

General Conference

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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Fourth Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Wednesday, 22 September 2010, at 4.15 p.m.

Chairman: Mr GARCÍA REVILLA (Peru)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹		Paragraphs
14	Nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism	1–25

¹ GC(54)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

NPT Review Conference

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

14. Nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism

(GC(54)/9 and Corr. 1; GC(54)/COM.5/L.12)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider document GC(54)/COM.5/L.12, containing a draft resolution entitled “Nuclear security”.
2. The representative of GERMANY, introducing the draft resolution, said that its aim was to bring about a consensual approach to the various nuclear security-related activities of the Agency. It drew on consensus language relating to nuclear security from the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
3. The draft resolution was substantially shorter than resolution GC(53)/RES/11 adopted in 2009.
4. The representative of CUBA said that his country, which attached great importance to — and was supporting — the Agency’s activities in the area of nuclear security, was totally opposed to all forms of terrorism. It considered nuclear security to be a matter of interest to all Agency Member States, and it could therefore not accept paragraph (g) of the draft resolution, which referred to a meeting — the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit — to which not all Agency Member States had been invited.
5. The representative of the BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, endorsing the comment made by the representative of Cuba about paragraph (g), said that the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit was not on a par with the 2010 NPT Review Conference.
6. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, having also endorsed the comment made by the representative of Cuba, expressed reservations about paragraph (d) because it referred to United Nations Security Council resolutions. Those resolutions had been adopted by a very limited number of countries, whereas nuclear security was a global issue.
7. The representative of EGYPT said that there had been insufficient consultation on the draft resolution, which did not contain important parts of resolution GC(53)/RES/11, such as paragraph (o) with its reference to nuclear disarmament. Her delegation would like paragraph (o) of resolution GC(53)/RES/11 to be included in the draft resolution.
8. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, calling for the retention of paragraph (g), said that the work plan agreed upon at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, which the Director General had attended as an observer, was designed to complement and reinforce the Secretariat’s nuclear security programme. States not represented at the Summit were welcome to participate in implementation of the work plan.
9. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that her delegation had not had time to consider the draft resolution properly and, as the draft resolution was at present available only in English, some delegations had probably not yet been able to consider it at all.
10. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution would be considered in detail at the Committee’s next meeting, when it would be available in all six working languages of the General Conference.
11. Some Committee members might wish to make preliminary comments on the draft resolution during the current meeting.

12. The representative of BRAZIL said that the process of consultation on the draft resolution had been organized better than the process of consultation on predecessor draft resolutions. However, there had not been sufficient time to analyse the differences between the draft resolution and resolution GC(53)/RES/11.

13. His delegation would like the draft resolution to include paragraph (o) of resolution GC(53)/RES/11 and the paragraphs in that resolution concerning the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security.

14. Regarding paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, he proposed that "... to apply ... the IAEA recommendations ..." be amended to read "... to take into account ... the IAEA recommendations ...".

15. The representative of INDONESIA, having called for more time in which to study the draft resolution, said that his delegation would have liked it to include paragraph (e) of resolution GC(53)/RES/11, regarding the overall goal of the Agency's nuclear security activities, and paragraph (o) of that resolution.

16. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that, as nuclear security should be comprehensive, the draft resolution should also address the issue of nuclear facilities that were not subject to safeguards.

17. The representative of GERMANY said that the authors of the draft resolution had hoped that the preliminary consultations on earlier versions of it and its circulation before submission to the General Conference would give delegations sufficient opportunity to consider it thoroughly.

18. The intention of the authors had been to provide the Secretariat with succinct guidance regarding its nuclear security-related activities, and a reference to the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit was in their view highly relevant in that connection. Moreover, the reference to the Summit was contained only in a preambular paragraph, which started with "Noting" rather than — say — "Welcoming".

19. References to matters of only indirect relevance might make the final resolution unwieldy, but, once the draft resolution was available in all six working languages, the authors might be open to the incorporation of some language from resolution GC(53)/RES/11 that had not already been incorporated.

20. The representative of CUBA said that more time was needed in order to analyse the draft resolution. The length of resolutions was not an issue for his delegation, which considered it important that the guidance provided to the Secretariat be based on consensus.

21. The representative of NIGERIA said that his delegation also would have liked the draft resolution to include paragraph (o) of resolution GC(53)/RES/11.

22. Regarding paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, he proposed the addition of the words "and strategic information", so that the paragraph would read "... the highest possible standards of security and physical protection of nuclear material and facilities and strategic information".

23. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, explaining the non-inclusion in the draft resolution of paragraph (o) of resolution GC(53)/RES/11, which had been based largely on a compromise suggestion made by his delegation in 2009, said that the link between nuclear security and nuclear disarmament was a tenuous one. The highly enriched uranium and other material of nuclear security relevance to the Agency were in civilian — not military — facilities.

24. The representative of CANADA said that nuclear security was a high Agency priority and that his country, while supporting the increase in Regular Budget resources allocated to nuclear security-related activities, had made substantial contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund.

25. Regarding paragraph (g) of the draft resolution now under consideration, the work plan agreed upon at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit was directly relevant to the Agency's ongoing nuclear security-related activities.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.