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President: Mr. BAER (Switzerland)
Later: Mr. MARSCHIK (Austria)

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[*] GC(XXXVIII)/25

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXVIII)/INF/11/Rev.2.

93- 03832 (X)

Abbreviations used in this record

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
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
ASCOT	Assessment of Safety Culture in Organizations Team
ASSET	Analysis of Safety Significant Events Team
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
IPERS	International Peer Review Service
Joint FAO/IAEA Division	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
R&D	Research and development
RBMK	High-power channel-type reactor (Soviet Union)
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
RIA	Radioimmunoassay
SAGSI	Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation
START	Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
Vienna Convention	Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (May 1961)
WWER	Water-cooled and -moderated reactor

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993 (GC(XXXVIII)/2 and Corr.1) (continued)

1. Mr. MANNAN (Bangladesh) confirmed Bangladesh's unconditional commitment to the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, as reflected in its commitment to the NPT, in its safeguards agreement with the Agency and in its various research and development programmes. As it prepared to enter the twenty-first century and moved towards a market economy, Bangladesh recognized the need not only to import technologies but also to develop technologies which responded to local needs in order to maximize the benefits it obtained from its limited resources. International organizations such as the Agency had an important role to play in that context, with regard both to technology transfer and to the provision of assistance in the development of indigenous technologies.

2. Nuclear-related R&D programmes in Bangladesh included programmes connected with food preservation, the sterilization of medical supplies, medical care, agricultural production, radiation protection and environmental monitoring, quality control and quality assurance, electronic instrumentation and control systems, radioisotope production, hydrology and studies on sedimentation, industrial applications including non-destructive testing, and radiation protection and monitoring services. To address its short-, medium- and long-term problems, Bangladesh had drawn up an action plan for R&D in nuclear science and technology with a view to linking various research activities to global objectives and ensuring the appropriate utilization of limited financial, infrastructural and human resources. It hoped that the Agency and other international organizations would help it implement that plan effectively.

3. The services being provided in the diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases using nuclear and other state-of-the-art techniques demonstrated the practical success of laboratory-scale R&D work in Bangladesh. Thanks to programmes on non-destructive testing and elemental analysis, it had been possible to enhance the interaction between the research community and industry; also, application of the techniques in question in the public and private sectors had already yielded some successes, including successes in the area of human resources development. Bangladesh hoped that similar services would become widely available in due course. Imported foodstuffs and consumables were being subjected to

controls in order to determine their acceptability for consumption from the point of view of radiation levels. Efforts were under way to enhance the utilization of Bangladesh's research reactor through the implementation of various research programmes and the production of radioisotopes. Thanks to Agency support, the country's Gamma Irradiation Facility, which had been established with the co-operation of a local private company, had made possible the commercialization of R&D results relating to the preservation of food items and to the sterilization of medical supplies and equipment. In that context, he commended the Agency's technical assistance programme, thanked the Agency for the support it had given to R&D programmes in Bangladesh and expressed the hope that the Agency would help Bangladesh to improve the utilization of existing facilities, especially the research reactor.

4. As regards legislation, the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Act had been passed by the National Assembly and was already in force, and some regulations which would ensure its effective application were in the process of being formulated.

5. Bangladesh, which was actively involved in various projects within the framework of the RCA, particularly research programmes, believed RCA activities should be extended to areas such as the use of tracer techniques in groundwater surveys and in studies on flows and sedimentation in international rivers. Programmes on the application of nuclear techniques in industry, medicine, agriculture and other sectors of the economy were expected to enhance the capabilities of RCA countries. Also, the project on nuclear power should be extended in order to enable the countries concerned to meet the challenges they were facing in their energy development programmes. Bangladesh was hosting various RCA activities (courses, regional workshops and technical committee meetings) which had a positive impact on its own programmes, and it was grateful to the Agency for the support provided in that regard.

6. It was feared that economic activities in Bangladesh would suffer seriously from a major energy shortage in general, and an electricity shortage in particular, unless Bangladesh succeeded in increasing the capacity of its national grid. His country was currently encouraging foreign private companies to participate in the establishment of power plants by offering incentive packages. It would be possible to satisfy only part of the country's projected energy demand with indigenous resources, but nuclear power generation - implemented by public-sector, private-sector or joint-venture enterprises - had been identified

as a viable alternative. The efforts of Bangladesh to implement its first nuclear power project, the technical and economic justification of which had been clearly demonstrated, were coming up against financial obstacles. The potential financiers, including international institutions, seemed to have insufficient information about various aspects of nuclear power (economics; adaptability to conditions in developing countries; safety and environmental considerations), and he would like to see the Agency addressing those issues as a matter of urgency and exploring opportunities for the international financing of nuclear power programmes.

7. Mr. MAKA (Zambia) thanked the Director General for his opening statement and the detailed report on the Agency's activities in 1993, which, despite some constraints, had been implemented in a competent and efficient manner, as the Annual Report for 1993 showed.

8. The Agency's technical co-operation activities played a crucial role in the utilization of nuclear science and technology to resolve some of the developing world's problems. Zambia was involved in four national projects, four regional projects and five research contracts covering agriculture, radiation protection, health and scientific research. Of the three research contracts which had been concluded in 1994, one was to be initiated before the end of the year. The projects, which should have a positive socio-economic impact, included studies of the stability of dip tank chemicals used for the effective eradication of ticks on cattle, the production of gamma-sterilized biological tissue grafts for the treatment of burns, nitrogen fixation in trees, adverse side-effects of organochlorine pesticides on the flora and fauna in Zambia, and the use of radioimmunoassay techniques to improve livestock health and productivity. The country's tissue culture laboratory was collaborating with the Zambia Seed Company in producing 4000 potato seed microtubers a year. The University Hospital in Lusaka was conducting clinical trials with amniotic membrane tissue grafts for the treatment of burns which were being sterilized by the cobalt-60 irradiator of the National Nuclear Analytical Laboratory. The results obtained were extremely encouraging.

9. The Agency continued to play a vital role in the training of Zambian personnel in nuclear science and technology. In 1994, eight Zambian scientists and technicians had attended Agency courses and seminars and 12 training fellowships had been awarded for a

total of 42 man-months. He was proud to report that all except two of the Agency-trained fellows were still working in Zambia. Institutions in Zambia were complementing the efforts of the Agency and other donors in the area of specialized training. In that regard, his country hoped the Agency would continue with the project on manpower development in the African region, which had contributed to the enhancement of human resources in nuclear science and technology. It was grateful to the Agency for providing fellowship holders with training in developing countries under conditions similar to those in their countries of origin. In 1993, four Zambians had benefited from that kind of arrangement, which promoted co-operation among developing countries.

