear and non-nuclear military sector in the CIS towards peaceful purposes.

123. Safeguards were crucial to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. They should be strengthened when circumstances demanded, albeit within the limits imposed by the need for financial restraint. The actions recently undertaken by the Agency in that regard merited strong support. On 28 April 1992, the Director General of the Agency and the CEC Energy Commissioner, had agreed, in a joint declaration, that the moment had come to strengthen collaboration between the two organizations with a view to achieving the above-mentioned objectives. Explicit mention was made of a partnership approach which, by means of a thorough rationalization of the work performed by both parties, should help save some of the Agency's resources without jeopardizing the efficiency of safeguards, or violating the conditions of the agreement concluded between the Agency, EURATOM and those member States of the Community which did not possess nuclear weapons, or changing the parties' respective responsibilities. For its part, the Commission would do everything in its power to ensure that the new approach delivered concrete and significant results as soon as possible. The extensive resources thus liberated for the Agency's use could be channelled in directions where strengthened safeguards could have the greatest impact on nuclear non-proliferation at world level.

124. In July 1992, the Commission had submitted to the Board some draft regulations on the control of exports of certain dual-use items and technologies and certain nuclear products and technologies which, once approved by the Board would permit, as of 1 January 1993, effective and standardized control at borders outside the Community of a number of sensitive products and technologies, in particular those of a nuclear nature, through framework agreements contained in the document in question. The nuclear technologies and products, and in particular the dual-use items covered by those draft regulations, were enumerated in a list ratified by the twelve Heads of State of the Community during the European summit in Lisbon. Naturally, full account had been taken of the recent consensus within the Nuclear Suppliers

Group which the representative of the United Kingdom had mentioned in his statement on behalf of the Community and its member States.

125. The Commission of the European Communities wished to recall the importance it attached to maintaining its leading position in research into the peaceful use of nuclear fusion energy. That had been illustrated in November 1991 when, for the first time in the world, almost 2000 kW of fusion power had been generated in the Community's experimental JET installation. The 1990-1994 programme envisaged the development of international co-operation in fusion. To that end, on 21 July 1992, the Commission had signed, under the auspices of the Agency, the quadripartite agreement on the ITER project and the first protocol to that agreement. That collaborative effort between the European Community, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America was unprecedented in its size and scope. Two countries from outside the Community - Sweden and Switzerland - were fully involved in the Community fusion programme and hence in the Community's involvement in the ITER project, and one other important country would probably be joining them.

126. In conclusion, he stressed that the Community was willing to co-operate on a global scale, provided such co-operation was constructive.

127. Mr. FASSI FIHRI (Morocco) welcomed the Agency's new Members and noted that their presence within the organization would help reinforce international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

128. The radical changes that had occurred in the international arena had created a new and extremely complex situation, in the face of which all States and organizations would have to exercise clear sightedness and vigilance. The Agency had, more than ever before, an important role to play. It would have to respond to urgent and increasing demands in the field of non-proliferation and verification thereof. It would also have to continue providing the developing countries with stable and effective assistance in areas relating to its statutory objectives and, in particular, in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

129. Remarkable progress had been made with the application of various nuclear techniques in all branches of science and industry. Morocco, which

was aware of the attractiveness of those techniques, had been attempting to benefit from them since the early sixties, particularly in the agricultural and medical sectors. Nowadays, such techniques were used in various other areas, including geology, hydrology and industry. In agriculture, in particular, Morocco had a strong interest in the use of irradiation for food preservation. In collaboration with the Agency and aided by the contribution of the French Government, Morocco would soon be acquiring a pilot irradiation plant which would be used for research before being introduced into industry. Morocco commended the quality of the assistance which the Agency had provided under its technical co-operation programme. It was a country rich in human, agricultural, industrial and mineral resources, and would continue to promote the use of nuclear techniques, extending them, as far as possible, to various key sectors of the economy. Clearly, some form of co-ordinating body would be needed to monitor the evolution of those techniques in the light of national priorities. With that in mind, the Moroccan Government had recently approved the text on the creation of the National Nuclear Energy Board which provided for the creation of three standing committees, the first to be in charge of co-ordinating nuclear activities, the second in charge of nuclear technology, and the third international programmes.

