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President: Mr. RAJASA (Indonesia)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(46)/INF/8/Rev.2.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.
Delegates are kindly requested to bring their own copies of documents to meetings.

Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EU	European Union
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IPEN	Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
KEDO	Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization
Kyoto Protocol	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
SIT	Sterile insect technique
Tacis	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
TranSAS	Transport Safety Appraisal Service

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2001 (continued)
(GC(46)/2)

1. Mr. NDAMBUKI (Kenya) welcomed the Agency's additional activities to protect against nuclear terrorism. The threat of nuclear terrorism had underscored the importance of the NPT. Kenya was a Party to that Treaty and was firmly committed to disarmament. The Government had initiated steps for the early conclusion of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. In February 2002, his country had acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It had ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and continued to support the establishment of that Treaty's global verification regime. Moreover, it was promoting the establishment of pro-nuclear safety societies to further the peaceful application of nuclear science.
2. Nearly 80% of Kenya's population lived in rural areas and were dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. That sector was therefore crucial to the country's economic growth. However, it faced constraints owing to soil nutrient depletion, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, insect pests and plant and animal diseases. Agency technical co-operation activities included the use of nuclear techniques to enhance crop production, monitor nutrients and water in soil, and improve the diagnosis and control of livestock diseases. Certain projects had focused on the development of improved crop varieties and Kenya was also participating in regional projects on use of biofertilizers by smallholders to increase crop production and soil fertility and on improving milk and meat production.
3. Tsetse fly infestation and trypanosomosis were one of the greatest obstacles to food and agriculture production in sub-Saharan Africa. Tsetse flies caused estimated annual economic losses of US \$4 billion. In recognition of the magnitude of the problem, African leaders had launched the PATTEC action plan. Much hope was being placed in the SIT whose effectiveness in the eradication of tsetse flies had been demonstrated in Zanzibar. He thanked the Agency for the support it was giving PATTEC in collaboration with other international organizations and African Governments. An Agency technical co-operation project on integrated area-wide tsetse and trypanosomosis management in the Lambwe valley in south-west Kenya was in progress, to which the Government of Kenya was contributing 8.3 million Kenyan shillings per year. However, the geographical coverage of the project was limited. His country wished to seek the Agency's help in designing a more extensive project with a view to making the whole Lake Victoria region a tsetse-free zone. The Agency should also investigate the potential of the SIT for suppressing the malaria-transmitting mosquito. Malaria was the leading cause of death in Kenya, particularly among children.
4. The Agency's human health programme in Kenya covered improvement of the national health care delivery system, particularly in the area of diagnosis and radiotherapy. Several Kenyan staff had been trained through the Agency's fellowship programmes in that field and others were currently undergoing training.
5. Cancer of the cervix was the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among young Kenyan women. The Radiotherapy Department of the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi was the only public institution providing cancer treatment in the country, but a lack of modern

equipment limited its capacity. His Government therefore appreciated the project on early diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer which had been undertaken with the support of the Agency and technical staff from the Kenyatta National Hospital, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and the University of Nairobi, and which included the upgrading and rehabilitation of the Radiotherapy Department at the New Nyanza General Hospital in Kisumu. It hoped that the Agency would give priority consideration to Kenya's new project proposals for the establishment of two other radiotherapy centres which would benefit patients in distant rural areas.

6. Nuclear techniques could play an effective role in redressing water scarcity in Kenya. The country was involved in a regional project on the integration of isotope hydrology in the water sector, which aimed at developing expertise in water resource management, strengthening the skills of operational staff, and establishing regional capacity to provide training in isotope hydrology and related fields.

7. With regard to radiation protection and nuclear safety, a stringent safety culture would be an indispensable prerequisite for the successful application of nuclear techniques in the 21st century. Kenya's Radiation Protection Board provided advice to the Government and dealt with radiation protection and nuclear safety matters. The Government was revising the Radiation Protection Act in order to ensure that it complied with Basic Safety Standards. The country was also participating in a successful Model Project on the development of radiation protection infrastructure. The Agency had provided the Radiation Protection Board with equipment and had assisted with the establishment of an occupational exposure control system.

8. The need for highly qualified personnel assumed great importance as Kenya and other developing countries continued to integrate modern nuclear techniques. He thanked the Agency for providing Kenyan scientists with training opportunities and encouraged it to intensify co-operation in that field.

9. The Agency could only fulfil its vital role of advancing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy if all its Member States honoured their financial obligations. That applied also to technical co-operation activities, which were dependent on voluntary contributions and timely payment of assessed programme costs by recipient countries. His Government had released \$75 000 towards the payment of its outstanding arrears and its voluntary contributions to the TCF, and had also taken steps to pay all its other outstanding dues as soon as possible.

10. Ms. BECERRIL (Spain) commended the Director General on the swift action taken by the Agency to prevent nuclear terrorism following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Its speedy response to General Conference resolution GC(45)/RES/14 had enabled the Board of Governors to approve a series of measures in May to deal with that threat. Her country had examined with interest the Director General's progress report on the work, contained in GC(46)/14, and was satisfied with the scope and timeliness of the activities implemented. However, funding based on voluntary contributions could not guarantee maintenance of the programmed activities in the medium and long term. Therefore, once the most urgent activities had been implemented, the remaining programmed activities,

particularly those of a permanent nature, should be funded from the Regular Budget, which should not prevent Member States so wishing from making voluntary contributions.

11. The proposed protocol to amend the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material would be an essential element of the international community's response to the threat of nuclear terrorism. Her country hoped the negotiations on that instrument could be swiftly concluded so that a diplomatic conference could be held soon.

12. The Spanish Government, in view of the importance of security of nuclear facilities, had already adopted a number of measures to address scenarios in which security might be compromised. Spain was participating in international activities to prevent nuclear terrorism, and had established a working group of relevant national institutions to carry out in-depth analysis of the current situation and consider potential future action.

13. Spain welcomed the recent elaboration of the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards, and its adoption by the Board of Governors. However, the slow progress with the signature and ratification of additional protocols was, unfortunately, calling into question the universality and, consequently, the efficiency and effectiveness of the new safeguards system. Furthermore, the delay in the application of integrated safeguards would worsen the already difficult financial situation of the Department of Safeguards, since it would prevent the planned reduction in routine inspections from being implemented.