10. Problems with the maintenance and repair of nuclear equipment continued to hamper the effective utilization of certain Agency-donated facilities. Zambia was contributing to specialized training in that important area. In 1994, a medical equipment technician from a local hospital had spent six months in an electronics workshop which the Agency had supported under project ZAM/4/004. Zambian facilities were currently being used for a regional workshop on troubleshooting and the repair of power supplies for nuclear instruments and personal computers as part of regional project RAF/4/004 on nuclear instrument maintenance. He urged donors to support the AFRA activities in question.

11. Zambia was cognizant of the need for adequate and effective radiation protection as a requisite for the safe use of nuclear energy and was continuing its efforts to strengthen its national radiation protection service, in particular by increasing staffing levels and funding. Further assistance from the Agency was required in order to train new staff, develop codes of practice and guidelines, set up calibration facilities and host national and regional courses.

12. Zambia viewed AFRA, to which it had become a party on 20 December 1993, as a sure way of sharing resources, knowledge and expertise in Africa. His country hoped the Agency would continue to support AFRA projects strongly through the technical co-operation budget, since there was a risk that the financing of those projects would suffer from the difficulties which certain Member States were encountering owing to their economic structural adjustment programmes or to natural catastrophes such as drought. Zambia welcomed the consultations which were taking place between the Agency and States party to AFRA with a view to extending Agency support to AFRA for a further five years.

13. Zambia welcomed the Republic of South Africa back to the United Nations family, and in particular to the Agency. That country's financial position and expertise should be of great benefit to the development of nuclear science and technology in Africa. The new situation in South Africa would certainly speed up efforts to make Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

14. The delegation of Zambia approved the measures the Agency was taking to reduce the costs - while maintaining the quality and effectiveness - of the safeguards system and welcomed the safeguards statement for 1993, which showed that the Agency was succeeding in ensuring that only peaceful applications of nuclear energy were promoted. Zambia was to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency during the current session of the General Conference and would like all States, and in particular those which had significant nuclear activities, to accede to the NPT and conclude comprehensive safeguard agreements with the Agency.

15. His delegation was still concerned about the lack of progress in the consultations within the Board of Governors on the questions of amending Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and revising Article VI as a whole. It strongly supported the proposal that the current imbalance in the geographical representation in the Board be redressed by ensuring that the statutory principle of equitable representation was applied to the regions of Africa and the Middle East and South Asia. Also, Zambia supported the call for reliable and predictable funding for technical assistance and thought that the Agency should ensure a balance between its promotional activities and the other activities within its mandate.

16. With regard to voluntary contributions to the TACF for 1995, he noted that the target was US $61.5 million and that Zambia's share of that target was $6150.

17. Mr. HASHIM (Malaysia), noting with satisfaction the thorough analysis of the Agency's activities made by the Director General in his opening statement, said that Malaysia would continue to support the Agency in the accomplishment of its mission. In addition, his Government, conscious of the assistance and co-operation which Malaysia received from the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, congratulated the Division on the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary.

18. In Malaysia, promotion of the uses of nuclear science and technology was entrusted to the Malaysian Institute for Nuclear Technology Research, whose role was to enhance national development and economic competitiveness. The Government encouraged the self-financing of all R&D organizations with a view to increasing their autonomy. Programmes and projects currently being formulated for inclusion in the seventh Malaysian five-year plan, for the period 1996-2000, would be included in the ten-year national development plan and would focus on sustainability and the end-user. The acquisition of technology and expertise in the nuclear field, particularly for industry, agriculture and medicine, had been financed largely by the Malaysian Government, with support provided through the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme.

19. His delegation endorsed the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts for 1993. It commended the Agency on its prudent management of resources and its endeavour to return to normal programme implementation in 1995. Also, it agreed with the new approach designed to enable the Agency's main activities to respond better to the real needs of Member States. With regard to the proposed programme and budget for 1995 and 1996, Malaysia endorsed the idea of reassessing the Agency's programmes in order to determine and discontinue those which were no longer relevant. His delegation, acknowledging efforts to enhance harmony and compatibility between the Agency's programme and budget documents and its accounts documents, felt that financial allocations should be based on programmes rather than on administrative structure and hoped that resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/581 would be implemented very soon.

20. Malaysia pledged the sum of $73 800 to the TACF for 1995, in line with its share based on the indicative planning figures. Reaffirming his country's intention to do the same in the future, he called on other Member States to pay their share of the target in a timely manner. It was essential that all Member States continuously support the Agency's activities in order to ensure that countries requiring assistance received it. Malaysia was fully aware of the fact that the strengthening of technical co-operation activities had to be based on an increase in the Agency's resources, both financial and other. It believed in encouraging an effective distribution of resources, expertise and experience and would continue to play its role in strengthening technical co-operation by hosting scientists from other Member States

and providing the services of Malaysian experts whenever required. Also, it wished to encourage and strengthen co-operation between Malaysian institutes and their counterparts in other Member States. Malaysia owned a 1 MW(th) research reactor of the Triga Mark II type, which was reputed for its safety, simplicity and economy; the reactor was being used for education, training and research and for isotope production, nuclear analyses and instrument calibration.

21. Malaysia appreciated the assistance provided by the Agency under the RCA and would contribute $50 000 for UNDP programmes being implemented under the RCA during the current five-year period. It was pleased with its bilateral co-operation with such countries as Australia and Japan and hoped to establish similar, mutually beneficial, ties with other countries.

22. Malaysia supported the Agency's role in monitoring and verifying the implementation of safeguards agreements. It considered that the current financial arrangements for safeguards were satisfactory and needed no modification. While efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system within the framework of Programme 93+2 were laudable, care should be taken not to incur additional costs. In that context, Malaysia - which advocated universal adherence to the NPT - congratulated Latvia, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Slovenia, Zambia and Kazakhstan on having concluded NPT safeguards agreements. Also, it commended India's readiness to allow Agency inspections of its nuclear facilities pursuant to its safeguards agreement. In addition, it welcomed ratification by Ukraine of START-I.

23. His delegation welcomed adoption of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which should be implemented without delay, and was pleased that South Africa's rights in the Agency had been restored. Finally, it noted with satisfaction the conclusions of the Technical Co-operation Policy Review Seminar and looked forward to their adoption.

24. Mr. van EBBENHORST TENGBERGEN (Netherlands), fully endorsing the statement made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union, said that in order to meet the new security challenges of the post-cold war era the Agency had to adapt to changes in the world and, more than ever, increase its effectiveness and efficiency. The

non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes were not only political priorities; they were also increasingly important to society as a whole. The fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, both of which fell in 1995, would mark the beginning of a new era for the Agency.

