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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna,
on Tuesday, 28 September 1993, at 11.25 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. POSTA (Hungary)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>	<u>Paragraphs</u>
- Election of Vice-Chairmen and organization of work	1 - 6
10 Harmony and compatibility of programme and budget and accounts documents	7 - 34
11 The Agency's accounts for 1992	35 - 45
12 The Agency's budget for 1994	46 - 83

[*] GC(XXXVII)/1085.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/328/Rev.2.

93-03765 (III)

Abbreviations used in this record

INIS	International Nuclear Information System
RADWASS	Radioactive Waste Safety Standards
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN, after thanking the General Conference for the confidence it had placed in him by electing him Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, suggested that the Committee begin with the election of the Vice-Chairmen. Following consultations between the various groups, it had been proposed that Mr. Schmidt (Austria) and Mr. Perez-Martin (Cuba) be elected Vice-Chairmen of the Committee of the Whole. If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to elect Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Perez-Martin as Vice-Chairmen.

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document GC(XXXVII)/COM.5/123, which listed the agenda items referred to the Committee of the Whole by the General Conference, and proposed that, as far as possible, the Committee take the items in the order in which they appeared in that document.

4. It was so decided.

5. The CHAIRMAN proposed that, in line with established practice, he report orally to the Conference at a plenary meeting on the Committee's deliberations, which would also be the subject of detailed summary records.

6. It was so decided.

HARMONY AND COMPATIBILITY OF PROGRAMME AND BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS DOCUMENTS (GC(XXXVI)/RES/581 and GC(XXXVII)/INF/322)

7. The CHAIRMAN recalled that in 1992, the General Conference, in its resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581, had requested the Director General to ensure, in consultation with Member States and by 1994 at the latest, that there was harmony and compatibility between the Agency's programme and budget documents, its annual reports and its accounts documents, so as to facilitate their comparison for the purpose of effective evaluation. A report on the steps taken so far by the Secretariat to implement that resolution had been submitted to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and the June meeting of the Board of Governors.

8. One of the major measures taken to implement the resolution had been publication of the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report for 1992 as a separate document in a more detailed and comprehensive format. Similarly, and in accordance with the request for harmonization of documents, the Annual Report had also been modified; it now closely followed the structure of the programme and budget document and was based on the detailed information contained in the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report.

9. During discussion of the issue by the Board of Governors, it had been agreed that the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report should continue to be produced in the new format as an internal Secretariat reference document available on request to interested Member States and that the Secretariat should provide Member States with a concise summary in all the official languages of the information contained in that document, highlighting the results of the implementation of programmes as a tool for assessment. The report on the subject was contained in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/322.

10. Mr. CHO (Republic of Korea), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, thanked the Secretariat for the actions it had taken to ensure harmony and compatibility between the Agency's programme and budget documents, its annual reports and its accounts documents, as requested in resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581.

11. The Group of 77 took note with satisfaction of the document submitted by the Secretariat and in particular the Note dated 5 April 1993 containing the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report for 1992, the Note dated 20 April 1993 on harmony and compatibility of the Agency's programme and budget documents, annual reports and accounts documents, and document GC(XXXVII)/INF/322, dated 27 August 1993. The Group also took note of the improvements and changes in the format of the Agency's Annual Report for 1992, the Agency's Accounts for 1992 and the programme and budget for 1994.

12. After thorough consultations among its members and with the Secretariat, the Group had decided not to submit a draft resolution on the item under discussion in view of the significant efforts already made by the Secretariat and its continued commitment to that work. None the less, he had some comments to make on the direction to be pursued by the

Secretariat and the measures it should take to improve further the harmony and compatibility of the documents.

13. Firstly, the Secretariat should accelerate the preparation of the feasibility study or analysis concerning the adoption of a new appropriation system based on the Agency's programme structure rather than its organizational structure, with a view to harmonizing, if possible, the Agency's financial management systems and corresponding documents, including the programme and budget, the accounts and the annual report.

14. Secondly, that study should be ready in time for consideration by the Administrative and Budgetary Committee in May 1994, with the objective of taking it into account, if feasible, in the 1995-96 budgetary cycle - or as soon as possible.

15. Thirdly, the Secretariat should conduct that feasibility study independently of the timetable set for the comprehensive review of the Financial Regulations.

