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President: Mr ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

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Abbreviations used in this record:

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
HEU	high-enriched uranium
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IT	information technology
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization
WMD	weapons of mass destruction

5. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the agenda for the current session consist of all the items on the provisional agenda set forth in document GC(54)/1. With regard to the allocation of items for initial discussion, it had recommended that the items be taken up for discussion as indicated in that document. It had also recommended that the order of items be as set out in the document.

2. The General Committee's recommendations were accepted.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

3. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the Conference set Friday, 24 September 2010, as the closing date of the fifty-fourth regular session, and Monday, 19 September 2011, as the opening date of the fifty-fifth regular session.

4. The General Committee's recommendation was accepted.

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2009 (resumed) (GC(54)/4)

5. Mr KIRIENKO (Russian Federation) read out the following message from the President of the Russian Federation, Dimitry Medvedev:

“My greetings to Conference participants as they mark the tenth anniversary of the launch of the International Project on Innovative Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO).

“Put forward in 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, this Russian initiative aims to provide energy for humanity's sustainable development and to address effectively the problems of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and restoring the environmental health of the planet. I would like to express my appreciation to IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano and the Agency's Secretariat for their constant and active support of INPRO.

“During the past ten years a great number of innovative approaches and methods in the field of nuclear power technology have been proposed under the project at both the national and international level. Important solutions have been arrived at on issues concerning legal support for nuclear power infrastructure, including small and medium power reactors. All this makes it possible for States to meet national nuclear power requirements for economy, safety, environment, radioactive waste reduction and compliance with the non-proliferation regime.

“Russia intends to continue contributing substantially to the development of INPRO. The project's implementation is now entering a new stage, and we suggest that IAEA Member States take maximum advantage of INPRO's potential in order to develop advanced technologies and strengthen international cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

“I wish General Conference participants every success in their work and all the very best.”

6. The success of the INPRO project had been achieved through the joint efforts of interested countries under the aegis of the Agency. Russia, for its part, was using the INPRO methodology for the evaluation of modern innovative technologies, including fast neutron reactors. Russia invited States to work together to develop international multilateral cooperation programmes in the area of fast reactors, including safety, and would consider using the multifunctional fast-breeder research reactor being built in Russia for broad cooperation on a multilateral and bilateral basis.

7. In March, an international agreement had been signed by the Government of the Russian Federation and the Agency providing for the establishment on the territory of the Russian Federation of a reserve of LEU that could be supplied, through the Agency, to any Member State that met its non-proliferation commitments and safeguards obligations. Use of the fuel bank was voluntary for Member States of the Agency; nothing was being imposed on them. All expenses associated with the establishment of the bank and storing the LEU would be borne by the Russian Federation, nothing would come from the budget of the Agency. The establishment of the fuel bank was the first practical example of the implementation of one of the basic provisions of the Agency's Statute. The guaranteed reserve would be moved to the International Uranium Enrichment Centre in Angarsk by the end of 2010, whereupon the agreement would enter into force. In the interests of transparency, Russia had voluntarily placed the Angarsk site under Agency safeguards as from 1 July 2010, and welcomed the cooperation from the Secretariat in preparing the agreement. The fuel bank was the first, but not the last initiative of that kind, and Russia welcomed the proposals in that regard made by the United States and other countries.

8. Over the previous year, the geographical reach of Russia's cooperation with respect to nuclear power plants had increased significantly. In China, two of the first units of the Tianwan nuclear power plant built with Russian assistance had been commissioned, construction of the first two units of the Kundankulam power plant in India had been completed, and the loading of the Russian-constructed Bushehr power plant in Iran had begun in August. An intergovernmental agreement covering the concept of build-own-operate had been signed with Turkey in connection with four units at the Akkuyu site. Intergovernmental agreements had also been signed with Ukraine and Armenia, and preparations for the signature of such agreements with Belarus and Vietnam were in progress. Work was also being undertaken with Bangladesh, Nigeria and Venezuela, which were launching national programmes for the development of nuclear power.

9. Countries with advanced nuclear power technologies had a particular responsibility to ensure that the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were accessible to all countries that met safety and non-proliferation commitments. Russia stood ready to offer the broadest possible cooperation in that regard, including through the training of staff, construction of research reactors, assurances of supply over the reactor lifetime, and the construction and operation of nuclear power plants.

10. Against that background, nuclear power plants were continuing to be built in Russia, and 10 units were currently under construction, including a sodium-cooled fast reactor. Of particular note was the project to construct the Baltic nuclear power plant in Kaliningrad, and his country invited the involvement of foreign investors interested in investing in a nuclear power plant on the territory of the Russian Federation.

11. The nuclear energy market was a global open market and, in Russia's view, a platform for a strategic open partnership and cooperation with companies in all interested countries. Russia was taking steps to broaden cooperation in scientific and technical areas and had now joined the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research. In April, Russia had signed a memorandum with Italy for the joint construction of a new class of tokamak reactor called Ignitor.

12. The work to return HEU from research reactors to the Russian Federation was continuing. As of 1 September 2010, Russia had brought back more than 482 kg of fresh HEU from 12 countries, as well as 894 kg of irradiated HEU from Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, Hungary and Kazakhstan, equivalent to the destruction of more than 30 nuclear warheads.

13. A number of important events concerning nuclear non-proliferation had taken place over the previous year. At the Nuclear Security Summit in April, Russia had signed a protocol to amend the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement concluded between Russia and the United States in September 2000, under which 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium would be converted into fuel for reactors used for peaceful purposes — equivalent to the destruction of more than 4000 nuclear warheads. At that meeting, the President had also announced plans to shut down the last weapons-grade plutonium facility in Zheleznogorsk, which would help to prevent the accumulation of surplus plutonium stocks. Russia welcomed the results of the Summit and noted with satisfaction that the communiqué of the Summit had reaffirmed the essential role of the Agency.

14. Russia fully supported the Agency's work to implement the Nuclear Security Plan and would be making a contribution to the NSF.