25. The international non-proliferation regime should provide for reliable verification. Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system would strengthen the role which the Agency could play and thereby reduce the risk of nuclear material or installations remaining undeclared and undetected; also, it would enhance confidence in the Agency's safeguards system. It was therefore very important that in 1995 the Agency present the conclusions of Programme 93+2, which was based on a SAGSI report whose conclusions were endorsed by the Government of the Netherlands. Presentation by the Agency of the results of its study before the 1995 NPT Conference would improve the chances of achieving an unconditional extension of the NPT for an indefinite period, as supported by the Netherlands and its European Union partners. The NPT, cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, was also of great value for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. His delegation therefore called upon the countries not yet party to the NPT to accede, making it as universal in its adherence as it already was in its scope.

26. The credibility of the safeguards system was closely related to universal acceptance of that system. The Netherlands welcomed ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty by Argentina, Brazil and Chile, which increased the likelihood of a nuclear-weapon-free zone being created in Latin America and the Caribbean in the near future. It also welcomed efforts, which might soon take effect, to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. Those developments would certainly serve as an example to other regions of the world, such as South Asia - or the Middle East, where the continuing peace process gave grounds to hope for greater political stability, economic co-operation and security guaranteed by international agreements, including agreements in the nuclear field.

27. The credibility of the safeguards system would be enhanced if a solution was found to problems concerning application of the safeguards agreement with the DPRK. His

Government supported the efforts of the Director General and the United States to reach a solution acceptable to the international community as a whole.

28. Turning to nuclear safety, he said that the Convention on Nuclear Safety was a major achievement and expressed the hope that many countries, particularly those with nuclear power plants, would sign, ratify and implement the Convention soon. The Netherlands had signed the Convention that very day. Also, his delegation hoped that the Safety Fundamentals documents relating to radioactive waste management would soon be approved by the Board of Governors and that a convention on radioactive waste management would subsequently be drawn up. It acknowledged the work done by the Agency to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe.

29. With regard to the remarks made by the Director General on illicit trafficking in nuclear material, his delegation underlined the importance of the initiative taken by Germany on behalf of the European Union.

30. Referring to the financial difficulties faced by the Agency, he said that, while some progress had been made in the payment of contributions, it was nevertheless necessary to establish clear priorities and reduce costs wherever possible. Also, he endorsed the Director General's plea for more adequate, orderly and predictable financing in order that the Agency might carry out the activities called for by Member States. For its part, the Netherlands would pay $900 000 to the TACF, an amount which - as in previous years - corresponded to the base rate of assessment for the Netherlands.

31. Mr. BENBOUZID (Algeria) commended the work being done by the Agency and, at the same time, emphasized the extent of the tasks still to be undertaken in order to translate the Agency's aims and objectives into reality. The Agency had great experience and had demonstrated its capacity to adapt to new requirements. It would undoubtedly respond successfully to the current challenges and remain receptive to the legitimate demands of the developing countries, which looked forward to a strengthening of technical assistance and technology transfer activities with a view to the promotion and widespread application of nuclear energy in the cause of peace and the well-being of all peoples.

32. His delegation was pleased with the quality of the technical assistance being provided to Algeria by the Agency under its technical co-operation programme. Agency technical co-operation was having a positive social and environmental impact in areas such as health, agriculture, hydrology and industry. With the Agency's support, Algeria had started producing radiopharmaceuticals and RIA kits and was looking forward to the benefits that would accrue from their widespread use. Also, remarkable progress had been made in the diagnostic and therapeutic applications of nuclear medicine techniques, and that had led his Government to allocate additional funding to that field. There had been major advances in industrial gamma radiography as his Government had become aware of the significance of quality assurance programmes in industry. Algeria recognized sound radiation protection practices to be essential prerequisites for all nuclear activities and, with Agency assistance, had been promoting such practices through the formulation both of regulations and of implementation procedures.

33. Although far from being exhaustive, such examples illustrated Algeria's interest in the strengthening of technical co-operation. Also, Algeria attached great importance to the activities co-ordinated by the Agency in radioactive waste management, the practical utilization of food irradiation, the production of potable water economically through seawater desalination using nuclear power, and nuclear safety. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the conclusion of a Nuclear Safety Convention and was pleased to announce that Algeria was among the first signatories of that important international instrument.

34. As a firm supporter of nuclear non-proliferation, Algeria had voluntarily and unilaterally placed its two nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. It would continue its policy of complete transparency with regard to all its nuclear facilities and firmly intended to accede to the NPT. Algeria was thus satisfied with the tangible progress made in drafting a treaty on an African nuclear-weapon-free zone. The positive developments that had occurred in Africa had brought closer the realization of the noble ideal that the African Heads of State and Government had been striving for since 1964.

35. He welcomed the presence at the General Conference's current session of Mr. Alfred Nzo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of a united and non-racial South Africa exemplifying a democratic society dear to the African heart. The Algerian people and

Government had followed the South African people's struggle for freedom and rejoiced at the historic events of 27 April 1994, which had opened up new prospects for co-operation to the benefit of the peoples of Africa. For its part, Algeria intended to encourage co-operation at the bilateral, subregional and continental levels and lend its full support to the implementation of joint projects, including projects in the context of AFRA. It was to be hoped that the Agency and the international community would, through increased international assistance, continue to support that co-operation and its future intensification.

36. The Agency played a fundamental role in creating and strengthening the confidence that was essential to the promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy. In that regard, it should be remembered that countries had the right to develop peaceful nuclear programmes, to acquire suitable technology and to receive necessary technical assistance. The Agency's strength and credibility therefore had to be based on a coherent approach that allowed a balance to be achieved between all its activities, particularly those in the areas of safeguards and technical co-operation. Its moral authority would be strengthened by an enlargement of the Board of Governors, in which developing countries in general and African countries in particular were underrepresented. It would also be strengthened if decisive progress could be made in the formulation of a global and non-discriminatory approach to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and in the handling of issues related to disarmament, universal peace, regional and international security, the security of non-nuclear-weapon States, negative security assurances and the banning of nuclear testing.

37. Such multiple challenges still had to be met. The continued staunch adherence of Member States to the Agency's objectives was a sign of goodwill and of a readiness to engage in dialogue directed to peace and progress for all.

38. Mr. AALTO (Finland) said that, as the statement made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union reflected his country's position well, he would touch only on those aspects of the Agency's work which were of particular importance to Finland.

39. As a major per capita producer of nuclear power, Finland was strongly committed to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. On one hand, it had

benefited from international co-operation in building up its nuclear power generation capacity; and on the other, within the framework of the Agency it provided assistance to countries in neighbouring areas.

40. Turning to non-proliferation issues, he said his country favoured the unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT and was participating actively in the preparations for the conference on the NPT to be held in 1995. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency, whose safeguards system was essential to the NPT's implementation, was making an invaluable contribution to the preparatory process. Finland welcomed the important steps that the Agency had taken during the past year to further strengthen the safeguards system, particularly in relation to the detection of undeclared nuclear facilities. It supported the Agency's efforts and was contributing to them. It also welcomed the partnership agreement between the Agency and EURATOM; it would lead to urgently needed savings at a time when additional facilities were being placed under safeguards in many parts of the world. The Agency should seek further ways of performing its duties in as efficient a manner as possible, but given the new tasks facing the Agency his country recognized the need to determine whether additional human and financial resources were necessary and would be prepared to go along with the provision of such additional resources if redeployment and streamlining proved insufficient.

