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President: Mr. AL-ATHEL (Saudi Arabia)

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[*] GC(XXXVII)/1085.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/328/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
ASSET	Analysis of Safety Significant Events Team
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INSAG	International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
IPERS	International Peer Review Service
LDC	Least developed country
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD)
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NUSS	Nuclear Safety Standards
NUSSAG	Nuclear Safety Standards Advisory Group
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGSI	Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WATRP	Waste Management Assessment and Technical Review Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1992 (GC(XXXVII)/1060) (resumed)

1. Mr. LI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, said that the accusations made by some delegates against his country were groundless and that his delegation regretted the fact that certain countries used the General Conference to bring political pressure to bear on the DPRK. If the nuclear issue which had arisen in respect of the DPRK was to be resolved smoothly, the question of the Secretariat's partiality would first have to be tackled.
2. The responsibility for the non-implementation of the safeguards agreement between his country and the Agency lay with certain Secretariat officials who were being manipulated by a Superpower which was seeking to strangle his country's socialist system, using the agreement in order to gain access to military installations in th DPRK. His country rejected any attempt to carry out inspections on the basis of fabricated intelligence information provided by a third country.
3. The DPRK had spared no effort to obtain a negotiated resolution of the nuclear question, even after its decision to withdraw from the NPT in the interests of the country's sovereignty and security. In order to settle the nuclear issue, his country had held talks with the United States, the relevant party, and also consultations with the Agency's Secretariat. Despite his country's sincere efforts to reach a negotiated solution, certain Secretariat officials and certain countries were trying to settle the matter by resorting to pressure.
4. Owing to the adoption, at the Board's last meeting, of a "resolution" directed against his country, it would be impossible to hold the DPRK/Agency consultations which were to have taken place early in October. It was very clear, therefore, that pressure would not solve the nuclear issue.
5. Mr. AMOO-GOTTFRIED (Ghana) said that his country, observing with increasing trepidation the incidence and escalation of conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Angola and Somalia, as well as the resultant atrocities and appalling human suffering, was somewhat reassured to note that measures were being taken to control the spread of nuclear weapons. Against that background, it was necessary to strengthen those measures and ensure strict compliance. The importance of the Agency's activities

directed towards ensuring that atomic energy was used for peaceful purposes only could not be overemphasized. In that connection, Ghana attached great significance to the preparations for the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and hoped that by 1995 further countries would have acceded to the NPT. The accession of further countries was essential, particularly that of countries which had demonstrated a capacity for becoming advanced in nuclear technology. Also, it was highly desirable that they make their nuclear facilities available for inspection. The safeguarding of such facilities was a collective responsibility of the international community. Ghana had noted with interest the understanding reached between the leaders of Russia and Ukraine on the transfer and dismantling of nuclear weapons located on Ukrainian territory. Any accord which promoted the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons deserved the support and encouragement of all.

6. The Agency's efforts to promote constructive uses of nuclear technology were highly beneficial to a developing country like Ghana, whose economic and social problems were compelling it to explore all possible ways of making progress. At the same time, the Ghanaian Government wished to support efforts directed towards the containment and ultimate dismantling of weapons of mass destruction.

7. With regard to the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities in Ghana, the use of nuclear technology in medicine and progress made in food irradiation deserved special mention. Ghana's pilot-scale gamma irradiation facility for food preservation and medical sterilization was nearing completion and was expected to be commissioned in April 1994.

8. The programme for the education and training in radiological protection and nuclear safety of personnel employed at that type of facility was highly opportune. It was through such education that public apprehension over the use of advanced food preservation methods could be overcome. Furthermore, without such training programmes, developing countries like Ghana could not hope to sustain their facilities or derive maximum benefit from the services which they offered.

9. The Ghanaian Government, in endeavouring to improve medical services and health delivery systems, had given priority to the establishment of a radiotherapy centre to provide

therapy for cancer-related diseases, and it was optimistic that, when in operation, that model integrated facility for nuclear medicine and radiotherapy, established with Agency assistance, would serve the needs not only of the Ghanaian people, who at present had to travel overseas at great expense for treatment at similar facilities, but of Ghana's neighbours as well. The long-term impact of a successful model project would be immense, for the project would contribute to a much-needed expansion of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy service in Ghana and encourage other countries in the region to adopt the same approach. In that connection, the Agency's expertise, support and assistance were crucial.

10. While appreciating the positive uses of nuclear technology, his Government was conscious of the need for strict adherence to radiological protection requirements by users of ionizing radiation. It had for that reason promulgated a Radiation Protection Law in January 1993. Subsequently, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission had established a Radiation Protection Board, to be responsible for issuing operating licences for radiation facilities. In the practical application of nuclear technology, it was essential that safety not be sacrificed to expediency.

11. The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission had also established an Institute of Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture as a result of the upgrading of the National Nuclear Research Institute's Department of Biology, Food and Agriculture. The aim was to promote the use of techniques such as mutation breeding, in vitro tissue culture techniques and the sterile-insect technique and thereby to improve the production and protection of food crops and livestock for the advancement of agro-based industries.

12. A Centre for Advanced Digital Nuclear Electronics was being set up to provide training in nuclear instrumentation and computer interfacing. When operational, the Centre should also serve the sub-region. An atomic absorption spectrometer had been installed and would be used in studying environmental pollution problems and for the analysis of mineral ores for the mining companies in Ghana. It would enable the country to save the foreign exchange now being paid by mining companies for mineral ore analyses in European countries.

13. A radiopharmacy laboratory was being installed in the Chemistry Department as part of Agency technical co-operation project GHA/6/008. When completed, it would, among other things, serve as the country's sole source of the radiopharmaceutical kits, which were currently being imported at great expense for use in the Nuclear Medicine Unit at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital. The laboratory would enable the hospital to expand its diagnostic services, which in the long run would improve the provision of health care to all.

14. Ghana had been a Member of the Agency for over 30 years and had made its modest contribution to the successes achieved. Its Conference Centre and related facilities were regularly placed at the disposal of the Agency for regional training courses and Agency activities on favourable terms, and they would continue to be made available whenever required. During the past year, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission had hosted three Agency courses - one for radiation protection officers, one on food irradiation and one on radioimmunoassay in veterinary services.

15. The Director General and his staff were to be commended for their efforts and the appreciable results they had achieved despite budgetary constraints and limited resources.

16. The Agency's Regular Budget for 1994 again represented zero real growth. Given the increasing demands and challenges of a changing world, the General Conference should consider very carefully how the zero-real-growth principle was being applied, with a view to increasing the support provided to Member States, and particularly the developing countries among them.

17. The Director General, in his statement, had emphasized the importance of the advanced and highly specialized training provided through the International Centre of Theoretical Physics in Trieste with Agency support. That support, for which the Agency was to be commended, had enabled the Centre, under the dynamic leadership of Professor Abdul Salam, to train many scientists from the developing countries. It was to be hoped that the Centre would continue to be a centre of excellence and receive maximum support from the Agency.

