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# Plenary

## Record of the Seventh Plenary Meeting

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**President:** Mr. TAKASU (Japan)  
**Later:** Mr. BERDENNIKOV (Russian Federation)

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**Abbreviations used in this record:**

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
APC	Assessed programme costs
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
CPF	Country Programme Framework
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
LDC	Least developed country
MESA	Middle East and South Asia
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
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
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and
SEAP	South East Asia and the Pacific
SIT	Sterile insect technique
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
WASP	Wien Automatic System Planning Package



## **6. General debate and Annual Report for 2002 (continued)** (GC(47)/2)

1. Ms. AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that, since the call for “Atoms for Peace” had first been launched almost fifty years ago, the pace of development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had been accelerating and the Agency’s technical co-operation programme had become one of the most important pillars of the Agency’s work, promoting national capacity building and nuclear technology transfer for the purposes of social and economic development in developing countries. It was therefore essential to maintain an appropriate balance between the Agency’s promotional and other statutory activities, and to make TCF resources assured and predictable.
2. The holding of technical co-operation programme events in Member States played an important role in promoting a thorough understanding of various nuclear techniques and applications at national and regional level. Kuwait was intending to host a second training course on radiation protection in diagnostic and interventional radiology, encouraged by the success of the first course it had hosted on that topic. The holding of such training courses helped support the development of radiation protection programmes and projects in Kuwait and other participating States.
3. Energy was one of the cornerstones of sustainable development. What energy sources a State opted for depended on national policies and needs. Kuwait saw nuclear energy as complementing, not competing with, other energy sources.
4. Nuclear techniques had a useful role to play in the sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions. Her country therefore welcomed the meeting of the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, held in the United States in June 2003, which had approved a framework for international co-operation in research and development in that field. Kuwait was intending to organize a scientific workshop at the beginning of 2004 on sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, with the participation of international experts and the Agency. The Agency should play a leading role in nuclear technology applications in that area with a view to helping Member States meet their developmental and environmental goals.
5. At the Board’s meetings in March 2003 an informal open-ended working group on the programme and budget had been established under the co-chairmanship of the Ambassadors of Peru and Spain. After intensive consultations with Member States, that group had agreed on a package proposal that addressed the basic concerns of all regional groups and had, happily, recently been approved by the Committee of Whole. The package was a well-balanced compromise solution.
6. Global safety could be enhanced by setting up mechanisms and developing standards, and by adopting binding international agreements. Kuwait had recently ratified the Convention on Early Notification on a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or a Radiological Emergency.
7. The Agency’s measures to protect against nuclear terrorism were of great importance, including activities relating to the physical protection of nuclear material and installations, the detection of and response to illicit trafficking in nuclear material, and protection against nuclear accidents and the acquisition of nuclear material by irresponsible individuals or parties leading to serious consequences as a result of misuse.

8. While Kuwait appreciated the efforts of the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security, that Group should respect the need for balance between the Agency's various activities in considering future activities.

9. Her country appreciated the Director General's and the Secretariat's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of Agency safeguards. Kuwait had recently ratified an additional protocol and she urged all States to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency and additional protocols.

10. The accession of all States in the Middle East to the international non-proliferation regime, including the NPT, and the implementation of their obligations under that Treaty, were crucial to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region, an initiative which Kuwait supported as the first step towards the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. The most important challenge and impediment to that goal was Israel's failure to accede to the NPT and to subject its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards.

11. Noting the Agency's safeguards inspection mission to Iraq in June 2003, she stressed the importance of recovering all dispersed uranium compounds in the country, securing the nuclear material inventory, and placing it under Agency safeguards and effective physical protection and security measures, in the interests of protecting public health and the environment. She also welcomed paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) which announced the Security Council's intention to revisit the Agency's mandate in Iraq. It was essential that the Agency maintain its existing expertise and capabilities in order to ensure it was able to implement effectively an ongoing monitoring and verification regime.

12. Her country was concerned at the DPRK's non-compliance with its safeguards agreement and the Agency's inability to verify the non-diversion of the nuclear material subject to that agreement. She expressed the hope that the DPRK would take all necessary corrective measures to ensure its compliance with the NPT, its safeguard agreement and all other relevant measures in order to avoid exposing the Korean Peninsula and the world to nuclear threats and risks. She also expressed appreciation for the diplomatic efforts which were being made to find a solution to the problem.

13. The Agency was regarded as one of the most reliable international organizations and it played a vital role in maintaining the non-proliferation regime. It was essential to support and enhance the Agency's objective and impartial role in that regard.