16. In conclusion, the Group of 77 hoped that the Secretariat would take those comments fully into account in continuing its efforts on that issue, which was of interest not only to the Group of 77 but also to other groups.

17. Mr. LAMPARELLI (Italy) said that having the previous year strongly supported the idea of ensuring harmony and compatibility between the Agency documents in question, his delegation appreciated the considerable work done by the Secretariat. It was particularly pleased that the new document, the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report, would continue to be published as a reference document and that a summary would be made available to Member States. That report was extremely useful not only for Member States in enabling them to evaluate the implementation results of the Agency's various programmes and activities, but also for the Secretariat itself, since it was a ready source of information on the activities of the Agency's various Departments and Divisions.

18. Finally, since the General Conference already had too many draft resolutions to consider, his delegation was grateful to the Group of 77 for refraining from submitting a draft resolution on the matter under discussion.

19. Mr. WOJCIK (Poland) felt that it was important to ensure harmony and compatibility between the relevant documents and congratulated the Secretariat on the way it was tackling the task. The most visible result of the work done was the publication of a new document, the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report, which supplemented the three existing documents. His delegation sincerely hoped that it would not lead to an increase in the volume of the documentation. It was mainly through reorganization and rationalization of the contents of the documents, and not by an increase in the volume, that harmony and compatibility could be ensured. In that context, the principle of zero real growth in the Agency's budget should not be forgotten.

20. Mr. LIU (China), noting that the documents concerned were vital in order to understand and evaluate the Agency's activities, endorsed the comments made on behalf of the Group of 77 and said that the documents in question should be considered as the Agency's most important documents.

21. His delegation commended the Secretariat on the work it had done so far in implementing resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581. Further consultations with Member States were necessary in order to ensure harmonization and compatibility between the documents.

22. The structure and presentation of the programme and budget and accounts documents should be revised, and transparency should be improved in order to facilitate comparison and to allow Member States to have a better understanding of the activities carried out by the Agency. Furthermore, his delegation supported the idea of providing Member States with both a concise summary of the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report and detailed information. At the same time, it might perhaps be useful to divide the documents in question, which were comprehensive and rather thick, into separate documents that could be provided to interested Member States on request. That solution might promote savings.

23. Mr. CAMPUZANO PIÑA (Mexico) fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Group of 77. His delegation thanked the Secretariat, especially the Deputy Director General for Administration, Mr. Waller, and his staff, for the work they had done and their commitment to achieving the

objective of ensuring better transparency in the documents for the benefit of all Member States.

24. Mr. JAMEEL (Pakistan) associated himself with the statement made by the representative of the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Group of 77. He commended the considerable efforts made by the Secretariat to implement resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581, and expressed the hope that not only the compatibility, but also the transparency, of the Agency's programme and budget documents, its annual reports and its accounts documents could be further improved so as to facilitate comparison.

25. Finally, his delegation welcomed the efforts made by the representatives of member countries of the Group of 77 who had engaged in extensive consultations with the Secretariat. It hoped that those consultations would continue and be expanded so that by the next session of the General Conference it would be possible to report that resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581 had been fully implemented.

26. Mr. NAIT-TIGHILT (Algeria), having recalled that his delegation had commented on the various aspects of the matter under discussion at the General Conference, the Board of Governors and the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, noted with satisfaction the explanations provided by the Secretariat in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/322 on the actions being taken by the Agency to ensure perfect harmony between the Agency's programme and budget documents, its annual reports and its accounts documents in accordance with the objectives of resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581.

27. His delegation was pleased with what had been accomplished: restructuring of the document on implementation of the programme and budget in order to ensure greater transparency and to facilitate comparison of implementation results; modification of the structure of the annual report; and revision of the format of the programme and budget document. In view of the progress made and as the work had not been completed, his delegation felt that consultations between the Agency's Secretariat and Member States should continue. His delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Group of 77, which reflected his delegation's own concerns on the matter.

28. Mr. NORDIN (Malaysia) endorsed the comments made by the representative of the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Group of 77 and stressed that the proposed feasibility study or analysis should not be linked with the review of the Financial Regulations.