41. Since the previous General Conference session, a significant step forward had been taken with the adoption of the Nuclear Safety Convention, which Finland had just signed and which it hoped would attract the support of the greatest possible number of countries. His delegation considered that the observance of the highest standards in nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management was essential to the continued development of the various peaceful applications of nuclear energy. That was why, together with several other States, Finland had favoured making the scope of the Convention broader. Finland welcomed the commitment of the contracting parties to abide by corresponding principles in all nuclear energy applications and to develop an international convention on the safety of radioactive waste management.

42. The Agency had a recognized part to play in the formulation of international standards, particularly in the field of nuclear safety. However, it was important to stress the

fundamental role required of national safety authorities and plant operators in making sure that the highest safety standards were duly applied.

43. In recognition of the Agency's role in technical assistance and co-operation, Finland contributed in full its share of the TACF, and it would like to see all other countries doing likewise. In that regard, it welcomed the fact that the Agency's technical co-operation programme was giving greater prominence to radiation protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management.

44. During the past year, Finland had participated actively in the discussion on the Agency's priorities. Several useful proposals had been made as regards how best to ensure that the Agency had the necessary resources for all the new tasks it was expected to carry out. The world was changing, and the role of governments - like that of intergovernmental organizations - was changing too. Growing emphasis was being placed on the creation of a favourable environment for enterprises, institutions and other actors - both private and public. The Agency still had an important normative role to play, but might well no longer be required to perform all the substantive tasks - such as basic research - that governments had once seen fit to assign to it. In that way, valuable resources could be freed for new tasks of greater topical interest.

45. Mr. PALADE (Romania) said that the Annual Report for 1993 once again reflected a positive state of affairs. Despite difficult conditions, the Agency had maintained the high quality of its activities. The Director General and the Secretariat deserved the highest praise for their constant efforts to overcome the Agency's financial difficulties and implement annual programmes for promoting the many peaceful applications of nuclear energy, meeting the Agency's ever-increasing safeguards obligations, providing technical assistance, enhancing nuclear safety, stimulating R&D, ensuring technology transfer and providing specialized training for personnel from Member States. His delegation endorsed the Annual Report.

46. Romania had continued major R&D work in areas such as nuclear physics, reactor physics, the interaction of radiation with matter, the physics of materials, cryogenics,

radiobiology, radioecology and the utilization of isotopes and radiation in agriculture, medicine, industry and hydrology.

47. In the implementation of its nuclear power programme, which was receiving high priority, Romania was relying to a great extent on highly qualified foreign specialists and on international co-operation, including co-operation within the framework of the Agency. The nuclear power option offered a number of advantages: greater energy diversity, and hence a greater assurance of energy supplies; better utilization of the country's R&D and industrial infrastructures; less environmental pollution. The Cernavoda nuclear power plant, whose first unit was due to go into service at the beginning of 1995, would have a considerable socio-economic impact on Romania since it would satisfy approximately 10% of the country's energy needs. It would have a minimal impact on the environment and would meet the safety requirements laid down in international regulatory instruments. His Government was grateful to the Agency for the assistance it had given in attaining that objective.

48. Activities to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were being pursued within the framework of the reform and market economy policies of the Romanian Government, which was endeavouring to attract foreign capital, particularly for the nuclear power sector. The State, which had retained control of the nuclear industry, was responsible for its regulation. In that connection, he thanked the Agency for the help it had given his country in establishing a regulatory infrastructure for nuclear safety and radiation protection.

49. With regard to the Agency's budget for 1995, his Government realized that not all the priorities of Member States could be accommodated in a zero-real-growth budgetary situation. Nevertheless, extensive consultations and in-depth analyses had - in the view of his delegation - resulted in a balanced solution. The balance was also attributable to important technical adjustments which had been made by the Secretariat and which had released additional funds for priority programmes.

50. The technical assistance and co-operation activities of the Agency were among its primary functions and were accorded high priority by developing countries. The only major difficulty seemed to be that, owing to a shortage of resources, not all desirable and technically feasible projects could be financed. Furthermore, the value of that part of the

technical co-operation programme which was financed from non-convertible currencies had declined, as had the amount of extrabudgetary resources - including funds from UNDP. His delegation considered it essential that contributions to the TACF increase and that greater support be provided for footnote-a/ projects. Participation in the Agency's technical co-operation programme, which was a powerful tool for the transfer of nuclear know-how, had helped Romania to strengthen its nuclear power and nuclear safety capabilities and promote a large number of nuclear applications in vital sectors such as industry, agriculture, medicine, environmental protection and hydrology. His Government was grateful for the contribution made by the Agency and a number of Member States to the development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology in Romania and had decided, despite budgetary constraints, to contribute its full share of the TACF target for 1995 - one half in United States dollars and the other half in national currency.

51. His Government, which associated itself with the efforts being made to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, believed that the large number of States which had acceded to the NPT was proof of increasingly widespread acceptance of the principles of non-proliferation, in whose implementation the Agency was playing such an important role. With regard to safeguards, the challenges recently faced by the Agency, the steps taken by it and the solutions devised by it had once again confirmed the Agency's growing role in international affairs and its capacity for forceful response. His delegation greatly appreciated the way in which the Agency had fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council with regard to the DPRK. The resumption of dialogue between the Agency and the DPRK and the discussions between the DPRK and certain Member States were grounds for hope that the problem would be resolved, thereby considerably enhancing the NPT regime. Significant progress had been made over the past two years towards the universality of the NPT. That was particularly important in view of the NPT Conference due to be held in 1995. His Government regarded the NPT as a crucial element of the international security regime and favoured its indefinite extension.

52. Romania, which in the Board of Governors had strongly supported the measures taken to remedy inadequacies in the safeguards system, welcomed SAGSI's recommendations, implementation of which should help achieve a more effective and efficient safeguards

regime. In accordance with its policy on non-proliferation, his Government had endorsed the Nuclear Suppliers Group's new regime for controlling exports of nuclear-related dual-use items and placing nuclear supplies under comprehensive safeguards, and it would like all other States to do the same. It had introduced national regulations covering the import and export of nuclear-related items and technology and had established an effective national monitoring mechanism which conformed to international practice.