15. His country welcomed the work undertaken by the Agency to promote cooperation among States in the many uses of nuclear energy. It supported the Director General's efforts to make the fight against cancer a priority area. Plans were being made to establish in Moscow a regional centre for the training of medical physicists and radiation specialists from the Commonwealth of Independent States, for which it hoped to receive assistance under the technical cooperation programme for 2012–2013.

16. Drawing attention to the shortage of medical isotopes, in particular molybdenum-99, he said that by the end of the year, the Scientific Research Institute for Nuclear Reactors would be able to produce 900 curies of molybdenum a week, rising to more than 2500 curies a week in 2012. The isotopes would be placed on the market and should go some way towards alleviating the current shortage.

17. Collaboration with companies such as Toshiba, Siemens, General Electric and Uranium One attested to the choice that his country, like others, was making for an open partnership and open strategic cooperation.

18. Cooperation with the Agency, including technical cooperation activities, served to address not only today's problems but also those of the future. A key area was the development of young, qualified and motivated staff, and Russia had, in collaboration with the Agency, drawn up a draft agreement concerning internships for young specialists in the Secretariat, which it planned to sign before the end of the year.

19. Further development of nuclear power would not be possible without close international collaboration and the full participation of all States, both large and small. Russia looked forward to open and constructive cooperation to that end.

20. Mr GARGASH (United Arab Emirates) said that his country had decided to develop its nuclear energy programme in order to meet the growing domestic demand for electricity. It had taken the decision after assessing the available options in the light of economic and environmental factors, sustainability and the achievement of economic diversity. It had also attached the utmost importance to safety and security considerations and non-proliferation, in line with its regional and international obligations.

21. His country's awareness of its responsibilities had prompted it to issue in April 2008 a policy document on the evaluation and potential development of a peaceful nuclear energy programme,

which set out a series of Government strategies and commitments. The core principles included full operational transparency and a commitment to the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation. The United Arab Emirates intended to work closely with the Agency and with States possessing expertise in those areas in order to develop a successful and sustainable programme. With a view to ensuring operational transparency, the authorities had established an international advisory board comprising prominent international experts. The board would continuously assess progress in the programme's implementation and make its reports available to the local and international community.

22. In December 2009, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation had awarded a contract to a Korean consortium to design, construct and jointly operate his country's first four nuclear power reactors. Operation of the first reactor was scheduled to begin in 2017.

23. The commitment of the United Arab Emirates to the highest standards of nuclear safety was reflected in its legal, regulatory and institutional framework. In September 2009, the Government had promulgated Federal Law No. 6 concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which enshrined the country's policy obligations in respect of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation under relevant international instruments, and established an independent regulatory authority.

24. At the international level, the United Arab Emirates had acceded to a number of international instruments concerning nuclear safety in 2009, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which established a framework for the sharing of operational experience among Member States of the Agency and for the review of nuclear safety measures. The United Arab Emirates had submitted its first report concerning implementation of the Convention in 2010. He encouraged States that possessed or were planning to construct nuclear facilities to accede to the Convention.

25. The United Arab Emirates had taken major steps to develop the requisite legislative and institutional infrastructure for nuclear security and was seeking to improve its export and import control regime. In pursuit of its policy of supporting international cooperation in the area of nuclear security, the country had hosted the annual Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in Abu Dhabi in June 2010.

26. His country's resolve to work directly with the Agency and to abide by its standards was reflected in the ongoing technical cooperation programme covering a variety of fields. The United Arab Emirates consulted the Agency on every step taken to develop its nuclear energy programme and greatly appreciated the Agency's assistance. It also intended to take advantage of the INIR mechanism and had submitted a self-evaluation report to the Agency in preparation for an INIR mission.

27. The United Arab Emirates was committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of its domestic nuclear energy programme by adopting plans and strategies that ensured the availability of resources and the efficient future operation of the nuclear sector. To that end, it promoted the training of specialized human resources and had hosted the Agency's International Conference on Human Resource Development for Introducing and Expanding Nuclear Power Programmes in March 2010.

28. International partnerships and cooperation were the cornerstone of a successful nuclear energy programme and technologically advanced countries should therefore facilitate access by less advanced countries to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that connection, the United Arab Emirates also supported the development of multilateral nuclear fuel assurance mechanisms. By adopting and implementing such policies and strategies, the Government hoped to create a model that could be studied by countries wishing to develop a nuclear energy programme with the support of the international community.

29. Mr LEE Ju-Ho (Republic of Korea) said that nuclear energy was not simply an energy option but part of the solution to the challenges of climate change and energy security. Many countries were now embarking on the construction of new nuclear facilities or the expansion of existing ones, and the previous year had seen the beginning of the construction of 12 new reactors — the largest number of new constructions per annum since 1987. Such expansion had to be accompanied with the development of an appropriate safety infrastructure covering the legal framework, safety standards, human resources and security. Countries needed to assume their responsibilities: countries embarking on nuclear programmes should join the Agency and take measures to build an appropriate safety infrastructure; nuclear exporting countries should ensure the safety of reactors throughout their lifetimes and work closely with importing countries in developing the safety infrastructure.

30. The preceding year, his country had begun to export nuclear reactors in earnest. As part of that endeavour it had developed the Integrated Regulatory Infrastructure Supporting System, which covered all requirements for safety and regulatory compliance, and provided support to countries in need in the areas of regulatory standards, safety reviews, inspections, professional training and capacity building. From 2010, the Republic of Korea would also increase significantly its extrabudgetary contributions to the Agency, with a view to assisting those countries introducing nuclear energy.

31. Nuclear technology had unlimited potential to improve human lives and an essential role to play in achieving the MDGs, so it was deeply regrettable that its benefits were not enjoyed by all countries equally. His country had benefited greatly from the Agency's technical cooperation programme since 1961, and would change its status from a recipient to a net donor country in 2010, sharing its experience and knowledge. The Republic of Korea expressed its profound appreciation to the many Member States that had generously assisted developing countries in the areas of cancer treatment, diagnostics and radiology. It supported PACT through private donations and would continue to extend its support to Member States through PACT and other programmes by providing radiologists to work as instructors, and offering education and training to healthcare professionals from developing countries. It also planned to promote the use of radiation in developing countries through a special contribution to the technical cooperation programme.