29. Mr. WALLER (Deputy Director General for Administration), after thanking delegations for the kind words they had said about the Secretariat, pointed out that the Secretariat had in fact worked together with Member States in implementing resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581 and noted that the co-operation involved had been outstanding. Many of the steps taken had been with the full agreement of the States which were particularly interested in the issue. Within the Secretariat, thanks were particularly due to staff in the Division of Budget and Finance of the Department of Administration who had contributed a great deal.

30. Like the representative of Italy - and for the same reasons - he was grateful to the Group of 77 for not submitting a draft resolution on the matter. As the representative of Italy had noted, preparation of the Programme and Budgetary Performance Report had indeed proved a valuable exercise for the Secretariat not least because of the effort involved in collating and structuring such a mass of information.

31. With regard to the volume of documentation, the concern expressed by the representative of Poland was legitimate. It was possible that there would be an increase in volume during a transitional phase of one or two years prior to a decrease as the new documents replaced the old ones.

32. With respect to the request made by the Group of 77 for a feasibility study concerning the adoption of a new appropriation system based on the Agency's programme structure rather than its organizational structure, he noted that it had been decided during consultations which had taken place with Member States, including the Group of 77, that the relevant internal working group would continue its work. That working group was composed for the most part of staff from the Division of Budget and Finance, but could seek assistance from staff of the Office of Internal Audit and Evaluation Support and consult the External Auditor. The group would naturally continue to work in close consultation with Member States. With

regard to the time-scale foreseen for that study, he reckoned that it would be ready in time for submission to the Administrative and Budgetary Committee in 1994.

33. The CHAIRMAN assumed that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference take note with appreciation of the information contained in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/322, on the understanding that a final report on the matter would be submitted to the General Conference in 1994, in accordance with the request contained in resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581.

34. It was so decided.

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1992 (GC(XXXVII)/1061)

35. The CHAIRMAN said that the Board of Governors had examined the Agency's accounts in June 1993 and submitted to the General Conference for approval the draft resolution contained on page III of document GC(XXXVII)/1061.

36. Mr. NORDIN (Malaysia), Mr. NAIT-TIGHILT (Algeria), Mr. TITKOV (Russian Federation), Mr. PEREZ-MARTIN (Cuba) and Mr. JAMEEL (Pakistan) commended the Secretariat on the new format of the Agency's accounts. Since the accounts had already been examined in detail by the Administrative and Budgetary Committee and by the Board of Governors, they proposed that they should be transmitted to the plenary meeting for approval.

37. Mr. LAMPARELLI (Italy) also approved the contents of the accounts document and supported the various recommendations contained in the External Auditor's report. He agreed that the Agency should clarify the responsibilities and workloads of all those involved in technical co-operation activities, so as to be better able to assess project requests by determining the likelihood of their success and by focusing on areas where nuclear techniques were clearly more appropriate than others. The Secretariat was already trying to implement some of those suggestions by identifying model projects. The External Auditor's study on the management of technical co-operation activities should be extended to all aspects of the Agency's programme and should perhaps lead to a review of the whole structure of the Secretariat so that it would reflect more closely the changing reality and avoid duplication of activities and proliferation of posts.

38. He also concurred with the External Auditor's comments on the deferred programme activities, which had proved to be complicated, confusing and difficult to control. It would perhaps be helpful if the External Auditor examined the present split-assessment practice for payment of contributions in order to assess whether the use of only one currency, namely the Austrian schilling, for both the formulation of the budget and the payment of contributions would add clarity and transparency to the budget.

39. Mr. CAMPUZANO PIÑA (Mexico) said that he, too, was satisfied with the accounts document. The External Auditor's conclusions and recommendations were particularly useful and should be put into effect.

40. In the past, the Agency's accounts documents, including the one for 1991 (GC(XXXVI/1005), had provided a statement of expenditure by appropriation section. The table still appeared in the programme and budget document, but in view of its usefulness, it should appear also in the accounts document.

41. Ms. OK (Turkey) also commended the Secretariat on the new format of the document before the Committee and supported its transmission to the General Conference. She attached particular importance to the External Auditor's recommendations, in particular the recommendation that the Agency should clarify the responsibilities and workloads of those involved in technical co-operation activities, both within the Department of Technical Co-operation and in the other Departments which provided technical advice; she also endorsed the suggestion that the planning, approval, implementation and evaluation procedures should be improved.

