



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(41)/COM.5/OR.5
20 October 1997
GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

FORTY-FIRST (1997) REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 2 October 1997, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. STRATFORD (United States of America)

Later: Mr. ŠTULLER (Czech Republic)

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[*] GC(41)/28.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(41)/INF/17/Rev.2.

Abbreviations used in this record

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Quadripartite Agreement	Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the contact group which had been meeting under his chairmanship resume its deliberations.
2. It was so agreed.
3. Mr. Štuller (Czech Republic) took the Chair.

CO-OPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (GC(41)/26)

4. Mr. TITKOV (Russian Federation) said that the conclusion of a co-operation agreement between the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) and the Agency would demonstrate Argentina's and Brazil's clear intention to fulfil their obligations with regard to the exclusively peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Also, it would confirm the wish of the Agency, Argentina and Brazil to further strengthen the non-proliferation regime within the framework of the NPT.
5. Mr. PALAEZ (Argentina) said that ABACC had now been in existence for five years, during which time it had successfully established a verification system in accordance with the Quadripartite Agreement. There had been increasing co-operation between ABACC and the Agency, and the conclusion of the agreement under consideration would help the two organizations to further intensify that co-operation.
6. Ms. HART (United States of America), expressing support for conclusion of the co-operation agreement, said that ABACC was playing a critical role in the implementation of safeguards in Argentina and Brazil. The mechanisms for co-operation established pursuant to the agreement would, her delegation hoped, lead to additional important actions.
7. The CHAIRMAN said he assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the draft co-operation agreement between the Agency and the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials set forth in the Annex to document GC(41)/26.
8. It was so agreed.

MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR,
RADIATION AND WASTE SAFETY

- (a) JOINT CONVENTION ON THE SAFETY OF SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT
AND ON THE SAFETY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT
(resumed)
(GC(41)/COM.5/10)

9. Mr. KAYSER (Luxembourg), introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(41)/COM.5/10, said that the sponsors hoped it would be adopted by consensus.

10. Ms. MOSLEY (New Zealand) said that, if the draft resolution were put to a vote, her delegation would abstain. The main reason why her country could not support the Joint Convention was that it would not ensure that shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel proceeded only after all countries which might be affected had been notified and consulted and had given their consent. The radioactive waste and spent fuel transportation issue should be pursued within the Agency and in the other relevant international organizations.

11. Mr. RAGHURAMAN (India) said that his country had been opposed to the inclusion of spent fuel management within the scope of application of the Convention since it regarded spent fuel as a valuable resource rather than a form of radioactive waste. Consequently, it would not assume an obligation to report on the safety of spent fuel management under the Convention.

12. In addition, it regretted the fact that the management of radioactive waste resulting from military or defence programmes had not been included within the Convention's scope of application.

13. Mr. Woong-Soon LIM (Republic of Korea) said that his country had signed the Joint Convention and looked forward to its early entry into force.

14. Ms. GALLINI (United States of America) said that her country, which regarded the Joint Convention as a balanced and effective instrument which would greatly strengthen the international nuclear safety regime, had signed it and also looked forward to its early entry into force.

15. Ms. LETTS (Australia) said that her country would become a party to the Joint Convention when consultations required under its federal system had taken place.

16. Mr. BERTONCELJ (Slovenia), Mr. HREHOR (Czech Republic), Mr. POSTA (Hungary) and Ms. BĂDESCU (Romania) expressed support for the Joint Convention, which their countries had already signed.

17. Mr. TAKAOKA (Japan) expressed the hope that the Joint Convention would lead to the attainment and maintenance of a high level of safety worldwide in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

18. Mr. HERTTRICH (Germany) said that the Joint Convention, which his country had already signed, would be a very useful complement to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, contributing to the public acceptance of nuclear energy.

19. Mr. AGUIRRE AGUIRRE (Colombia) said that his country looked forward to becoming a party to the Joint Convention once the necessary domestic procedures had been completed.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document GC(41)/COM.5/10.

21. It was so agreed.

STRENGTHENING OF THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES
(resumed)
(GC(41)/COM.5/3)

22. The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of India to report on the consultations which had been taking place.

23. Mr. RAGHURAMAN (India) said that agreement had been reached on a compromise text with the exception of the operative paragraph relating to regional centres of excellence.

STRENGTHENING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF
THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM (resumed)
GC(41)/COM.5/13

24. The CHAIRMAN invited the representatives of Belgium and India to report on the consultations which had been taking place.
25. Mr. PECSTEEN (Belgium) said that the consultations were continuing.
26. Mr. RAGHURAMAN (India) said he hoped that agreement would be reached soon.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.