32. In view of the serious challenges posed by nuclear proliferation, illicit trafficking of sensitive nuclear material, and nuclear terrorism by non-State actors, it was crucial to work towards universal adherence to and full compliance with the comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol in order to strengthen further the safeguards regime. His country would continue to be a strong supporter of the international non-proliferation regime and had acceded to all relevant international conventions.

33. In the light of the nuclear renaissance, nuclear security was assuming increasing importance. The Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington D.C. in April 2010 had provided an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its collective will to strengthen nuclear security. The Republic of Korea would be hosting the subsequent Nuclear Security Summit in 2012 and the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in 2011, and would continue to enhance nuclear security through active participation in the work of the Agency and other global partnership programmes. It planned to open an international nuclear security training centre in 2014 to provide high-quality training in the prevention of, and countermeasures against, nuclear terrorism.

34. The DPRK's development of nuclear programmes was an unacceptable act of provocation that threatened peace and stability in north-east Asia and undermined the foundation of the international non-proliferation regime. The 2010 NPT Review Conference had declared that the DPRK could not have the status of a nuclear-weapon State and had urged it to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes. The Republic of Korea noted with appreciation the international

community's faithful implementation of the extensive sanctions provided for in UN Security Council resolution 1874 (2009) that had been adopted following the DRPK's second nuclear test. It urged the DRPK to heed the calls of the international community and change its stance towards denuclearization, including by fulfilling its commitments under the September 2005 Joint Statement. His country remained committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to a comprehensive resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue through diplomatic endeavours. The Agency had an important role to play in the denuclearization process, and his country hoped that the Agency would be able to resume its important monitoring and verification activities before too long.

35. Ms BENKHADRA (Morocco) said that, in the context of increased interest in nuclear power, there was an even greater need for a strong non-proliferation regime. In that connection, Morocco supported the recommendations of the 2010 NPT Review Conference regarding the establishment of a NWFZ in the Middle East, which renewed calls for Israel to ratify the NPT and proposed the organization of an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of such a zone. The international community should step up efforts to address concerns over the deployment of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and the threat they posed to global peace and security. She emphasized the key role of the CTBT in building trust in the Middle East and beyond, and called on all States that had not yet done so to ratify that instrument. Morocco had welcomed the opportunity to co-chair, with France, the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in New York on 24 and 25 September 2009, and called for the rapid entry into force of the CTBT.

36. Nuclear energy was increasingly considered a viable and cost-effective way to meet growing energy demands, strengthen assurance of supply, reduce fossil fuel usage and combat climate change. Several Member States had requested Agency assistance in developing their nuclear programmes, thus magnifying its role in nuclear technology transfer, human resource training and the establishment of infrastructures. The Agency required adequate human and financial resources to meet such demands. It would therefore be worth examining the possibility of securing funding from international financial institutions. Morocco also urged the Agency to assist developing countries wishing to establish a nuclear power programme, through training activities and the promotion of nuclear technologies.

37. Her country welcomed the contribution made by Agency activities to achieving the MDGs and supported the various projects launched in Member States to that end. The Agency needed to consolidate its cooperation with other international organizations such as the FAO to enhance food security, and WHO to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and cancer.

38. Morocco welcomed the support it received through the Agency's technical cooperation programme which had enabled it to build major infrastructures, including the Maâmora Nuclear Research Centre, and build capacities in nuclear science and technology. Such advances would play an important role in introducing nuclear power, which was planned for 2020–2030. Morocco had also continued to develop a nuclear and radiation safety and security culture. Technical cooperation projects had allowed the country to use nuclear applications in sectors such as health, agriculture, water and the environment. Nuclear and isotopic techniques had been used to gain otherwise inaccessible information about the water cycle and, as a result, Morocco now had an isotopic hydrology atlas that would be used to manage water resources sustainably.

39. Morocco remained committed to strengthening its national legislative and regulatory framework in order to ensure safety, security, non-proliferation and environmental protection in the use of nuclear power. The Agency had provided valuable assistance in drafting a nuclear and radiation safety and security law that was currently being approved by the Government, along with a decree to apply the provisions of that law related to the establishment of an independent nuclear and radiation safety and security agency.

40. Given the huge numbers of people affected by cancer worldwide, Morocco welcomed the Director General's decision to prioritize efforts to combat cancer, particularly the scientific forum being held alongside the General Conference. Morocco would be hosting a round table discussion on its role in developing radiotherapy in Africa at that forum. Considerable progress in combating cancer had been made since the creation of the Lalla Salma Association Against Cancer in 2005. Morocco had a national cancer prevention and control plan for 2010–2019 and an infrastructure for the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, comprising about 15 centres distributed throughout the country.

41. With a view to enhancing South-South and regional cooperation, Morocco worked with the Agency to provide training and fellowships to African radiotherapists at its institutions. It also had the necessary expertise to help set up radiotherapy centres and monitor their work. Morocco was also an active partner in AFRA.

42. Morocco called upon those Member States that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of acceptance so that the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, which dealt with representation on the Board of Governors, could enter into force as soon as possible.

43. Mr SURAPRANATA (Indonesia) said that the greater emphasis being placed by the Director General on the promotion of nuclear technology for development, in particular cancer control, which his country welcomed, would help to counter the misperception that the Agency was only a nuclear watchdog.

44. Indonesia continued to attach the utmost importance to the technical cooperation programme which was vital to the transfer of nuclear science and technology, in particular to developing countries, and stressed that technical cooperation activities should not be politicized in any way. Although his country had pledged to pay its full target share to the TCF, it shared the concerns regarding the current funding mechanism which relied on voluntary contributions. Efforts should be made to ensure that the resources for technical cooperation were sufficient, assured and predictable, and Indonesia welcomed the support in that regard expressed in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

45. Indonesia commended all countries that had pledged to contribute to the Peaceful Uses Initiative, and suggested that a significant portion of the funds might be used to finance country-driven technical cooperation projects.