53. Romania, which attached great importance to nuclear safety, continued to support the Agency's efforts in that field. Thanks to Agency assistance, it now had a clear idea, based on internationally accepted guiding principles and good practices, of the requirements which its programmes were expected to meet and of the necessary structures and regulations relating to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

54. His delegation was pleased with the progress made regarding, inter alia, the International Nuclear Event Scale, the Agency's emergency response activities, the programme of assistance to Central and East European countries, and the preparation of new Basic Safety Standards for radiation protection. The various services offered by the Agency in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection were extremely useful, and Romania had benefited greatly from them through assessments carried out during construction of its nuclear power plant and other nuclear facilities. In conclusion, he said that Romania had already signed the Convention on Nuclear Safety adopted on 17 June 1994.

55. Mr. CHIDAMBARAM (India) said that, from the long-term perspective of energy needs, nuclear power represented an inevitable and environmentally benign option, in particular for developing countries. The Agency had an important role to play in helping its Member States develop nuclear power and in the exchange of technical information. In India, nuclear power already accounted for a significant portion of the electricity production in the half dozen states where nuclear power plants had been constructed, and that portion would increase rapidly in the decades to come. In that regard, he was pleased to announce that India's tenth power reactor, at Kakrapar, was due to go critical the following month and that the construction of four further reactors was at the half-way stage.

56. Although, in the eyes of the public, atomic energy meant nuclear power, there were also important non-power applications of atomic energy - in agriculture, medicine and industry. The Agency could be justly proud of its contribution to the spread of such applications, which affected the lives of most individuals and could be a significant factor for progress in most developing countries. Thus, in India, urd beans (an important source of protein) produced by radiation mutation at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre accounted for almost 90% of the cultivation of that pulse in the state where the Centre was located.

57. His delegation welcomed the initiatives that the Agency had taken in the area of food irradiation. The Agency should each year embark upon at least one such major project of demonstrable benefit to people in developing countries. India and other Member States were looking forward to the presentation of a programme in the area of isotope hydrology for groundwater management.

58. With regard to another area of non-power applications, he said that the Agency was rightly placing emphasis on research reactor utilization, but radioisotope production was limited by a shortage of high-flux research reactors. The facilities in some developing countries were often under-utilized or beset with problems, including a lack of financial support. The Agency should make a special effort to remedy that situation. In that context, he reiterated his country's view that the funds available for technical co-operation projects should be increased considerably. It was essential that all Member States pay their contributions in time. For its part, India would pay its share of the TACF target for 1995.

59. Turning to safeguards, he said that India had consistently regarded them as one of the Agency's important and legitimate functions. The recent increase in safeguards activities carried out by the Agency in various parts of the world had placed a heavy strain on its resources. It was therefore necessary to concentrate on reducing the cost of implementing safeguards while maintaining or improving their effectiveness. The Secretariat's Programme 93+2 was a step in the right direction, and his delegation looked forward to the proposals arising from it.

60. References had been made to increasing proliferation concerns in the wake of recent reports about plutonium and uranium smuggling. Illegal trafficking in nuclear materials

represented a grave threat, particularly when linked to clandestine nuclear programmes. In his delegation's view, the only viable solution to the proliferation problem was a global non-proliferation regime which was universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory and linked to the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

61. India would like to see - as steps towards global nuclear disarmament - a comprehensive test ban treaty and a treaty on the cut-off of the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons. At the same time, controls on technology should be relaxed and gradually removed in order to facilitate nuclear trade and thereby promote peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

62. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Agency had already established International Working Groups on fast reactors, light-water reactors and gas-cooled reactors. There was a strong case for establishing such a group also on heavy-water reactors, a major power reactor category.

63. With regard to safety, the adoption of the Nuclear Safety Convention a few months previously had been a major development. India had been among the first States to sign the Convention, in whose preparation it was pleased to have taken part, and hoped to deposit its instruments of ratification in the near future. India considered that each country was responsible to the international community for the safety of its nuclear facilities. There was no doubt that the main improvements to be made in nuclear safety were of a technical nature. Therefore, the central objective of the Nuclear Safety Convention would be achieved only if the Convention led to an open technical dialogue among the signatories in all pertinent safety-related areas.

64. India believed that every country should harness its natural resources in the best possible manner. It was for that reason that spent fuel reprocessing followed by uranium and plutonium recycling and, in the longer term, utilization of the country's thorium resources constituted essential elements of the Indian atomic energy programme. For India, R&D activities connected with reprocessing and fast breeder technologies were of the utmost importance. Its experience with the fast breeder test reactor at Kalpakkam, which had

operated for long periods over the past year at high power levels, had been very encouraging.

65. India's current R&D programme in the field of reactor engineering was focused on the engineering design of a 500 MW(e) pressurized heavy-water reactor, the physics and the engineering design of a thorium-based advanced heavy-water reactor, technological improvements in the maintenance of operating reactors, component qualification, the development of diagnostic techniques, reactor safety, and ageing management and decommissioning. India's Department of Atomic Energy was uniquely equipped to carry out basic and applied research in a number of areas at the frontiers of science and engineering. Its current programme included work on synchrotron radiation sources, a giant meter-wave radiotelescope facility, gamma ray telescopes, organ imaging systems, parallel processing systems, laser facilities, advanced materials and biotechnology.

66. His Government had recently authorized the commercial irradiation of spices, onions and potatoes. The development was a major one for the Indian food processing industry, and it was likely that the technique would be extended gradually to cover other products.

67. India was a leading producer of radioisotopes for diverse applications. A research irradiator had been in use successfully since 1991 for sewage sludge hygienization, and the results obtained with it might be applied in effluent hygienization as part of the Ganges River Action Plan.

68. India welcomed the opportunity to share its experience of various peaceful applications of nuclear energy with other countries, either under bilateral agreements or through the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme. There would be both financial and practical benefits if the Agency made greater use of the facilities and expertise available in developing countries when organizing seminars, recruiting experts or purchasing equipment, and he accordingly invited the Agency to make greater use of India's institutions and laboratories in its programmes.

69. Mr. PESCI BOUREL (Argentina), speaking of Argentina's principal contributions to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime during the past year, said that under the Brazilian-Argentine common system of nuclear materials accounting and

control those of the two countries' nuclear facilities which were not covered by Agency safeguards were now subject to bilateral safeguards. ABACC had carried out on time all operations relating to inspections, technical support, nuclear materials accounting and co-ordination with the Agency which had been planned for 1994. The agreement between Argentina, Brazil, ABACC and the Agency for the application of safeguards and the general part of the corresponding subsidiary arrangements had entered into force on 4 March 1994. Since then the Argentine Government had been collaborating actively in the many tasks being carried out in connection with the application of those instruments. Completion of most of the quadripartite agreement's initial application phase had involved various activities, including the inspection of 18 Brazilian and 19 Argentine facilities and communication of the required reports to the Agency. In addition, on 18 January 1994 the Argentine Government had officially deposited with the Mexican Government its instrument of ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty, together with a waiver of the requirements laid down in Article 28 on entry into force. The Tlatelolco Treaty was thus in force for Argentina since that date.

