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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at Austria Center Vienna
on Wednesday, 18 September 2002, at 10.25 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MOLTENI (Argentina)

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[*] GC(46)/19.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(46)/INF/8/Rev.1.

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Abbreviations used in this record

Assistance Convention Early Notification Convention	Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
FAO	Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
OAU	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
PATTEC	Organization of African Unity
TCDC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
TCF	Technical co-operation among developing countries
WHO	Technical Co-operation Fund
	World Health Organization

STRENGTHENING OF THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES
(continued)

(GC(46)/INF/4; GC(46)/COM.5/L.3)

1. The CHAIRMAN proposed - after comments made by the representatives of the PHILIPPINES, the NETHERLANDS and BRAZIL - that the Committee continue its examination of preambular paragraph (d) of the draft resolution contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.3.
2. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, referring to a suggestion made during the previous meeting by the representative of the Netherlands, said that he would prefer the expression "nuclear energy applications" to "nuclear applications".
3. The representative of INDIA said that his delegation had great difficulties with some of the suggestions made during the previous meeting - especially the suggestion that a phrase on the lines of "the view held by some countries" be inserted after "Considering" in preambular paragraph (d).
4. The general debate in Plenary was demonstrating the great strength of the support for nuclear power.
5. The representative of BRAZIL said that in her opinion the insertion of a phrase like "the view held by some countries" would be inappropriate. Also, she felt that the phrase "the peaceful uses of nuclear energy" should not be tampered with; it reflected the basic mandate of the Agency, and in any case about 96% of the Agency's technical co-operation activities were unrelated to nuclear power generation.
6. The representative of IRELAND, supported by the representative of NEW ZEALAND, said that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy nevertheless included nuclear power generation. Ireland did not believe that nuclear power generation would substantially contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world.
7. The representative of AUSTRIA, supported by the representative of LUXEMBOURG, expressed support for the comments made by the representative of Ireland and, with reference to the comments made by the representative of India, said that in his view the general debate in Plenary was far from demonstrating the great strength of the support for nuclear power.
8. The representative of INDIA said that many Member States which had not formerly spoken in favour of nuclear power were now doing so.
9. The representative of CANADA, supported by the representative of JAPAN, said that her delegation, which recognized the fact that there were diverging views about nuclear power, could go along with preambular paragraph (d) as it stood.
10. The representative of GERMANY said that for him the problem with preambular paragraph (d) was that it contained the words "the strengthening of", instead of the words "an expansion of" which appeared in preambular paragraph (d) of resolution GC(45)/RES/11, and the word "substantially" before "contribute". The Johannesburg Action Plan made no

reference to nuclear energy as something that would “substantially contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world”.

11. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on preambular paragraph (e), invited views on preambular paragraph (f).

12. The representative of GERMANY recalled that during the previous meeting he had suggested the addition of a phrase such as “in a number of countries”.

13. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on preambular paragraphs (g) and (h), invited views on preambular paragraph (i).

14. The representative of GERMANY proposed that the wording be aligned with that of the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution on page 2 of document GC(46)/7/Mod.1.

15. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that he could go along with that proposal.

16. The CHAIRMAN invited views on preambular paragraph (j).

17. The representative of AUSTRALIA proposed the insertion, after “... in a timely manner”, of words on the lines of “and welcoming the progress made towards increasing technical co-operation resources through application of the rate of attainment mechanism, as provided for in resolution GC(44)/RES/8”.

18. The CHAIRMAN invited views on preambular paragraph (k).

19. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that his delegation would like that paragraph to be deleted, or at least “an appropriate balance” to be replaced by “a more appropriate balance”.

20. The representative of BRAZIL, supported by the representatives of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC and the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, urged that the wording - accepted by the General Conference in 2001 - be left unchanged.

21. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that, as he had said during the previous meeting, the phrase “an appropriate balance ...” had a polarizing effect. That was why his delegation would like preambular paragraph (k) to be deleted. Recognizing that the concept of “balance” was important for many Member States, however, his delegation would go along with the retention of that paragraph but would like to see “an appropriate balance” replaced by “a more appropriate balance”.

22. The CHAIRMAN invited views on preambular paragraph (l).

23. The representative of GERMANY requested an explanation of why the words “supporting and implementing” appeared in that paragraph whereas the words “managing and supporting” had been used in preambular paragraph (k) of resolution GC(45)/RES/11.