46. While the Agency should be further strengthened to ensure that it was equipped with the necessary means, resources and authority, efforts should be made to ensure that any additional responsibilities it was given would not prevent it from carrying out its mandated tasks in the area of verification, safety and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

47. Indonesia appreciated the Agency's efforts to mitigate the effects of the world food crisis through the use of its scientific and technological resources to help improve agricultural productivity and quality. It was committed to developing an integrated and comprehensive approach to cancer, and welcomed the impACT mission to be sent to Indonesia the following October to assess the infrastructure facilities, human resource capacities and other technical expertise required for cancer control there. His country had used the WHO core self-assessment tools as the basis for developing a country project design for resource mobilization, and would be hosting the 33rd meeting of RCA national representatives in 2011 in support of regional activities to promote the application of nuclear science and technology.

48. Despite having sufficient human resources and the necessary basic infrastructure, Indonesia had been unable to establish a nuclear power programme, primarily because of a lack of public acceptance. However, in view of the country's growth rate, it was not realistic for Indonesia to leave the nuclear power option out of its future energy mix. It would therefore continue its efforts in that regard. The

report of the INIR carried out by the Agency in Indonesia in 2009 indicated that sufficient preparatory work had been conducted on most infrastructure issues to enable the country to give further consideration to nuclear power.

49. INPRO was an important vehicle for the exchange of information among participating countries, and Indonesia would endeavour to continue supporting the project.

50. Indonesia commended the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear safety, and had almost completed ratification of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. It continued to support the role of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network and had hosted the Network's Third Nuclear Safety Strategy Dialogue Meeting where participating countries had reached a common understanding of the importance of the human and IT network in facilitating and improving nuclear safety in the region.

51. Indonesia attached importance to nuclear security and had ratified the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM. The Agency had an important role to play in that area, including through the implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan 2010–2013. His country was pleased to note that the Nuclear Security Report 2010 had indicated that responsibility for nuclear security rested entirely with each State, and stressed that efforts to strengthen nuclear security should not hamper international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

52. With regard to import and export controls of nuclear material and radioactive sources, he said that the Indonesian Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN) collaborated with the customs authority and provided a licensing process through a licensing and inspection system website and text messaging system. Indonesia welcomed the Agency's assistance in enhancing security measures through the development of an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, as well as joint efforts with the European Union to help strengthen physical protection measures and capabilities for detection of and response to illicit trafficking.

53. His country had never wavered in its commitment to the strengthening of safeguards and had been among the first to ratify and implement the additional protocol. In June 2010, it had successfully co-chaired the first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network in Bali, which had provided a forum for discussions on how to enhance the effective implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol in the region. It was essential to maintain the credibility of Agency safeguards, including by strengthening the system for protecting the confidentiality of safeguards information.

54. Indonesia welcomed the successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and commended all parties to the NPT on the spirit of compromise that they had demonstrated during the negotiations. Compliance with the Final Document was the only viable option for moving forward with respect to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

55. His country continued to support a comprehensive solution of the DPRK nuclear issue through the six-party talks. Allowing the Agency's inspectors to resume their verification activities would constitute an important confidence-building measure in that regard.

56. The nuclear issue in the Middle East could not be solved without the active and constructive participation of all countries of the region. Indonesia remained deeply concerned about one country's nuclear capabilities and its defiant attitude towards placing its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

57. Indonesia reaffirmed the inalienable right of any country, including Iran, to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, provided that the activities were undertaken in accordance with

safeguards obligations. It therefore fully supported continued cooperation between the Agency and Iran in order to resolve outstanding issues.

58. Mr YOUNIS (Egypt) said that his country had been cooperating closely with the Agency for more than half a century in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy by developing scientific and operational capacities and human resources and by actively participating in all the Agency's activities. It had benefited from many technical cooperation projects, including assistance in ensuring the optimum use of research reactors through the development of qualified human resources.

59. Egypt believed that priority should be given to cancer therapy and, in particular, to the production of the requisite radioisotopes. It hoped shortly to complete the construction of a new facility for the production of medical and industrial radioisotopes, including molybdenum-99, in order to offset the shortage of such products due to the closure of numerous research reactors in various parts of the world.

60. Egypt was continuing its efforts to promote food security with the Agency's assistance through the use of gamma radiation to produce crops with the requisite characteristics, application of nuclear techniques in the farming of desert areas, development of plant species that thrived in desert conditions and production of agricultural hydrogel from polymerized material to increase the water retention of sandy soil.

61. Following President Mubarak's decision to launch a public dialogue in December 2006 on the use of nuclear energy as a strategic option for electricity generation and the Government's development of an integrated national strategy to that end, Egypt had cooperated closely with the Agency to perform relevant studies. Agreement had been reached on the development of an integrated plan for cooperation in a variety of areas in order to establish the necessary nuclear facilities and infrastructure, for instance a basic nuclear programme and site studies, development of a legislative framework and the drafting of a law to serve as the basis for the establishment of an independent nuclear safety authority. In the light of the outcome of the Government's studies and the public dialogue, President Mubarak had announced on 29 October 2007 Egypt's strategic decision to launch a programme to construct a number of nuclear power plants for electricity generation in cooperation with its international partners and to begin construction of the first plant in cooperation with the Agency. A law concerning the organization of nuclear and radiation activities had been promulgated in March 2010, providing for, inter alia, the establishment of a nuclear and radiation safety authority. El-Dabaa had been selected as the site of the first nuclear power plant, for which the specifications would be submitted by the end of 2010. A total of four power plants were to be constructed by 2025. Egypt hoped to continue cooperating with the Agency in implementing the programme, selecting new sites, and training human resources.

62. Calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons had intensified since the previous year and the States parties to the NPT had agreed on a work plan to achieve nuclear disarmament. That trend had not, however, been accompanied by action to boost the Agency's activities in support of nuclear disarmament, even though one of the objectives under the Medium Term Strategy for 2006–2011 was to contribute, as appropriate, to effective verification of nuclear arms control and reduction agreements, including nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article II of the Statute. Egypt urged all Member States to take serious steps to achieve that goal.