130. As part of Morocco's efforts to develop its scientific and technical infrastructure, a nuclear research centre would be set up in 1993 which would have a TRIGA Mark II research reactor where the necessary personnel could be trained, isotopes produced, and technical and scientific research developed. With the Agency's help, Morocco had already developed a complete training programme for the staff and technicians to be responsible for operating the various installations in the Centre. In preparation for the commissioning of the reactor, the CNESTEN had provided assistance to national bodies with the development of nuclear techniques, particularly in relation to radioactive waste storage. In addition, a WAMAP mission would be visiting Morocco at the beginning of 1993 to assist the CNESTEN with the establishment of a national radioactive waste management programme. With respect to nuclear power generation, the studies undertaken by Morocco on the choice of a site for the first plant and the technical and economic feasibility of a project of that kind should, in principle, be finished by 1993.

131. The Moroccan authorities attached great importance to the training of staff and elaboration of the necessary regulations for the development of nuclear techniques. With that in mind, intensive efforts had been made, with the Agency's assistance, to train teams in project planning, radiation protection and nuclear safety. Moreover, in collaboration with Agency experts, the competent authorities had drawn up the texts of basic laws taking account of Morocco's international obligations in the nuclear field.

132. Nuclear safety, waste management, radiation protection and the environment continued to be issues of concern to the international community, and the development of nuclear power was still contingent upon the attainment of the highest safety levels. Morocco set great store by the Agency's activities and recommendations in those areas, where an enormous amount of planning was required to assist those Member States which needed to acquire the necessary human, technical and organizational resources. It should be noted that, during the conference on monitoring of environmental activity recently held in the United States, Morocco had been chosen as host country for the regional co-ordination centre. It had also been decided that a national radiation protection centre should be set up for the purpose of promoting radiation protection activities and strengthening the scientific and technical infrastructure of the central radiation protection service. With that in mind, Morocco would be organizing a regional course for Africa on radiation protection in medicine in co-ordination with the Agency.

133. The Moroccan delegation was satisfied with the assistance which the Agency had provided for projects of interest to North African countries, namely those on the use of nuclear reactors to desalinate sea water and on the eradication of the screwworm and the Mediterranean fruit fly. AFRA constituted the ideal framework for strengthening regional co-operation and establishing contacts between scientists in the region with a view to promoting the use of nuclear techniques. The number of African countries that had joined AFRA showed how much interest the agreement had excited. The courses organized by the Agency under AFRA had helped countries in the region to become better informed on available resources and infrastructures and to find out more about the advantages to be derived from regional co-operation directed at achieving common objectives. The AFRA projects had a very high

priority but their implementation was contingent on the financial resources available. He commended the efforts that France and Spain had made in that regard and urged all donor States to follow their example and to offer the support and assistance needed for those projects. He thanked the Agency for its support and the financial assistance it had provided for the programme and stressed that, if it was to be able to respond to the growing needs of the developing countries, the TACF could not rely entirely on voluntary contributions but needed predictable and assured funding too.

134. Morocco attached particular importance to the safeguards system, which was of fundamental importance to the credibility of the non-proliferation regime. The Board's reaffirmation of the Agency's right to carry out special inspections and the proposals regarding the provision of additional information and voluntary declaration of the production, export and import of nuclear and non-nuclear equipment were measures which would help strengthen the safeguards system. Credible safeguards could create a climate of international trust and co-operation which would help lay the foundation for new nuclear technology of benefit to the economic and social development of Member States.

135. In conclusion, noting that a balance should be maintained between regulatory and promotional activities, he commended the Agency's efforts to meet the challenges confronting the international community in relation to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The progress made by the Agency during the past few years was clear proof of the positive role it played.

The meeting rose at 6.5 p.m.