18. Almost a decade had elapsed since the world had been brought back from the brink of self-destruction to which it had been propelled by the arms race. That event should now

be translated into practical actions whereby governments were persuaded not to amass military forces in an attempt to achieve parity with or ascendancy over perceived or potential antagonists. The issue could not be ignored if tension was to be defused in certain areas of the world. Confidence-building measures should be taken so that neighbouring States or protagonists might co-exist in peace. It was impossible to operate in a void. Following the removal of one deterrent, effective proposals should be made for partly assuaging the legitimate desire for self-preservation and reducing the propensity towards excessive military mobilization. That might enable progress to be made towards the nuclear-weapon-free world to which everyone aspired.

19. With that ideal in view, Ghana reiterated its commitment to the denuclearization of Africa. It shared the optimism of other African countries which had indicated that, with the process of verification in South Africa initiated and the Middle East pursuing similar objectives, the time was ripe for the attainment of that goal. To that end, and for the fulfilment of the Agency's mandate to promote the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, Ghana intended to maintain its co-operation and full support.

20. Mr. DURAN ABAD (Ecuador) conveyed the greetings of the President of his country, Mr. Duran Ballen, to the General Conference and commended the Agency on its work to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which were of great benefit to Ecuador and to mankind as a whole.

21. Ecuador, which was convinced that peace was one of the most precious possessions of mankind, fully approved of and took great interest in the work done by the Agency in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in negotiating and implementing agreements on safeguards designed to prevent the use of nuclear material for military purposes. His delegation therefore welcomed the new safeguards agreements being negotiated between the Agency and Member States and hoped that the Agency would continue to fulfil its mandate.

22. In that connection, as a member of the Board of Governors, Ecuador was concerned about the difficulties encountered in implementing the safeguards agreement concluded between the Agency and the DPRK. It appealed to all States to co-operate with the Agency,

to remain open to dialogue and to provide the assistance required in order to ensure the necessary transparency and to lay the foundations for gradual global denuclearization.

23. The Ecuadorian delegation was pleased to note that South Africa was co-operating with the Agency in all activities taking place in its territory, and it wished to support any measure designed to bring about the denuclearization of the African continent. As far as Latin America was concerned, his country approved of the support given to the Tlatelolco Treaty and appealed to those countries of the former Soviet Union which possessed nuclear weapons to accede to Protocol II of that Treaty.

24. Noting that his delegation had been following with great interest the measures taken to promote technical co-operation, he said that Ecuador was mindful of the need to achieve a balance between the main activities of the Agency, which included technical assistance, the activity from which Ecuador derived the greatest benefit. Technical co-operation in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean had declined slightly in 1992 in percentage terms, but he hoped that that was a temporary phenomenon which did not reflect a long-term trend. Technical co-operation was of considerable benefit to the process of development in Ecuador which, during recent years, had participated in the technical co-operation activities of the Agency in various areas, ranging from agriculture to radiological protection, with excellent practical results. Similarly, the important activities of the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission had benefited from the services of experts provided and training activities organized by the Agency.

25. The Ecuadorian Government supported the activities of ARCAL, for it was convinced that they would make possible a real transfer of technology, thanks in particular to model projects, which were potentially of major immediate practical relevance in regions or areas with relatively homogeneous characteristics.

26. During the coming year, Ecuador would follow the activities of the Agency closely. It would participate in its discussions and continue helping the Agency to fulfil its statutory obligations. Indeed, his country was convinced that universal support for the Agency was essential if some of the obstacles to the safety and prosperity of mankind and of future generations were to be overcome.

27. Mr. JUAREZ TOLEDO (Guatemala), recalling that his country had had the honour of being the first to deposit its instrument of ratification of the Agency's Statute in Washington D.C., on 29 March 1957, said that had certainly been a sound decision, for the period of the Agency's existence had been a time of rapid growth in nuclear science and technology applied to development and in control over that source of energy in all fields.

28. Guatemala set great store by the application of nuclear techniques in its development programme, particularly in sectors where resources were scarce - such as health services and agriculture - and in industry, where it was beginning to make use of nuclear techniques to enhance the level of quality assurance. It was also conducting projects for the radiological protection of workers, the environment and the public and, although some delays had occurred in that area, it was planned to press on in 1994 with setting up an infrastructure.

29. His country was also participating actively in ARCAL projects, whose results were being used by Guatemalan institutions, and in numerous exchanges of experience with other countries of the region. Wishing to strengthen its support for ARCAL, Guatemala would like to continue hosting courses, to receive fellowship holders and technical experts, and to participate in exchanges of scientific and technical experience conducive to the development of Latin America.

30. In its desire to protect the environment, his Government, under Mr. León Carpio, had brought into force regulations for licensing the use of radioisotopes and ionizing radiation, starting with the handling and final disposition of radioactive wastes, the qualifications of operators and the handling of radioactive substances. Guatemala hoped that nuclear technology would soon play a more prominent role in combating pollution, and in that connection it would like to contribute to the activities of the countries of the region by placing at their disposal those of its installations where relevant analyses had been performed.

31. With regard to technical co-operation in general, the Guatemalan delegation hoped that the resources of the Agency would enable it to respond positively to as many requests as possible from countries which had the greatest needs. In that regard, he particularly thanked those countries which were supporting the projects being implemented in Guatemala

and also the technical and administrative staff of the Agency, who remained ready at all times to promote the success of Guatemalan nuclear activities.

32. Mr. YUMJAV (Mongolia) said that many important events had occurred since the previous session of the General Conference. In particular, the number of States party to the NPT had reached 160, including all the nuclear-weapon States. He welcomed the new States party to the NPT, which was the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. He hoped that the NPT Review and Extension Conference of 1995 would provide a forum for addressing all problems and strengthening that regime. Mongolia was in favour of an indefinite extension of the NPT.

33. The Agency's safeguards system was one of the principal means of ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and Mongolia was in favour of strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of that system. In the same spirit, it would like to see a comprehensive nuclear test ban and welcomed the fact that the Governments of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France had decided to extend their moratoria on nuclear testing. The Conference on Disarmament had given its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to begin negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty; the extension of the moratoria and the opening of those negotiations would create a favourable climate for the NPT Review and Extension Conference.

34. The Agency initiatives aimed at strengthening international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiological protection and promoting the establishment of a universal nuclear safety regime were very timely, and he welcomed the progress made in the elaboration of a nuclear safety convention; he was convinced that the adoption of such a convention would further strengthen the nuclear safety regime at the international level.

35. Mongolia was satisfied with the Agency's annual report for 1992 and supported the recommendations of the Board of Governors concerning the Agency's programme and budget and the TACF target for 1994.

36. Mongolia had been a member of the Agency for 20 years, during which time his country had achieved some success in the use of nuclear techniques, which were being used widely in industry, agriculture, medicine, hydrology and environmental protection. In recent

years, co-operation between Mongolia and the Agency had been expanding: in that context, national courses and seminars had been held in Mongolia on radiation protection and safety infrastructure, nuclear spectrometry and other topics. Mongolian specialists had taken part in international and regional seminars and training courses held under the auspices of the Agency and had benefited from scientific visits. The Agency had provided Mongolia with many important expert services.

