

# General Conference

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## Fifty-fourth regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Fourth Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Tuesday, 21 September 2010, at 3.05 p.m.*

**President:** Mr ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

**Later:** Mr MABHONGO (South Africa)

Mr SOLTANIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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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
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CANDU	Canada deuterium-uranium [reactor]
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
HEU	high-enriched uranium
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INES	International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
IPSART	International Probabilistic Safety Assessment Review Team
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
IT	information technology
LEU	low-enriched uranium
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
New START	New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

**Abbreviations used in this record (continued):**

NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OECD/NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PCMF	Programme Cycle Management Framework
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
PSA	Probabilistic safety analysis/assessment
R&D	research and development
RBMK	high-power channel-type reactor (Soviet Union)
SIT	sterile insect technique
SMART	specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely
SPECT	single photon emission computed tomography
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
VIC	Vienna International Centre
WHO	World Health Organization

## **7. General debate and Annual Report for 2009 (continued)** **(GC(54)/4)**

1. Mr AL HARTHI (Oman) said that his country had been progressively assuming its responsibilities as an active member of the Agency and it hoped to benefit from the services and possibilities which the Agency offered. It also did not shirk paying its contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF.
2. 2010 had witnessed important developments in the nuclear sphere. Three particularly noteworthy events had been the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy held in Paris from 8 to 9 March 2010, the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington from 12 to 13 April 2010, and the NPT Review Conference organized by the United Nations in New York from 3 to 28 May 2010. Those three events would doubtless have a profound impact on international cooperation in the nuclear sphere for a number of years to come. Implementation of the resulting action plans would require exhaustive and serious efforts by all States without exception. The Sultanate of Oman, for its part, would do its utmost to meet its international, regional and bilateral obligations regarding development, growth and welfare, and international security and stability.
3. The Sultanate of Oman was continuing its cooperation with the Agency and friendly States with a view to using nuclear energy and technologies that were proven to be effective and superior to others, in order to find suitable solutions to the questions and challenges it was facing in its endeavours to achieve sustainable development.
4. The four technical cooperation projects it had submitted to the Agency, and which had been approved by the Board of Governors in November 2009, testified to the high importance Oman attached to all peaceful uses of nuclear energy for its socio-economic development and for meeting its energy and water needs.
5. The Sultanate was determined to benefit from both national and regional technical cooperation projects with the Agency in the areas of human health, agriculture, food, management of water resources and protection of the environment. It welcomed the initiative to set up a regional cooperation framework between the Agency and States in Asia and the Pacific. Such a framework would certainly lead to projects that were better aligned and more relevant to the interests and needs of the States in the region.
6. In the area of nuclear and radiation safety, the Sultanate of Oman had taken note with great satisfaction of the information contained in the Agency's Annual Report, which highlighted the improvement in nuclear and radiation safety worldwide over the preceding two decades. Oman urged all States to redouble their efforts to avoid the risk of nuclear and radiological incidents and abide by the Agency's nuclear and radiation safety standards. The various global and regional networks established recently in the area of nuclear and radiation safety had started to bring rewards in terms of building human resources and exchange of information, as a result of the assistance provided by participating States.
7. Oman was confident that the project to set up an Arab network for regulatory and supervisory bodies with the support of the Agency and other regional organizations would contribute to establishing a safety culture and strengthening safety infrastructure as a preliminary step towards various peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

8. His country welcomed the outcomes of the recent NPT Review Conference and the consensus reached on the action plans related to the Treaty's three main axes, namely: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. He reaffirmed the importance of each of those three axes. The consensus agreement on holding a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East gave grounds for optimism as regards finding a solution to the current impasse and enabling the region to enjoy security and stability like other regions of the world. Transparency and clarity were required from all States in order to achieve the desired objective.

9. His country also welcomed the outcomes of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit, which had placed emphasis on the fundamental responsibility of States to ensure the security of nuclear material and installations, and on the prevention of all criminal acts in that sphere. Implementing the commitments made by certain States during the Summit, and ensuring an effective nuclear security regime, would require ongoing efforts on the part of all States as well as solid international cooperation in training professional staff, establishing legislation, and providing equipment and the necessary materials. In that regard, Oman commended the positive work that had been done by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

10. The Sultanate of Oman would be following closely the efforts of the working group on financing of the Agency's activities, for which a meeting had been convened by the Board of Governors immediately following the General Conference to examine the real benefits to be gained from administrative reform and improved working practices, and the question of resources for the TCF.

11. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's confidence in the effective role played by the Agency in ensuring the best and secure use of nuclear energy in peaceful applications in various aspects of daily life.

12. Monsignor BALESTRERO (Holy See) conveyed the best wishes and cordial greetings of Pope Benedict XVI, who encouraged the efforts of the international community to ensure progressive disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, the presence of which threatened the life of the planet and the integral development of present and future generations.

13. The Agency could look back with satisfaction on what had been achieved under the three pillars of its mandate since its establishment. However, many challenges remained, a number of which had been highlighted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The Holy See regarded the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the basis for pursuing nuclear disarmament, and an important element for further development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes. As the NPT was the only multilateral legal instrument in force that was intended to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons, it must never be allowed to be weakened. Other priorities were the entry into force of the CTBT and the ratification by all States — particularly nuclear-weapon States — of protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties. The Holy See strongly supported efforts to establish such a zone in the Middle East, as a sign of trust and an affirmation that peace and security were possible without possessing nuclear weapons. Humanity deserved the full cooperation of all States on such an important matter. Every step along the non-proliferation and disarmament path had to be based on the principles of the pre-eminent and inherent value of human dignity and the centrality of the human person, which constituted the basis of international humanitarian law. In his message to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Pope Benedict XVI had stated that: "The process towards a coordinated and secure nuclear disarmament is strictly connected to the full and rapid fulfilment of the relevant international commitments. Peace, in fact, rests on trust and on respect for promises made, not merely on the equilibrium of forces. In this spirit, I encourage the initiatives that seek progressive disarmament and the creation of zones free of nuclear weapons, with a view to their complete

elimination from the planet. I exhort all those participating in the New York meeting to overcome the burdens of history and to weave patiently a political and economic web of peace in order to foster integral human development and the authentic aspirations of peoples”.