14. Finally, though Kuwait did not object to the inclusion in the agenda of the additional item on the amendment to Article VI of the Agency's Statute, it did not think it wise to debate that matter during the current session since that might undermine the consensus reached in 1999.

15. Mr. BORG (Malta) said that his country subscribed to the need for a strong system of international safeguards to promote collective security. To that end, it had signed an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement earlier in the year and was in the process of ratifying it. He encouraged all States that had not already done so to conclude safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

16. At a time when the misuse of nuclear material could pose a serious threat to millions of people around the world, the Agency's endeavours to promote nuclear safety were taking on ever greater importance. His Government had enacted legislation on radiation protection and nuclear safety, and on the establishment of a national regulatory authority. It was anticipated that Malta would be in a position to become a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in the near future.

17. In his statement, the Director General had emphasized the Agency's determination to continue with the development of an ever increasing number of non-power applications of nuclear energy in such areas as seawater desalination, sterile insect techniques, the mutation and breeding of food crops, and nuclear medicine. Such applications were of particular interest to Malta which did not use nuclear power.

18. The Director General had also referred to the growing demand for Agency co-ordinated research projects on a variety of nuclear applications. Widespread participation in such programmes would go a long way towards promoting the spread of nuclear knowledge and nuclear applications for development purposes, thereby increasing the Agency's contribution to sustainable development worldwide.

19. The Maltese Government welcomed the launch of the World Nuclear University. That body was very important to small countries like Malta which were not in a position to provide education in nuclear science at home. It was to be hoped that it would help redress the problem of the shortage of nuclear scientists, and that it would prove an efficient instrument for promoting sustainable development.

20. Malta expressed appreciation for the assistance it had received from the Agency with medical uses of nuclear radiation, national preparedness in case of a radiological accident, and other non-power applications. In the 2003-2004 biennium, the Agency was providing support through projects on emergency response, quality assurance and quality control in diagnostic radiology, and capacity building at the Malta national laboratory. Malta was also participating in a number of regional projects which had provided many opportunities for Government officials to take part in training programmes and international conferences related to their professional work. All such assistance was made available under the Agency's technical co-operation programme.

21. His country appreciated the Agency's attempts to improve the effectiveness of its technical co-operation programmes through more dialogue with Member States and by focusing on fewer, higher-quality technical co-operation projects. It also welcomed the planned increased co-operation with other institutions aimed at rendering the Agency's technical co-operation programme more effective, and the growing interest in promoting regional and interregional co-operation among Member States on sharing of nuclear knowledge. In that context, Malta would like to see more such co-operation in the Mediterranean region.

22. Mr. CHARLES (Haiti) said that co-operation between Haiti and the Agency had resumed following an initial exploratory mission in June 2001. Two major projects were being implemented in the 2003-2004 cycle: one on the development and implementation of a national energy plan and one on the management of one of the country's main aquifers in the Cul-de-Sac plain. Agency assistance had been most extensive in the medical field and had included such initiatives as training of technical staff, the establishment of a dosimetry and radiation protection unit, and the drafting of a law on radiological safety and the management of radioactive waste. Haiti was also actively involved in regional projects on occupational and medical radiation protection and the Government was working closely with the Agency to secure orphan sources in Haiti. The regional programme was crucial to harmonizing radiation protection activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Haitian Government was preparing to submit projects for the 2005-2006 cycle on radiotherapy, aquifer management and agriculture, and it counted on Agency support for their implementation.

23. Haiti was taking steps to ratify its safeguards agreement, an additional protocol, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the ARCAL agreement. It also firmly supported the international community's efforts to combat terrorism in general and nuclear terrorism in particular.

24. Referring to the Agency's Technical Co-operation Report for 2002, he welcomed the many initiatives aimed at developing current strategies for the efficient implementation of programmes, building new partnerships, establishing sustainable regional and national co-operation institutions, and strengthening means of communication. He also stressed the importance of promoting public awareness of the benefits to be reaped from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries.

25. Referring to the recommendation that Member States should not submit more than five projects per cycle, he urged the Secretariat to show some flexibility in that regard because LDCs like Haiti might need to submit a larger number of projects to catch up with other countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Special allowances should be made for LDCs both as regards national and regional co-operation projects.

26. The Haitian Government was taking steps, within the limits of its financial resources, to settle its arrears in contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF. The question of voting rights was particularly important for countries whose means were limited and the current five-year payment plan imposed harsh conditions on small countries like Haiti. A solution to that problem that was acceptable to all parties should be sought.

27. Global peace was a prerequisite for sustainable development and the Agency had a vital role to play in promoting peace. Hence, all Member States should provide it with the resources it needed to carry out its mission, and States that could afford to do so should increase their voluntary contributions.