70. In 1994 Argentina had become a full member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and joined the dual-use control regime established by the Group. It had duly participated in the plenary meetings held in April in Madrid, at which important decisions had been taken on strengthening national systems for controlling exports of sensitive materials.

71. In line with its consistent support for the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen the Agency's safeguards system through Programme 93+2, the Argentine Government had collaborated fully in field trials carried out in April and May at the Pilcaniyeu enrichment plant for the purpose of determining the potential of environmental monitoring techniques as a means of detecting the existence of undeclared nuclear activities. Also in April, at Bariloche, the Argentine Government had, together with Brazil and the United States, organized a seminar on peaceful applications of nuclear energy and non-proliferation; the seminar, the first of its kind to be held in Latin America, had been attended by participants from 18 American countries and four international organizations (ABACC, the Agency, EURATOM and OPANAL), and its success should pave the way for further such meetings in countries of the American continent.

72. Since 1989 his Government had been carrying out important economic reforms and had privatized State enterprises in extremely diverse areas, including the production, transport and distribution of electricity. Following thermal and hydroelectric power plants, it had been decided in 1994 to privatize the nuclear power industry and bring together all of the country's energy-related activities under a single body, the Department of Energy.

73. In order to make a clear distinction between electricity production on one hand and R&D and training on the other, his Government had reorganized the nuclear industry by means of Decree 1540 of 30 August 1994, which established several organizations. The National Nuclear Regulatory Authority, an independent body reporting direct to the President of the Republic, had the task of proposing regulatory guidelines to the Government for application in all areas connected with radiological and nuclear safety, the physical protection of nuclear materials and the supervision of their use, the licensing of facilities, and international safeguards. The Argentine Nuclear Power Company, reporting to the Department of Energy, was responsible for electricity production at nuclear power plants. It would also be responsible for compliance with all the safeguards obligations entered into by Argentina and would assume the civil liability of the operator under the Vienna Convention. The National Atomic Energy Commission, reporting direct to the President of the Republic, was responsible for R&D and for activities associated with the fuel cycle, the decommissioning of facilities, radioactive waste management and the production of radioisotopes and heavy water. It was required to formulate short-, medium- and long-term plans for developing the new techniques that would be necessary in order to meet the country's future requirements.

74. Thus, since the previous session of the General Conference nuclear-related activities had been proceeding satisfactorily in Argentina. As regards nuclear power production, the plants in operation, with a load (and availability) factor of 96.98%, had accounted for 15.1% of the country's electricity supplies. Construction of the Atucha II plant has been 87.6% complete by the end of June, and its connection to the grid was planned for 1997. On 9 September, the Arroyito heavy water plant, which had a design capacity of 250 tonnes/year, had started producing the "primary grade" (99.89%) water essential to the operation of natural-uranium heavy-water reactors. On 17 June, the inauguration had taken

place of the Ezeiza Atomic Energy Centre, which was equipped with a cyclotron for producing radioisotopes with short and medium half-lives; commercial production would begin before the end of the year, to the benefit of the health and well-being of the population. Lastly, on 29 July, a contract had been concluded with the Province of Tucuman for the construction of the country's first sewage sludge irradiation plant.

75. Turning to the Agency's activities, he emphasized the central role of the Agency in the implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and of Security Council decisions, as clearly demonstrated by the recent cases of Iraq and the DPRK. In that context, he recalled the Argentine President's announcement in December 1993 that the Government had decided to accede to the NPT, an initiative which, in accordance with Argentine law, had been submitted to the National Congress and would, it was hoped, soon be passed on to the Senate. The Government expected to be able to announce its accession to the NPT before the 1995 Conference.

76. In that connection, he said that Argentina strongly favoured an indefinite extension of the NPT, which, together with the Agency's safeguards system, constituted a main pillar in the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Also, he drew attention to the historic role of START-I and START-II, which had initiated an unprecedented process of nuclear disarmament at the international level and which Argentina regarded as decisive steps towards the ultimate objective - the elimination of all nuclear weapons. With regard to the drafting of a comprehensive test ban treaty and of a convention on the cut-off of the production of plutonium and enriched uranium for military purposes, his delegation considered that the efforts to overcome the obstacles involved should be intensified, so that those international instruments might enter fully into force in 1995.

77. As to his Government's relations with the Agency, there had been close co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation, particularly regarding a model project on fruit fly eradication by means of the sterile-insect technique and in the context of ARCAL, with the result that Argentina was now fifth on the list of the Agency's donor States. In support of Agency technical co-operation activities, Argentina had paid its 1994 voluntary contribution to the TACF in a timely manner and would be pledging a 1995 contribution of $300 000 - an amount which it hoped to pay soon.

78. Turning to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, he announced that the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs would sign it in October 1994, on the occasion of a visit by the Argentine President to Austria. The signing of the Convention would mark the culmination of Argentina's active participation in the negotiation process. Lastly, Argentina hoped that the work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage, which was considering amendments to the Vienna Convention and the possibility of adopting a convention on supplementary funding, would progress smoothly.

Mr. Marschik (Austria) took the Chair.

79. Mr. WALKER (Canada) said the fact that the Agency was considered to be one of the most efficient of the United Nations organizations, as confirmed by the Geneva Group earlier in the year, was due not only to its staff and administration but also to the commitment and efforts of many Member States. Good management was particularly important at a time when increasing demands might be placed on the Agency.

80. Canada strongly favoured an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT, the only guard against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the only protector of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that context, the challenge to the integrity of the safeguards system presented by the DPRK had been one of the most serious developments of the past year. The response of the Agency - which Canada strongly supported - and that of the international community reflected a collective determination to meet that challenge and demonstrated the strength of an effective international system. The prospects for resolving the issue now seemed encouraging, and Canada hoped that the DPRK would resume its status as a full party to the NPT and abide fully by its safeguards agreement. The smuggling of fissile material was a new potentially disquieting challenge. Member States were responsible for ensuring the adequate physical protection of nuclear material, but the Agency had a role to play in that area. Canada, which welcomed the Director General's suggestions regarding the issue, supported the establishment of a working group to examine the various options, including the possibility of an international register of fissile material.

81. For Canada, the three main areas of Agency activity were safeguards, safety and technology transfer. As regards safeguards, to which his country attached high priority, his

delegation welcomed the fact that the number of parties to the NPT was still growing and would like to see universal adherence to the NPT. He urged those countries which had acceded to the NPT but not yet concluded an NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency to do so soon, even if their nuclear programmes were small. If all States party to the NPT were on the point of concluding or had already concluded an NPT safeguards agreement by the time of the 1995 NPT Conference, that would constitute a strong signal. The States concerned and the Agency should work closely together in that important endeavour, which should not prove too exacting.