14. In that connection, voluntary contributions, within certain limits and in line with the relevant criteria, helped make the Agency more effective; indeed, extrabudgetary contributions seemed to be the right approach for funding safeguards activities in nuclear-weapon States. However, the current excessive reliance on voluntary contributions was obviously undesirable and needed to be corrected both gradually and in the medium term. The savings to be made from implementing integrated safeguards and potential new measures to rationalize the safeguards system should make up for additional new costs. Spain looked forward to seeing the safeguards funding proposals for 2004-2005 that the Director General would shortly be drawing up.

15. Her country welcomed the Agency's efforts in the fields of nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management. The Agency had a particularly useful role to play in the area of nuclear safety, as could be seen in the various missions to Spanish nuclear power plants. The recent OSART mission to the Santa María de Garoña plant had involved a major effort, confirming the maximum priority that Spain accorded to safety at its facilities.

16. The second meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had been held in April 2002. Two features of the Convention were particularly fruitful: the self-assessment element, which prompted Contracting Parties to reflect on their nuclear safety status; and the opportunity it provided for broad-based, open information exchange. The Convention had also helped reduce the number of incidents since 1999 worldwide, as could be seen in the Annual Report for 2001. Her country had voluntarily made a number of commitments at the review meeting.

17. With regard to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, she expressed the hope that, following the submission of national reports, there would be a frank debate demonstrating a determination to grant that issue the highest priority. The positive outcome of the review meetings pursuant to the Convention on Nuclear Safety should serve as a good example and help promote transparency and information exchange.

18. During the recent Spanish presidency of the EU, agreement had been reached that the high standards of nuclear safety required in the EU should also be applied to candidate countries. However, there was still a need to harmonize minimum nuclear safety criteria in an expanded EU. Spain appreciated and supported the Agency's initiatives in that area.

19. With regard to radiation protection, her country strongly supported the Agency's initiatives to improve the monitoring and management of radiation sources. During its EU presidency Spain had proposed a Council resolution, adopted in May 2002, for the establishment of national surveillance and monitoring systems to detect the presence of radioactive materials during metal recycling, a step which her country had already taken. The Spanish Government had organized seminars in Seville in January 2002 on how to prevent the radiation risk from metal recycling, which had been attended by over 60 participants.

20. The Board had recently adopted the International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients, which was based on the recommendations and conclusions of the International Conference on Radiological Protection of Patients in Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy, held in Malaga in March 2001. In addition to hosting that Conference, Spain had actively participated in the technical discussions, and later in drawing up the draft action plan. It welcomed the adoption of the latter by the Board and was willing to provide assistance to other countries based on its experience in that field.

21. She welcomed the increase in the funding available for technical co-operation activities and in extrabudgetary contributions, which reflected the importance Member States attached to those activities. Spain was making intensive efforts to increase its TCF contribution. In addition, it had contributed \$355 000 to footnote-a/ projects over the preceding year and made contributions in kind.

22. Nuclear energy continued to hold a significant place in Spain's energy supply, helping diversify supply sources, reduce dependency on foreign energy supplies and control greenhouse gas emissions. In 2001, Spanish nuclear power plants had produced 63 715 GW·h, representing 26.9% of total national energy production and approximately half of primary domestic energy production in the country.

23. Spanish nuclear power plant operation was entirely satisfactory both in terms of safety and availability. Moreover, radiological environmental monitoring had shown a decrease in liquid and gaseous discharges over the preceding few years.

24. Construction of the spent fuel temporary storage facility at the Trillo nuclear power plant was complete. The first two storage containers had been placed in the facility, which would provide for the storage of Spain's spent nuclear fuel until 2013.
25. The Vandellós I nuclear power plant was still being dismantled and over 90% of the work required to reach level 2 had been completed. That stage was expected to be reached in December, when approximately 80% of the site would be available for other uses. The plant would then be totally dismantled some 30 years later. The Spanish Government had offered to make available an area near to the site for the ITER project.
26. Mr. ANTONIONE (Italy) welcomed the Agency's action plan on terrorism and said his country was currently studying how best to contribute to it. It also supported the launch of the G-8 Global Partnership, which was an important tool for preventing terrorists from acquiring or developing nuclear or radiological weapons. Italy was ready to work with interested countries to co-ordinate, implement and finance counter-terrorism initiatives and had reacted promptly on the domestic side by adjusting its legislation and making a commitment to supporting the Agency's illicit trafficking database programme.
27. The Italian Government attached great importance to activities related to the implementation of the NPT, and to the early entry into force of the CTBT and the establishment of the related verification regime. A strengthened safeguards system was vital to international peace and security and Italy remained committed to completing the national procedures for ratification of its additional protocol within the coming months. The competent national authorities were undertaking the necessary preparatory activities for the future implementation of the protocol.
28. New statutory obligations in the safeguards area placed an increased financial burden on the Agency, and full implementation of integrated safeguards would need time to reach a steady state. During that phase the Agency would have to pay increasing attention to the qualitative aspect of safeguards activities and to the signature and ratification of additional protocols. In the meantime, implementation of the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards should help achieve cost efficiency in safeguards activities and greater effectiveness.
29. Italy attached the utmost importance to the universality of the NPT and non-proliferation efforts and was therefore disappointed that the Agency was still unable to verify the correctness and completeness of the initial declaration of nuclear material made by the DPRK. He also urged the Iraqi authorities to fulfil their obligations and allow the Agency to implement its mandate under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, which was a prerequisite for returning to a normal situation.
30. Nuclear safety was of paramount importance for EU Member States. The positive outcome of the second review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had confirmed the great contribution that Convention could make to the enhancement of nuclear safety worldwide. Italy also attached great importance to research

reactor safety and appreciated the efforts made by the Agency in preparing a code of conduct for such reactors.

31. Furthermore, it was in the process of ratifying the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radiation Waste Management and aimed to become a contracting party before the first review meeting in November 2003.

32. He welcomed the efforts made by the Agency to situate its technical co-operation programme in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and poverty reduction strategies wherever possible, and expressed the hope that, in future, the Agency would refine the selection and design of its numerous projects, sharpening the focus of the programme.

33. Through UNESCO, Italy contributed over 80% of the budget for the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, in which the Agency also played an important and commendable role. The Centre carried out programmes aimed at promoting international co-operation among scientists from all countries to bridge the scientific and technological gap between North and South.

34. The Agency's increasing reliance on extrabudgetary resources, for example to fund safeguards activities, was cause for concern because it directly affected the control Member States had over the budget, making strategic planning difficult and less efficient. Italy supported the efforts of some Member States to restructure the Agency's Regular Budget and to reconsider priorities in order to reduce the gap between the tasks assigned and the available resources. There was still room for further economies and increased efficiency.