24. The representative of MALAYSIA said that the change had been made in order to take account of the fact that the human resources of the Department of Technical Co-operation were being supported from the Regular Budget.
25. The representative of GERMANY sought an assurance that the new wording did not amount to a call for Regular Budget resources to be spent on technical co-operation activities traditionally financed from the Technical Co-operation Fund.
26. The representative of MALAYSIA said that no such call was intended.
27. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on preambular paragraph (m), invited views on preambular paragraph (n).
28. The representative of BRAZIL said that the Group of 77 and China would reflect on the suggestion made by the representative of the United States of America that a reference be made in that paragraph to document GOV/INF/2002/8, containing a report on the 2002 review of the Technical Co-operation Strategy.
29. The representative of MALAYSIA, confirming what had been said by the representative of Brazil, pointed out that in operative paragraph 5 the Secretariat was requested to continue to refine the Technical Co-operation Strategy in consultation with all Member States.
30. In addition, he proposed that "... development, and greater outreach and in-house co-ordination" be amended to read "... development, greater outreach, and in-house co-ordination".
31. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on operative paragraphs 1-3, invited views on operative paragraph 4.
32. The representative of JAPAN proposed that the second element of that paragraph be strengthened through the addition of a request to those recipient Member States which were in arrears with the payment of assessed programme costs to pay off their arrears. He noted that the proposal was being made by the delegation of a country which was continuing to pay its full TCF target share despite an extremely severe financial situation.
33. The representatives of FRANCE, MALAYSIA and AUSTRALIA supported the proposal made by the representative of Japan.
34. The representative of BRAZIL suggested that operative paragraph 4 be split into two paragraphs, one dealing with voluntary contributions to the TCF and the other with the mandatory payment of assessed programme costs.
35. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on operative paragraph 5, invited comments on operative paragraph 6.
36. The representative of GERMANY, noting that the paragraph spoke of "sustainable energy mix" whereas operative paragraph 5 of resolution GC(45)/RES/11 had spoken only of

“energy mix”, said that his country did not regard nuclear power as part of a sustainable energy mix.

37. The representative of MALAYSIA, responding to a question asked by the representative of GERMANY, recalled what he had said during the previous meeting about the word “research”¹ and added that there should be a comma between the words “technological” and “research” in order to make it clear that the aim was to promote technological capabilities and also research capabilities.

38. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on operative paragraph 7, invited views on operative paragraph 8.

39. The representative of GERMANY said that his delegation had serious difficulties with the words “as an essential option”.

40. The representative of IRELAND proposed that the words be deleted.

41. The representative of KUWAIT said that the purpose of the phrase was to indicate that nuclear power was one among a number of options for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

42. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no one wished to comment on operative paragraphs 9-10, proposed that the Committee postpone further examination of the draft resolution until interested delegations had consulted on it informally.

43. It was so agreed.

MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR, RADIATION, TRANSPORT AND WASTE SAFETY (resumed)
(GC(46)/COM.5/L.6 and L.9)

44. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution on “Education and training” contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.6, said that it was similar to resolution GC(45)/RES/10.C. Only preambular paragraph (e) and operative paragraph 4 were new.

45. Responding to a question asked by the representative of JAPAN, he said that the “current efforts” mentioned in operative paragraph 3 referred to a paper-based learning project that was being implemented at institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic (in Arabic), Argentina (in Spanish), Morocco (in French) and Malaysia (in English). An e-learning module was being developed for that project.

46. The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, having commended the draft resolution to the Committee, said that a nine-month Agency training course on radioactive waste safety had started that week in Damascus - the third such training course to be organized by the Secretariat in co-operation with her country’s Atomic Energy Commission.

¹ See document GC(46)/COM.5/OR.2, para. 71.

47. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.6.

48. It was so agreed.

49. The representative of NORWAY, introducing the draft resolution on the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.9, said that, while it was based on resolution GC(44)/RES/16 adopted by the General Conference in the year 2000, it had some new elements - for example, a reference to arrangements for responding to acts involving the malicious use of nuclear or radioactive material and to threats of such acts and a reference to a lower threshold for early notification and information exchange.

50. The representative of TURKEY said that his country, which had been participating very actively in a regional Agency project for strengthening and harmonizing Member States' capabilities in the area of nuclear emergency response, had upgraded its relevant legal and organizational infrastructure in the light of recommendations made by the Secretariat and of the experience reported by other countries.

51. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM, having said that his delegation could go along with the draft resolution, warned, in connection with the lower threshold for early notification and information exchange mentioned in operative paragraph 1, against the reporting of insignificant incidents.

52. With regard to operative paragraph 3, he said that the United Kingdom would respond positively to requests for resources made under the Assistance Convention whenever it could, but - like other countries - it would not be able to respond positively on every occasion.

53. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.9.

54. It was so agreed.

STRENGTHENING THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS
(GC(46)/15; GC(46)/INF/5; GC(46)/COM.5/L.5 and L.8)

55. The representative of NIGERIA, introducing the draft resolution on PATTEC contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.5, said that success in implementing the OAU Plan of Action for PATTEC could remove one of the greatest hindrances to Africa's socio-economic development.

56. The African Group, which would like to see organizations such as FAO and WHO supporting the Agency's efforts to eradicate the tsetse fly, welcomed the results of a recently completed project for increasing the production of sterile male tsetse flies at mass-rearing centres in Africa and was appreciative of the recent Agency-organized field visits of international journalists to areas in Africa affected by trypanosomosis.

57. She expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be recommended by consensus to the General Conference for adoption.