28. Mr. ZAMBESI (Zambia) noted the measures which had been taken by the Agency to strengthen technical co-operation activities in Member States, which were of critical importance to developing countries, and to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear, radiation and waste safety, which were crucial to consolidating public confidence in the use of nuclear science and technology and to avoiding nuclear catastrophes.

29. He commended the Director General and his staff for their tireless efforts to establish whether Iraq had resumed the production of weapons of mass destruction. The Director General's forthrightness and truthfulness under intense pressure had provided reassuring confirmation of the integrity and professionalism of the Agency's staff and the uncompromised independence and scientific integrity of the organization. He also paid special tribute to the Director General and his predecessor, Dr. Hans Blix, for their achievements in the radiation safety and safeguards fields, and urged the Agency to remain resolute in its quest for a peaceful world.

30. Non-proliferation would remain a pipedream unless those with the weaponry that threatened the very existence of mankind responded to the calls to dismantle their arsenals. The international community should also not ignore research into new weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, acts of violence and terrorism committed by one State against another on any pretext, even that of enforcing or safeguarding the NPT, were an unwise and unworthy course of action.

31. Zambia had taken measures to address illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radiation sources by strengthening the relevant legal framework with the participation of stakeholders. Draft legislation was in the final stages of consideration. In addition, some officials at border checkpoints had received training in the identification of possible radioactive material.

32. He welcomed the focus of the Agency's programme and budget for 2004 on strengthening of the technical co-operation programme. That programme had always benefited Member States, especially those wishing to improve the living standards of their populations. The revised CPF submitted by Zambia would facilitate the elaboration of the much needed, mutually agreed programme

of co-operation between Zambia and the Agency and he thanked the Secretariat for the guidance it had provided with the development of that document.

33. His country continued to build on the benefits gained from the increased use of infrastructure and from human resources development achieved through the technical co-operation programme. Developments since the preceding session of the General Conference included the initiation of the construction of a cancer treatment centre and the strengthening of the nuclear medicine unit at the University Teaching Hospital. Future activities centred on the actual construction of the cancer treatment centre and training of doctors and technologists to ensure the sustainability of the project. Some training was already being provided in South Africa.

34. The neonatal hypothyroidism monitoring facilities at the University Teaching Hospital were allowing early remedial measures to be implemented and their diagnostic services were also being made available to adults. He thanked the Agency for providing materials and experts for the recent training course for technicians on issues relating to neonatal hypothyroidism and expressed the hope that more assistance could be provided, especially in the expanded phase of the preliminary survey which aimed at covering at least 20 000 neonates.

35. The facilities for monitoring drug-resistant malaria and tuberculosis at the Tropical Diseases Research Centre in Ndola, and the training that had been provided in the detection of those diseases which were a major cause of morbidity and mortality in Zambia, had helped strengthen efforts in that field. The results of those activities had been used to update the national drug policy. Monitoring of cholera epidemics had also benefited from those facilities.

36. The Plant Tissue Culture Facility continued to provide inputs for the national potato seed supply and food security initiatives. Several varieties of cassava, a drought-tolerant food crop, were being micro-propagated for use as disease-free planting material for farmers in rural areas. Research into the use of radiation-induced plant mutations continued to yield results in the national millet development programme, and research on pumpkins with special characteristics was making satisfactory and steady progress.

37. Monitoring of industrial aerosols and radon in mines and work places was being consolidated with more work being undertaken in underground mines. Training of technical team members through fellowships had been of great assistance, and occupational health and safety should improve as a result of those activities.

38. Zambia supported AFRA and had finally acceded to that agreement. Work under AFRA on radiotherapy, use of isotopes in nutrition monitoring, isotope hydrology, nuclear medicine and other areas addressed the problems of poverty in AFRA member States using expertise and capacity available within the region. Since the preceding General Conference, his country had received AFRA missions in human resource development and training. Zambian scientists and technical staff had participated in training courses and seminars, and in co-ordination meetings and programmes in various fields. He expressed the hope that sufficient resources would be forthcoming for the various projects proposed for 2004-2005.

39. Finally, Zambia pledged its full share of the TCF target for 2004.

**Mr. Berdennikov (Russian Federation) took the chair.**

40. Mr. MENDIS (Sri Lanka) said that, like many other Member States from the developing world, his country had benefited greatly from the Agency's technical co-operation programme which had enabled Sri Lanka to utilize nuclear technology effectively to promote its socio-economic development, particularly in the areas of health, agriculture and industry. Those efforts were crucial to the national peace process and to meeting the challenges of globalization and liberalization of trade.

