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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Second Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Tuesday, 21 September 2004, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(44)/INF/16/Rev.1.

[*] GC(48)/25.

Abbreviations used in this record:

PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
R&D	research and development
SIT	sterile insect technique

16. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (continued) (GC(48)/COM.5/L.2, 4, 6 and 8)

1. The CHAIRMAN said he had been informed that the Japanese delegation was in the position to support the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.2, regarding the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign. Accordingly, he assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution with the addition of "within available resources" at the end of operative paragraph 3.
2. It was so agreed.
3. The representative of ALGERIA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.4 and entitled "Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes". She said that many developing countries had been hard hit by malaria and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus as it stood.
4. The representative of NIGERIA, drawing particular attention to preambular paragraphs (g) and (h) of the draft resolution, said that African countries accounted for about one quarter of the Agency's membership and that it was therefore appropriate for the Agency to focus on the problem of malaria in Africa, although the illness was by no means limited to Africa.
5. Nigeria was grateful to those countries which were supporting R&D directed against malaria-transmitting mosquitoes, including R&D on the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT) for control and eradication.
6. The representative of BURKINA FASO said that malaria was one of the main causes of morbidity and mortality in Africa and expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus as it stood.
7. The representative of CHILE, calling for support for the draft resolution, said that the SIT had helped to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in his country and that there were strong arguments in favour of using the SIT against malaria-transmitting mosquitoes.
8. The representative of GREECE asked why, under agenda item 16, the Group of 77 and China had submitted several draft resolutions rather than an 'omnibus' draft resolution on the lines of the 'omnibus' draft resolution submitted by Australia under agenda item 13.
9. The representative of ALGERIA, replying to the representative of Greece, said that the Group of 77 and China had considered the possibility of submitting an 'omnibus' resolution under agenda item 16, but had concluded that grave problems such as malaria, trypanosomosis and cancer each warranted a draft resolution of its own.
10. Moreover, a complication with 'omnibus' resolutions was that they tended to cover a wide range of activities for which different forms of financing were necessary.
11. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that his delegation supported the draft resolution but would welcome two amendments: the insertion of "within available resources"

after “to continue and strengthen” in operative paragraph 1; and the replacement of “49th session” by “50th session” in operative paragraph 5.

12. The representative of JAPAN, referring to operative paragraph 4, suggested deleting the word “generous”, which had not been used in earlier resolutions of the kind under consideration.

13. The representative of ALGERIA said she did not think that the Group of 77 and China would object to the replacement of “49th session” by “50th session” in operative paragraph 5 or to the deletion of “generous” in operative paragraph 4, but it would have problems with the proposed insertion of “within available resources” in operative paragraph 1.

14. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE recalled that operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.3, which the Committee had agreed to recommend to the General Conference for adoption, read as follows: “Requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for above be undertaken subject to the availability of resources”. Perhaps a similar paragraph could be inserted at an appropriate place in the draft resolution now under consideration.

15. The representative of ALGERIA, said she doubted whether the Group of 77 and China would be able to go along with the proposal made by the Director of the Division of Budget and Finance. The fact that the wording “Requests that the actions ... subject to the availability of resources” appeared in another draft resolution did not mean that it was appropriate in the draft resolution now under consideration.

16. She asked the representative of the United States whether he insisted on the insertion of ‘within available resources’ in operative paragraph 1.

17. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that, although he did not insist, his delegation, which considered the research referred to in operative paragraph 1 to be important, was concerned about draft resolutions which called for the strengthening of activities without indicating where the necessary resources were expected to come from.

18. The representative of PAKISTAN said that he for one was opposed to the suggestion made by the Director of the Division of Budget and Finance.

19. The representative of GREECE expressed support for the suggestion made by the Director of the Division of Budget and Finance.

20. The representative of MEXICO expressed support for the draft resolution as it stood.

21. The representative of PERU said that in her view the suggested amendments would make the draft resolution as a whole less coherent.

22. The representative of FRANCE said that, if the suggestion made by the representative of the United States of America was not acceptable to the Group of 77 and China, perhaps the words “and strengthen” in operative paragraph 1 could be deleted, the idea being that the strengthening of research would be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

23. The representative of NIGERIA urged that the draft resolution be left unchanged.

24. The representative of ALGERIA said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to strengthen the research referred to in operative paragraph 1.

25. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE quoted Rule 67 (‘Proposals involving expenditures’) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference and

recommended the inclusion in the draft resolution of a qualifying phrase like “subject to the availability of resources”.

26. The representatives of ALGERIA and MALAYSIA suggested that the draft resolution be discussed informally by interested delegations outside the Committee.

27. The CHAIRMAN proposed that further consideration of the draft resolution be postponed.

28. It was so agreed.

29. The representative of ALGERIA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)COM.5/L.6 and expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus as it stood.

30. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, referring to operative paragraph 1, said that implementation of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) was not an Agency technical cooperation activity. He suggested that “... for the implementation of PACT, as one of the priorities of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities, with a view to ...” be amended to read “... for the implementation of PACT, as one of the priorities of the Agency, with a view to...” or “... for the implementation of PACT, as one of the priorities of the Agency, in addition to its important technical cooperation activities, with a view to...”

31. The representative of the NETHERLANDS suggested that in operative paragraph 3 “voluntary resources” be substituted for “regular resources” since PACT was funded from voluntary contributions and not from the Regular Budget.

32. The representative of JAPAN said that the meaning of operative paragraph 3 was not clear to her delegation.

33. The representative of MOROCCO, referring to the suggestion made by the United States representative, stated a preference for the first suggested wording.