42. Mr. DUERDEN (Australia) also supported the adoption of the Agency's Accounts for 1992. His delegation appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to maintain programme delivery under extremely difficult circumstances that were not of its own making. Australia continued to be concerned about the late payment and non-payment of contributions and considered that payment of the amounts due would be the simplest and fairest solution to the Agency's financial problems; it therefore urged all the Member States concerned to make prompt payment of their arrears of contributions to the Regular Budget.

43. The External Auditor's report contained a number of recommendations which Australia would like to see implemented as soon as possible, in particular those relating to cash management and the administration of activities financed by the TACF.

44. The CHAIRMAN said that since no changes had been proposed to the draft resolution submitted by the Board of Governors, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on page III of document GC(XXXVII)/1061.

45. It was so decided.

THE AGENCY'S BUDGET FOR 1994 (GC(XXXVII)/1062 and GC(XXXVII)/INF/324)

46. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to Annex IV of document GC(XXXVII)/1062 containing the Agency's budget for 1994, which comprised three draft resolutions recommended by the Board of Governors for adoption by the General Conference. He also pointed out that document GC(XXXVII)/INF/324 might be helpful when considering the first of the draft resolutions.

47. Mr. CAMPUZANO PIÑA (Mexico), having expressed support for the three draft resolutions submitted in the document before the Committee, suggested that the Secretariat should take account of the comments made on various questions relating to the presentation of the budget, and in particular the currencies used, raised during the seminar organized by the Deputy Director General for Administration prior to the meeting of the Administrative and Budgetary Committee. Suggestions might also be made on that subject at the next meeting of that Committee.

48. Mr. HABJOUKA (Jordan) said that he approved the Agency's budget for 1994, but was concerned that it took no account of the Agency's responsibilities regarding development, the growing needs of the developing countries, or the increase in the number of Member States of the Agency. While the practice of transferring funds from one section to another, thus permitting the implementation of some programmes at the expense of others, respected the principle of zero real growth, it could have unpredictable consequences. In the 1994 budget, expenditure relating to nuclear power and the fuel cycle on the one hand, and nuclear safety and radiation protection on the other, amounted to some \$551 000 that had

been obtained through savings on the INIS system, although the money could have been used to improve that system. He understood the difficulties, but hoped that the Secretariat would in future find better solutions, permitting budgetary growth commensurate with its increased responsibilities. Transfers of resources from one section to another could cause irreparable damage to vital programmes.

49. Mr. LAMPARELLI (Italy) said that the debate on the Agency's programme and budget - as with nuclear safety and other issues - had become repetitive and frustrating: repetitive because every country insisted on its own priorities, making little effort to understand the needs of others, and frustrating because no tangible results had appeared from the proposals made from time to time by Member States with a view to rationalizing the Agency's work.

50. The economic recession that many countries were experiencing made it difficult for them to accept increases in the budgets of international organizations or to make voluntary or extrabudgetary contributions. The current pattern of payment of contributions, which adversely affected the implementation of the programmes, should convince the Secretariat and Member States that the time had come to proceed to a thorough review of programmes and resource allocation; the practice of across-the-board cuts and deferring programmes was no longer acceptable. Activities which had limited impact or which had matured should be discontinued, so as to allow the full implementation of more important ones and the introduction of more topical and more useful ones.

51. His delegation therefore supported the proposal put forward by Australia since the last Administrative and Budgetary Committee meeting for improving the methods of formulating the programme and budget and making the management and functioning of the Secretariat more effective and efficient. To ensure that the proposal did not turn out to be merely an intellectual exercise, as in the case of the Medium-Term Plan, a task force composed of States representing different regional groups and different interests should be set up to discuss various options and to decide by consensus on priorities and the allocation of funds. The Secretariat's report on programme implementation and certain recent additional suggestions could provide a working basis for the task force, without it being necessary to prepare a new report.