35. Italy held sixth place among the major contributors to the Agency's Regular Budget and honoured its financial commitments on time every year. It expected that commitment to be reflected by more careful consideration in the Secretariat's recruitment policy. For the recruitment of high-level and senior staff, in particular, more transparent selection criteria would benefit management and would eventually lead to a greater spirit of ownership and participation among Member States.

36. In conclusion, his country remained committed to supporting the Agency in its three main areas of activity and in finding ways to cope with its financial difficulties, with a view to ensuring that its programmes were fully responsive to high-priority needs.

37. Ms. MELIN (Sweden) said that the tragic events of 11 September 2001 had underlined the importance of international co-operation to combat common threats. There was an urgent need to strengthen the international framework and multilateral instruments in the field of non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, and to promote universal adherence to and effective implementation of those instruments, since international and national security depended on them. The NPT was the foundation for nuclear disarmament and should include all States. She welcomed the announcement by Cuba that it intended to accede to the NPT, and called on the three remaining States to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and place their facilities under Agency comprehensive safeguards. It was important to make clear progress in that regard before the next NPT Review Conference.

38. Additional protocols were an integral part of the Agency's safeguards system and Sweden was of the opinion that adherence to them was mandatory for a State Party to fulfil its obligations under Article III of the NPT. Her country had completed its internal ratification procedure and its additional protocol would enter into force as soon as the few remaining EU countries had ratified. She urged all States to conclude and bring into force additional protocols, and called upon the 50 State Parties to the NPT which had not yet concluded and brought into force their mandatory safeguards agreement to do so without delay. She also commended the Secretariat on its efforts to encourage Member States to conclude additional protocols, which were clearly bearing fruit.

39. Equally, it was important that the nuclear-weapon States place fissile material designated by them as being no longer required for military purposes under Agency and other relevant international verification as soon as was practicable.

40. Document INFCIRC/549 set out guidelines for the responsible management of plutonium in all peaceful nuclear activities. Sweden had decided to adopt a policy consistent with those guidelines and a Note Verbale to the Director General to that effect was being prepared.

41. An effective national regime for the physical protection of nuclear material was essential to prevent diversion of such material and to protect nuclear facilities from sabotage. Her country supported the ongoing efforts to strengthen the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, in particular the negotiations on the adoption of a well defined amendment to the Convention to extend its scope to cover domestic use, storage and transport of nuclear material, and protection against sabotage. She expressed the hope that the drafting of that amendment could be concluded at the next expert group meeting.

42. Sweden strongly supported the Agency's efforts to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radiation sources and had decided to donate 100 000 Swedish kronor to that programme. It remained convinced that a combination of national and Agency efforts was the best way to combat nuclear terrorism.

43. The second review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had been held in April 2002. The improvement in the quality of the national reports submitted for review was encouraging, as were the significant safety improvements achieved in several countries. Her country was equally convinced that the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management had great potential for bringing about safety improvements and it looked forward to the first review meeting under that Convention which was scheduled for 3-14 November 2003.

44. Sweden continued to support initiatives aimed at enhancing the application of the safety standards developed by the Agency. She commended the quality of the revised nuclear safety standards, and the results achieved in the fields of reactor safety and safety of radioactive waste management. Orphan radiation sources were an increasing problem and were causing a high number of fatal accidents. They were also prone to illicit trafficking and other criminal activities. The Agency had achieved laudable results in assisting Member States to resolve

that problem, in particular through the implementation of the revised Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources and the action taken to revise the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

45. The Secretariat's drive towards fewer, and thus larger projects had resulted in more focused delivery of the technical co-operation programme. Her country strongly supported that programme and played an active part in its implementation by providing national experts for safety missions and opportunities for scientific visits and training courses in Sweden. She noted with satisfaction that the successful Model Projects on strengthening of Member States' regulatory infrastructures had recently been supplemented by similar efforts to upgrade the security of radiation sources.

46. In recognition of the importance her country attached to the Agency's technical co-operation activities, it had pledged its full share to the TCF for 2003. Sweden had repeatedly maintained that the first priority with regard to ensuring predictable funding of those activities should be to close the gap between the target and actual contributions to the TCF. She therefore urged all Member States to pledge and pay their target shares in full and on time, and noted with concern that outstanding assessed programme costs currently amounted to almost \$8 million, indicating a lack of government commitment.

47. Mr. MONTROYA (Peru) said that, over the preceding year, with Government and Agency support, the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN) had begun to draw up a strategic medium- and long-term plan, which would enable the existing infrastructure of the Oscar Miró Quesada de la Guerra RACSO nuclear centre to be used to promote and diversify research into and development of nuclear applications in areas such as materials characterization, conservation of Peru's extensive archaeological heritage, environmental protection and efficient use of water resources. In that connection, improvements had been made to the centre, such as the installation and commissioning of a secondary standards dosimetry laboratory to provide support for the diagnosis and therapy of diseases and various industrial and mining applications.

48. Owing to the requirements of strategic partners and the national market, IPEN had had to investigate new technological application areas with a view to making the production and services sector more efficient and competitive. Various mechanisms were being used to achieve that objective, such as improving the academic qualifications of scientists and technicians, recruitment of experts in nuclear and related fields and training of management staff in strategic planning.

49. Thanks to the rapid assistance provided by the Agency following a fire in Lima the preceding December, specialized staff had been trained and a gamma irradiator was on order for the IPEN tissue bank. Measures had been taken to help meet the demand for radiosterilized tissue.

50. As part of efforts to expand agriculture in the country, two new varieties of barley and kiwicha which had been improved using nuclear techniques would be made available to farmers.

51. In the area of medical applications, IPEN had extended its activities to other hospital centres, entrusting them with the national co-ordination of various projects under ARCAL.

52. In the important field of the dissemination and promotion of nuclear science, IPEN and national research institutions, with Agency support, had organized a scientific meeting which had been attended by over 600 researchers from Peru and other countries, with the aim of analysing and proposing solutions to national development problems from a scientific and technological point of view. Those activities were supported by the Peruvian government and would continue in January 2003 with an international scientific meeting. Peruvian institutions and researchers had also concluded research contracts with the Agency in areas of special importance for the country such as the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, improvements in the SIT, prevention of neonatal hydronephrosis, evaluation of teletherapy methods, improvement of milk production, the determination of traces of heavy metals in agricultural products, and determination of lead and cadmium contamination in pregnant women living in mining areas.