37. In addition, Mongolia had acceded to the RCA, which had become a valuable tool in the transfer of nuclear technology to the countries of Asia. His country had begun to participate in RCA activities, attending meetings of representatives of RCA member countries, and it intended to become still more closely involved.

38. The Agency's technical co-operation programme for Mongolia covered many fields, including the upgrading of the national information system, the development of nuclear analytical facilities for the analysis of coal, mineral and ore samples, the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture, nuclear medicine, radiation protection and hydrology, and the establishment of a radiobiology laboratory. The Agency was also assisting in establishing gamma radiography and radiochemistry teaching laboratories and in the assessment of Mongolia's uranium potential. For the next biennial programme (1995-96), the nine project proposals to be submitted would relate to priority areas of particular importance for the development of the country during the present difficult period of transition.

39. A country programme review team consisting of four Agency experts had visited Mongolia in May 1992. After making an in-depth review of past and present technical co-operation programmes in Mongolia, the team had identified priority areas; its valuable recommendations had been reflected in the 1993-94 technical co-operation programmes and in the new requests for the period 1995-96.

40. Ms. SCHWIMMING-CHASE (Namibia) said that, following the end of the Cold War, the General Conference was meeting in an atmosphere of hope as efforts were made to find peaceful solutions to conflicts which had been raging for decades. Namibia hoped that those efforts would be successful.

41. Namibia appreciated the Agency's role in helping to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in promoting nuclear safety and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. It was indebted to the Agency for technical assistance relating to public health, agriculture and veterinary services and for having sent an expert team to evaluate radiological safety at the Rössing uranium mine. The Namibian Government had studied the team's findings and recommendations carefully and had already implemented some of the recommendations. Namibia was still benefiting from the Agency's technical co-operation programme, under which an expert was currently helping to establish a radiation protection infrastructure to be administered by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

42. Like most of the countries of Southern Africa, Namibia was facing a severe problem in ensuring the proper treatment of cancer, owing to the non-availability of radiotherapy services. With a view to setting up such services, it had been having fruitful discussions, and it had been assured that the Agency would assist it.

43. Namibia had already acceded to the NPT and hoped that that augured well for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. The mutual trust provided by the safeguards system of the Agency was clearly central to the international non-proliferation regime. She was therefore pleased to announce that Namibia would very shortly be concluding a safeguards agreement with the Agency.

44. As most of Namibia was arid, her Government was faced with severe water supply problems. It therefore planned to use radioactive tracer techniques in locating and exploiting water resources and would very shortly be submitting a project proposal in that connection.

45. Everyone was aware of the changes taking place in South Africa and had taken note of that country's announcement that it had voluntarily abandoned its nuclear deterrent capability before accession to the NPT and of its standing invitation to the Agency to inspect its past nuclear weapons programme and facilities and to verify the completeness of its disclosure. Despite those changes, it was important for the international community to monitor the situation very closely and to maintain pressure whenever necessary until the new, democratic Government was in place. The latest decisions taken by South Africa gave

grounds for hope that that would happen in the very near future, enabling the sub-continent to advance further on the road to peace, co-operation and development.

46. However, the alarming situation in Angola remained a major obstacle. It was a matter of grave concern that the immense human tragedy in Angola was steadily deepening, virtually unnoticed by the world at large because neither newspapers nor television referred to it. The international community should put more pressure on Dr. Jonas Savimbi, the leader of UNITA, and force him to respect the 1991 accords between his movement and the Angolan Government, thereby ending the long civil war and bringing peace to Angola.

47. Namibia endorsed the Agency's programme and budget for 1994 and hoped that all Member States would pay their assessed contributions on time.

48. In conclusion, Namibia gave its assurance that it was fully committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of the world and for future generations.

49. Mr. OLEMBO (Kenya) extended his sincere thanks to the Agency for its tireless efforts, under the Statute, to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to enforce safeguards and to minimize risks to life, health and the environment. In that connection, he commended the Director General on the measures he had taken to enhance the efficiency and improve the effectiveness of the safeguards system. He supported SAGSI's proposals for an alternative safeguards regime and a re-examination of the implementation processes. He commended the Director General and his staff on the way in which they were meeting the challenges posed by the increased activities in those areas, upon which the success of the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology was dependent.

50. Kenya set great store by the Agency's technical co-operation activities. Many developing countries, including Kenya, were facing numerous problems in their social and economic development. The technical gap between the developing countries, particularly those in Africa, and the developed countries was increasing every year. Certain problems were due to global events beyond the control of the developing countries, although the events in question controlled the rate at which those countries developed. The challenge facing the Agency was to expedite their development through the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

51. Over the past decade, numerous projects had been undertaken and completed in Kenya with the assistance of the Agency, many of them having a considerable impact in various areas of Kenya's development. For example, the Radiation Protection Service, which had benefited from Agency technical assistance, was fully operational and now attracted maximum support from the Government. Other developing countries with plans for establishing a radiation protection service could learn from the Kenyan success story. In addition, the Nuclear Science Centre, established with the assistance of the Agency, continued to provide services in instrument maintenance, quality control and the application of nuclear analytical techniques. It also participated in regional training activities and sometimes provided the necessary lecturers. In human health, diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders, which were common in some areas of the country, had been promoted through the ongoing project for the establishment of a radioimmunoassay laboratory at Kenya's national teaching hospital. Also, the Agency had helped to establish a radiotherapy service for cervical and oesophageal cancers, which were unfortunately not uncommon in Kenya, and had provided a gamma camera in that connection.

52. Kenya considered agriculture to be the mainstay of its economy, and the Agency had provided technical assistance in that vital area. It was expected that three current projects - on the use of isotope techniques in improving the efficiency of fertilizer use, in improving the productivity of dairy cattle and in studying nitrogen fixation by multipurpose tree species - would ultimately be of benefit to small-scale farmers.

53. Kenya was grateful to the Agency for having given it the opportunity in 1993 to host several activities in its territory. For example, the co-ordinators of the AFRA regional project on irradiation processing had met in Nairobi in March. The fourth technical working group meeting for AFRA had taken place in Nairobi during the same period, in the presence of the Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation. On that occasion, Kenya had been elected Chairman of AFRA for a year, which it considered a great honour.

54. The IAEA/UNEP Seminar for Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean on Radiobiological Techniques in the Comparative Estimation of Carcinogenic Induction by Chemical Pollutants and Low-dose Radiation was expected to take place in November in

Nairobi, together with regional seminars on radioactive waste management and non-destructive testing.

55. The recent visit of the Director General, and that of the Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation already mentioned, had helped to enhance public awareness of the great contribution which the peaceful uses of nuclear energy could make towards solving Kenya's socio-economic problems. The implementation of the Agency's projects in Africa would be impossible without a programme of fellowships, and in that connection Kenya was grateful for the commitment and competence of the Fellowships and Training Section of the Division of Technical Co-operation Implementation. It was also grateful to the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, South Africa and other countries which had continued to provide the financial resources and technical assistance which were required for the implementation of certain projects and to the Governments of Spain, France, South Africa, Egypt and other donor countries which had provided financial and logistic support to AFRA.

