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Chairman: Mr SMITH (United Kingdom)

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¹ GC(53)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD)
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
WHO	World Health Organization

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed) (GC(53)/COM.5/L.3, L.5, L.6, L.7 and L.10)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a draft resolution on non-power nuclear applications submitted by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, which was contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.5.
2. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution, outlined a number of changes relative to resolution GC(52)/RES/12.A.1, adopted in 2008.
3. She said that, in paragraph 6, the words “vaccine research” should be replaced by “drug development”.
4. The representatives of EGYPT, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, BRAZIL and INDIA, calling for wide support for the draft resolution, said that it dealt with issues of great importance for improving the quality of life, particularly in developing countries.
5. The representative of AUSTRALIA, having agreed that the issues dealt with in the draft resolution were of great importance, suggested that in paragraph (q) the words “and continuous” be deleted, as it was not possible to operate reactors continuously, and that the phrase “of the few ageing reactors” be changed to “due to the number of ageing reactors”.
6. He suggested that in paragraph 1 the word “basic” be deleted and that in paragraph 6 “to address” be amended to read “to continue to address”.
7. He suggested that paragraph 8 be incorporated into paragraph 7, the first part of the expanded paragraph 7 being amended to read “Urges the Secretariat to work cooperatively with other international initiatives, including the high-level group on the security of supply of medical radioisotopes established by the NEA, to implement activities that will contribute to enhancing...”.
8. The representative of CANADA said that his country fully endorsed the aims of the draft resolution.
9. Having expressed support for the amendments suggested by the representative of Australia, he suggested that in paragraph (p) the word “vital” be replaced with the word “medical”.
10. The representative of JAPAN, having expressed strong support for the draft resolution, said that his delegation had no objections to the amendments suggested by the representatives of Australia and Canada.
11. The representative of ARGENTINA, calling for wide support for the draft resolution, drew particular attention to the reference in paragraph (n) to the First Annual World Nuclear University (WNU) School on Radioisotopes.
12. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that his delegation, which attached great importance to the draft resolution, endorsed the amendments that had been suggested.
13. The representative of FRANCE said that the draft resolution dealt with activities important to developing and developed countries alike.

14. He suggested the deletion of the word “ageing” in paragraph (q).

15. Referring to the mention of “the Kyoto commitments” in paragraph 4, he said that they might soon be overtaken by commitments arising out of the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December. He suggested adding the phrase “, and future measures to address climate change” to the end of the paragraph.

16. The representative of AUSTRIA, referring to the addition to paragraph 4 suggested by the representative of France, expressed the view that it would be inappropriate to refer to the implementation of measures which had yet to be negotiated.

17. The representative of CHINA suggested that the following phrase be added to the end of paragraph 2: “ and urges the Secretariat to further strengthen capacity-building for Member States, particularly in interregional and regional training courses and fellowship training in the areas of nuclear science, technology and applications”.

18. The representatives of EGYPT and the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN expressed support for that suggestion.

19. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM suggested that the phrase “, including exploring ways of improving such collaboration” be inserted at the end of paragraph (d).

20. The CHAIRMAN, recalling the comment just made by the representative of Austria, suggested that, instead of the addition to paragraph 4 suggested by the representative of France, the words “and future efforts to address climate change” might be acceptable.

21. The representative of AUSTRIA replied that, although his preference was to leave paragraph 4 as drafted, so as not to pre-empt future discussions in various fora, and given the fact that the Kyoto commitments would remain valid for some years to come, he would go along with the Chairman’s suggestion.

22. The representative of AUSTRALIA suggested that in paragraph 6 “specific needs and requirements of Member States” be replaced by “ identified priority needs and requirements of Member States”.