63. The Middle East remained a special case in efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons, as demonstrated by the consensus achieved at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in that region. The Agency's credibility depended to a large extent on the seriousness with which its Member States addressed the issue of nuclear disarmament in the Middle East and the

application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear facilities in the region. Although 18 years had elapsed since the adoption by the General Conference of a resolution calling on all States in the Middle East to apply comprehensive safeguards, Israel had taken no steps to achieve that objective. The Agency should fulfil the mandate assigned to it under the resolutions adopted at the 53rd session of the General Conference and disclose whatever information it possessed concerning Israeli nuclear facilities that should be placed under Agency safeguards.

64. The General Conference needed to reaffirm the responsibility of the Agency, as the executive arm of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, to take serious action to address the nuclear threat in the Middle East region by dealing with the resolutions under the relevant agenda items in a manner that guaranteed respect for the NPT regime and promoted regional and international peace and security. To that end, Egypt was again submitting to the current session a draft resolution concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East.

65. Egypt suggested that the Agency should prepare reference documents for the planned 2012 conference on the Middle East, including a document concerning the scope and options for the application of measures to verify the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region and a draft model agreement on an NWFZ, based on its previous work in the Middle East and its experience with other NWFZs. Politicization, selectivity and the application of double standards should be avoided, and the principle of non-interference in countries' internal affairs should be respected.

66. He commended the Agency's work in the area of nuclear information and nuclear knowledge management and in addressing the risk of loss of such information at industrial nuclear facilities. He also emphasized the important role of INIS in the gathering and storage of nuclear data.

67. Egypt greatly appreciated the continuous development and improvement of the technical cooperation programme based on a partnership among all Member States. It supported the technical cooperation strategy and, in particular, the focus on projects with a tangible impact and those with an end user. His country also supported the policy of holding early consultations with Member States concerning the details of technical cooperation projects, the preparation of CPFs, and the drafting of guidelines concerning the role and responsibilities of national focal points with a view to improving the quality of communication among project coordinators, end users and the Agency's Secretariat.

68. Egypt had opened its plants and facilities to other Arab and African States and shared its expertise with them in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It supported AFRA and its projects, which made a tangible contribution to the socio-economic development and alleviated the suffering of the people of Africa.

69. Mr RANAWAKA (Sri Lanka) said that the NPT was the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and fundamental to the pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation could not be pursued independently of one another. Also, the obligations and commitments undertaken by countries should not jeopardize their sovereign and inalienable right to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

70. His country noted with satisfaction the actions recommended by the 2010 NPT Review Conference and called on the Agency and its Member States to work together to implement those actions.

71. The Agency played a crucial role in enhancing the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology through the expertise it had acquired over the preceding five decades. Sri Lanka was confident that the Agency would continue to maintain its independence, balance and impartiality. It

required the support of Member States in successfully carrying out its tasks and all avenues of diplomacy and dialogue should be followed to deal with contentious issues.

72. The world faced the growing challenges of climate change and the depletion of fossil fuel sources. There was renewed interest in nuclear energy in the context of renewable energy and sustainable development. Under the Mahinda Chintana Vision for the Future programme, the President of Sri Lanka had formulated an energy development strategy based on energy, economy and efficiency, and the country was reviewing its energy policy.

73. The Government of Sri Lanka had begun to develop a national infrastructure for enhanced productivity. The new Hambantota port in the south of the country had been opened in 2010 and the development of a second international airport, bunkering facilities and other large infrastructure projects were under way.

74. Energy demands in the country had increased in conjunction with an 8.5% increase in GDP in the second quarter of 2010. To meet future energy demands, energy production would have to be increased and non-conventional renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and mini-hydro power incorporated. Sri Lanka had therefore decided to consider incorporating nuclear power into its energy mix. The Government had authorized the Atomic Energy Authority to conduct a pre-feasibility study on using nuclear power from 2020, with the technical assistance of the Agency. Additionally, a programme on enhancing human resource development in the area of nuclear energy had been initiated in collaboration with the engineering universities in Sri Lanka. The Atomic Energy Authority Act No. 19 was being updated to meet present and future requirements in the fields of nuclear power generation, nuclear terrorism, environmental protection and nuclear safety and security, and the new version would be forwarded to the Agency. It was hoped that the updated Act would be finalized and approved by the Parliament of Sri Lanka in 2010.

75. Sri Lanka was embarking on a new era of economic development after overcoming the threat of terrorism it faced for nearly 30 years. The country fully supported global measures to combat terrorism and had become a signatory to a number of international conventions, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. As the acquisition of nuclear weapons or material by terrorist and extremist groups posed a real global threat, the physical protection of nuclear material was essential.

76. Sri Lanka had joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism as well as the Megaports Initiative led by the United States of America to improve the safety and security of radioactive sources and monitor the international movement of nuclear material through its ports. Sri Lanka had also provided security upgrades at radiotherapy facilities and gamma irradiation centres under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. An agreement with the United States Government on the provision of technical assistance for radioactive waste disposal in Sri Lanka was currently being finalized. In June 2009, Sri Lanka had hosted a South Asia workshop on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) concerning non-State actors and WMD.

77. Since nuclear science and technology for development was an important pillar of the Agency's work, Sri Lanka attached great importance to the technical assistance provided to developing countries. Activities should be strengthened further, and sufficient, adequate and predictable resources allocated to the TCF. The delivery of technical cooperation should also take the needs of recipient countries into consideration to enhance the impact of such assistance.

78. Sri Lanka had greatly benefited from the technical cooperation programme in such areas as human health, agriculture, industry, nutrition and radiation protection. It had signed its CPF for 2009–2013, under which Agency cooperation would be provided for energy planning, nuclear medicine,

industrial applications, control of vector-borne infectious diseases and capacity-building in national nuclear research institutes.

79. His country had strengthened its radiological emergency preparedness by setting up sites to detect background radiation, establishing a radiological warning system and developing national training programmes with the collaboration of the Agency on dealing with radiological emergencies and similar situations.

80. Sri Lanka had been receiving technical assistance in nuclear imaging over the preceding 20 years. Four nuclear imaging centres had been provided with equipment and expert services, and a source recommended for the supply of radioisotopes. In view of the importance of nuclear imaging in the early detection of cancer, especially in developing countries, he expressed his country's hope that the supply of technetium-99m could become more reliable.