His country therefore welcomed the fact that the total budget for the Agency's technical co-operation programme in 2002 had reached a peak of US \$98.1 million. Any further expansion of technical co-operation programmes would require additional budgetary commitments from developed countries. Sri Lanka was making a concerted effort to honour its APC obligations and was paying more than its APC dues in the current year in an attempt to pay off its arrears.

41. Sri Lanka's Atomic Energy Authority had been able to generate 45% of its operational expenses on its own in 2002, in line with the Agency's aim of promoting self-reliance and sustainability.

42. His country appreciated the Agency project on upgrading radiation protection and waste management infrastructure which was being implemented in Sri Lanka. It had been involved in that project since the launching of the original interregional model project. Sri Lanka had attained the first two project milestones and needed further assistance to attain milestones 3-5. It would therefore like the Agency to review the project with a view to its providing further assistance.

43. Sri Lanka thoroughly supported the Agency's continued efforts to foster regional co-operation. It had acceded to the RCA in 1976 and had been actively participating in its programmes and projects. The RCA had been instrumental in establishing national programmes and projects involving the use of nuclear technology in health, agriculture and industry, and the people of Sri Lanka had benefited immensely from regional projects in those areas. Promoting regional co-operation through regional mechanisms was necessary not only to enable developing countries to acquire nuclear technology in a cost-effective manner, but also to address transboundary safety and security issues. He thanked RCA members and the Agency for giving Sri Lanka the opportunity to host the 25th meeting of RCA national representatives in Colombo in 2003, although Sri Lanka had been officially designated to host that event in 2004.

44. The threat of terrorism had an adverse impact not only on the internal security of States but also on international peace and security. Faced with the danger of terrorists' acquiring nuclear weapons, there was an urgent need for international co-operation to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime. His country welcomed the measures the Agency had already taken to combat nuclear terrorism, including the revised Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the proposed amendments to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Sri Lanka would review those IAEA conventions to which it had not yet become a party and take appropriate steps to ratify them.

45. The effective implementation of safeguards in the Middle East could consolidate the nuclear non-proliferation regime. He called upon States in the region that had concluded safeguards agreements to demonstrate transparency and co-operate fully with the Agency. It was regrettable that the Agency had had to suspend all its verification activities in the DPRK and he expressed the hope that the DPRK would comply with its safeguard agreement without delay and return to the NPT regime.

46. Security doctrines based on the nuclear deterrent theory would only lead to further proliferation, and a multilateral approach was the best as a way of achieving greater security for all countries. Sri Lanka therefore supported the establishment of an ad hoc committee at the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral, and internationally effective and verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or explosive devices, taking into consideration both disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

47. Mr. KAMANDA WA KAMANDA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the establishment of the new Government in his country in June 2003 had marked the end of a six-year political and institutional crisis. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was committed to nuclear non-proliferation, unconditional adherence to the provisions of the NPT, the peaceful use of nuclear

energy for sustainable development, international co-operation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management, prevention of nuclear terrorism, improving the efficiency of the safeguards system, and technical co-operation in nuclear science, technology and applications.

48. His country's presence at the General Conference after a gap of several years showed its willingness to shoulder its international obligations once more. His Government was committed to clearing the country's arrears in contributions to the Agency and had confirmed that it would be paying its contribution to the TCF for 2004. It was grateful to the Agency for its continued support at a difficult time, when other bilateral and multilateral partners had broken off relations with it.

49. The Democratic Republic of Congo had two nuclear research reactor facilities which it had acquired in 1959 and 1972. It had been a member of the Agency since 1961, a party to the NPT since 1962, and had signed an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement in April 2003. It planned to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in the near future. Those instruments were crucial to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and formed the essential basis for peaceful nuclear co-operation and sustainable development.

50. In 2002, his country had adopted a law on protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation and the physical protection of nuclear material and installations. It was now able to keep track of possible illicit trafficking in fissile and radioactive material and recover any radioactive material and sources circulating in the country, thus enhancing the safety of its people and the environment.

51. His Government intended to establish a national nuclear security council to prevent, detect and respond to sabotage and theft of, unauthorized access to, or illegal transfer of nuclear and radioactive material and facilities. At regional level, it intended to work with nine neighbouring countries to strengthen physical protection of nuclear facilities and combat trafficking in nuclear material, as a proof of its desire to maintain a climate of peace and security and respect its international commitments.