52. Meanwhile, the Secretariat should endeavour to make savings with the help of the policy-making organs, and the latter should refrain from asking for more and more activities and documents. The length of certain reports, such as the report on technical co-operation activities, seemed excessive. It would also be interesting to know the financial implications of the so-called rotation policy that was applied to staff. He was opposed to the application of that policy to the staff of the Department of Safeguards, where training was costly and the staff had access to confidential information. In the case of safeguards, savings could also be made through a more rigorous policy on equipment purchase, management and maintenance, with priority on reliability rather than sophistication.

53. Despite the inadequacy of resources for the high priority fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection, Italy would accept the Agency's 1994 budget. With regard to draft resolution B on allocations to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund for 1994, Italy continued to stress the voluntary nature of contributions to the Fund and the indicative character of the target for such contributions. Since Italy had not been a member of the Board of Governors when the indicative planning figures had been set and had not taken part in the relevant negotiations, it did not consider itself bound either by the decisions or by the amount indicated in draft resolution B. In that connection, he recalled that his country's contribution to the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, whose activities were unquestionably associated with technical co-operation, was ten times more than its contribution to the TACF.

54. Lastly, he was pleased to note that no increase was envisaged in the Working Capital Fund. The current level of \$12 million was more than enough, and corresponded exactly to the amount that had been suggested by the Secretariat some years earlier, as set out in document GOV/2345.

55. Mr. MANNINEN (Finland) said that zero real growth had been achieved in the budget by cutting minor programme components here and there. As his delegation had mentioned earlier, that was not the best solution. Unfortunately, it was likely that contributions to the 1994 budget would continue to fall short and it would again become necessary to cut or defer part of the programme. In order to make the reductions, it would be better to identify whole projects or major tasks that could be cut or deferred so that the

the rest of the programme could then be implemented fully. The fact that some of the Agency's technical staff had fixed-term contracts would make such a procedure possible. As the representative of Italy had rightly indicated, the present practice of across-the-board cuts should be abandoned. Having said that, he had no changes to propose to the draft resolutions before the Committee.

56. Mr. FARAHAT (Egypt) recalled that at the meeting of the Board of Governors the previous week, the Governor from the Republic of Korea had said that the reductions made in various programmes should not jeopardize the ones which would be difficult to defer, namely, those involving funds allocated chiefly for salaries and travel. Flexibility was needed at the general level, not only within sectors. He agreed with the comments of the representative of Jordan and considered that a zero-real-growth policy was too rigid a principle when the Agency's activities and needs were on the increase. With those comments, the Egyptian delegation endorsed the draft resolutions.

57. Mr. COOK (New Zealand) supported the establishment of priorities in the Agency's 1994 budget, in the light of continued zero real growth and despite the tough decision-making involved. He agreed with the importance placed on the RADWASS project and on safety in the nuclear programmes of Eastern Europe and the States of the former Soviet Union. He was concerned, however, that as a result of non-payment of some regular contributions, further cuts in the Agency's expenditure were proposed, which might adversely affect the safeguards system and prevent the developing countries from securing the full benefits of technology transfer. He urged countries which had not yet done so to demonstrate the seriousness of their commitment to non-proliferation and technology transfer by paying their contributions in full and on time.

58. His delegation supported the Australian proposals to the Board of Governors, referred to by the representative of Italy, for improved and better targeted project appraisal and evaluation procedures. The Secretariat should continue its efforts in that direction. Having made those remarks, he said that his delegation would join in a consensus on the proposed 1994 budget.

59. Mr. DURAN ABAD (Ecuador) said that he had no special comments on the proposed budget for 1994, but he was concerned at the possibility of using funds that had originally been allocated to technical projects for safeguards activities. Such a practice was contrary to the expectations of the developing countries and he hoped that it would not happen again in the future.

60. Mr. DUERDEN (Australia) commended the Secretariat on its efforts in preparing the 1994 programme and budget within the prevailing constraints and recalled Australia's commitment to the provision of adequate funds for the Agency's priority activities, with due regard to the principle of zero real growth. His country's proposals for the review of the Agency's programme and budgetary formulation and management processes, referred to by the representatives of Italy and New Zealand, were evidence of that commitment. In that regard, his delegation thanked the Secretariat for preparing its recent paper on project formulation in response to Australia's request. His delegation looked forward to detailed discussion on the proposals in the paper and on the Secretariat's plans for their implementation.