56. Kenya noted with satisfaction that the number of women in the Professional category serving in the Agency's Secretariat had increased slightly during the past three years, from 13% to 15%. While welcoming the increase, he nevertheless considered that the process was a slow one, falling well short of the objectives set by resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/599. At a time when many countries were making unprecedented progress towards democracy, inhuman regimes were being dismantled and human rights were being supported throughout the world, the picture was not as positive with regard to the status of women. Improvements in the status of women at all levels were necessary, and concerted efforts should be made to that end. The delegation of Kenya supported draft resolution GC(XXXVII)/COM.5/132/Rev.1 submitted by the United States of America, in which the Director General was requested to consider and implement recommendations aimed at improving the representation of women in the Secretariat. His delegation looked forward to the time when the representation of women in the Secretariat would not only be much greater, but also reflect the necessary diversity of nationalities.

57. The peaceful uses of nuclear technology could help a great deal in solving the problems of mankind, but for that to happen there was a need for greater public awareness -

achieved through education - about, inter alia, the safety of nuclear technology applications, waste management, nuclear power as an alternative energy source and environmental protection. That was especially so at a time when environmental issues were coming to the fore in development programmes following the adoption of Agenda 21 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The challenges ahead were enormous.

58. Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq) said that objectivity and transparency should be the rule and that the real interests of Member States should be paramount: efforts to politicize the Agency and make it depart from its technical mandate could have serious consequences in the short and the long term.

59. Depriving Iraq of its voting rights was proof that political motives had prevailed over legal principles and the supreme interests of the Agency and its Member States.

60. Iraq was unable to pay its Regular Budget contributions because of the embargo imposed on it by the Security Council. It had requested the United Nations Secretary-General to arrange for \$200 000 to be released from Iraqi accounts so as to enable it to pay its debts to the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The request had been rejected on the pretext that Security Council resolutions 661 and 778 did not provide for blocked Iraqi accounts to be drawn on for contributions to international organizations. Iraq had proposed other solutions which had likewise been rejected. The General Conference could have resolved the problem by applying the provisions of the second sentence of Article XIX.A of the Statute, under which the Conference could permit a Member State to participate in votes if it was satisfied that the State's failure to pay its financial contributions to the Agency was due to conditions beyond its control.

61. The Director General had confirmed in his latest statement to the Board of Governors and in his statement to the General Conference that the Agency's inspection team had completed the mapping of Iraq's nuclear programme and was about to start with long-term monitoring. The Agency had thus completed the basic tasks assigned to it in resolution 687, which it clearly could not have done without the full collaboration of the Iraqi authorities. Nevertheless, a number of speakers had insisted on ignoring the facts and had made

statements about Iraq which had been inaccurate and lacking in objectivity, despite reports of the inspection team and statements of the Director General showing that the Agency had achieved its basic objectives and that the question of certain information about Iraq's nuclear programme would soon be settled.

62. In that connection, he referred to a statement by the head of the Agency inspection team to the effect that Iraq's nuclear programme was "at zero" and to a statement by the assistant head of the team to the effect that Iraq's nuclear programme had been in its early stages. Those statements, in his view, proved the falseness of all the accusations made against Iraq and its nuclear programme.

63. It was more than a year since the Agency inspection team had produced its last diagram illustrating the Iraqi nuclear programme, and since then the Agency had received no information contradicting the documents provided by Iraq.

64. Iraq had taken the initiative in proposing a constructive dialogue with the Security Council and the Special Commission on all questions arising from the implementation of resolution 687 and on the modalities of a long-term monitoring programme, so as to remove all ambiguities and define the responsibilities of all parties.

65. The Security Council had agreed to the proposal, and high-level technical discussions had taken place at the beginning of September. The report on those discussions reflected their positive nature.

66. Referring to Annex 1 to the report, he said that Iraq was committed to producing satisfactory replies to the Agency's questions about suppliers and purchases at high-level technical discussions due to take place in Baghdad at the beginning of October. The General Conference should acknowledge the progress made, which showed that Iraq, the Special Commission and the Agency inspection team were sparing no effort to complete the implementation of resolution 687 and to have the long-term monitoring programme in place as soon as possible.

67. Those who were still attacking Iraq were doing so for political motives which clouded their judgement and led them to concoct justifications for maintaining the financial embargo responsible for the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people. Iraq had fulfilled all its

obligations under resolution 687, had undertaken to provide answers to the questions still outstanding and had declared that it was ready to take the technical measures necessary for facilitating future inspections. He hoped that, in return, the Security Council would lift the embargo it had imposed, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 22 of resolution 687.

68. In connection with that resolution, he drew attention to paragraph 14, in accordance with which the actions to be taken by Iraq in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the resolution represented steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction. He was surprised that those who had spoken about Iraq had not mentioned that paragraph and had not called upon all the States in the Middle East to take serious measures aimed at the establishment of such a zone - that they had not called upon Israel to give up its nuclear weapons, those States in the Middle East which had weapons of mass destruction to get rid of them and all the other Middle East States to refrain from purchasing and manufacturing any weapons of mass destruction.

69. Mr. STULLER (Czech Republic) said that his country regarded the Agency as one of the most important organizations with the United Nations system and greatly appreciated the contribution which it was making to peace and international understanding by promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applying safeguards designed to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Czech Republic was convinced that, in the post-Cold War era, strict observance of the NPT's provisions was more important than ever. Accordingly, it strongly supported the unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT and was opposed to any action likely to result in withdrawal from the Treaty and the Agency's safeguards system.

70. When applying for membership of the Agency at the beginning of the year, the Czech Republic had emphasized its readiness to meet all commitments and agreements entered into by the former Czechoslovakia. It had immediately accepted the NPT, had confirmed that it would succeed to the former Czechoslovakia's NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency and had become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. It fully respected the Agency's safeguards being applied in accordance with the guidelines laid down in document INFCIRC/153.

71. The Czech Republic had also confirmed its succession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

72. His country greatly appreciated the Secretariat's helpful attitude during 1993, which had enabled it to take part in all of the Agency's activities, including technical assistance programmes and extrabudgetary projects. In that context, he recalled that the Czech Republic had continued to participate in the Incident Reporting System, accepted the International Nuclear Event Scale and was playing an active role in safety-related activities such as the OSART and ASSET programmes and the Waste Management Assessment and Technical Review Programme (WATRP).

73. Aware of the need to ensure continuous State supervision in the nuclear energy area, at the end of 1992 the Czech Republic had established, before the splitting-up of the Federation, the State Office for Nuclear Safety as a new, independent regulatory authority. Since 1 January 1993, the Office had been fulfilling all the functions and performing all the regulatory duties associated with the State supervision of nuclear safety and safeguards and ensuring co-operation with the Agency and the fulfilment of all the Czech Republic's international commitments in the field of nuclear safety. Its regulatory activities were based on the NUSS programme recommendations and on the recommendations of INSAG and NUSSAG.

74. Nuclear power in the Czech Republic was a reality, with four WWER-440/213 units at Dukovany constituting a stable and reliable source of electricity which was well accepted by the public. The country's installed nuclear capacity, at 1760 MW, was relatively low compared with the total capacity of its coal-fired plants - 9362 MW.