82. In recent years, the safeguards system had been subjected to significant challenges, which had been confronted in a constructive manner. Canada strongly supported Programme 93+2, the aim of which was to strengthen the safeguards system, increase its cost-effectiveness and demonstrate that the system was the most effective means of detecting violations of safeguards obligations. An important aspect of the programme concerned the detection of undeclared nuclear material and activities, and in order to demonstrate its commitment to the programme Canada was undertaking field trials of various detection approaches. A further aim of Programme 93+2 was to increase cost-effectiveness and promote the use of the most efficient methods and techniques in achieving safeguards objectives. However, efforts to save on resources should not be allowed to jeopardize the safeguards system's overall effectiveness and integrity. Programme 93+2 was very extensive, covering legal and policy issues as well as technical ones. While Canada expected considerable progress to have been made by the spring of 1995, it considered that an artificial deadline for completion of the programme should not be imposed.

83. Turning to the second main area of Agency activity, nuclear safety, he said that the Agency was the principal international forum for exchanging information on safety and commended the Agency for the effective manner in which it had taken on that major responsibility. Canadian experts had been making contributions at a large variety of safety-related meetings. Canada continued to support the joint efforts to achieve a high level of safety in the construction and operation of nuclear power plants, particularly the extensive international co-operation that had developed in order to assist with the assessment and implementation of safety improvements at early Soviet-designed nuclear power plants. There

was still much work to be done, and his delegation hoped the Agency would continue to provide opportunities for collaboration among experts in that vitally important area.

84. During the current session of the General Conference, Canada and many other Member States would sign the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It was appropriate to applaud the work of those who had prepared the Convention and commend the contribution of the Expert Group, which Canada had had the honour to chair. Canada called on all Member States to express their commitment to nuclear safety by signing the Convention. Together, countries could achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide. The concern for safety had not been overlooked during the Technical Co-operation Policy Review Seminar, where safety issues had been discussed in addition to medium-term country planning and the impact of technical co-operation projects, and the interdependent nature of the Agency's main activities had been underlined. As regards another important issue, radioactive waste, his delegation supported the development of an international convention on the safety of radioactive waste management once broad international agreement had been reached on the Safety Fundamentals document being prepared. Canada considered that the latest version of that document should be approved at the Board's meetings in December and hoped that the process would not suffer any further delay.

85. The third main area of Agency activity was technology transfer, in which Canada took a keen interest. The great diversity of activities and the large number of beneficiaries of the technical co-operation programme testified to the benefits of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to the value of an international organization which provided a structure for bringing together and sharing technical expertise for the benefit of all. Thus, Canada was involved in the provision of technology and expertise for a project on the economical production of potable water. The management of the technical assistance and co-operation programme was fundamental to its success, and his delegation was pleased with the manner in which the Agency had responded so far to the administrative challenges confronting the programme. The launching of model projects was a timely response to the need to maximize available resources. As the External Auditor had stated in his recommendations, such an approach could provide an effective management tool, not only for ensuring that technical assistance activities were implemented efficiently, but also for responding to concerns about

the sustainability of projects and their relevance to the recipients' capabilities and development priorities. In that regard, the Technical Co-operation Policy Review Seminar had produced some useful recommendations.

86. In conclusion, he wished to address a problem of paramount importance - that of financial resources. As many Member States - including Canada - were obliged to follow a policy of zero real growth, the problem would remain for some time to come. It might even be compounded by the increasing demands being placed on the Agency. In such circumstances, it was becoming essential to examine the regular programme carefully with a view to determining priorities. The choices would be difficult, and greater stringency would be required as to the manner in which they were made. The reallocation of resources to emerging higher-priority areas and the introduction of an Agency-wide performance assessment system were steps in the right direction. It was important to maintain that momentum and to begin establishing a basis for the allocation of resources among and within programmes. The Medium Term Plan could also prove very useful in the determination of priorities. Member States would then have an opportunity to adjust the Agency's activities more closely to changing conditions and ensure that the allocation of resources best met their interests.

87. Mr. GANTAR (Slovenia) said that the past year had seen positive developments as regards the non-proliferation regime and the associated safeguards system. The NPT Review and Extension Conference, due to take place in 1995, would provide a unique opportunity to extend the NPT indefinitely. Progress had also been made in the safeguards field - for example, with regard to Iraq and to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in some regions. Unfortunately, there was less room for optimism about the negotiations between the Agency and the DPRK on the question of full access for Agency inspectors. Slovenia would continue to support the implementation of the relevant Security Council and Agency resolutions.

88. Confirming his country's commitment to the NPT, he said that by the end of the year Slovenia would probably have concluded with the Agency a safeguards agreement which had been approved by the Board of Governors in June and was based on the standard text for such agreements. The Slovenian delegation attached great importance to that agreement and

to the safeguards system, a key element of the non-proliferation regime whose effectiveness and efficiency needed to be enhanced through a wide range of measures. Slovenia welcomed SAGSI's examination of safeguards implementation and proposals for an alternative safeguards regime. Measures for detecting undeclared activities, as proposed by SAGSI, were necessary in order to increase confidence and cost-efficiency. A comprehensive system for reporting exports and imports of nuclear materials and equipment was already being implemented.

89. With regard to the other main functions of the Agency, his country appreciated the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear safety - particularly international review mission programmes such as OSART, ASSET, ASCOT, IPERS and INSARR, which regularly demonstrated the transparency of Slovenia's nuclear activities. With regard to the Nuclear Safety Convention, the Director General and the Group of Experts and its Chairman were to be thanked for their efforts and their professional approach. Slovenia was honoured to be among the first Member States to sign the Convention, and his delegation was pleased to note that a large number of Member States had signed it on the first day, ensuring its entry into force in the very near future.

90. The international nuclear third-party liability regime needed to be improved. Although an effective and generally acceptable liability regime was hard to achieve, the fact that five years had already passed since the Board of Governors had established the Standing Committee to revise the Vienna Convention and prepare a draft supplementary funding convention could not be overlooked. Slovenia was firmly convinced that the work of the Standing Committee should be intensified and hoped that a diplomatic conference would be convened soon. With regard to the various options discussed by the Standing Committee, Slovenia's position was that besides operators' liability and State funding, the universal liability regime should include an international funding tier. Slovenia, as a party to the Vienna Convention, would accede to the Joint Protocol by the end of 1994.

91. The Slovenian delegation was satisfied with the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS) adopted by the Board of Governors the previous week, and it commended the work done both by the Agency in preparing the new version of the BSS and by the other co-sponsors.

92. Slovenia attached great importance to the Radioactive Waste Safety Standards (RADWASS) programme, particularly as one of its main future tasks would be to develop environmentally sound procedures for the disposal of radioactive waste. His delegation hoped that the documents developed under that programme would be directly applicable to Slovenia's normative activities and supported the idea of a convention on the safety of waste management.

