

# General Conference

**GC(51)/COM.5/OR.2**

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## Fifty-first (2007) Regular Session

# Committee of the Whole

## Record of the Second Meeting

*Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Tuesday, 18 September 2007, at 3.15 p.m.*

**Chairperson::** Ms. KAUPPI (Finland)

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<sup>1</sup> GC(51)/COM.5/1.



## **19. Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Additional Protocol** (GC(51)/COM.5/L.12)

1. The representative of AUSTRIA, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.12, said that it differed only slightly from resolution GC(50)/RES/14 adopted in 2006. The main new elements were paragraph (q), which read “Stressing the importance of assisting States in establishing and maintaining effective systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material”, and paragraphs 16 and 17, referring to the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements.
2. The representative of CHINA requested more time in which to consider the draft resolution.
3. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that the draft resolution be considered first in a working group under the chairmanship of Mr. Lundby of the Norwegian delegation.
4. It was so agreed.

## **15. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management** (GC(51)/COM.5/L.11)

5. The representative of AUSTRALIA, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.11, said that his delegation was grateful to those delegations which had assisted it with the preparation of the draft resolution.
6. He drew particular attention to the forthcoming Twelfth Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA), to be held in Buenos Aires in October 2008.
7. The representative of JAPAN, having expressed appreciation for the draft resolution, referred to paragraph 13 and requested information about the timeframe of the “20/20 review”.
8. The CHAIRPERSON said that a representative of the Secretariat would provide information about the “20/20 review” at a later meeting of the Committee.
9. The representative of ARGENTINA said that his delegation was grateful to the delegation of Australia for its role in preparing the draft resolution, which, as a result of lengthy negotiations, was technically sound and well balanced. Regrettably, however, the draft resolution did not cover the issue of transport safety.
10. The representative of FRANCE said that his delegation was also grateful to the delegation of Australia.

11. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, having thanked the delegation of Australia for its role in preparing the draft resolution, referred to Section O (“Safety of radioactive waste management and disposal”) of the Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2006 (GC(51)/INF/2) and said that the terms “international consensus standards” and “international standards” were used in it in a manner suggesting that internationally accepted safety standards relating to radioactive waste management and disposal existed. It was the understanding of many Member States, including his country, that there were Agency-recommended international standards to be used on a voluntary — not mandatory — basis.

12. The Agency’s safety standards were the end-products of exchanges among experts from his country and other Member States with national programmes in the areas covered by those standards. They consequently provided valuable guidance that countries could follow. They did not prescribe the only approach to be adopted, and they were not binding on any country, except when a country incorporated all or part of them into its national laws or regulations. The United States generally opposed the treatment of the Agency’s safety standards and related documents as international standards that countries had to comply with or justify not complying with. Their treatment in documents such as the Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2006 could not change their nature.

13. The representative of CHINA requested more time in which to consider the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.11.

14. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that the Committee revert to the draft resolution at a later meeting.

15. It was so agreed.

## **18. Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)** (GC(51)/COM.5/L.4)

16. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA, introducing the draft resolution on support to the African Union’s Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.4, said that for the most part it merely updated resolution GC(50)/RES/13.A.4. The new element was paragraph 2, referring to the special donors’ conference held in Addis Ababa in February 2007.

17. The representative of JAPAN requested further time in which to consider the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.4.

18. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that the Committee revert to the draft resolution at a later meeting.

19. It was so agreed.

**The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.**