52. His country's priorities in the technical co-operation areas lay in the areas of health (establishment of a national radiotherapy centre, detection of resistance to malaria and tuberculosis, use of the SIT to eradicate the tsetse fly), water and energy (sustainable development of groundwater resources, use of isotope hydrology in water resource management) and industry (non-destructive testing). In conclusion, he thanked the Agency for the training and expert services it had provided, and invited the Director General to visit the Democratic Republic of the Congo to see for himself the progress of Agency technical co-operation projects.

53. Mr. QASHUT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) commended the Agency's efforts to promote and expand the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management.

54. The Agency's safety standards programme was of great importance to his country, particularly as it related to research reactor safety, since the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya possessed a 10 MW research reactor which a highly qualified and experienced national team had been ably operating and maintaining in accordance with the Agency's safety standards, as confirmed by several Agency experts who had visited the reactor.

55. His country had been one of the first developing countries to enact, in 1982, a law on protection against radiation hazards, which had been applied to workers in various peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to patients undergoing radiotherapy. Certain operational units had been applying the Agency's radiation dosimetry regimes to both radiation workers and patients. His country had been carefully monitoring and controlling movement of radiation sources within its territory and a stringent regulatory system was in place for the import and re-export of sources, and licensing of radioactive

instrumentation and operators thereof. It had also been analysing food components and construction materials to verify the absence of radiation, especially long-lived radionuclides.

56. Operative paragraph 3 of General Conference resolution GC/(46)/RES/11.B on nuclear knowledge requested the Secretariat to assist Member States in their efforts to ensure the preservation of nuclear education and training for peaceful purposes. Education and training in the nuclear safety area formed an integral part of the Agency's education and training programmes and he urged it to increase participation by the developing countries in those programmes.

57. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had met its obligations to the TCF up to the end of 2002 and he called on all States that had not paid their contributions to the TCF to do so at the earliest possible time so as to enable the Agency to meet its obligations in the technical co-operation field in accordance with Article II of its Statute.

58. He commended the Secretariat's efforts to implement the Technical Co-operation Strategy and ensure the compatibility of projects with Member States' national priorities through their respective CPFs. The Agency should develop a mechanism to foster and encourage the conclusion of partnerships and agreements among developed and developing Member States on human resource development through education and training programmes and the provision of expert services and equipment, in order to ensure sustainability.

59. The Agency's technical co-operation activities in such areas as the use of isotope hydrology in water resource management and the use of radiation techniques to service urgent human needs helped enhance economic and social development and had a direct impact on quality of life. In particular, he thanked the Agency for the support it was giving to PATTEC.

60. The Agency should take appropriate measures to provide the necessary financial resources for education and training, maintaining and preserving nuclear knowledge, and facilitating the acquisition of equipment and instrumentation through technology transfer programmes.

61. He commended the Agency's ongoing efforts to implement the safeguards programme in order to provide the international community as effectively and efficiently as possible with credible assurances that States were complying with their obligations. Current safeguards were discriminatory and based on double standards for, while nuclear material in non-nuclear-weapon states with comprehensive safeguards agreements was accounted for, inspected, verified and controlled in order to ensure non-diversion, no measures were applied to compel nuclear-weapon states to eliminate such weapons or to discontinue nuclear-weapon research and development programmes. Such weapons posed a threat to international peace and security and increased the risk of nuclear terrorism. It was high time that the international community put an end to such double standards and worked towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.

62. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was a member of Pelindaba Treaty and it welcomed the initiatives aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Israel was the main impediment to those efforts as it was the only State possessing nuclear weapons in the region, had not acceded to the NPT or concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement, refused to subject its nuclear installations to Agency inspection and control, and had not complied with the international appeals to that effect. He called on the international community to apply pressure to Israel to accept safeguards on all its nuclear activities as a necessary step towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

63. In conclusion, he commended the Agency's efforts aimed at protecting against nuclear terrorism and called for a rejection of all forms of terrorism

64. Mr. POPOVSKI (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that his country had made significant steps in the field of radiation safety and had assigned priority to the establishment of an independent regulatory authority, the preparation of sub-laws and a code of practice for the country's radiation source programme, and the building of capacity for improved physical protection of radioactive and nuclear material, with special emphasis on preventing illegal possession of and the illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material. It had undertaken complex activities to install equipment and develop the required operating procedures at national level and hoped for continuing Agency support in those areas. Projects for the forthcoming cycle would be defined jointly with the Agency, in line with the new CPF soon to be signed. They would be aimed at further strengthening the regulatory infrastructure and applications in the fields of human health, the environment, illicit trafficking, and agriculture.