53. The country had organized several international events, notably regional training courses on a variety of subjects and project co-ordination meetings. Apart from national projects, the Agency had also assisted with the Peru-Chile project on eradication of the fruit fly; nuclear medicine services in the Peru-Ecuador border region had been strengthened, and a Peruvian and Bolivian project on pollution of Lake Titicaca had been completed during the year.

54. The third meeting of the ARCAL Technical Co-ordination Board had been held in Lima in May 2002. Peru was currently chairing that body, would be soon be chairing the board of representatives and was firmly committed to strengthening ARCAL in preparation for the drawing up of the regional co-operation plan for 2005-2010. His country had also participated in interregional technical co-operation projects between developing countries.

55. Peru was grateful to the Agency for the assistance it had received from it. Thirty international experts had visited the country over the preceding year, as well as Agency staff; over 70 Peruvian professionals had received training; national counterparts had benefited from the supply of equipment and materials.

56. He noted with satisfaction that the Agency had completed the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards. The Safeguards Implementation Report for 2001 had concluded that all material subject to safeguards had remained in peaceful uses. The Agency had not found any discrepancies in the safeguards reports that his country had submitted, or any evidence of undeclared activities or diversion of safeguarded material.

57. It was more important than ever that Member States sign and implement comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols in order to make the integrated safeguards regime universal and verification tasks easier. As the first Latin American country to have ratified an additional protocol, Peru had hosted a regional seminar to promote the additional protocol in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting had been attended by 47 delegates at director level or above from bodies responsible for nuclear programmes from 26 of the

States party to the Tlatelolco Treaty, and two observers from the United States Department of Energy. He welcomed the subsequent decision by the Governments of Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay to sign and ratify an additional protocol.

58. As was recognized in the Agency's Basic Safety Standards, and recent initiatives to protect against the threat of nuclear terrorism, security was a prerequisite for technological safety and both those areas needed to be strengthened simultaneously. In doing so, particular attention should be paid to the transport of radioactive material and the disposal of radioactive waste. He welcomed the fact that, owing to budgetary problems and problems with the availability of developing countries, the Agency had allowed for remote input to its committees which reviewed safety standards, making for a better geographical and political representation. Four Peruvian experts had been included in those arrangements.

59. Though Peru did not possess any nuclear power facilities, in the interests of greater transparency it had submitted a report on the safety of its two research reactors to the second review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and was following with interest the work on a code of conduct for such reactors.

60. His country had also participated in the work on the amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and had promulgated physical protection regulations based on Agency guidelines. It was party to several other related conventions and felt that more efforts should be made to increase the number of States party to such instruments; the international liability regime, in particular, required substantial improvement. In that connection, the publication by the Agency of safety requirements for preparedness for and response to a nuclear or radiological emergency was timely and he urged Member States to implement them.

61. With a view to preventing emergency situations and providing assistance, where necessary, the Agency should play a major role in establishing consultation, notification and information exchange mechanisms for international shipments of radioactive material. Peru had welcomed the invitation to participate in the TransSAS mission to the United Kingdom and hoped that missions of that type, with the participation of international observers, would become more frequent. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution on transport safety before the Conference would be adopted by consensus, facilitating the work of the international conference on that subject to be held in July 2003.

62. Mr. STEINMANN (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were crucial to international security and no effort should be spared to achieve those objectives while there were still disparities in the world nuclear order and a risk of horizontal or vertical nuclear proliferation. The Agency's important role in that area had been emphasized once again during the first session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

63. The financial constraints affecting all countries, and the Agency's growing operational costs had led to major internal rationalization and reorganization. Recently, a group of countries had suggested hiring a private management consultancy firm to pursue those efforts.

However, that did not solve the main problem, i.e. the need to set clear priorities, lack of which was causing a high level of core activities unfunded by the Regular Budget. Moreover, new and often crucial tasks were being entrusted to the Secretariat with the cautious proviso “within the limits of available resources”. One of the Agency’s main statutory tasks - technical co-operation - was not even financed from the Regular Budget. A balance needed to be established between high-priority activities and available resources, otherwise funding of targeted statutory activities from extrabudgetary resources would continue to increase and more and more Member States would lose interest in the Agency’s operations, which would be damaging to the Agency and its aims.

64. The Secretariat had recently expressed its concerns over safeguards financing. The two principal aims of developing the integrated safeguards system had been to provide for better monitoring of compliance by parties to the NPT with their obligations, and to achieve a reduction in the cost and effort involved in safeguards. Already, additional resources were needed to set up the new system, and it seemed it would not be easy to predict how many inspectors or what equipment would be needed to move from the existing systems to integrated safeguards. And as yet, around 30% of the world’s civil nuclear reactors were still not subject to Agency control, to say nothing of nuclear weapons arsenals!

65. Currently there were seven States in which the Agency had concluded on at least two occasions that all nuclear material was subject to safeguards and being used in peaceful activities. The Secretariat should develop and apply integrated safeguards in some of those States, which would provide the cost-effectiveness data required to predict the consequences of applying the system universally. In addition, other ways of reducing the inspection burden should be explored, concentrating on the most probable risks.

66. Switzerland had always taken very seriously the need to protect its nuclear facilities against external attack. Following the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the Government had reviewed security precautions at its nuclear facilities and discussed the issue with neighbouring States. His Government supported the Agency’s proposed activities to protect against nuclear terrorism but felt that, in view of the priority Member States attached to them, the funding for them should be included in the Regular Budget as of 2004-2005.

67. In the research and development field, Switzerland was participating actively in INPRO, providing staff and facilities from Swiss universities and the Paul Scherrer Institute. His Government welcomed the fact that INPRO shared the objectives of the Generation IV International Forum, i.e. developing nuclear systems and fuel cycles which would make nuclear energy both renewable and sustainable, although it was seeking to achieve them by entirely different routes. Switzerland had also joined the latter initiative in February 2002.

68. The Agency’s expertise in monitoring radioactive pollutants in the marine environment was well known, but its Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco also monitored non-radioactive pollutants. Some consideration should be given to how those resources could best be used to ensure the safety of the marine environment in the long term.