61. In addition to maintaining the policy of zero real growth, the Secretariat's actions should be supplemented by other measures to contain budgetary growth, which should not necessarily be limited to "efficiency dividends" and a requirement that costs for specified new activities be met by reducing the costs of an equivalent activity elsewhere.

62. The Australian delegation joined with the many other delegations that had spoken earlier in calling once more on all Member States to pay their regular contributions in full and on time.

63. Mr. DICKSON (United Kingdom) said his country continued to support the principle of zero real growth in the Regular Budget and welcomed the steps which had been taken to prepare the budget for 1994 on that basis. Growth in all activities, including those arising from the Agency's statutory and other legal obligations, should be incorporated within that framework in future years.

64. His delegation looked forward to the working document to be prepared by the Agency before the start of consultations on the programme and budget for 1995-96. He felt sure that

into two categories: voluntary and compulsory. It therefore ran counter to the spirit of the Statute to make contributions to the TACF, which were voluntary, compulsory. As to draft resolution C, his delegation fully supported it.

75. Mr. NAIT-TIGHILT (Algeria) endorsed the draft resolutions contained in document GC(XXXVII)/1062. It was, however, necessary: to continue the work already done in order to achieve an adequate balance in the budget between the Agency's main activities; to review the policy of zero real growth since it made the budget inflexible and therefore unable to accommodate the developing needs of many Member States and any growth in the Agency's activities to promote the use of nuclear techniques; and, finally, to find appropriate and acceptable solutions to ensure that Member States paid their contributions in full and on time.

76. Mr. IONESCU (Romania) supported the principle of zero real growth of the Regular Budget because, in his view, that principle had served the Agency's objectives well. On the whole, priorities were being duly taken into account and the draft budget was balanced. Consequently, his delegation could approve the draft resolutions contained in document GC(XXXVII)/1062.

77. Mr. WALLER (Deputy Director General for Administration), in response to the questions raised by the representative of Mexico relating particularly to the exchange rates and assessment of contributions, reported that since the Board of Governors had decided in June to carry out a comprehensive review of the Agency's Financial Regulations and Interim Financial Rules, a great deal of progress had been made. A consultant had been hired and he had collated a large amount of preliminary information through comparative studies of practices in other organizations with regard, inter alia, to deferred programmes, split assessment systems and exchange rates. His report, which was well under way, was anticipated with interest.

78. Many delegations had expressed the wish that the Agency's financial problems could be resolved by full and prompt payment of contributions - a sentiment which he could only second. Some delegations had suggested that entire programmes be cut rather than making across-the-board reductions, and one representative had said that the Secretariat should not

make such reductions. In fact, the Director General had given instructions that the 12% reduction applied in 1993 and the 13% the year before should alter as little as possible the main priorities of the budget approved by the General Conference. It had then been up to the Departments to decide on the best way of complying with those instructions. The task was clearly made more difficult by the fact that, under many programmes, a substantial amount of the costs was for staff and hence difficult to reduce quickly. The Secretariat welcomed with an open mind the proposal, made by the representative of Italy, to create a task force to examine priorities and would look into the matter in more depth with delegations if they so wished.

79. The representative of Italy had also asked about the cost of the rotation policy. While he would ask the Division of Personnel to look into the matter, he said that it was a matter of weighing up the value of the fresh ideas brought by new recruits and the cost of recruitment, relocation, and so on, and pointed out that it was difficult to make such a comparison in quantitative terms. Furthermore, he noted that it was in compliance with its Statute that the Agency had been applying a rotation policy for many years. He also appreciated the comment made by the representative of Australia on the programme performance assessment document (GOV/INF/710).

80. The CHAIRMAN had taken note of the comments and the reservations made by delegations during the discussion, but took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt draft resolutions A, B and C contained in Annex IV to document GC(XXXVII)/1062.

81. It was so decided.

82. Mr. ORJUELA BERMEO (Colombia) said that he had always been surprised by the lax attitude of the Secretariat towards official documents of the Agency in the Spanish language. As it was, he had found an unfortunate slip in the Spanish version of the Journal with respect to the name of the Committee of the Whole, an error which was a source of confusion for the Spanish speaking delegations and which his delegation trusted the Secretariat would remedy.

83. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat would take note of the comment made by the delegate from Colombia.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.