65. The Republic of Macedonia continued to support the strengthening of regional co-operation. It benefited from the comprehensive regional programme for Europe and, under the current project on regional control of brucellosis in sheep and goats, it had hosted a co-ordination meeting earlier in the year. That meeting had been attended by 11 countries interested in developing a joint strategic approach to combat the disease. It was the first such meeting where all Balkan countries had been able to participate. The Agency's inputs had been greatly appreciated. There were plans to hold inter-laboratory exercises and a training course at the Veterinary Institute in Skopje.

66. He thanked the Agency for the valuable assistance it provided through its technical co-operation programme. The Republic of Macedonia was making every effort to meet its financial obligations to the Agency, despite budgetary constraints. It had demonstrated its commitment to the technical co-operation programme through two voluntary contributions to the TCF for priority national projects.

67. Mr. NYUNT MAUNG SHEIN (Myanmar) commended the Agency's role in international co-operation on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, and its work on nuclear safety and security and safeguards, which were crucial to protecting the public from the hazards of ionizing radiation. He also welcomed its efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system to ensure the smooth functioning of the non-proliferation regime.

68. Myanmar had embarked on a programme of promoting and developing nuclear applications and was well aware of the need for adequate radiation protection and a waste safety infrastructure. He thanked the Agency for providing assistance through the interregional model project on radiation protection. Myanmar was participating actively in interregional projects on legislation for safe and peaceful nuclear applications, national regulatory control and occupational radiation protection programmes, and the development of technical capabilities for sustainable radiation and waste safety infrastructure.

69. Stressing the importance of predictable and assured funding for technical co-operation, he noted that the largest proportion of the assistance provided to Myanmar was in medicine, followed by agriculture, human resource development and nuclear technology support, nuclear engineering and technology, and nuclear safety. Some assistance was also being provided in nuclear physics, industry and hydrology, nuclear chemistry and energy development. Under one Agency project, the Central Agriculture Research Institute was developing varieties of rice that were suitable for cultivation in drought-prone areas and on saline land, employing radiation-induced mutation and in vitro techniques. Isotopic and non-isotopic techniques were being used to evaluate locally available animal fodder resources and to develop fodder supplementation strategies. The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was working on Agency projects aimed at controlling cattle diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease. A National Centre for Nuclear Instrumentation Maintenance had been established under another project. Radiation therapy facilities had been set up using national funding and a simulator had been installed in Mandalay General Hospital. The Agency had provided

equipment and assisted with the introduction of quality assurance and quality control in teletherapy and brachytherapy treatment. A national radiotracer group had been established to introduce routine use of radiotracers and sealed sources in the petroleum industry. Those facilities were being sustained by Agency contributions of equipment, experts and training.

70. Myanmar appreciated the role played by regional agreements in enhancing the Agency's promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It benefited from its membership in the RCA and would like to see further enhancement of RCA activities.

71. Mr. KOHI (United Republic of Tanzania) thanked the Agency for the valuable technical assistance his country had received. Special attention should be given to the Agency's technical co-operation programmes in Africa as most LDCs were to be found on that continent. Efforts should focus on the application of nuclear techniques to fight infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, which continued to hamper the continent's development.

72. Tsetse infestation, trypanosomosis and sleeping sickness were major constraints in the United Republic of Tanzania, affecting both humans and livestock in over 60% of the country. The situation was similar in the rest of Africa. Over 90% of the continent was infested with various species of tsetse, making it very difficult to reduce poverty. Tanzania therefore welcomed the efforts of the international community, through the Agency, to help African Member States deal with the tsetse problem, particularly through PATTEC. The use of the SIT to eradicate tsetse species in various parts of Africa was gaining momentum, and the support of Member States in that regard was much appreciated.

73. In the preceding year, his country had concluded a contract with the Agency under which the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Institute in Tanga was to rear females of two different species to support tsetse control activities in the Okavango Delta in Botswana and in the Southern Rift Valley in Ethiopia. Funds donated by the United States of America had been used to rehabilitate the fly-proofing of the Institute's rearing facility. Construction work had been completed and the installation of the equipment was in progress. Unfortunately, the establishment of one colony had fallen behind schedule, but it was expected to pick up following remedial measures. The Institute was playing a critical role in the training of technical staff for the campaign and had already trained 44 fellows from the African region. A national development strategy document on application of the SIT and other conventional methods to eradicate the tsetse fly in Tanzania was being formulated, and he appealed to all those who wished Africa well to support the PATTEC initiative.

74. His country had received valuable support from the Agency through the technical co-operation programme in the areas of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. The nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services at the only cancer hospital in Tanzania had been greatly improved. The agreed programme to expand further and consolidate those services through a cost-sharing scheme with the Agency, to which his country had contributed \$600 000, was expected to bring those services in line with international standards. He appealed for increased support so that the people of Tanzania could have access to high-quality nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services.