69. Switzerland's recent accession to the United Nations showed its desire to play its part in international politics.

70. The first consignments of vitrified waste from the reprocessing of fuel elements sent to the La Hague reprocessing plant in France had been stored at the country's interim storage facility. A plasma torch was being installed to reduce the volume of low-level waste. The improvement in radiation safety in the transport of nuclear waste noted in the preceding year had been maintained. The Secretariat should consider developing an international framework for the transport and storage of high-level radioactive waste, since the Agency was the organization most fitted to study the legal and institutional aspects of that issue.

71. Partly in response to two referendum proposals calling for the closure of the country's existing nuclear power plants, a controversial draft law on nuclear energy had been submitted to the Swiss Parliament which would allow the building of new plants with no a priori restriction on their operating life and prohibit the reprocessing of nuclear fuel once the existing contracts had expired. The Swiss people would probably be called upon to give their opinion on the two referendum initiatives and the draft law in the coming year. On 22 September, the population of the canton of Nidwald would have the opportunity to vote on the drilling of a tunnel at Wellenberg to serve as a storage facility for low- and intermediate-level waste. If the decision went against the scheme, disposal of those types of waste could be held up for several decades.

72. Mr. SHOUKRY (Egypt) said that, since becoming a member of the Agency in 1957, his country had been actively participating in all its activities promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was following with interest the application of the one-house concept to improve the efficiency of the Agency's programmes and co-ordination of its three main areas of activity: technology, verification and safety. The Agency's achievements over the years had enhanced Member States' confidence in its ability to discharge its statutory responsibilities while coping with change and meeting new challenges, and he called upon the international community to assist the Agency to carry out its work in the best way possible. Maintaining a balance between its various activities was vital for it to retain its credibility and ensure the continued commitment of Member States.

73. The world was facing challenges in the areas of energy supplies for sustainable development, protection of the environment and combating of climate change, water and food supplies and health. Egypt therefore attached importance to the strengthening of technical co-operation with the Agency. It had installed its second research reactor with a view to developing self-reliance in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in agriculture, industry, medicine and research. With the assistance of the Russian Federation and the Agency, it had set up a cyclotron, which was to be commissioned shortly, to obtain radioisotopes for use in medicine, enhancement of crop production, improvement of the desert environment and improving animal production. Its co-operation with the Agency covered, inter alia, irradiation of food and surgical instruments, the establishment of a radiation dosimetry laboratory and control of the fruit fly using the SIT.

74. Belonging to both the Arab and the African region, Egypt had made its scientific and technical expertise, and its laboratories and facilities available to both those regions. During the preceding year, with the help of the Agency, it had organized a number of training seminars, scientific visits and workshops in the areas of food security, human health, nuclear safety and seawater desalination which had attracted wide participation from Arab and African States. It would continue to strengthen such co-operation at the regional level to enhance the potential of Arab and African countries. In that context, his country continued to attach great importance to AFRA and the PATTEC initiative.

75. Greater efforts were needed on the part of the Agency to ensure that all nuclear installations which were not as yet covered by international safeguards were placed under international control. It was unacceptable that a minority of States should remain unaccountable. The Agency's comprehensive safeguards system was the main pillar of the global non-proliferation regime but, unless that system was universally applied, efforts to strengthen it would not attain the aim of eliminating the danger of nuclear proliferation.

76. Egypt had launched a number of initiatives at regional and international level to counter the increasing danger of nuclear proliferation. In 1974, it had first called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, an appeal that had been repeated several times since. Through the Agency, it had continued to call for the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear facilities in the Middle East without discrimination. Nevertheless, Israel had shown no serious desire to deal with the issue and continued to refuse to allow Agency comprehensive safeguards to be applied at its nuclear facilities. That attitude had a negative effect on nuclear non-proliferation efforts in general, and in the Middle East in particular.

77. It was incumbent on the international community to ensure that uniform standards were applied in the non-proliferation field. His country had supported the suggestion put forward during the 44th regular session of the General Conference for the convening of a forum to allow countries in the Middle East to benefit from the experience of the other regions in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and had put forward detailed ideas concerning the establishment of such a zone in the region.

78. With regard to Iraq, Egypt had on many occasions stressed the importance of that country's full compliance with all relevant Security Council resolutions. Iraq's acceptance of the return of United Nations inspectors should facilitate the unconditional resumption of work pursuant to those resolutions and promote stability in the Middle East. It also showed the usefulness and effectiveness of the international community's concerted efforts to deal with such challenges. He expressed the hope that agreement would soon be reached on practical procedures for the early return of the inspectors so that the economic sanctions would be lifted and the suffering of the Iraqi people ended.

79. The events of 11 September 2001 had demonstrated the urgent need to strengthen the Agency's activities and programmes on the protection of nuclear material and facilities from the dangers of nuclear terrorism. Concerted national, regional and international efforts were needed to meet the serious challenges posed by terrorism to international stability and

security. As long as there was nuclear material not subject to international control, there would be a danger of such material falling into terrorist hands. Egypt had been actively involved in the development of the proposed additional activities and measures to protect against nuclear terrorism. In that process, certain criteria needed to be borne in mind. For instance, the proposed Agency measures should not replace measures in place at national level, nor should States' responsibility for dealing with security-related problems diminish. Moreover, the financing of such activities should be voluntary and should not be allowed to impact negatively on technical co-operation activities.

80. The Agency's technical co-operation programme was an effective means of promoting socio-economic development in developing countries, which was one of the Agency's statutory activities. He welcomed the Agency's efforts to update its technical co-operation strategy. However, attainment of technical co-operation objectives was dependent upon the availability of qualified human resources and sufficient, assured funding. His country regularly paid its share of the TCF. However, the Technical Co-operation Report for 2001 revealed that 55 States had not pledged any contribution to that Fund in 2001 and that 11 States had failed to honour their pledges. Such a situation placed serious constraints on the implementation of approved programmes. Since all States had participated in the negotiations on the target for the Fund, his country considered that they had an obligation to contribute. He therefore urged Member States to discharge their financial obligations in accordance with the rate of attainment mechanism established at the 44th regular session of the General Conference.

81. Mr. NIEWODNICZANSKI (Poland) emphasized the need for an integrated global response to the threat of nuclear terrorism which minimized the possibility of attacks on nuclear facilities and of misuse of radioactive material. The Agency had a central role to play in that regard by promoting international co-operation, and by creating and strengthening international instruments and encouraging Member States to accede to them. One such example was the ongoing work on the proposed amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

82. The number of countries which had concluded and ratified safeguards agreements and additional protocols was growing yearly, although it was still below expectations. Poland, whose additional protocol had been in force since 2000, urged all States which had not yet done so to join the Agency's comprehensive safeguards system as soon as possible. It also supported the development and further implementation of integrated safeguards. In addition, his country had completed ratification of the CTBT and attached great importance to its entry into force.