75. The need to reduce coal-burning, which was especially harmful for the environment as the Czech Republic's coal was of poor quality, remained one of the main reasons for introducing nuclear power, which was the most suitable alternative. Even after the political changes in late 1989, the orientation of the nuclear power programme had remained unchanged. The construction of Units 1 and 2 at Temelin, which was well advanced, had

continued, the safety systems being modernized with the help of Western technology (construction of Units 3 and 4 had been halted), and Western organizations and suppliers had been invited to co-operate throughout the nuclear power sector. The decision to complete the construction of the Temelin nuclear power plant had been taken on the basis of an energy policy which envisaged 2000 MW of new nuclear capacity in order to create the conditions necessary for the country's economic development and, at the same time, replace old coal-fired plants in the most effective and environmentally benign way. It was important that the Temelin nuclear power plant should be licensable on the basis of worldwide safety criteria.

76. In the past the Czech Republic had been a recipient of Soviet reactor technology. However, the contribution made by its own industry had been far from negligible, which had allowed it a certain independence in formulating national laws and regulations based to a great extent on Agency recommendations, particularly in the area of nuclear safety. A review of the country's legislation had shown that, while the nuclear safety area was sufficiently covered, there were some gaps in other areas. The Czech Government had therefore called for the drafting of a general law on the utilization of nuclear energy, with provisions concerning nuclear damage liability and insurance, a spent fuel management and disposal programme, and a public information policy in the nuclear field. The necessary work was under way, on the basis of Agency recommendations and in due course - it was to be hoped - with direct Agency assistance.

77. Turning to nuclear safety, which was of vital importance for the Czech Republic, he said that resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/582 adopted by the General Conference in 1992 was highly relevant to the upgrading of his country's reactors. His delegation welcomed the progress made in implementing that resolution, particularly with regard to the drafting of a nuclear safety convention, and the excellent performance of the Agency's safety services. However, the activities of greatest importance for the Czech Republic were those related to the safety of nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe, as described in document GC(XXXVII)/1064. Although significant progress had been made, his delegation considered that, because of the urgency of the matter, better co-ordination was necessary - and it believed that better co-ordination could be achieved. His delegation hoped that, through

discussions in the Committee of the Whole, it would be possible to agree on the most suitable means of meeting what was a very urgent need.

78. As to safeguards, it was not necessary to repeat all the reasons for resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/586 entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system". His delegation had followed with great interest all the developments in that area, particularly in SAGSI and the Board of Governors. Although it had noted substantial progress, his delegation considered - as representatives of the former Czechoslovakia had stated several times in the past - that the strengthening of safeguards should be based on the introduction of an integrated safeguards system combining in optimum fashion all the elements of existing accounting systems with the supplementary measures introduced in the previous two years. In his delegation's view, the Secretariat should lose no time in evaluating such an integrated system, with necessary field trials. The Secretariat was welcome to perform a field trial in the Czech Republic, and his authorities were ready to discuss the details with the Secretariat.

79. The readiness of the Czech Republic to assist the Agency was not limited to that offer. For example, his delegation hoped that Agency training courses, conferences and symposia would continue to be held in the Czech Republic, which was very close to the Headquarters of the Agency and had an excellent tradition in such matters.

80. Mr. VELASQUEZ-RODRIGUEZ (Peru) said that the Agency's role in the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries was of great importance for the well-being of those countries and for peace in general. In most cases, the absence of peace was due to economic and social problems resulting from technological imbalance. Peru was glad therefore that, in pursuit of its statutory objectives, the Agency had regularly, since 1958, provided it with assistance in the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture and industry.

81. Peru was currently undergoing structural reform to bring it into line with the contemporary international system. The present Government had made serious efforts to bring peace to the country, by fighting terrorism and drug trafficking, which, through their extent and the links between them, constituted a national menace. Concurrently, it had

pursued policies of economic adjustment which had enabled it to regain the confidence of the international financial system. Macroeconomic indicators showed clearly that the reinstatement of the Peruvian economy in the world market was producing its first fruits. The recovery had enabled the Government to settle its arrears of contributions for past years.

82. At the international level, he was pleased that the Governments of a number of nuclear-weapon States had decided on a moratorium on nuclear tests, with a view to an ultimate agreement on the total cessation of tests. He appealed to the nuclear-weapon States which had not yet taken that decision to take it without delay.

83. The numerous applications for membership of the Agency were yet another proof of the wish of the international community to create a nuclear-weapon-free world. His delegation was confident that, in co-operation with its Member States, the Agency would set up the necessary machinery for maintaining peace and international security. In that connection it was regrettable that certain countries had not yet concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency, and Peru appealed to them once again to demonstrate the political will to join the safeguards system and thus help to create the desired climate of international security.

84. It was equally important to maintain a balance in financial terms between safeguards and promotional activities. The Peruvian Government therefore supported initiatives which sought to ensure reliable and adequate resources for the TACF. As a supporter of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Peru sought to encourage international co-operation in that field, and the election of a Peruvian national as head of the OPANAL Secretariat for the period 1994-98 was a tribute to its commitment.

85. Before commenting on his country's activities in the nuclear field, he pointed out that the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute was currently rationalizing its activities and improving the administration of its international co-operation programmes.

86. The technical co-operation projects being carried out in Peru related to - inter alia - the training of highly qualified personnel (for which the Agency was providing the services of high-level experts), the continuation of preliminary studies of the feasibility of introducing nuclear power in the long term, the installation of new facilities for neutron activation

analysis (with extrabudgetary support from the United Kingdom and the United States of America for which Peru was very grateful), the production of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals and - in agriculture - research on subjects ranging from plant improvement to animal nutrition and reproduction.

87. Peru was experiencing difficulties with its food irradiation project, owing to policies for stabilizing the economy which should soon be resolved. In the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection, thanks to Agency technical assistance Peru now had highly qualified personnel and the means to cope with any nuclear emergency or accident. A modern laboratory for the radiation monitoring of occupationally exposed persons had also been set up within the framework of an Agency project. The tasks in that field were regulatory and legal as well as technical, and his delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the Conference's agenda included an item entitled "Measures to strengthen international co-operation in matters relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection". Faithful to its tradition of respect for international law, Peru reiterated its wish to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Peru was following with interest the work on drafting a nuclear safety convention and hoped that it would be completed in the near future.

88. ARCAL was an excellent exercise in horizontal co-operation among countries of Latin America. He hoped that the work being done within the ARCAL framework would result in exchanges of experience and know-how which would promote Latin American progress in the nuclear field.

89. Mr. YIMER (Ethiopia) recalled that Article II of the Statute, where the Agency's objectives were spelled out, provided that the Agency "shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and that it "shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose". That evoked the two broad areas of Agency involvement - safeguards and non-safeguards activities. In pursuance of its objectives, in Article III of its Statute the Agency was authorized, inter alia, to "encourage and assist research on, and development

and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world" and to "make provision, in accordance with this Statute, for materials, services, equipment, and facilities to meet the needs of research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including the production of electric power, with due consideration for the needs of the under-developed areas of the world". As stated in Article III.B.3, in carrying out its functions the Agency was required to allocate its resources "in such a manner as to secure efficient utilization and the greatest possible general benefit in all areas of the world, bearing in mind the special needs of the under-developed areas of the world".