75. Tanzania had finished revising its radiation protection legislation with a view to providing for effective regulation and promotion of nuclear technology, including the implementation of international treaties and conventions. Good international co-operation should enable LDCs like Tanzania to derive maximum benefit from nuclear technology, including nuclear power. Thus, his country welcomed the recent research and development initiatives on low-cost power reactor units that were cost-effective, viable, affordable and safer. The nuclear power option would contribute to poverty reduction by providing an assured energy source. In revising its nuclear law, Tanzania had opened the door for increased promotional activities, including consideration of the nuclear power

option. Human resources development in that area and a study of the appropriateness of the nuclear power option in Tanzania would be a priority in his country's development plans.

76. Unfortunately, the increased threat of international terrorism and illicit trafficking in radioactive material had had a negative impact on nuclear technology applications. There had been a major shift of resources to verification activities at the expense of promotional activities, posing a significant challenge to the Agency's statutory objectives.

77. Nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety was another challenge facing the Member States of the Agency. Tanzania fully supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen international co-operation and capabilities in nuclear, radiation and waste safety and security. It had recently promulgated an atomic energy law which sought to maximize the peaceful use of nuclear technology while ensuring safety and security.

78. In conclusion, he endorsed the proposed budget increase, noting that the bulk of the increase would go to the Agency's verification programme which, apparently, had been experiencing the greatest demand for additional resources and been chronically underfunded for a number of years. His country would be pledging its full share of the TCF.

79. Mr. UMAR (Nigeria) said that the Agency served as a catalyst for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses in such fields as food production, disease control, water resource management and environmental protection.

80. Africa continued to benefit from the Agency's SIT programme and his country was grateful to the Agency for the technical co-operation funding and extrabudgetary contributions which had been made available for PATTEC. Africa had begun to take effective ownership of that programme. A PATTEC Co-ordinating Office had been set up in Addis Ababa, and the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the African Union in Maputo in July had directed Member States of the Union to allocate adequate resources to the eradication of tsetse flies and other livestock diseases, and to identify national and regional focal points in order to ensure the successful implementation of PATTEC. The Agency and the PATTEC Co-ordinating Office had agreed on modalities for incorporating PATTEC activities in the agenda of NEPAD. As one of the leading initiators of NEPAD, Nigeria had identified water and human health as one of its priority areas. Thus, the Agency was being invited to assist in the development of an isotope hydrology laboratory to enhance the exploration and sustainable management of water resources not only in Nigeria but in the entire West African subregion. The Agency's technical co-operation programme might also collaborate with NEPAD in the field of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

81. Together with the WHO, Nigeria had spearheaded the Roll Back Malaria campaign. His Government welcomed the inauguration of the SIT research project on the eradication of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes and was grateful to the Agency and donor countries, especially the United States of America, Germany and France for their support. Malaria was the leading cause of death in Africa, and he appealed to all countries, especially wealthy ones, to fund that research project generously.

82. His country was committed to AFRA as a means of providing Agency assistance to the African region. Within the framework of AFRA, Nigeria had hosted a regional workshop for sub-Saharan Africa on electricity generation expansion planning using the WASP package. That workshop, which had attracted 34 participants from 14 countries in the subregion, had been successfully concluded and had undoubtedly added to the usefulness of the project on sustainable energy development in sub-Saharan Africa.

83. The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA), established in May 2001, had immediately begun receiving technical assistance from the Agency through the model project on upgrading radiation protection infrastructure. That project had been very effective and his country would like to see it extended for another biennium.

84. Between January 2002 and February 2003, the NNRA had carried out an audit inspection of radiation protection in radiotherapy practice in the country. The results of that exercise, which had provided a benchmark not only for radiation safety but also for the effectiveness of radiotherapy practice in Nigeria, had been presented in February 2003 at a national workshop on radiation protection in medical exposure organized by the NNRA, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Agency for senior managers in hospitals. The audit report was currently being used by his Government to develop a work plan for sustainable development of radiotherapy practice. The NNRA had also held a national workshop on the safety and security of radiation sources and radiation protection in the petroleum industry in June 2003, in co-operation with the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Agency.

85. In December 2002, two americium-beryllium sources had been reported as lost or stolen in a nuclear well logging company in the petroleum industry. The Agency had been duly informed and had promptly sent an emergency response team to Nigeria in February 2003. Nigeria appreciated the Agency's support and its useful recommendations. Reports had been received that the sources had been found, and that information had been confirmed by the Agency.