58. The representative of JAPAN, referring to operative paragraph 6, said that in his delegation's view the Director General should be requested to report on his evaluation of the progress made.

59. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE said that the envisaged evaluation would have financial implications.

60. The representative of ALGERIA, commending the draft resolution to the Committee, called upon the Secretariat to step up its activities in support of the efforts being made to eradicate the tsetse fly and trypanosomosis in Africa.

61. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that the eradication of trypanosomosis in Africa should receive high priority within the Agency.

62. Since 1995 the United States had pledged US \$2.4 million for tsetse fly eradication projects, and the Department of State and the United Nations Foundation were in the process of arranging for a contribution of \$300 000 specifically in support of PATTEC. In addition, his country had contributed funds to the Agency for efforts to promote public awareness of the trypanosomosis problem.

63. Calling on other Member States to support those efforts, he said that his delegation welcomed the draft resolution under consideration.

64. The representative of GERMANY, recalling that in resolution GC(45)/RES/12.D there had been a reference to TCDC, suggested the addition of the phrase "including through the TCDC mechanism" at the end of operative paragraph 2 or operative paragraph 4.

65. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM, having expressed support for the draft resolution as a whole and for the suggestion made by the representative of Germany, suggested the insertion of the phrase "building on the work of other anti-tsetse initiatives for" after "the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) in" in preambular paragraph (f).

66. The representative of MOROCCO said that his delegation could go along with the addition of the phrase "including through the TCDC mechanism" at the end of operative paragraph 4 but not with its being added at the end of operative paragraph 2.

67. The representative of JAPAN suggested adding the phrase "within available resources" at the end of operative paragraph 6.

68. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE said that the Secretariat would prefer the phrase "subject to the availability of resources".

69. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that her delegation would like to see operative paragraph 6 providing for some form of evaluation which need not be so extensive as to involve great expense.

70. The representative of NIGERIA said that the sponsors of the draft resolution had no problems with the insertion of “building on the work of other anti-tsetse initiatives for” in preambular paragraph (f) or with the addition of the phrase “including through the TCDC mechanism” at the end of operative paragraph 4.

71. The CHAIRMAN suggested that operative paragraph 6 be amended to read “Requests the Director General to report on the progress made and the effectiveness in the implementation of this resolution ... to the General Conference at its forty-seventh (2003) session, subject to the availability of resources”.

72. The representative of JAPAN accepted the Chairman’s suggestion.

73. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.5 with the suggested amendments to preambular paragraph (f) and operative paragraphs 4 and 6.

74. It was so agreed.

75. The representative of CANADA, introducing the draft resolution on “Nuclear knowledge” contained in document GC(46)/COM.5/L.8, said that there was increased national and international recognition of the need to address issues relating to nuclear knowledge. Two issues in particular - succession planning and the preservation of nuclear knowledge - were central to the application, regulation and further development of nuclear technologies in the future. Action must be taken urgently in order to address the problem of the approaching shortage of qualified personnel in the nuclear field.

76. In that regard, the Agency could act as a useful forum for exchanges of information and experience and also play an important role in raising awareness. Also, the Secretariat was well placed to provide Member States with assistance in the area of nuclear knowledge preservation.

77. Adoption of the draft resolution, which drew on the results and general conclusions of the meeting of senior officials on Managing Nuclear Knowledge held in June under the Agency’s auspices, would have no financial implications.

78. The representative of INDIA, having expressed support for the draft resolution, suggested that preambular paragraph (c) be amended to read “... and the preservation and growth of knowledge in nuclear science and technology”. Also, he suggested that preambular paragraph (d) be amended to read “Noting that the need to preserve and enhance nuclear knowledge arises irrespectively of...”. In addition, he suggested the insertion between preambular paragraphs (e) and (f) of a paragraph reading as follows: “Recognizing the need for the promotion of nuclear knowledge for sustainable development,”.

79. The representative of BRAZIL said that his delegation, which welcomed the draft resolution, was reassured by the words “within available resources” in operative paragraph 2.

80. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, having welcomed the draft resolution, suggested the inclusion of the words “and strengthen” after “enhance” in the

version of preambular paragraph (d) suggested by the representative of India, so that it would read "... the need to preserve, enhance and strengthen nuclear knowledge ...".

81. Referring to operative paragraph 6, he suggested that the wording be made more forceful.

82. The representative of FRANCE, referring to operative paragraph 7, questioned whether the Director General should be requested to report to the General Conference already in 2003.

83. The representative of GERMANY said that he would prefer preambular paragraphs (c) and (d) to be left unchanged. As to the suggestion of the representative of India for an additional preambular paragraph, he would like to see the suggested formulation in writing before expressing his views.

84. With regard to operative paragraph 7, he suggested that the Director General be requested to report to the General Conference in 2004.

85. The representative of UKRAINE endorsed the comments made by the representatives of France and Germany regarding operative paragraph 7.

86. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE proposed replacing "within available resources" in operative paragraph 2 by "subject to the availability of resources".

The meeting rose at 1.00 p.m.