90. The importance of the Agency's activities for developing countries hardly needed to be emphasized. Since its inception, in 1957, the Agency had paid special attention to the needs of developing countries, as clearly required by its Statute. It went without saying that its activities in food and agriculture and human health were essential to meeting those needs. With regard to food and agriculture, the Agency had done commendable work in soil fertility, irrigation and crop production, plant breeding and genetics, animal production and health, insect and pest control, agrochemicals and residues, and food irradiation, particular emphasis being placed on the joint Agency/FAO programme of assistance to Member States in using nuclear techniques in agricultural research and development to improve food production, reduce losses and protect the environment. It was interesting to note in that connection that, as stated on page 50 of the annual report, increased emphasis had been placed on a project on the genetic improvement of basic food crops in Africa and that efforts would also concentrate on the domestication of local plant species as sources of food. In addition, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the programme to eradicate the tsetse fly from Zanzibar Island was progressing and that it promised to yield proven technologies for eradicating the vectors of African animal trypanosomiasis from many parts of Africa. His delegation believed that those and related activities in the area of food and agriculture would assist governments in their efforts to alleviate the most acute problem facing African countries - shortage of food.

91. In the area of human health, his delegation attached great importance to the work being done in nuclear medicine, in applied radiation biology and radiotherapy and in

dosimetry and to the nutritional and health-related environmental studies being supported by the Agency. It noted with satisfaction the Agency's efforts to alleviate the difficulties encountered by developing countries in that critical area. It was entirely appropriate that, as indicated on page 69 of the annual report, the Agency should be addressing issues where nuclear techniques were especially efficient and cost effective in the prevention, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of diseases, or in the analysis of health problems related to the environment such as pollution and the availability of nutrients, particular emphasis being placed, in co-operation with WHO, on techniques suitable for the study and management of communicable diseases, nutritional problems, and cancer, heart and brain diseases, all of which were rightly recognized by the Agency as being of special significance for developing countries. Also, it was noteworthy that in 1992 projects had continued to focus on strengthening indigenous skills and capabilities.

92. His delegation appreciated the comprehensive and highly informative nature of the Director General's report on the Agency's technical co-operation activities in 1992. It was encouraging to see from the report that 231 of the 1094 projects operational in 1992 had been completed.

93. Noting that Africa now accounted for the largest share of the Agency's technical co-operation programme, he said that the report had been right in pointing out that the emphasis on Africa was appropriate for the region with the largest number of LDCs - 13 of them Member States of the Agency - and urged the Agency to further intensify its efforts to increase the amount of technical assistance being provided to African countries. Besides helping individual countries to apply nuclear techniques in agriculture, public health and water resources development to establish radiation protection infrastructure and to engage in manpower development, the Agency should promote regional co-operation in the areas in question. In that connection, it was noteworthy that significant progress had been made towards closer co-operation among AFRA countries, which had become more aware of the potential benefits of regional co-operation.

94. Ethiopia, which had been a Member of the Agency since its inception, in 1957, had co-operated closely with the Agency and had received technical assistance in various forms. Nevertheless, his country would like the co-operation to be even closer, with a view to the

enhancement of Ethiopia's ability to receive technical assistance. At a time when Ethiopia was engaged in a fundamental transformation of all sectors of national life, and particularly in economic reconstruction and development, it went without saying that assistance from the Agency, with special emphasis on the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, was essential to the success of its efforts. Ethiopia was therefore committed to working more closely with the Agency so as to benefit more from its assistance. To that end, in October 1992 it had opened a Permanent Mission in Vienna with the strengthening of co-operation with the Agency as one of its primary functions.

95. In April, a visit of the Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation to Ethiopia had provided an opportunity to exchange views on the needs and priorities of the country as regards Agency assistance. In Ethiopia, agricultural and hydrological applications of nuclear techniques offered important potential benefits. His country recognized that the practical feasibility of using nuclear techniques in the areas in question needed to be studied in depth and that projects should be carefully prepared. With a view to receiving increased assistance from the Agency, Ethiopia was about to promulgate a radiation protection law creating a separate Radiation Protection Authority under the Science and Technology Commission.

96. With regard to regional co-operation in nuclear science and technology, Ethiopia had, in June, joined AFRA, which now had 16 members. Already ten AFRA projects had been initiated, most of them of potential interest to Ethiopia. His country hoped to contribute to the activities being conducted within the AFRA framework.

97. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's commitment to the objectives of the Agency as laid down in the Statute and its readiness to co-operate closely with the Agency, particularly in endeavouring to enhance and expand technical assistance to developing countries.

98. Mr. GREGORIC (Slovenia) said that Slovenia was a strong supporter of the NPT, to which it had acceded the previous year, and that it endorsed efforts to persuade countries which had not already done so to accede to the Treaty. Also, it supported the Board's efforts to improve the safeguards system through provisions regarding special

inspections, the early provision of design information, access to additional information and universal reporting. In addition, it was in favour of an indefinite extension of the NPT.

99. The cases of Iraq and the DPRK had demonstrated that the safeguards system required further improvement, and in that connection his country believed that a mechanism should be established for controlling nuclear material and technology and related dual-use items. Also, Slovenia supported all efforts directed towards a ban on all nuclear explosions.

100. He commended the Agency on its role in the drafting of a nuclear safety convention, to which it attached great importance, and on its programmes for improving the safety of the nuclear power plants built to earlier safety standards. The nuclear safety convention should cover not only power reactors, but also nuclear facilities. If necessary, however, his country could go along with the gradual expansion of a convention initially limited to power reactors. It was to be hoped that the present draft text would be finalized early the following year.

101. Paying tribute to the various international assistance efforts to improve nuclear power plant safety and strengthen nuclear regulatory infrastructures in the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, he said that further co-ordinated assistance would be needed in support of short-term measures for enhancing the safety of the nuclear power plants in question. Similar measures should be considered for research reactors, uranium mining and milling facilities and installations containing radiation sources used in medicine, agriculture and industry.

102. Slovenia noted with satisfaction the great efforts which had been made to ensure the safety of nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe. It was essential that those plants be as safe as possible during their remaining operating lives and that the countries in question therefore have access to the various sources of available assistance - including information.

103. The Slovenian delegation considered nuclear safety to be the Agency's priority activity, and consequently it strongly supported the OSART, ASSET and INSARR services, IPERS and other safety-related services.

104. His Government considered that the activities of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage were also very important and hoped that the work of revising the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage would soon be completed.

105. Slovenia supported the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, which had been drawn up after the Chernobyl accident, and was in favour of regular testing and improvement of their provisions.

106. It welcomed the formation by the Agency, in co-operation with FAO, ILO, NEA/OECD, WHO and PAHO, of a committee to deal with basic safety standards for radiation protection and supported the Agency's endeavours to establish modern standards.