23. The CHAIRMAN 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.5 with the following amendments: the addition of “, including exploring ways of improving such collaboration” at the end of paragraph (d); the replacement of “vital” by “medical” in paragraph (p); the deletion of “and continuous” and “ageing” in paragraph (q); the deletion of “basic” in paragraph 1; the addition of “and urges the Secretariat to further strengthen capacity-building for Member States, particularly in interregional and regional training courses and fellowship training in the areas of nuclear science, technology and applications” at the end of paragraph 2; the addition of “and future efforts to address climate change” at the end of paragraph 4; the replacement of “to address specific needs” by “to continue to address identified priority needs” and of “vaccine research” by “drug development” in paragraph 6; and the amendment of paragraph 7 to read “Urges the Secretariat to work cooperatively with other international initiatives, including the high level group on the security of supply of medical radioisotopes established by the NEA, to implement activities...”; and the deletion of paragraph 8.

24. It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 4.15 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.6, submitted by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and entitled “Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors”.
26. The representative of MOROCCO, introducing the draft resolution, said that ensuring the reliable supply of potable water was increasingly important, especially for developing countries.
27. The representative of AUSTRALIA, supported by the representative of CANADA, proposed that the phrase “and requests the Director General to implement the TWG-ND [Technical Working Group on Nuclear Desalination] recommendations to restore resources to this area” in paragraph 6 be deleted. There were, after all, many other calls on the Agency’s budget.
28. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, supporting the proposed amendment to paragraph 6, proposed that in paragraph 4 the phrase “, subject to the availability of resources,” be inserted after “Requests the Director General”.
29. The representative of FRANCE, having supported the proposed amendments, said that the distinction between subparagraph 4(a), which dealt only with seawater desalination, and subparagraph 4(b), which dealt with seawater desalination and other cogeneration options, should be made clearer.
30. The representative of JAPAN expressed support for the insertion of “, subject to the availability of resources”, in paragraph 4.
31. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee’s attention to paragraph 13 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.5, which the Committee had just agreed to recommend to the General Conference for adoption. That paragraph read “Requests also that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this resolution be undertaken subject to the availability of resources”. If the draft resolution was to be the general draft resolution in a cluster of draft resolutions under the heading “Non-power nuclear applications”, was there any need to insert “, subject to the availability of resources,” in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.6?
32. The representative of BRAZIL said that, in his opinion, there was no need to do so as paragraph 13 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.5 covered the other draft resolutions relating to “Non-nuclear power applications”.
33. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN agreed with the representative of Brazil.
34. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that there were precedents for the inclusion of “subject to the availability of resources” in a number of resolutions constituting a cluster.
35. The CHAIRMAN — following comments by the representatives of CANADA, FRANCE, the UNITED KINGDOM, BRAZIL and SOUTH AFRICA — urged those Member State representatives who regarded the inclusion of “subject to the availability of resources” in paragraph 13 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.5 as sufficient to go along with the insertion of that phrase in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution now under consideration.
36. He also urged interested Member States to agree, before the 2010 regular session of the General Conference, on a practice to be followed regarding the use of the phrase “subject to the availability of resources” in ‘omnibus’ resolutions.

37. The representative of AUSTRALIA, referring to the comment made by the representative of France about subparagraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b), said that, in his delegation's view, subparagraph 4 (a) should be deleted.

38. The representative of MOROCCO suggested that the two subparagraphs be merged.

39. The CHAIRMAN, following a comment by the representative of INDIA, suggested that the representatives of Australia and France consult with the drafters of the draft resolution on subparagraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b), discussion of which would be resumed later.

40. He asked the Committee whether it could go along with the proposed deletion of the phrase "and requests the Director General to implement the TWG-ND recommendations to restore resources to this area" in paragraph 6.

41. It was so agreed.

42. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, introducing, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the draft resolution entitled "Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy" and contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.7, said that it differed significantly from resolution GC(51)/RES/14.A.2 adopted in 2007, reflecting significant developments outlined in document GC(53)/INF/3.

43. The most significant developments had included the entry into force of the WHO-IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control, the establishment of six PACT Model Demonstration Sites in six Member States and the launching of regional technical cooperation projects by the PACT Programme Office in collaboration with the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Division of Human Health.

