

# General Conference

**GC(54)/COM.5/OR.3**

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**Fifty-fourth regular session**

## Committee of the Whole

### Record of the Third Meeting

*Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Wednesday, 22 September 2010, at 11.00 a.m.*

**Chairman:** Mr GARCÍA REVILLA (Peru)

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<sup>1</sup> GC(54)/COM.5/1.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

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|------|--|
| CPF  | Country Programme Framework                        |
| EU   | European Union                                     |
| IRRS | Integrated Regulatory Review Service               |
| LDC  | least developed country                            |
| NPCs | national participation costs                       |
| NPT  | Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons |
| TCF  | Technical Cooperation Fund                         |

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

(GC(54)/8 and Corr.1; GC(54)/INF/2; 2010/Note 41; 2010/Note 44; GC(54)/COM.5/L.10)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution submitted by Australia and New Zealand in document GC(54)/COM.5/L.10.
2. The representative of AUSTRALIA, introducing the draft resolution, thanked the delegation of New Zealand for coordinating the consultations on section 5 (Transport Safety) of the text.
3. He drew particular attention to paragraphs (c) and 6, which drew on Article III (Functions) of the Agency's Statute.
4. The operative part of the draft resolution ran to 75 paragraphs, compared with 91 paragraphs in the operative part of resolution GC(53)/RES/10 adopted in 2009.
5. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran had proposed some additional language to be considered for inclusion in the draft resolution. He would address that matter at a later stage.
6. The representative of NEW ZEALAND, recalling that her country had a longstanding strong interest in transport safety, commended the draft resolution as a whole to the Committee.
7. The representative of ARGENTINA, having congratulated the delegations of Australia and New Zealand for their work on the draft text, and the delegation of the United States of America for its work in coordinating the consultations relating to the subject of nuclear liability, said that more work would have to be done in the future on the subject of transport safety as readers of the draft resolution and its predecessors were left in some doubt as to whether the transport of radioactive material was or was not safe.
8. His delegation regretted the fact that the draft resolution on nuclear security, which would be before the Committee in document GC(54)/COM.5/L.12, had not been negotiated in the same consensual spirit as the draft resolution now under consideration, particularly given the linkage between safety and security.
9. The representatives of CANADA, FRANCE, ICELAND, INDONESIA, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, the NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, NORWAY, the RUSSIAN FEDERATION and SWEDEN congratulated the delegations of Australia and New Zealand for having conducted the negotiations on the draft resolution in a spirit of flexibility and mutual respect.
10. The representative of CANADA, supported by the representative of FRANCE, said that the draft resolution dealt with some subjects that the Director General might consider reporting on only every second year — rather than annually.
11. The representative of SLOVAKIA, having congratulated the delegations of Australia and New Zealand, proposed that in paragraph 47 “non-binding agreement” be replaced by “non-binding instrument”.

12. The representative of ICELAND said, with reference to section 10 (Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources) of the draft resolution, that the forthcoming international conference on the safety and security of radioactive sources — mentioned in paragraph 64 — would be of considerable importance and that the integration of safety- and security-related activities would be a major challenge for the Secretariat in the next few years.

13. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that his delegation could go along with the proposal made by the representative of Slovakia regarding paragraph 47.

14. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, having congratulated the delegations of Australia and New Zealand, said that her delegation would have liked the draft resolution to contain language regarding enhanced cooperation between the Agency and the relevant international organizations on developing transport safety standards.

15. The representative of BRAZIL expressed appreciation of the work of the delegation of Australia on the draft resolution as a whole and of the efforts of the delegations of New Zealand and the United States of America in coordinating the discussions on transport safety and nuclear liability respectively.

16. The CHAIRMAN invited the representative of Australia to read out the additional language proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

17. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that, in informal consultations, agreement had been reached on the insertion, after paragraph 22, of a paragraph reading “Requests the Secretariat, given the importance of the Safety Standards Committees, to facilitate the effective participation of all interested Member States in those committees;”.

18. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(54)/COM.5/L.10 with the additional paragraph proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with “agreement” replaced by “instrument” in paragraph 47.

19. It was so agreed.

20. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, explaining the proposal made by his delegation, said that on several occasions the Secretariat had during the past year imposed restrictions on Iran’s participation in meetings relating to safety standards, despite the fact that Iran attached great importance to nuclear safety, as demonstrated by its hosting of an IRRS mission in 2009.

**The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.**

## **15. Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities (GC/54)/INF/4 and Supplement; GC(54)/COM.5/L.11)**

21. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution contained in document GC(54)/COM.5/L.11.

22. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, commending the draft resolution to the Committee, said that many Agency Member States parties to the NPT had, at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, expressed a strong commitment to the Agency’s technical cooperation activities. The Group of 77 and

China hoped that such a strong commitment would be demonstrated in the deliberations on the draft resolution.

23. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution, drew particular attention to: paragraph 13 (“Stresses that, when formulating the TC Programme, the Secretariat should adhere strictly to the provisions of the Statute and the guiding principles as contained in INFCIRC/267;”), which did not appear in resolution GC(53)/RES/12 adopted in 2009; the phrase “welcomes the extrabudgetary contributions of Member States” in paragraph 16, which did not appear in the corresponding paragraph of resolution GC(53)/RES/12; the words “where appropriate” in paragraph 18, which did not appear in the corresponding paragraph of that resolution; and the phrase “and to present its conclusions on this matter to the Member States”, which also did not appear in the corresponding paragraph of that resolution.

24. The representative of BELGIUM, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), said that the EU was a longstanding strong supporter of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities and EU member countries were major contributors to the TCF. Also, the EU provided additional support through various special programmes. In that connection, the EU attached great importance to the provision of technical assistance to those Agency Member States which were LDCs.

25. In the EU’s view, the commitment of beneficiary countries was crucial to the success of Agency technical cooperation projects — commitment demonstrated by the payment of full TCF target shares, the timely payment of NPCs, and the signing of CPFs and Revised Supplementary Agreements. Also, the EU considered it important that the Member States receiving technical assistance through the Agency comply with the Agency’s safety, security and safeguards requirements.

26. The EU considered it essential that Agency technical cooperation programme management and project implementation become more efficient, effective and accountable, for the benefit of all Member States.

27. The Secretariat should endeavour to achieve greater technical cooperation programme transparency and project relevance and sustainability and to ensure that priority was given to projects in which nuclear techniques and technologies had a comparative advantage. It went without saying that all Agency technical cooperation projects should respond to national priorities of the recipient Member States.

28. The EU continued to believe that recipient Member States’ CPFs should be made available to all Member States.

29. The EU also continued to believe that regular and transparent interaction between the Secretariat and Member State representatives and institutions and improved in-house procedures would help to ensure that the Agency’s technical cooperation resources were targeted in the most effective and efficient manner.

30. The EU believed in shared responsibility for the Agency’s technical cooperation programmes and attached great importance to partnerships between the Agency and other relevant organizations. In that connection, the EU considered it important to bear in mind that the Agency did not play the leading role in every field to which its technical cooperation activities related.

31. The EU welcomed the signing of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks by Agency Member States, where appropriate, and the Secretariat’s efforts to improve coordination within the United Nations family in that context.

32. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the draft resolution be referred to a working group, chaired by Mr. Ortigão de Sampaio of the delegation of Brazil, for in-depth consideration.

33. It was so agreed.

**The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.**