107. It also welcomed the steps which had been taken to develop several projects in co-operation with FAO and WHO - for example, projects relating to food irradiation and a project for eradicating the tsetse fly from Zanzibar Island. In addition, Agency activities relating to the application of nuclear techniques in environmental protection - including flue gas purification - were to be commended.

108. Noting that many Member States had hosted and funded a number of Agency training courses and workshops on nuclear matters, he expressed his Government's full support for the Agency's endeavours in the area of education and training. Slovenia, which had benefited from Agency technical co-operation programmes, was ready to place its nuclear training centre at the disposal of the Agency for such courses and seminars.

109. Mr. PEYRAT (Paraguay) said that his country was in favour of nuclear energy being used for peaceful purposes and earnestly hoped that its diversion to military uses would be prevented. Paraguay, being an agricultural country urgently in need of appropriate techniques for its development and having entered into legal undertakings concerning the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and safeguards, looked to the Agency for assistance in acquiring equipment, facilities, services and technologies for research in support of its agricultural, health and industrial sectors.

110. The co-operation of States was essential in order to promote development and safety at the regional level; in that connection Paraguay welcomed the bilateral agreement setting up the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). Positive decisions had been taken in other regions regarding vertical proliferation and the elimination of existing nuclear weapons, with utilization of the nuclear material in

them for peaceful purposes. Such developments were welcome as they might lead to the establishment, in various parts of the world, of nuclear-weapon-free zones like the one envisaged by the Tlatelolco Treaty.

111. Turning to the subject of nuclear safety and radiological protection, to which his country attached great importance, he said that Paraguay was currently drawing up basic standards. In addition, radiological protection and nuclear safety were being taught at medical faculties and in short courses intended for doctors, technologists and people working with radioactive materials.

112. In order to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear safety and radiological protection, the National Atomic Energy Commission was currently setting up a multidisciplinary project in which bodies such as the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare would participate. For other projects concerning the environment and biomedicine, Paraguay would need the technical and economic assistance of the Agency.

113. As an agricultural and stock-raising country without access to the sea, Paraguay had to contend with complicated customs formalities which caused the loss of practically 50% of its perishable exportable produce. Accordingly, it had urgent technician training requirements in the field of food irradiation. In addition, Paraguay needed low-cost desalination technology so as to be able to colonize and develop the Chaco plain, where there were major reserves of brackish underground water.

114. Under its technical co-operation programme, the Agency had assisted Paraguay with - inter alia - the application of nuclear techniques, the establishment of a nuclear instrumentation laboratory, the acquisition of radiation protection equipment, the measurement of low-level radiation, the diagnosis and eradication of animal diseases, application of the ELISA technique, the establishment of radioimmunoassay laboratories and the use of tracers in hydrochemistry and bacteriology.

115. However, it was to ARCAL that Paraguay attached the greatest importance, believing that the Agency should provide more resources and negotiate contributions from countries and establishments outside the ARCAL region.

116. The Paraguayan delegation was concerned about the percentage decline in technical assistance provided to Latin America. It was also concerned about the envisaged 12% cut in 1994 financial plans and the possible impact on Agency technical co-operation activities. In view of the Agency's continuing financial difficulties, it was essential to determine the likely effectiveness of programmes that might be included in the Medium-Term Plan for 1995-2000, which should preclude duplication, ensure maximum rationalization, provide for the participation of developing countries - which might make available the services of experts - and promote the involvement of women.

117. The refusal by the DPRK to implement the safeguards agreement which it had concluded with the Agency under the NPT created a dangerous situation, and Paraguay urged the DPRK to fulfil the obligations it had undertaken. It hoped that the Director General would continue with his endeavours to achieve full implementation of the safeguards agreement and thereby prevent the creation of a precedent that would impede the establishment of a universal non-proliferation system. In that connection, his delegation supported those delegations which had called for the creation of a committee open to all States - to carry out a continuous, in-depth study of matters connected with the strengthening of safeguards, which were at present being considered by the Board of Governors in a discontinuous, piecemeal fashion. The committee, whose deliberations should be subject to a time-limit, might have as its task the formulation of recommendations for achieving universality of safeguards without affecting existing safeguards agreements.

118. The major upheavals currently taking place in the world should be an occasion for promoting development and security through the wise use of nuclear energy, an end to which all countries should strive.

119. Mr. MTELEKA (United Republic of Tanzania) said his country was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance which it had provided in helping to establish a viable radiation protection infrastructure and promote the application of nuclear techniques under Tanzania's National Nuclear Technology Transfer Programme. Implementation of the country's modest nuclear technology programme, initiated two years previously with the help of a RAPAT mission, and the establishment of a radiation protection infrastructure, initiated ten years previously, were progressing well. That had only been possible because of the

unfailing attention paid by the Agency's staff to Tanzanian projects financed from the TACF. Tanzania hoped that the present excellent co-operation would continue and that high project implementation rates would be achieved.

120. Because of economic constraints, Tanzania's efforts to acquire nuclear technology depended to a great extent on the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. The success of those efforts in areas such as agriculture, industry, medicine and research had been due mainly to an increase in the amount of technical assistance provided to Tanzania. His country was therefore extremely concerned about the widening gap between the total contributions actually made to the TACF and the agreed TACF target, which would have a serious negative impact on the nuclear technology acquisition programmes of developing countries, and particularly LDCs. In their interest, his delegation urged all Member States to make a greater effort to contribute to the TACF. Furthermore, his delegation reiterated the call made by most developing countries for technical assistance to be funded through the Regular Budget or from comparably predictable and assured resources. Tanzania believed that technical co-operation had been and was still instrumental in creating the infrastructure necessary for an expansion of nuclear technology applications.

121. It was of prime importance for the Agency to maintain an appropriate balance between its promotional activities and not expand some at the expense of the other. Otherwise, the justifiable need to strengthen safeguards and the resulting additional expense would lead to a considerable decrease in the contributions made to the TACF for financing promotional activities, particularly those relating to the non-power uses of nuclear energy. The overemphasizing of one of the Agency's two essential functions to the detriment of the other would undermine the Agency. Although it would be very difficult to link promotion of the non-proliferation regime with official development aid, the idea should be investigated, for it was very important to try to strengthen the regime and make the NPT more universal. At the same time, the Cold War was over and the nuclear-weapon States should increase their efforts directed towards a comprehensive nuclear test ban and ultimately nuclear disarmament.

122. In order to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it was necessary to minimize proliferation. Although the NPT was not all-powerful, it was the core of the non-

proliferation regime, and efforts should therefore be made to strengthen it through alternative approaches. In the interests of the continued success of the NPT, all parties involved in ongoing discussions - and particularly the Agency, the NPT depositary States and the DPRK - should be patient and exercise diplomacy, abiding by the golden rule of problem settlement through peaceful negotiations, which were absolutely essential to the achievement of harmony, peace, security and the success of the NPT. The use of economic or military pressure only aggravated the problem and, although it might lead to a temporary solution, would destroy all goodwill among the parties. A peaceful settlement of the problem required that the parties try to understand each other's point of view and, in so doing, appreciate the importance of safeguards as the real guarantee of compliance with the NPT. He wished to emphasize, however, that "nuclear problems" and cases of non-compliance with the NPT would continue to arise as long as it was accepted that some NPT parties had the right to possess nuclear weapons.