81. Sri Lanka appreciated the Agency's contribution to the establishment of a biodosimetry laboratory and noted that the Atomic Energy Authority could now offer biodosimetry services to individuals on request. Advanced nuclear analytical services such as total reflection X-ray fluorescence and improved capabilities in nuclear analytical methods had aided research into the causes of chronic kidney disease, a major health concern in parts of Sri Lanka.

82. PACT was a notable example of the peaceful uses of the atom. As the host of a PACT Model Demonstration Site, Sri Lanka hoped that the success of such Sites would help to provide models for comprehensive cancer care in the developing world. He thanked India for its donation under PACT of a Bhabhatron-II radiotherapy machine, which was urgently needed.

83. Under an RCA programme, Sri Lanka had recognized the importance of non-destructive testing to enhance safety and productivity in industry and was planning to establish a national centre for non-destructive testing that would perform such work on a large scale.

84. Mr TEKKARI (Tunisia) said that his country accorded priority to universal access to education, support for scientific research and technological innovation. As a result, expenditure on scientific research had increased from 0.2% of GDP in 1991 to 1.25% in 2009, with a further increase to 1.5% planned by 2014. Research centres and laboratories had been established in the country's universities, and the number of researchers, engineers and doctorate-level students had increased many times over. Special attention had been given to the various uses of nuclear energy and technology, given their important role in industrial development, health, agriculture and assurance of energy and drinking water supplies.

85. Renewable energy sources, particularly nuclear energy, were recognized as the best options for reducing the costs of electricity generation and seawater desalination. The President of Tunisia had therefore commissioned a study on the feasibility of using nuclear power for electricity generation by 2020. Work towards its introduction had already begun, for instance through the training of human resources in various branches of nuclear science.

86. Since 2008, Tunisia had been assembling a team of specialists to draft appropriate legislation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Such work had to be accompanied by the establishment of a technical and administrative infrastructure in order to ensure the security and safety of facilities, the general public and the environment.

87. Tunisia considered the adoption and implementation of international instruments pertaining to peaceful uses of nuclear energy to be a prerequisite to developing nuclear facilities, as they ensured the success and transparency of such programmes. In 2010, Tunisia had completed the requisite constitutional procedures for ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the amendment to the CPPNM, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and the

amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute. It also hoped to ratify the additional protocol as soon as it had completed the necessary legislative and regulatory procedures, and to adopt the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

88. Since becoming a member in 1957, Tunisia had continuously striven to develop its cooperative relationship with the Agency and to support common interests. During 2010 it had received 21 trainees from friendly countries on fellowships and scientific visits funded by the Agency.

89. An electronic accelerator had been installed in the National Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology with a view to developing new methods of radiation processing. The Centre was also setting up a unit in cooperation with the Agency to ensure the safety of low- and medium-activity radioactive sources. Work was also continuing on a neutron activation laboratory for measuring low-concentration elements to monitor environmental pollution and product quality, and for archaeological applications. Tunisian investors were funding the establishment of a cyclotron to be used for medical purposes, especially in combating cancer, and an anti-cancer association had been set up.

90. Tunisia was committed to honouring its financial obligations to the Agency. It intended to pay its full TCF target share for 2011, and had paid its 2010 contributions in full and on time. Tunisia hoped that consensus would be reached on a substantial increase in the Agency's budget that would enable it to continue playing its basic role of promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, or that mechanisms would be created to meet the growing financial burden arising from other activities so that the requisite balance could be maintained.

91. Tunisia was eager to develop cooperation with fellow Member States in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. As the host country of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency, it welcomed the joint convening by that Agency and the IAEA of the First Arab Conference on the Prospects of Nuclear Power for Electricity Generation and Seawater Desalination in Tunis in June 2010 and called for further development of the partnership between the two.

92. Tunisia commended the steps taken by the Agency to strengthen the safeguards regime. It hoped that they would lead to effective progress towards nuclear disarmament and encourage all Member States to accede to the NPT in order to build international confidence and reassure the public, especially in the Middle East. Tunisia supported the creation of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and the placement of all nuclear facilities, including those of Israel, under Agency safeguards.

93. Mr DJELIC (Serbia) said that his country, which sought to achieve the central strategic goal of European Union membership, was dedicated to meeting all its obligations under the Stabilisation and Association Agreement it had signed in April 2007, including those related to nuclear safety and safeguards.

94. During a visit by the former Director General to Belgrade in July 2009, Serbia had signed an additional protocol, which would be ratified and implemented shortly. In addition, the Serbian Parliament had enacted a law on ionizing radiation protection and nuclear safety that was in line with international requirements and European standards, and the fully independent Agency for Ionizing Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety of Serbia had been established. A US \$25 million programme had been negotiated to repatriate spent fuel from the Vinča research reactor to the Russian Federation. The Agency was working with the Serbian Government and a newly established public company to implement the programme, which would be completed before the 55th session of the General Conference. Serbia was grateful to the Agency, the European Union, the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Hungary for their assistance in that regard.

95. Serbia fully supported efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. In order to prevent the misuse of nuclear and other radioactive material, knowledge and technologies, his country was constantly improving its physical protection of nuclear and radioactive material and its illicit trafficking prevention capabilities.

96. The Agency's technical cooperation activities were indispensable in assisting developing countries, particularly in achieving goals in such areas as safeguards, safety and security, regulatory infrastructure, and radiation medicine and diagnostics. Serbia was a major beneficiary of technical assistance and was particularly grateful to the staff of the Division for Europe and the Office of Nuclear Security for their efforts. The projects submitted for the 2012–2013 cycle were based on the CPF signed in September, and covered areas of importance for his country including nuclear safety and security, radiotherapy and human health, and agriculture. His country was grateful to the Agency for its support in procuring some €400 million from the European Investment Bank and other sources that would be invested over the subsequent four years in Serbia's scientific and technological infrastructure.

97. Finally, he noted that Serbia had met all its financial obligations to the Agency and would continue to do so in the future.