86. In June 2003, a peer review mission had visited the NNRA. The mission had been timely, because three major nuclear application facilities were about to be commissioned: a miniature neutron source reactor supplied under an Agency technical co-operation project; a multi-purpose gamma irradiation facility and a tandem linear accelerator. The latter two projects had been developed exclusively by Nigeria. His Government was awaiting the reports and recommendations from that mission.

87. In December 2003, the Agency would be holding a regional training course in Nigeria on radiation protection and management of radioactive waste in the oil and gas industry. That course should further improve national awareness of radiation protection and safety.

88. The research reactor project at the Centre for Research and Development had started with the signing of a contract in 1996 for the delivery and installation by the Chinese Nuclear Energy Industry Corporation of a miniature neutron source reactor. The construction of the necessary infrastructure and the installation of the reactor equipment had been completed in March 1999, but the Agency had not permitted the shipment of nuclear fuel at the time owing to the absence of an adequate nuclear regulatory framework. In August 2002, an assessment mission from the Agency had found that the NNRA was functioning normally and that the requisite regulatory framework was in place. The Agency had therefore authorized the shipment of the fuel to Nigeria in October 2002. Since then, a number of inexplicable problems had delayed the shipment. He urged the Agency to put pressure on the suppliers to fulfil their contractual obligations and ship the fuel to Nigeria so that the research reactor could be commissioned before the end of the year.

89. His country had always been appreciative of the Agency's excellent work and the technical assistance it provided. However, it was forced to note that, at a time of economic difficulty, its assessed contribution to the Agency was increasing whereas the level of technical co-operation it was receiving had been declining in real terms since 1998. That trend should be reversed. Nevertheless, Nigeria was still pledging its full share of the TCF for 2004.

90. The increase in the Agency's budget would enable it to serve the international community better. Nigeria would like to see an even distribution of funds between the three pillars of the Agency's activities in view of the fact that the majority of Member States were developing countries.

91. A cardinal function of the Agency was to prevent the use of nuclear energy for other than peaceful purposes and to help maintain the nuclear non-proliferation regime, whose main pillar was the NPT. Nuclear non-proliferation could only be meaningfully sustained if the nuclear-weapon States fulfilled their legally binding obligations, especially under Article VI of the NPT; and the commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, whether vertical or horizontal, which they had voluntarily undertaken at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

## **7. Election of Members to the Board of Governors** (GC(47)/5 and 16)

92. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the General Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot would be held; balloting would only take place for those areas where no candidate had been agreed upon. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the General Conference's time. Accordingly, he proposed that Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, be suspended in respect of those areas for which there was agreement.

93. He was happy to report that agreement had been reached in all area groups on their candidates for the vacancies to be filled.

94. Drawing attention to document GC(47)/5, containing a list of the Agency Member States which the Board of Governors had designated to serve on the Board from the end of the Conference's current session until the end of the 48th (2004) regular session, he recalled that, under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, he had to inform the General Conference of the elective places on the Board which had to be filled. To that end, document GC(47)/16 had been prepared; it indicated that the Conference had to elect eleven Members of the Board from the seven categories listed.

95. He took it that the General Conference wished to elect Mexico and Peru to the two vacant seats for Latin America.

96. Mexico and Peru were duly elected.

97. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Belgium and Italy to the two vacant seats for Western Europe.

98. Belgium and Italy were duly elected.

99. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Hungary and Poland to the two vacant seats for Eastern Europe.

100. Hungary and Poland were duly elected.

101. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Nigeria and Tunisia to the two vacant seats for Africa.

102. Nigeria and Tunisia were duly elected.

103. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Pakistan to the vacant seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

104. Pakistan was duly elected.

105. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Vietnam to the vacant seat for the Far East.

106. Vietnam was duly elected.

107. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the Republic of Korea to the floating seat for the Far East/MESA/SEAP, which it was the turn of a member from the Far East to fill.

108. The Republic of Korea was duly elected.

109. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India), speaking as the Chairman of the MESA Group, said that the election of Pakistan to the Board of Governors had been made possible by Yemen's decision to withdraw in a spirit of compromise. MESA had therefore decided to endorse the candidacy of Yemen as a Member of the Board for the 2004-2005 period.

**- Requests for the restoration of voting rights  
(GC(47)/INF/9 and 10)**

110. The PRESIDENT noted that the General Committee had had before it requests from Armenia and Kazakhstan for the restoration of their voting rights. It had recommended that both countries be permitted to vote during the current session of the Conference because it was of the view that those States had failed to pay the amount necessary to avoid the application of Article XIX.A of the Statute owing to conditions beyond their control.

111. He took it that the Conference accepted the recommendations of the General Committee.

112. It was so decided.

**The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.**