93. Emphasizing Slovenia's commitment to the Agency, which had succeeded in finding a good balance among its various activities, he said that his country firmly supported the technical assistance programme and thanked the Agency for all the assistance it had given to Slovenia. Also, Slovenia appreciated the Agency's important role in assessing the safety of nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and in helping to make them safer.

94. Lastly, he underlined the threat posed by illicit trafficking in radioactive materials. The international community should do everything possible to prevent such trafficking. Unless it did so, international efforts to improve the safeguards system would lack a substantial element necessary for the public acceptance of nuclear power.

95. Mr. NIEWODNICZANSKI (Poland) expressed the hope that the NPT would be extended in such a way that its vital beneficial impact on world security and stability and on the growth of international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy became permanent. There were now real prospects that its impact would be enhanced by far-reaching reductions in nuclear weapons arsenals, a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons testing, a cut-off of the production of weapons-grade nuclear material, and binding security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT. Verification would necessarily become a major task under the new arms control and disarmament arrangements. The role and experience of the Agency in the context of the NPT made it particularly well suited to undertake that task. In that regard, the Polish delegation welcomed the ideas which the Director General had presented to the General Conference and agreed with the steps taken and planned by the Agency for strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system. Also, his country was especially pleased that one of its neighbours - Ukraine - had recently concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency.

96. The accidents at Three Mile Island and - especially - Chernobyl were still very present in people's minds, and there remained the fundamental question whether nuclear power was more or less dangerous to the environment than options based on hydrocarbons. In several countries, the dilemma had led to critical reviews and to the freezing of nuclear power programmes. There was therefore a growing need for Agency action in stimulating and facilitating international consideration of the merits and demerits of different energy options, including nuclear power. The Agency conference on the nuclear power option earlier in the month had been a good example of such action. Methods for comparing the economic viability of different options - and particularly the economic consequences of their impact on the environment - needed to be further improved and their application promoted. Concern about nuclear safety and long-term radioactive waste management appeared to be the main factors behind the negative public attitude towards nuclear power.

97. The Agency deserved to be commended on three important counts. The first was the adoption of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the result of more than 20 years' work by the Agency on internationally agreed safety standards related to nuclear power plants; his country, which had signed the Convention that day, hoped that it would enter into force soon and that its scope would be extended. The second was the adoption by the Board, the previous week, of new international basic radiation safety standards containing several important new guidelines of practical value for national regulatory bodies. The third was the considerable progress achieved with regard to the Agency's Radioactive Waste Safety Standards, and especially to the elaboration of a Safety Fundamentals document. The Polish delegation would have liked to see a more clearly stated obligation on the part of countries to ensure the legal and physical protection of records identifying the location and inventory of every radioactive waste disposal facility, so that there was continuity of knowledge over an extended period of time. He hoped that adoption of the Safety Fundamentals by the Board in December would enable the Agency to start preparations, the following year, for a radioactive waste management safety convention. Poland supported the Agency's work on the safe management of spent fuel from research reactors, given the growing scale of the problem in many countries. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the Director General's comments relating to improvements in the safety of the different generations of WWER and

RBMK plants in countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to the consensus on priorities for further improvements and on guidance for both national and international assistance efforts.

98. With regard to the problem of trafficking in nuclear material, his delegation believed there should first be a critical examination of the existing international legal instruments and a study of the practical measures which might be taken at the international level, including the provision of assistance to Member States in their endeavours to make their national preventive mechanisms sufficiently effective.

99. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division, he expressed his country's strong support for an institution from which Polish agricultural institutes and universities had derived great benefit, particularly with regard to applications of nuclear techniques in plant breeding, soil science and animal production. In recognition of the importance and quality of the work done by the Division in human resources development, the Polish Government had assisted in upgrading the agricultural research facilities at the Agency's Seibersdorf Laboratory and had agreed to host the third training course on plant breeding at the University of Katowice.

100. The model project concerning an industrial-scale demonstration facility for the electron beam treatment of flue gases, to be established in Poland, was a good example of the ecological orientation of the Agency's activities and would be of great importance not only for Poland but also for the entire Baltic region. His delegation appreciated the continuous attention and support which the project was receiving from the Department of Technical Co-operation, the Director General and other leading officials of the Agency. While the major part of the project costs was being covered by Poland and the Agency, his delegation continued to hope for significant additional contributions by States that had declared their interest in the project.

101. Mr. MIELNICKI (Trade Unions International of Workers in Energy (TUIWE)), noting that by its very nature TUIWE did not have the same point of view as governments regarding the development and utilization of nuclear power, said that TUIWE was concerned mainly with the future of nuclear technology, particularly its use for peaceful

purposes, and with the safety and working conditions of personnel at nuclear power stations. Regarding the management of nuclear activities in the world at large, he would like to address three problems which he considered to be essential.

102. The first problem concerned the future of nuclear power and the improvement of work safety at nuclear power stations. At present, and especially in Asia, a continued "forced march" towards nuclearization of the energy sector was under way, and it was envisaged that electricity production by nuclear power stations would have trebled by the year 2010 - in response to people's expectations of universal access to energy under environmental conditions that guaranteed the planet's safety. The rush for economic development demanded sacrifices, however, and there was now hardly ever any talk of the dangers involved; Three Mile Island and Chernobyl had become once again just the names of places. That was why, in the view of TUIWE, it was necessary to continuously improve the techniques employed at nuclear power stations, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, where the stations required special monitoring and preventive measures. In nuclear policy there could be no place for economic egotism or political ambitions. The situation regarding nuclear power was paradoxical: nuclear power was the cleanest energy source, but its development raised the problem of nuclear wastes. That complex problem, which could not be mastered through international controls, required that a stand be taken at the international level concerning those who produced nuclear wastes and those who were responsible for their disposal.

103. The second problem was that of privatization in the energy sector. Nuclear power was international in nature, and its safety could not be the affair of a single State or region. Furthermore, some governments considered that nuclear power could be the subject of free competition within a free-market economy. As far as TUIWE was concerned, energy was a key element in the development of every country, offering the possibility of meeting collective and social needs. Being a strategic sector both nationally and globally, nuclear power generation must not be a matter for private enterprises committed to competition; it must come within the purview of States, which alone were in a position to guarantee its development and safety.

104. The third problem concerned the human factor, which was of very great importance in the nuclear sector; the qualifications and knowledge necessary for applying safety standards required special efforts and the assistance of the State. In that connection, he said that disquieting information had been received about the social situation at Bilibin and Kursk in the Russian Federation.

105. In conclusion, he said that TUIWE intended to support the development of nuclear power and the activities of the Agency, counting on the good sense of legislators and governments, but conscious that it was difficult to guarantee nuclear safety in the face of political ambitions and economic egotism. That was why TUIWE was continuing with its work related to monitoring and surveillance mechanisms and to the exercise of responsibilities. It was operating an open information policy and hoped that the Agency would help it scientifically and financially with the organization of seminars and conferences on nuclear safety.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.