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on Thursday, 19 September 2002, at 3.10.p.m.

President: Mr. RAJASA (Indonesia)

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[*] GC(46)/19.

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

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
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
SIT	Sterile insect technique
TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had met earlier in the day to examine the credentials of all delegates, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure. The report of the Committee was contained in document GC(46)/25. After discussion, the Committee had recommended the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of its report, with the reservations and position expressed in the report. Since the Committee had met, he had been informed that credentials in proper form had been received from 95 Member States, and documents which did not constitute formal credentials from 24 Member States.

2. Mr. SIRRY (Egypt) said that the acceptance by his country of the credentials submitted by Israel's delegate should not be interpreted to mean that in his country's view Israel included any of the lands occupied by it since 1967, especially Jerusalem and the Golan. In his country's view, Israel as a State meant the one with the borders as at 4 June 1967 and as defined in the peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan.

3. Mr. TOUQ (Jordan) said that, although his country had not signed the statement of reservations regarding the credentials of Israel's delegate made by Arab delegations and contained in document GC(46)/23, and in spite of its acceptance of the draft resolution contained in document GC(46)/25, its position of principle was that Israel's annexation of occupied Jerusalem was illegal and in violation of all relevant Security Council resolutions. Jordan abided by General Assembly resolution 169/35 of 1980, in which the General Assembly had stated that all administrative and legal measures ensuing from the occupation of Jerusalem were null and void and illegal and had called upon all States, specialized agencies and international organizations to reject any measures that were in conflict with that resolution.

4. Mr. LAASSEL (Morocco) said that acceptance of the credentials of Israel's delegate, issued in Jerusalem, did not prejudice the status, under international law, of Jerusalem, as stated in the relevant Security Council resolutions. Morocco, as Chairman of the Jerusalem Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, wished to reaffirm on behalf of that body that the establishment by Israel of its capital in Jerusalem was in flagrant violation of international law and of resolution 248 and subsequent relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

5. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the General Conference was prepared to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of document GC(46)/25.

6. It was so decided.

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

7. Mr. BIN RIMDAP (Nigeria) said that the Agency was continuing to play a crucial role as a catalyst of the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes such as socio-economic development. His country was especially interested in applications of nuclear

techniques and radioisotopes in increasing food production, fighting diseases, managing water resources and protecting the environment, and it hoped that the Agency would continue to help Member States exploit the opportunities which nuclear technology offered.

8. Insect pests such as mosquitoes and tsetse flies were having a devastating effect on humans and livestock in Africa, thus constituting a major obstacle to poverty alleviation. His country therefore greatly appreciated the efforts being made by the Secretariat in support of initiatives such as PATTEC. It also greatly appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions which had been made by a number of Member States and the support being provided by FAO and WHO.

9. Remarkable success had been achieved in the application of the SIT against tsetse flies, and his country would like to see the SIT used also in the eradication of mosquitoes. In that connection, it was pleased that research into the use of the SIT to combat malaria-transmitting mosquitoes had begun.

10. In his country, work on the construction of a multi-purpose industrial gamma irradiation facility had just been completed. The facility - the largest of its kind in Africa - would have a source with an activity of 3×10^5 Ci (upgradeable to 10^6 Ci). It was expected that the facility would be commissioned in 2003. His Government hoped that the Agency would make use of the facility for PATTEC and later for mosquito eradication efforts, thereby benefiting the entire region and promoting TCDC.

11. A project for the installation and operation of a miniature neutron source reactor at an energy research and training centre in Nigeria, launched in 1995 on the basis of an agreement between the Agency, the China Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation and Nigeria (represented by the Energy Commission of Nigeria), had proved to be a very successful long-term project.

12. In 1995, his Government had promulgated a nuclear safety and radiation protection decree laying the legal foundation for a nuclear regulatory authority. Today, the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) was an effective regulatory body independent of all promoters of nuclear energy applications. In August, an Agency team had assessed the NNRA's capabilities and procedures, and the team members had had an opportunity of exchanging views with top-level Nigerian policy-makers, who had assured them of the commitment of the Government to effective and independent regulation in the nuclear field.

13. Following that assessment team mission, his Government was confident that the Agency would approve the shipment of the fuel for the aforementioned miniature neutron source reactor without further delay, and it hoped that the Director General would be able to take part in the reactor commissioning ceremony.