34. The representative of PERU said that her delegation could accept the first wording suggested by the United States representative. Referring to the words “regular resources” in operative paragraph 3, she said that many Agency activities relating to nuclear applications were funded from the Regular Budget.

35. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN HEALTH said he believed that operative paragraph 3 should read “... voluntary resources ...” as the Secretariat did not intend to request a Regular Budget increase in the next biennium for the purpose of supporting PACT.

36. The representative of CANADA expressed support for the first wording suggested by the representative of the United States for operative paragraph 1 and said that the words “regular resources” in operative paragraph 3 needed to be qualified.

37. His delegation believed that PACT should have high priority and that the Secretariat should spend any money saved during regular programme implementation on programmes such as PACT.

38. The representative of ALGERIA said that “regular resources” in operative paragraph 3 should not be taken to imply an increase in assessed contributions towards the Regular Budget.

39. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that PACT was so important that it should in due course be at least partly funded from the Regular Budget. Besides the substitution of “voluntary resources” for “regular resources” in operative paragraph 3, he would therefore like to see the words “at this stage” added after “Director General” in that paragraph, in order to pave the way for the introduction of other forms of funding in the future.

40. The representative of PERU said that her delegation could accept the addition of “at this stage”, but would prefer the rest of operative paragraph 1 to remain unchanged. The Group of 77 and China was not seeking an increase in the Regular Budget.
41. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM expressed support for the first wording for operative paragraph 1 suggested by the representative of the United States and for the changes in operative paragraph 3 suggested by the representative of the Netherlands.
42. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE said that PACT might in future years be included in the list of priority programmes to be supported from any savings made in the course of regular programme implementation and that the suggested addition of “at this stage” in operative paragraph 3 seemed appropriate.
43. The representative of ALGERIA suggested the wording “Requests the Director General to continue his efforts to identify, where possible, regular resources ...”.
44. The representative of the NETHERLANDS suggested the wording “Requests the Director General to continue his present efforts to identify resources ...”.
45. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA expressed a preference for the original wording of operative paragraph 3.
46. The representative of GREECE recalled that the Director General had, in his statement to the General Conference, said that “PACT would seek to attract funds and resources from both governmental and non-governmental sources”.
47. The representative of GERMANY called for the deletion of “regular” in operative paragraph 3.
48. The representative of SRI LANKA suggested substituting “necessary resources” for “regular resources”.
49. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document GC/(48)/COM.5/L.6 with operative paragraph 1 reading “... for the implementation of PACT, as one of the priorities of the Agency, with a view to ...” and operative paragraph 3 reading “... to identify necessary resources ...”.
50. It was so agreed.
51. The representative of CANADA, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.8, said that the preservation and enhancement of nuclear knowledge were important in all areas of Agency work.
52. The representative of UKRAINE expressed strong support for the draft resolution.
53. The representative of SRI LANKA suggested that in operative paragraph 4 the words “and international organizations” be inserted between “Member States” and “to promote”.
54. The representative of GREECE suggested that in operative paragraph 4 the words “at the international and the regional level” be added after “training”.
55. The representative of CANADA agreed to the suggestions made by the representatives of Sri Lanka and Greece.
56. The representative of SRI LANKA suggested that the phrase “, inter alia to meet the challenges of globalization” be added at the end of the preambular paragraph (a).

57. The representative of CANADA said that he would prefer to see preambular paragraph (a) amended through the insertion of “all aspects of” between “vital to” and “the continued and expanded safe and secure utilization”.
58. The representative of SRI LANKA suggested the wording: “vital to all aspects of human activity related to the continued and expanded safe and secure utilization” for preambular paragraph (a).
59. The representative of CANADA agreed to that suggestion.
60. The representative of the NETHERLANDS suggested the insertion of “at their request” after “Member States, particularly developing ones” in operative paragraph 3.
61. The representative of CANADA agreed to that suggestion and — in the light of comments made by the representatives of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN and GREECE — suggested that the phrase “and encourages Member States in a position to do so to provide the assistance mentioned above” be added at the end of operative paragraph 3.
62. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN suggested that “necessary” be added before “assistance” in the wording just proposed by the representative of Canada.
63. The representative of CANADA agreed to that suggestion.
64. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.8 with preambular paragraph (a) reading “... vital to all aspects of human activity related to the continued and ...”, with operative paragraph 3 reading “... developing ones, at their request in their efforts ... planning, and encourages Member States in a position to do so to provide the necessary assistance mentioned above” and with operative paragraph 4 reading “Encourages Member States and international organizations to promote ... training at the regional and the international level”.
65. It was so agreed.

13. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management

(GC(48)/7, GC(48)/13, GC(48)/13, GC(48)/15, GC(48)/INF/3, GC(48)/INF/5, GC(48)/INF/7, GC(48)/COM.5/L.5 and GC(48)/COM.5/L.7)

66. The representative of MOROCCO, introducing the draft resolution on education and training contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.7, said that it took account of relevant developments since the 2003 session of the General Conference.
67. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that the draft resolution seemed to overlap with operative paragraphs 33–35 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5 and asked whether the sponsors of the two draft resolutions would consider combining them.
68. The representative of AUSTRALIA, the sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5, said he would be happy to do so.

69. The representative of MALAYSIA, speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.7, said that they would also be happy to do so.

70. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee await the outcome of the consultations between the sponsors of the two draft resolutions.

71. The Chairman's proposal was accepted.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.