83. The Agency also played a leading role in elaborating and implementing legal instruments in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety and radioactive waste safety. Poland was a party to all conventions in those fields and appreciated the action taken by the Agency in response to the preceding year's General Conference resolutions on that issue. Polish representatives had participated actively in the preparatory meeting for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and in the second review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Both Conventions contributed greatly to the strengthening of global

safety, but there was still much to do in that field. His country thus looked forward to the international conference on safe transport of radioactive material to be held in 2003, and to the continuation of work on the development of a research reactor safety enhancement plan.

84. Poland shared the Secretariat's concern over the implications of a potential loss of knowledge caused by ageing of the nuclear workforce and decreasing support for university programmes in nuclear science and engineering. That phenomenon was unfortunately pronounced in countries like his own where the future of the nuclear power programme was ill-defined. Adequate levels of nuclear safety and security could not be maintained without proper education, research and development. His country therefore fully supported the Agency's activities relating to the preservation of nuclear knowledge.

85. He thanked the Agency and the Government of France for the help they had provided in connection with an incident at a Polish oncology centre; some patients who had been overexposed in the course of therapy had also been treated in France. That was a good example of co-operation under the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

86. With regard to technical co-operation, his country was aware of the Agency's difficult economic situation and strongly supported further initiatives involving cost-sharing, outsourcing and other forms of partnership in development implemented by the Secretariat in consultation with Member States. Such efforts could help increase the efficiency of technical co-operation and attract new intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. Application of the central criterion was a further step towards improving integration of technical co-operation projects into national development plans. In that context, it was important to requesting countries that technically justified projects which could not immediately receive funding from the TCF were classified as footnote-a/ projects since, as well as leaving open the possibility that the projects in question could be taken up by other interested Member States, that was often essential in enabling the institution involved to continue its efforts to find additional funds from other sources either from within or outside the country.

87. Poland strongly supported a regional technical co-operation programme for Europe. Good examples of successful projects in the region were those on the safe operation of nuclear power plants in Eastern Europe and the project on physical protection and security of nuclear material. Like many other countries in the region, his country was both a donor and a recipient and had actively participated in regional and interregional activities, organizing training courses, workshops and technical meetings, and offering its research centres for training under the auspices of the Agency. With a view to providing better assistance to other Member States, Poland had submitted a proposal to the Secretariat in the preceding year that the Central Tissue Bank at the Medical University of Warsaw be added to the list of regional resource centres in Europe.

88. The financing of technical co-operation activities should be assured, sufficient and predictable, and both donor and recipient Member States should demonstrate their commitment to the programme by pledging and paying their TCF target shares and their

assessed programme costs in full and on time. Poland strongly supported the application of the due account principle and, as ever, it was ready to pledge and pay its share of the target.

89. He commended the Agency for its public information policy and thanked the Secretariat for issuing the Nuclear Technology Review 2002. He also commended the Agency for its promotional activities in Johannesburg during the World Summit on Sustainable Development which had contributed to global awareness of the Agency's work by highlighting the contribution of nuclear applications to human health, agricultural productivity, water management, environmental protection and energy production. Poland had recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol. In November, a regional public information seminar would be held in the country, organized under the auspices of the Agency, to promote the benefits of nuclear energy.

90. In conclusion, he noted that Poland had now completed the ratification procedure for the latest two amendments to the Agency's Statute.

91. Mr. EGLĀJS (Latvia) said that the Latvian Radiation Safety Centre had been established in July 2001, since which time it had expanded and developed its capacity to perform all the tasks imposed upon it by the Latvian Parliament.

92. His country was working closely with the Department of Technical Co-operation to enhance co-operation and transfer of experience in priority areas. As in previous years, Latvia had pledged its full share of the TCF. For several years it had also been making additional voluntary contributions for priority national projects and engaging in cost-sharing. In line with its Country Programme Framework, Latvia had submitted a request for a technical co-operation project involving feasibility studies on the use of positron emission tomography. Under the relevant regional technical co-operation project, it had enhanced the knowledge of its medical experts and upgraded its main cancer treatment centre.

93. Having gained experience in a number of new activities during 2002, his country had initiated international bidding for the full-scale decommissioning and dismantling of its research reactor and expected to sign a contract before the end of the year. The first important step that had to be completed in 2003 was spent fuel management. An environmental impact assessment was being conducted.

94. The first peer review under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was approaching and Latvia was working on its radioactive waste management strategy, which included activities to enhance the radioactive waste management system which had been in operation for more than forty years. His country wished to establish new long-term storage for disused sealed sources and was ready to start feasibility studies for deep geological disposal. The lack of any international solution for disposal of long-lived sources, and the small quantities of high-level waste involved, left small countries with no other option but to investigate the possibility of geological disposal. His country would strongly support any activity aimed at providing an internationally accepted solution.

95. Latvia's past activities had shown clearly that it viewed non-proliferation as a high priority. Combating of illicit trafficking in radioactive and nuclear material and of nuclear and radiological terrorism could serve as a good basis for co-operation, as those issues were of importance for both developing and developed countries. Latvia's first national report under its additional protocol had been submitted to the Agency in May 2002. Finally, his country was deeply grateful to those countries that were providing assistance in the fields of non-proliferation and combating of terrorism, in particular Denmark, Sweden and the United States of America.

96. Mr. ŞAHINBAŞ (Turkey) said that the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg had set numerous targets and timetables for action on a wide range of issues, including a number which could be addressed using nuclear science and technology. Provided it was given the necessary means, the Agency was well placed to contribute to the implementation of those initiatives, which included many aspects covered by Agenda 21 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

97. Turkey fully endorsed the objectives of INPRO, namely to support the safe, sustainable, cost-effective and proliferation-resistant use of nuclear technology to meet the energy needs of the 21st century, and had noted with appreciation the progress made by INPRO Member States and the Agency over the preceding year in implementing the project. His country welcomed the recent publication of a joint study on innovative nuclear reactor development by the Agency, the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the International Energy Agency, and supported all efforts to enhance co-operation between INPRO and the Generation IV initiative.