14. Nigeria was deriving considerable benefit from its participation in the Model Project for upgrading radiation protection infrastructure in Africa. The NNRA had already achieved the first and second project milestones, and it was hoped that the other three milestones would be achieved within the next two years.

15. Nigeria continued to attach great importance to AFRA as a mechanism for regional co-operation in Africa. However, there was now a further such mechanism, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and his country hoped that the Agency would support it. Accordingly, it would in due course submit to the Secretariat a document on NEPAD vis-à-vis AFRA projects.

16. His country attached great importance to the technical co-operation activities of the Agency, regarding them as major statutory activities. Similarly, it attached great importance to nuclear technology transfer for peaceful purposes, regarding it as a fundamental aspect of the implementation of the NPT.

17. His country considered the NPT to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, of which the Agency's safeguards system was an essential part. Favouring universal adherence to the Model Additional Protocol, it had signed a protocol additional to its NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency in September 2001. It was confident that, with the co-operation of Member States, the Agency would continue to maintain public confidence in the safeguards system as a means of helping to ensure global peace and security.

18. After long discussions among Member States, the Board of Governors had reached a consensus on a figure of US \$74.75 million for the TCF target for 2003. That figure represented a numerical increase over the 2002 TCF target, but not a real increase - and the needs of developing Member States were still increasing. Nigeria, which intended to pay its full share of the TCF target for 2003, hoped that many other Member States would follow suit.

19. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation of the efforts of Mr. Qian in guiding the Department of Technical Co-operation.

20. Mr. BEKHBAT (Mongolia) said that, following the tragic events of 11 September 2001, his country, which was committed to the elimination of all forms of terrorism, attached particular importance to the Agency's activities in the area of nuclear security. It appreciated the Agency's continued efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the safeguards system, which was an important means of promoting nuclear non-proliferation and ensuring the physical protection of nuclear material. It was very much in favour of complementing safeguards agreements by additional protocols, and it welcomed the completion of the development of a conceptual framework for integrated safeguards.

21. Mongolia had signed a protocol additional to its NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency in December 2001, and the constitutional procedures necessary for ratification were well under way.

22. Mongolia considered it important that the efforts being made to achieve universality with regard to the conclusion of safeguards agreements and additional protocols continue. Also, it was in favour of broadening the scope of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

23. Technical co-operation between Mongolia and the Agency was proceeding well, and the projects being implemented in Mongolia - and relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, human health, geology, mining and the environment - were helping to promote the country's socio-economic development.

24. The Model Project for upgrading radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure was producing good results in Mongolia. Through it, his country had made good progress in establishing a legal framework for radiation protection, in strengthening its nuclear regulatory authority and in training its radiation protection specialists.

25. Mongolia, which welcomed the Secretariat's activities aimed at forging closer partnerships with other organizations and with donor countries, hoped that those activities would result in the mobilization of additional funds for Agency programmes.

26. Mr. FABER (Luxembourg) said that in his delegation's view it was essential that the group of legal and technical experts convened by the Director General in order to draft an amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material complete its task soon, so that an amendment conference might be held at the beginning of 2003. His delegation would like to see in the draft amendment a provision requiring each State party to the Convention to inform every other State of any act of nuclear terrorism which it had reason to believe was imminent.

27. The implementation of protocols additional to safeguards agreements would greatly increase the Agency's ability to verify whether States were fulfilling their nuclear non-proliferation obligations. His delegation would therefore like to see all Member States concluding additional protocols and putting them into force with a minimum of delay. In that connection, it believed that the Secretariat and Japan were to be commended for their efforts to promote the Model Additional Protocol.

28. In 1998, following constructive discussions in the course of the General Conference's forty-second regular session, Luxembourg had decided to pay its full TCF target share, and it had been paying its full TCF target share ever since. That demonstrated his country's awareness of the importance of Agency technical co-operation within the context of nuclear non-proliferation efforts. It also demonstrated his country's recognition of the high quality of the technical assistance being provided in important areas such as safety, health, agriculture and water resources management. His delegation hoped that a continuation of the Secretariat's sectoral approach in the technical co-operation field would further increase the donor base.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.