98. Ms TCHUENTE (Cameroon) welcomed the remarkable progress and encouraging results achieved by the Agency over the preceding year in tackling the global challenges of famine, endemic and emergent diseases, water and energy shortages, environmental degradation and nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

99. The international ministerial conference on nuclear energy organized by the Agency and China in 2009 had provided an opportunity for high-level exchanges on prospects in that field. Cameroon agreed with the views expressed that there was a need to develop nuclear reactors of a size better adapted to the needs of developing countries, and to promote access for all to nuclear power technology with a view to facilitating sustainable development.

100. Given the additional safety and security constraints and need for more specialized human resources stemming from the growing demand for nuclear technology, Cameroon welcomed the Agency's assistance to Member States in developing appropriate training programmes. Assistance in areas related to uranium mining, particular to developing countries with uranium reserves, needed to be strengthened. Her country welcomed the initiatives aimed at creating an LEU reserve to assure the supply of nuclear fuel to Member States. In view of the growing global demand for nuclear fuel, such strategies had to be constantly reviewed and adapted equitably to the needs of all parts of the world.

101. One of the barriers to the expansion of nuclear power was the issue of radioactive waste and spent fuel management. Solutions had to be found urgently, as nuclear power was becoming an essential option for most countries. Cameroon urged the Agency to continue its work through INPRO, which could calm fears over radioactive waste and the safety risks associated with nuclear power in countries with limited technical capabilities.

102. Nuclear technology continued to make vital contributions to human development in fields including health care, food, water resource management and environmental protection. Cameroon encouraged the Agency to devote particular attention to problems related to climate change which could cause food shortages and humanitarian disasters. Programmes to develop drought-tolerant, fast-growing mutant crop strains deserved the Agency's ongoing support.

103. Endemic diseases, such as malaria, continued to pose a grave threat in African countries, while HIV/AIDS continued to spread rapidly. The Agency should continue its activities in that regard until such diseases were fully eradicated.

104. Cameroon noted with satisfaction the Agency's regular organization of international conferences to raise awareness and share experiences in order to improve nuclear safety and security throughout the world. The conference held in December 2009 in Cape Town had been particularly important for the promotion of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa. Such meetings helped to avoid overconfidence and maintain vigilance in applying regulations.

105. Nuclear safety and security were cross-border issues. Her country encouraged the Agency to use regional and international networks to build capacities, disseminate best practices and improve radiological emergency response.

106. At the heart of the Agency's statutory mission was the technical cooperation programme, through which it provided needy Member States with support in acquiring advanced technology to aid development. Since most Member States were developing countries, Cameroon supported increasing the technical cooperation budget to meet their growing needs, which resulted from a greater number of nuclear applications in their development strategies.

107. Cameroon benefited from the Agency's technical assistance in support of its socio-economic development strategy. In 2009, national and regional projects had been implemented in the areas of food, human health and nutrition, animal production and health, plant production, water resource management, industrial applications of radiation, and nuclear safety and radiation protection. Through such projects, scientists and technicians from Cameroon had benefited from training fellowships and scientific visits, and various organizations had been supplied with scientific equipment to strengthen their institutional capacities. The National Radiation Protection Agency had received quality control and X-ray equipment, along with an expert mission to set up a national training course for technical staff. With the Agency's assistance, her country hoped it would soon have a fully operational national regulatory authority. Cameroon also hoped the Agency would support it in its plan to introduce nuclear power into its energy mix.

108. Thanks to the Agency's technical assistance, Cameroon had two radiotherapy services and a nuclear medicine service. However, those capacities were still insufficient to serve Cameroon's population of 19 million people. His country would rely on the Agency's support to further expand its national cancer treatment system.

109. Cameroon believed that international technical cooperation was vital to the development of nuclear applications and therefore supported the work of AFRA. The meeting of AFRA's Technical Working Group that had taken place in Yaoundé in July 2009 had marked the twentieth anniversary of AFRA. The event had been covered by national and international media, giving the general public an insight into the major contribution made by AFRA to regional cooperation and development. In 2009, Cameroon had also hosted a coordination meeting for the regional project on improving crop production through mutation and biotechnology techniques, and national institutions had hosted short-term training fellowships and scientific visits.

110. She expressed her country's gratitude for the Agency's support for its national cattle artificial insemination laboratories, livestock vaccination projects and malaria immunology studies. In the 2012–2013 technical cooperation cycle, Cameroon's needs would focus on water resource management, mineral resource evaluation, energy planning, industrial uses of radiation and radiation protection.

111. Cameroon recognized the unique role played by the Agency in providing assurances that safeguarded nuclear material was used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Cameroon supported the implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements and hoped that NWFZs would be extended to all the regions of the world in support of the international nuclear safety and security regime and total disarmament. The Agency could use its verification expertise to help in establishing such zones.

112. Cameroon called on the Agency to increase its support to AFRA, which was recognized under the Pelindaba Treaty as the reference framework for promoting peaceful nuclear applications in Africa.

113. Mr SWARTZ (Botswana) said that atomic energy provided hope for a clean and reliable alternative energy source for the future. His country supported all efforts by the Agency to uphold the principles of the NPT safeguards agreement and additional protocol and to prevent the diversion of atomic energy to military uses, whether directly or indirectly.

114. Botswana was determined to meet its obligations as a Member State of the Agency, for example by strengthening the functions of its Radiation Protection Board and establishing a waste management facility.

115. Botswana's National Development Plan reflected its commitment to nuclear security and regulatory independence, which would enhance the effectiveness of the legislative framework and the efficiency of the regulatory infrastructure.

116. Through its technical cooperation programme, the Agency had provided generous support and assistance to Botswana in the form of expert advice, monitoring, equipment, and staff training, thus benefiting the population.

117. Botswana would soon accede to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and intended to continue to review other conventions and agreements with a view to acceding to them as appropriate.

118. Like other African Member States, Botswana needed support and assistance in the acquisition, adoption, adaptation and use of appropriate nuclear technologies to catalyse economic development and contribute to poverty reduction and fulfilment of the MDGs. AFRA offered an environment conducive to achieving those goals.