98. His country had always supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and verification mechanisms. In that connection, it noted with satisfaction the Agency's conclusion that nuclear material and other items placed under safeguards had remained in peaceful activities or were adequately accounted for in 2001. However, that did not guarantee immunity from the risks of nuclear weapons proliferation and the universal application of Agency safeguards was of paramount importance. Turkey had already concluded an additional protocol with the Agency and had made its initial declaration. Overall progress with regard to the conclusion and entry into force of safeguards agreements and additional protocols remained slow. The Agency's safeguards regime was a main supporting pillar of global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the failure of the DPRK to implement fully its safeguards agreement with the Agency was a source of serious concern.

99. Turkey had repeatedly called on Iraq to allow the resumption of United Nations inspections and to implement in full all relevant Security Council resolutions. Iraq's recent decision to allow the unconditional return of United Nations weapons inspectors could be a step in the right direction, and he expressed the hope that the Government of Iraq would fully co-operate with the United Nations to fulfil all its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions without delay.

100. With respect to further activities in support of the non-proliferation regime, his country had been actively participating in the open-ended expert meetings which had been working on a possible widening of the scope of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to include domestic use, storage and transport. It hoped a consensus would soon be reached on a draft protocol to amend the Convention. It had also recently applied to take advantage of the Agency's International Physical Protection Advisory Service in 2003, with a view to evaluating its national regulations and applications in the field of physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities.

101. Another related issue was the fight against illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material, in which area Turkey was continuing to upgrade its capabilities. A number of Turkish border points were already equipped with radiation detection systems, and installations at others were planned as part of an ongoing joint project with the United States of America.

102. Following the tragic events of 11 September 2001, the Agency and its Member States had responded promptly to the threat of nuclear terrorism, and the lessons learned had been embodied in the Agency's planned programme. The transnational nature of terrorism put all nations in jeopardy. It was no secret that terrorists had long been trying to acquire nuclear weapons and material, and co-operation at international and regional level to counter the threat was more vital than ever. To that end, his country had pledged a number of in-kind contributions in support of the Agency's programme in that area. It had offered the facilities of the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority for regional training courses and seminars organized by the Agency, and had offered to organize training programmes and provide experts in the fields of radiation protection and illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material. Furthermore, it had offered the use of the Çekmece Nuclear Research and Training Centre's laboratories for sample preparation and destructive analysis of seized nuclear material.

103. There could be no doubt that the credibility of nuclear technology was very much dependent on the strength of safety measures. Turkey welcomed the Agency's efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and was pleased with the progress being made in revising the safety standards.

104. Orphan radiation sources posed a serious threat to public health and carried the risk of misuse for potential malicious acts. The problem therefore required prompt attention and international co-operation to establish preventative measures for responding to radiological emergencies.

105. In the field of human health and safety, his country strongly supported the International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients and welcomed the implementation of the revised Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radiation Sources. Turkey had actively participated in the international action plan developed for the radiological emergency in Georgia, and had provided portable radiation detectors and cost-free experts for training activities held in Tbilisi.

106. Another important priority area was the safe transport of nuclear and radioactive material. Turkey welcomed the progress made in that area, as envisaged in General

Conference resolution GC(45)/RES/10 B, and the agreement reached on the programme for the international conference on that subject to be held in 2003. He also encouraged the Director General to report the results of that conference to the 47th regular session of the General Conference. TranSAS missions were very important for evaluating national regulations and helped create an atmosphere of confidence. At his country's request, the Secretariat had organized a pre-mission to Turkey in October 2001 and a TranSAS mission was scheduled for 2003.

107. His country had been actively participating in the Agency's regional project on harmonization and strengthening of regional preparedness for and response to nuclear emergencies, and had evaluated and restructured its organizational and legal infrastructure in the light of Agency recommendations and international experience. With a view to strengthening regional early notification capabilities, Turkey had signed bilateral early notification agreements with some neighbouring countries and was continuing negotiations with others, in addition to initiating a similar agreement among Black Sea Economic Co-operation Organization countries.

108. An area of continuing concern was the safety of research reactors and, in that regard, he welcomed the Agency's initiation of a range of measures aimed at establishing a comprehensive, internationally accepted regime. His country had participated actively in the preparation of the Code of Conduct on research reactor safety and believed that, once completed, it would contribute to desirable levels of safety in the management of such installations.

109. The second review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had been a success. The number of participants and the quality of the national reports was a clear indication of the importance the Contracting Parties attached to achieving and maintaining a higher level of nuclear safety worldwide.

110. Both as a recipient and as a donor, Turkey attached the utmost importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities which were an important element of the sustainable development process. The Turkish authorities were satisfied with the progress achieved in both national and regional projects in 2001, but believed there was still work to be done on both sides to increase the implementation rate. He congratulated the Department of Technical Co-operation on its performance, despite the heavy workload, the increased number of recipient countries and limitations on resources. His country supported the application of the central criterion and noted with satisfaction that nearly 70% of the project requests submitted for the 2003-2004 cycle fulfilled that criterion. The reduction in the number of project requests should eventually lead to a more focused and streamlined programme and improve co-ordination and management of projects.

111. Several national and regional training programmes had been conducted by the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority in the field of radiation protection and his country had made significant progress towards establishing a fully operational regulatory system compatible with the principal requirements of the Agency's Basic Safety Standards.

112. Finally, he welcomed the recent consensus on the TCF targets for 2003-2004 and the indicative planning figures for 2005-2006. Turkey would be pledging \$314 698 to the TCF for 2003.

113. Mr. HENDAOU (Tunisia) said that his country followed with interest the Agency's efforts to assist Member States to develop their capabilities in the area of nuclear technology in order to promote their socio-economic development.

114. The Agency had funded national, regional and international technical co-operation projects in Tunisia, and had provided training and scientific equipment. Tunisia's Country Programme Framework was to be signed during the current session of the General Conference. It aimed at enabling the country to establish an advanced technological infrastructure for peaceful uses of nuclear techniques.

115. His country strove to strengthen international scientific and technological co-operation with the Agency and all friendly countries, including other Arab countries, both on a bilateral basis and through the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Atomic Energy Agency. He expressed the hope that the Agency would intensify its scientific co-operation with the latter organization and help it enhance its activities.

