

General Conference

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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Fifth Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Thursday, 23 September 2004, at 10.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(48)/INF/16/Rev.1.

[*] GC(48)/25.

Abbreviations used in this record:

INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
GTRI	Global Threat Reduction Initiative

16. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science technology and applications (continued) (GC(48)/COM.5/L.13)

1. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, referring to amendments to the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.13 that had been suggested during the previous meeting, said his delegation could accept the reference to the conference “Nuclear Energy and Science for the 21st Century: Atoms for Peace + 50” suggested by the representative of the United States of America, the deletion of the phrase “and options to utilize them ... in the 21st century” in preambular paragraph (e) suggested by the representative of Canada and the replacement of “identifying” by “taking advantage of” in operative paragraph 5 suggested by the representative of Canada.
2. As regards operative paragraph 2, his delegation would prefer the insertion of “assisting Member States in the” before “application” to the insertion of “facilitating the” suggested by the representative of Canada.
3. The representative of JAPAN said her delegation could go along with the draft resolution as amended along the lines indicated by the representative of the Russian Federation.
4. The representative of CANADA, welcoming the statement made by the representative of the Russian Federation said that his delegation looked forward to the meeting of the INPRO Steering Committee due to be held in December 2004.
5. The representative of FRANCE welcomed the agreement of the delegation of the Russian Federation to the suggested deletion, in preambular paragraph (e), of the phrase “and options to utilize them ... in the 21st century”.
6. He suggested that operative paragraph 3 be deleted as its contents overlapped with those of other paragraphs.
7. As regards operative paragraph 4, he wondered how it would be possible to “strengthen” the Agency's efforts related to the development of innovative technology while being “subject to available resources”.
8. As regards operative paragraph 5, he suggested that “synergies between international activities”, be substituted for “synergies with other international activities”.
9. The representative of AUSTRIA said that his country had not taken part in the International Conferences on Fifty Years of Nuclear Power — the Next Fifty Years or the conference “Nuclear Energy and Science for the 21st Century: Atoms for Peace + 50” and that his delegation was therefore unaware of what had been noted at those conferences. He suggested that no reference to the two conferences be made in the version of the draft resolution recommended by the Committee to the General Conference.
10. He expressed support for the comments made by the representative of France about operative paragraphs 3 and 4.
11. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, supported by the representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, said that the two conferences mentioned by the representative of

Austria had addressed very important events in the history of nuclear energy and that his delegation would therefore like reference to them to be made in the draft resolution.

12. The representative of INDIA said that his delegation too would like reference to the two conferences to be made in the draft resolution.

13. The representative of FRANCE said that his country had taken part in the two conferences and that his delegation would like reference to be made to them..

14. The representative of JAPAN suggested that the words “as it was noted at” in preambular paragraph (c) be replaced by “and taking note of”.

15. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said his delegation could not accept the insertion of “unique” before “role” in preambular paragraph (e) that had been suggested by the representative of India. The fact that resolution GC(47)/RES/10.C had contained two references to “the unique role that the Agency can play” was not a conclusive justification for the suggested insertion.

16. The representative of AUSTRIA said that the two areas in which a unique Agency role was envisaged in resolution GC(47)/RES/10.C were not the same as the area referred to in preambular paragraph (e) of the draft resolution now under consideration.

17. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that he could go along with the suggestion made by the representative of Japan regarding preambular paragraph (c).

18. The representative of AUSTRIA said that, in a spirit of compromise, he could go along with the inclusion of a reference to the two conferences in question if they were referred to in a separate preambular paragraph.

19. The CHAIRMAN proposed that preambular paragraph (c) end with “... in the 21st century” and be followed by a preambular paragraph reading “taking note of ... [the names of the two conferences]”.

20. It was so agreed.

21. The representative of INDIA said that he would not like operative paragraph 3 to be deleted.

22. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that operative paragraphs 3 was closely linked to operative paragraphs 4 and 6 and that he too would not like it to be deleted.

23. The representatives of FRANCE and AUSTRIA said that they would not press for the deletion of operative paragraph 3.

24. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished operative paragraph 5 to read “... taking advantage of synergies between international activities ...”.

25. It was so agreed.

26. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, responding to the comments made by the representatives of France and Austria about operative paragraph 4, said that the Secretariat interpreted the second part of that paragraph to mean that it should seek additional extrabudgetary resources, if necessary, and that any savings made in other areas could be used for work in the area of innovative nuclear technologies, since it had been identified as a high-priority area.

27. The representative of AUSTRIA said that his delegation, which would have difficulty in accepting an increase in the share of the Regular Budget devoted to work on innovative nuclear technologies, was reassured by the explanation just given.
28. The representative of URUGUAY, recalling the comments made by the representatives of India and the Islamic Republic of Iran about the insertion of “unique” before “role” in preambular paragraph (e), suggested the insertion of “major”.
29. The representative of INDIA said that he could not go along with that suggestion.
30. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee postpone further consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.13.
31. It was so agreed.

14. Nuclear security — measures to protect against nuclear terrorism

(GC(48)/6, GC(48)/COM.5/L.14)

32. The representative of FRANCE, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.14, said that it was the result of extensive consultations.
33. The representative of JAPAN, referring to preambular paragraph (j), suggested the insertion of “and technical” after “financial” and of “on a voluntary basis or” after “assistance” in order to bring the wording into line with wording agreed upon at the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) Partners’ Conference.
34. The representatives of TURKEY and GERMANY expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of Japan.
35. The representative of CANADA said that, with the end of the period covered by the Agency’s three-year Plan of Activities to combat nuclear terrorism approaching, his delegation particularly welcomed operative paragraph 11 of the draft resolution, in which the Director General was invited “to continue to implement ... Agency activities relevant to nuclear and radiological security and protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism”. Since it was important that such activities be implemented in a sustained manner, his delegation believed that they should be treated as core activities of the Agency.
36. With regard to operative paragraph 12, which spoke of the preparation of “an annual report”, his delegation believed that biennial reporting would be more appropriate, given the heavy reporting burden on the Secretariat.
37. The representative of CUBA, referring to preambular paragraph (j), suggested the substitution of “Taking note of” for “Welcoming” and — as many Member States had not participated in the GTRI Partners’ Conference — the deletion of “and noting that all States ... permit,”.

38. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that his country welcomed all initiatives aimed at minimizing the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism and would like to see all countries making a concerted effort to deal with that threat on a global basis.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.