123. In 1992, noting South Africa's accession to the NPT and the conclusion of an NPT safeguards agreement between South Africa and the Agency, the United Nations and the General Conference had emphasized the need for a complete inventory of the nuclear installations and material in South Africa which were subject to the safeguards agreement, in order to ensure peace and security in the region. Tanzania warmly welcomed the ongoing developments in South Africa, which gave cause for hope that Africa would become a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and hoped that all Member States would co-operate with the Director General to that end.

124. According to the report by the Director General on the Agency's technical co-operation activities in 1992, the overall implementation rate in 1992 had been 59.3%. For LDCs, however, the implementation rate had been much lower. The reasons for that should be found and the problems resolved. In the opinion of his delegation, one problem was the Agency's rigid policy of not financing operational activities and not helping to establish basic infrastructure even after the need for it to do so had become evident during project implementation. The Agency should demonstrate some flexibility, particularly with regard to LDCs, in order to ensure the success of its projects and not lose the benefits of its initial investments.

125. The Agency was to be commended for its efforts to promote regional co-operation aimed at expediting the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries. The support given to Asia and the Pacific through RCA, to Latin American countries through ARCAL and now to African countries through AFRA ensured the efficient and effective use of available resources and also promoted peace and understanding in the regions concerned. His delegation strongly supported the Agency's efforts in that direction and urged the Agency to devote more attention to AFRA, in which it would like to see further States joining. Also, his delegation greatly appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions made by France and Spain in support of various AFRA projects and hoped that other countries would come forward and support the remaining projects.

126. The Agency had done good work in strengthening international co-operation in matters relating to nuclear safety and radiological protection, the efforts in question relating directly to the Agency's statutory obligations. His delegation particularly endorsed the efforts aimed at the implementation of a programme for education and training in radiological protection and nuclear safety.

127. Mr. POPAL (Afghanistan) said that for 15 years the Afghan nation had fought against a Superpower armed to the teeth with modern weapons. At the beginning of the Afghan Jihad, defeating the former Soviet Union had for some people seemed but a dream. Through reliance on God and belief in the Afghan Jihad, however, the Afghans had defeated the former Soviet Union - and the dream had come true.

128. Unfortunately, that success had cost Afghanistan dear: more than a million and a half people had been killed, there were more than a million war invalids, the country's industry, agriculture and educational and residential infrastructure had been almost completely destroyed, and some five million Afghans had been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in other countries.

129. European, Asian and Arab countries and the United States of America had helped the Afghans to achieve freedom. In addition, world public opinion, the realistic judgement of international organizations and the influence of distinguished individuals with great

international stature had contributed significantly to the success of the Afghan nation, which was sincerely grateful to them all.

130. Since the success of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, however, most of those who had helped the country during the Jihad years had become indifferent to the fate of the people of ruined Afghanistan. The Afghan people had hoped that they would give them urgent assistance in the reconstruction of the country and prevent foreign interference in their internal affairs. Under the leadership of the President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Mr. Burhanudin Rabani, they were taking active steps to establish a government of law and order, democracy, good relations with all countries of the world, and respect for human rights (including women's rights) to provide education for the younger generation, to combat illiteracy and the production of and trafficking in narcotics, and to organize free elections under the supervision of the United Nations and the Conference of Islamic States.

131. Recently, the President - a university professor - had urged all intellectuals living abroad to return to Afghanistan and play a sincere part in the rehabilitation of the country. Also, he had launched a national campaign against all kinds of negative phenomena and put a stop to all war propaganda.

132. Calling upon delegations to convey to their governments and people what he had just been saying on behalf of a nation whose country had been ruined, he expressed the hope that Afghanistan would receive the economic and scientific aid it urgently needed, that countries which had helped Afghanistan during the Jihad years would reopen their embassies in Kabul and that the indifference to the fate of the Afghan people would end.

133. With regard to the atomic energy situation in Afghanistan, since 1978 atomic energy matters had been the responsibility of the National Atomic Commission of Afghanistan (NAECA), which was presided over by the Dean of Kabul University's Faculty of Science. From 1957 to 1990 the Agency had assisted Afghanistan with projects relating to neutron activation, X-ray fluorescence, liquid nitrogen, neutronic hygrometry, nuclear electronics and cobalt therapy.

134. Only three of the six projects in question were active. The others were in suspense, and in order to activate them Agency experts must come to Kabul and install the equipment at appropriate locations.

135. Referring to the cobalt therapy project, he said that, with the Agency's assistance, a cobalt therapy unit with a cobalt-60 source supplied by Hungary had been established at the Ali-Abad University Hospital in 1978. Since then about 7000 cancer patients from all over Afghanistan had been treated. Because of the war, the cobalt-60 source had not been renewed and its activity had fallen to less than 700 Ci. As a result, the exposure time for each field had been increased from 10-15 seconds to 10-15 minutes, and the treatment of most patients had had to be delayed for several days. The limited number of radiologists, physicists and technicians had also caused serious problems. Fortunately, a cyclotherapy unit was to be delivered to Afghanistan and installed shortly, and that should solve the problems in that area. However, Agency specialists were still needed in order to put the unit into operation at the Ali-Abad Hospital.

136. In 1990 there had been plans to provide Afghanistan with a radioisotope generator for the production of iodine-131, technetium, etc. and with two scholarships and two fellowships for training in radiation therapy. So far, the only thing actually provided had been one of the fellowships. He hoped that the plans in question would ultimately be implemented in full.

137. In 1986 Afghanistan had submitted four project proposals to the Agency, which had accepted three - relating to dosimetry in radiation therapy, radiation protection and a nitrogen-15 analysis. Unfortunately, because of the war in Afghanistan the three projects in question had not been implemented. He hoped that they would be implemented in due course.

138. Afghanistan had urgent needs in the areas of food and animal feed preservation, radiation protection and electricity generation, and it looked forward to receiving assistance from the Agency in those areas.

139. Mr. TASHJIAN (Armenia) expressing his Government's gratitude to the General Conference for its having approved Armenia for membership of the Agency, said

that his country was fully aware of the responsibilities of Agency membership and would continue to support the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

140. In the former Soviet Union, Armenia had been in the forefront both of nuclear research and of nuclear power generation, with two WWER-440/230 plants. The two plants had been shut down early in 1989 by Government decision for a safety evaluation, after operating for 20 reactor-years and generating over 45 billion kW·h of electrical energy without any significant incidents.

141. Armenia was currently in the midst of an energy crisis due to the political environment in the region; electricity for residential use could be provided for only 2-4 hours each day, and industry was at best able to operate at only 30% of its capacity. Accordingly, the Armenian Government had no choice but to reactivate the country's two nuclear power plants.

142. In order to meet the country's minimum energy requirements and alleviate undue human suffering, his Government wished to co-operate closely with the Agency, and in that context it committed itself to working to make the world a safer place for all.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.