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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Second Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Tuesday, 15 September 2009, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr SMITH (United Kingdom)

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¹ GC(53)/COM.5/1.

– Election of Vice-Chairmen and organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN said that Mr Ismayilov, Resident Representative of Azerbaijan, had been nominated by the Eastern Europe group to serve as a Vice-Chairman of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to accept the nomination.
2. It was so agreed.

15. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management (resumed) (GC(53)/COM.5/L.4)

3. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that in informal consultations it had been agreed that paragraph (o) of the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.4 should read “Noting the potential impacts of changing global weather patterns on the transport of radioactive materials”.
4. It had also been agreed to insert, after paragraph 17, a paragraph reading “Requests the Secretariat to follow the priorities decided by the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) in establishing these safety standards”.
5. In addition, it had been agreed that, for the purpose of clarification, a comma should be inserted in paragraph 40 after the words “strict liability”.
6. Furthermore, it had been agreed that the phrase “and invites Member States to consider establishing radiation detection systems at border crossings” should be added at the end of paragraph 73.
7. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, responding to a question put by the representative of EGYPT with regard to the envisaged addition to paragraph 73, said that several countries had experienced problems due to the presence of orphan radioactive sources in imported scrap metal; hence the need for radiation detection systems at border crossings.
8. The representative of MALAYSIA said that the envisaged addition appeared to suggest that orphan radioactive sources were exclusively of foreign origin. He suggested inserting “— inter alia —” between “to consider” and “establishing”.
9. The representative of EGYPT proposed rewording the additional phrase to read “and invites Member States to consider establishing radiation detection systems as appropriate”.
10. It was so agreed.
11. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that, in addition, it had been agreed that a paragraph reading as follows should be added after paragraph 86: “Recognizes the efforts of the Secretariat and Member States in implementing the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES)”.

12. The CHAIRMAN took it that the envisaged addition of that paragraph was acceptable to the Committee.

13. It was so agreed.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the absence of any further comments, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.4 with the accepted amendments.

15. It was so agreed.

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (GC(53)/3 and Corr.1, GC(53)/INF/3 and Supplements, and GC(53)/COM.5/L.3)

16. The representative of ANGOLA, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.3 and entitled "Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)", drew particular attention to paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7.

17. The representative of EGYPT said that AU-PATTEC was of crucial importance for the African continent.

18. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that some elements in the draft resolution might have financial implications that it might be necessary to consider in the light of other draft resolutions submitted under the present agenda item.

19. She suggested that the words "and international organizations" be inserted after "in cooperation with Member States" and the word "adequate" be replaced by "appropriate" in paragraph 5.

20. The representative of EGYPT, supported by the representative of NIGERIA, objected to the suggested replacement of "adequate" by "appropriate".

21. He asked the representative of the United Kingdom why she had suggested the insertion of the words "and international organizations".

22. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM recalled that paragraph 4 of resolution GC(52)/RES/12.A.3, adopted in 2008, read "Requests the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States and international organizations, ...".

23. The representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and CANADA expressed support for the suggested replacement of "adequate" by "appropriate".

24. The representatives of MALAYSIA and EGYPT said that their delegations could go along with the phrase "appropriate funding levels" if it was used instead of "adequate funding levels" in all draft resolutions where the latter phrase appeared, including draft resolutions relating to areas such as safeguards and nuclear security.

25. The CHAIRMAN asked whether the Committee accepted the suggested insertion of the words "and international organizations" in paragraph 5.

26. It was so agreed.

27. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee defer further consideration of the draft resolution, on the understanding that differences of opinion remained with regard to the words “adequate funding levels” in paragraph 5 and that delegations might wish to take account of other draft resolutions submitted under the present agenda item.

28. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.