44. Referring to paragraph 15, she said that "the three-pronged approach" should read "a three-pronged approach", as the approach did not exist yet.

45. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, welcoming the draft resolution, said that his Government would continue to support PACT and would like to see it expand further.

46. He commended the PACT Programme Office on its efforts in managing its resources and seeking new resources.

47. The representatives of JAPAN, FRANCE and CANADA expressed support for the draft resolution.

48. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, 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.7 with the change in operative paragraph 15 of "the three-pronged approach" to "a three-pronged approach".

49. It was so agreed.

50. The representative of INDIA, introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 and China the draft resolution entitled "Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management" and contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.10, said that the management of water resources — a global concern — was of particular importance for developing countries.

51. Recalling that subparagraph 1(c) of resolution GC(51)/RES/14.A.4, adopted in 2007, had included a reference to the continuation of work on "dam leakage detection", he said that the work in question had been completed and no new activity relating to dam leakage detection had been planned, so that there was no reference to dam leakage detection in the draft resolution under consideration.

52. The representative of FRANCE, having welcomed the draft resolution, asked whether, in subparagraph 1(b), “adapting new and less expensive analytical techniques” should read “adopting ... techniques”.

53. The representative of INDIA said that it should.

54. The representative of AUSTRALIA suggested that paragraph (c) be amended to read “Conscious of the central role of access to water ...” instead of “Conscious of the central role of water ...”.

55. The representative of NAMIBIA, following comments by the CHAIRMAN and the representative of LEBANON, suggested that paragraph (c) be amended to read “Conscious of the central role of access to water and water resources management ...”.

56. The representative of LEBANON, following comments by the representatives of AUSTRALIA and INDIA, suggested adding “of these fossil groundwater resources” after “safety and sustainability” in paragraph 1(c).

57. The representative of BRAZIL proposed amending subparagraph 1(c) to read: “... of fossil groundwater resources, including in arid and semi-arid areas, as well as on the safety and sustainability of these resources, ...”.

58. The representatives of AUSTRALIA and INDIA endorsed that proposal.

59. The CHAIRMAN, following a comment by the representative of MALAYSIA, 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.10, with the replacement of “water” in paragraph (c) by “access to water and water resources management”, the replacement of “adapting” in subparagraph 1(b) by “adopting”, and the replacement of “safety and sustainability” in subparagraph 1(c) by “as well as on the safety and sustainability of these resources”.

60. It was so agreed.

61. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to revert to the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.3.

62. He recalled that it had been agreed during the Committee’s second meeting that the words “and international organizations” should be inserted after “in cooperation with Member States” in paragraph 5. It remained to be decided whether the term “adequate funding levels” in paragraph 5 should be replaced by “appropriate funding levels”.

63. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that, since neither the word “adequate” nor the word “appropriate” was likely to attract consensus, both “adequate” and “levels” should be deleted. The paragraph would then read “...in cooperation with Member States and international organizations, to maintain funding through the Regular Budget ...”.

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(53)/COM.5/L.3 with, in paragraph 5, the insertion of “and international organizations” after “in cooperation with Member States” and the deletion of “adequate” and “levels”.

65. It was so agreed.

66. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to revert to the draft resolution contained in document GC(53)/COM.5/L.6.

67. The representative of INDIA proposed, following comments by the representatives of MOROCCO and FRANCE, that subparagraphs 4(a) and 4(b) be merged to read “develop a report that defines all the aspects for a technical and economic feasibility study on using nuclear energy both exclusively for seawater desalination, as well as for cogeneration options (e.g. electricity, seawater desalination, hydrogen production, etc.)”.

68. The CHAIRMAN asked whether that proposal was acceptable to the Committee.

69. It was so agreed.

70. The CHAIRMAN 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.6 with subparagraphs 4(a) and 4(b) merged as just agreed and with the deletion of “and requests the Director General to implement ... in this area” in paragraph 6.

71. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.