119. Botswana continued to make progress towards alleviating the impact of HIV/AIDS. The increasing incidence of other diseases, such as cancer, placed a growing burden on the country's already overstretched medical facilities. The Agency's recent focus on cancer treatment and its research support on food and nutrition intervention techniques using stable isotopes were welcome developments in which Botswana was keen to participate.

120. Botswana had just finalized its CPF for 2011–2015 which coincided with and was based on the National Development Plan for 2010–2016. It would therefore be an opportune period for the country to tackle health issues, especially cancer, which was on the increase in Africa. It would also focus on climate-change related issues such as drought and livestock diseases, which were major threats to food security in Botswana. Other development priorities included energy planning, water resource management and strengthening of regulatory structures.

121. Mr HENDRY (United Kingdom) said that his country's policy document *Road to 2010*, setting out a vision of how the country and the international community could best address core nuclear-related issues, had received positive feedback. It had helped to maintain focus in preparing for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which had reached consensus on a pragmatic and valuable outcome document. That achievement should not be underestimated: parties to the NPT had shown determination and cooperation in reaffirming their commitment to non-proliferation and the ways in which that commitment would be pursued. At the heart of the outcome document was the complete understanding that the Agency would continue to play the central role in ensuring a safe, secure and proliferation-free nuclear future. His country welcomed the constructive discussions taking place to

ensure that the Agency would continue to have the resources and tools necessary to do its job in an efficient and effective manner.

122. Growing interest in nuclear power was inevitable if the objective of energy security was to be pursued with minimal effects on climate change. With the global population expected to rise to 8.2 billion by 2030 and global electricity demand growing by 2.5% per year — more in developing countries — the place of nuclear power in providing a greater share of reliable low-carbon energy was assured. The United Kingdom expected that nuclear power provided without government subsidy would continue to play a significant role in domestic electricity generation, and a number of commercial enterprises had shown interest in investing in a ‘nuclear new-build’ programme in the United Kingdom. The Government would work with them to ensure that their plans could be carried out as part of an overall low-carbon energy strategy. To that end, unnecessary obstacles to such investment would be removed, inter alia, by streamlining planning and making a decision about regulatory justification of new nuclear reactor designs. The Government also wanted to provide the long-term certainty needed for clean energy projects by putting a price on carbon, and was taking steps to secure the necessary investment in nuclear power, thus enabling the first new station to be in operation by 2018.

123. In the face of a potential worldwide nuclear renaissance, action should be taken to reduce proliferation risks that could arise as a result. The challenge was to minimize the risks while taking full advantage of the opportunities, and the stakes were considerable.

124. The 2010 NPT Review Conference had noted the enduring commitment to safeguards, along with security and safety, that would need to accompany the development of nuclear energy. Strengthening and enhancing the Agency’s safeguards capabilities was of the utmost priority. He urged those non-nuclear-weapon States that had still to do so to conclude and bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols and, whenever relevant, to amend their small quantities protocols. The technical challenges that the implementation of safeguards might entail for some countries were considerable, and the United Kingdom remained open to sharing knowledge, know-how and best practice in that field with requesting countries. The United Kingdom was proud of its long record of assisting Agency safeguards work through its national safeguards support programme, particularly the training of existing and new safeguards inspectors, which would continue to be a priority as the number of facilities and activities worldwide increased in number, size and complexity. The safeguards regime, in particular the Agency’s powers of inspection, needed to continue evolving in order to meet concerns about non-compliant and uncooperative states.

125. The threat posed by those who sought to acquire and use nuclear devices for terrorist and other non-peaceful purposes was real and of growing concern. Addressing that threat was a vital aspect of the international non-proliferation regime and the Agency’s work. His country looked forward to the imminent completion of INFCIRC/225/Rev.5. Noting that only 41 States had ratified the important amendment to the CPPNM, he expressed his country’s readiness to work with the Agency and other States Parties to help ensure its early entry into force. As part of its ongoing commitment to nuclear security, his Government would contribute a further £4 million to the NSF in 2010.

126. The United Kingdom urged all Member States seeking to introduce nuclear activities to accede to the relevant nuclear safety conventions, in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. His country particularly welcomed the adoption in June 2009 of the Nuclear Safety Directive of the European Union, which was based on the Agency’s Safety Fundamentals. It was also important to foster a culture of vigilance and willingness to share best practice and improve safety procedures and regimes. There was a greater need than ever for all stakeholders to work together to further improve health and safety standards at new and existing nuclear facilities.

127. In line with the international commitment made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, it was important to explore further the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. The approval by the Board of Governors of the establishment of a fuel reserve in Russia was an important step, and the United Kingdom looked forward to further, full and transparent discussion on other potential mechanisms. Following discussions with potential stakeholders, the United Kingdom intended to present to the Board its concept for a virtual nuclear fuel assurance mechanism to help facilitate access to nuclear energy, enabling countries to avoid the huge costs and technological challenges involved in establishing their own nuclear fuel cycle. None of the proposed measures would affect a State's rights under the NPT; on the other hand, not all States would find fuel assurance mechanisms useful. The aim was to ensure that the potential for such mechanisms to assist with the economic and safe expansion of nuclear energy was not ignored, and that full and open discussions took place to examine the possibilities available.

128. The Director General's latest report on Iran reinforced the message that the country was continuing to defy UN resolutions and failing to cooperate fully with the Agency. Iran had not notified the Agency in a timely manner of its decision to construct, or authorize construction of, two facilities, which was inconsistent with its obligation under the Subsidiary Arrangements to its safeguards agreement. The UN Security Council had sent a strong signal in June 2010 that Iran's continued failure to comply with its international obligations could not be ignored. The United Kingdom did not question or challenge Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy, but with that right came important responsibilities that Iran had continually failed to accept. The Director General had indicated that Iran had not provided the necessary cooperation to permit the Agency to confirm that all nuclear material there was in peaceful activities. Iran needed to cooperate fully with the Agency and comply with Security Council resolutions so as to restore international confidence in its nuclear enrichment programme.

129. He expressed his country's deep concern at the DPRK's continued lack of cooperation with the Agency, and called on that country to resume cooperation with the Agency, comply immediately with all relevant Security Council resolutions, and refrain from any further provocative actions. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was vital for peace and stability in that region and beyond.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.