116. One of the outstanding results of the co-operation between Mediterranean Arab countries and the Agency was the regional project on the use of radioisotopes to study marine pollution which had been launched in 1999, under which a regional training seminar had been held in Tunisia and another in Morocco. In the near future a joint marine expedition was to be organized with Algeria, Tunisia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Egypt. He expressed the hope that the Agency would obtain the support of the European Mediterranean countries, so that plans could be prepared for the study and prevention of marine pollution and protection of the Mediterranean basin.

117. Within the African region, Tunisia continued to strengthen its co-operation with all countries. It had participated in 11 regional projects during the preceding year, and had hosted five workshops in the areas of health, agriculture and industry under AFRA programmes, providing training facilities for participating countries. He noted with satisfaction that the Technical Centre for the Mechanical and Electrical Industries in Tunisia had been chosen by the African countries as the model regional centre for non-destructive testing, and appealed to the industrialized countries to continue to support the AFRA programme so that it could meet its objectives.

118. His country was also endeavouring to develop co-operation with all friendly countries in the utilization of nuclear techniques in the areas of health, agriculture and industry. The French Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique had agreed to install an electron accelerator for the treatment of industrial and medical products, and implementation of the project would start in the current year. Assistance would also be provided with the development of Tunisian expertise in the relevant disciplines.

119. Tunisia also endeavoured to meet its financial obligations both to the Regular Budget and the TCF. It would be paying its share of the TCF for the following year, and he thanked all countries which contributed to that Fund.

120. The co-operation of all countries in the area of nuclear security was vital to global security and to the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear techniques. It was essential that all States accede to the various relevant international treaties and instruments and comply with their requirements. Tunisia supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear security, and the establishment of appropriate international mechanisms to reduce the hazards of using nuclear material and to prevent its illicit use. It was also a party to the Pelindaba Treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, had worked with the international community to strengthen the safeguards system, and belonged to every international regime promoting nuclear security, safeguards, and non-proliferation and banning of nuclear tests.

121. His country was taking the necessary steps to conclude an additional protocol. It looked forward to the universal application of the safeguards system and to the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. Thus it was deeply concerned at Israel's persistent refusal to accede to the NPT and called upon that country to co-operate with the Agency by placing its nuclear facilities under Agency control, facilitating the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

122. Mr. WAETERLOOS (European Commission) said that the nuclear issue was an integral part of the wider debate on Europe's security of energy supply. The Commission's 2001 Green Paper on that subject had provided a frank exchange of views on nuclear energy and its future. Although the nuclear question aroused diverging opinions in the European Union, very few contributors to the debate had questioned the value of nuclear power generation for limiting greenhouse gas emissions. The phase-outs and moratoria planned by certain EU Member States would, however, not dramatically affect the European Union's capacity to achieve its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol since, according to current planning, they would have no effect before 2010. However, a total phasing out of nuclear power would mean that 35% of electricity production would have to come from renewable and non-conventional energy sources. At the same time, considerable efforts in energy efficiency would be needed because electricity demand was still rising. Given the technology currently available, that did not seem feasible in 10 years. Since nuclear power was therefore still unavoidable, continued attention was needed to ensure security of nuclear fuel supply. Owing to the long lead times for additional uranium resources to reach the market, the Euratom Supply Agency had recommended that the European Union nuclear power industry maintain an adequate level of strategic inventories, contract for most of their requirements with primary suppliers, and diversify the origins of their supplies.

123. Given the high priority that the European Union assigned to safety standards for nuclear power generation, a major concern for most participants in the Green Paper debate had been nuclear safety in an enlarged Union. With ten candidate countries likely to join in the near future, and others sure to follow, at least 25 operating nuclear reactors would be added to the EU's nuclear capacity, making nuclear safety a topic in accession negotiations. The Union's methodology for evaluating the safety of nuclear installations was based on Agency technical

documents. Applying that methodology, two fundamental conclusions had been drawn regarding candidate countries' accession: eight reactors that could not affordably be upgraded to the required standard would need to be shut down, and the safety level of others would need to be raised. The PHARE support programme had helped candidate countries improve the safety of nuclear plants. In addition, the Union had donated over 250 million euros for decommissioning efforts in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Over the period 1991-2001, the EU had committed over 750 million euros under the Tacis programme to international efforts to improve nuclear safety in the Russian Federation and the Newly Independent States, in close co-operation with the Agency and with other international donors.

124. He congratulated the Secretariat and co-operating States on the completion of the conceptual framework for integrated safeguards. The full integration of traditional nuclear-material-based safeguards activities with additional protocol activities should lead to a more effective safeguards system within unavoidable budgetary constraints.

125. The European Commission's enforcement of the new partnership approach had facilitated the implementation of Agency safeguards in Europe, enabling the Agency to save resources. More effective and efficient co-operation arrangements between the two organizations should be developed so that the European Commission could make equal savings, including ways for each organization to make full use of the results of the other's activities thus avoiding duplication. The existing infrastructure for Euratom safeguards and the IAEA safeguards system could be optimized to avoid double spending and allow the Agency to focus its activities on places of real concern. Other regional safeguards systems could be developed to achieve similar ends.

126. The Commission's radiation protection activities were geared to ensure a high level of radiological protection for the general public and nuclear industry personnel. One major activity was the monitoring of the incorporation of the EU directives on the Basic Safety Standards and medical exposure into national legislation, and of candidate countries' adaptation of their national legislation to fulfil their obligations under the Euratom Treaty by their accession date.

127. One major conclusion drawn from the Green Paper debate was that the future development of the nuclear industry would depend on the provision of a clear answer to the problem of the safe management, transport and disposal of radioactive waste. Under its Sixth Research Framework Programme for 2002-2006, the European Union had undertaken to support nuclear research to improve nuclear safety, radiation protection and radioactive waste management, including research on disposal of long-lived waste, and further studies on partitioning and transmutation and on other ways of reducing waste generation. Nuclear fusion also had an important place in the Framework Programme.

128. The Commission had always been actively involved in international co-operation in nuclear matters and the EU had bilateral agreements with several countries. The Union was also actively contributing to the KEDO project and fully supported any initiatives which would lead to the DPRK's fulfilment of all its safeguards commitments. A Euratom delegation was currently meeting in Toronto with delegations from Canada, Japan and the Russian Federation for the latest stage of the negotiations on the preparation of an

international agreement for the joint implementation of ITER. Two of the four sites proposed to host the project were located in the EU and one of them should be selected. He urged the Agency to continue to assist that project. Finally, during the visit of the Director General to the European Commission in November 2001, it had been agreed to intensify current co-operation in key areas.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.