14. Since its establishment, the Agency had been an irreplaceable point of reference for international cooperation on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and for integral human development. The Agency’s technical cooperation programme was one of the principal instruments for transferring nuclear science and technology to Member States in order to promote socio-economic development. When tailored to the needs of the recipient States, it helped combat poverty and could thus contribute to a more peaceful solution to the serious problems facing humanity. Nuclear and isotopic techniques had proven increasingly helpful in meeting basic human needs and addressing major challenges, especially in the developing world. The research activities and technical cooperation projects that had been completed in recent years, or were under way, continued to yield encouraging results and provided innovative ways of tackling problems that affected many people in their daily lives. The Agency’s efforts in that regard were highly appreciated and should be continued through fruitful cooperation and partnership with recipient countries.

15. The peaceful applications of nuclear techniques could make a contribution to responding to the most pressing needs, such as management of drinking water supplies, production of crops with improved yields or greater salt tolerance in arid climates, and the eradication of disease-transmitting and otherwise harmful pests in an environmentally friendly manner. They could also be used effectively in the study of child malnutrition and in disease diagnosis and treatment.

16. More than 50% of patients diagnosed with cancer would benefit from radiotherapy applied either alone or in conjunction with surgery and chemotherapy, but in the developing world more than 50% of cancer sufferers would not have access to radiotherapy owing to a lack of appropriate equipment and sufficiently trained staff with expertise in clinical and medical physics. The topic of the current year’s scientific forum was thus most relevant. The Holy See appreciated the efforts of the Agency and its partners to develop and expand cancer control programmes, including the provision and upgrade of essential equipment, appropriate training of doctors, physicists and technicians, and international exchange of relevant information. One of the Agency’s main tasks had been to develop and refine the standards and codes of practice in medical radiation dosimetry. The worldwide network of standard dosimetry laboratories provided calibration services to hospitals — especially in developing countries — in order to assist their quality assurance programmes. The Holy See encouraged the Agency to continue and strengthen all such activities, particularly PACT, which assisted Member States in the tremendous task of combating cancer and creating regional centres of excellence for radiotherapy.

17. The late Pope John Paul II had stated that: “Although people are rightly worried [...] about preserving the natural habitats of the various animal species threatened with extinction, [...] too little effort is made to safeguard the moral conditions for an authentic ‘human ecology’.” In his message for the 2010 World Day of Peace, Pope Benedict XVI had stated that: “when human ecology is respected within society, environmental ecology also benefits. [...] The book of nature is one and indivisible; it includes not only the environment but also individual, family and social ethics. Our duties towards the environment flow from our duties towards the person, considered both individually and in relation to others.” It was in that way that the Holy See viewed, and invited others to view, the Agency’s contribution to peace, health and prosperity.

18. Mr TZOTCHEV (Bulgaria) said that the Agency must continue to play its crucial role in the implementation of the NPT. Its safeguards mechanism was a key instrument to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. As one of its first countries to sign and ratify an additional protocol, Bulgaria called for the swift universalization of that instrument. The international community should

facilitate the peaceful use of nuclear technology while addressing proactively related safety, security and proliferation risks. To do that, it needed viable multilateral mechanisms under the auspices of the Agency.

19. In view of the current security challenges and, in particular, the danger of nuclear proliferation to terrorist organizations, strengthened NPT provisions and Agency safeguards were valuable tools. The peaceful use of nuclear energy should be based on full compliance with the NPT and transparency of nuclear programmes. Forty years after its adoption and entry into force, the NPT remained the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and was as relevant as ever. Non-proliferation objectives could be best achieved through full and comprehensive implementation of the provisions of the NPT by all State Parties. In that regard, his country welcomed the adoption of the final document at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which reconfirmed the consensus on the significance of the Treaty. The document also outlined several concrete measures for strengthening nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

20. As a country that was convinced that the NPT continued to be one of building blocks of the international security architecture and crucial to controlling nuclear proliferation, and having signed and ratified the CTBT, Bulgaria was deeply concerned at the DPRK's decision in 2003 to withdraw from the NPT and resume work on its nuclear programmes. The nuclear tests carried out by the DPRK in 2006 and 2009 were also deeply disturbing. All States party to the NPT, including the DPRK, were bound by their obligations under the Treaty. The DPRK should comply with its international obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and Agency standards, and should return to the six-party talks with a view to achieving the full, internationally verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

21. Bulgaria was following the developments in the Iranian nuclear issue closely. Iran's nuclear activities gave cause for grave concern and he called on that country to comply fully with all relevant Security Council resolutions and Agency standards and safeguards unconditionally, unequivocally and without delay. His country recognized every State's inalienable right to develop a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes. Iran should restore international confidence in the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. A major step in that direction was the ratification and implementation of the additional protocol, which Iran had already signed.

22. Given the important contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and regional peace and security, his country supported the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

23. The Annual Report offered a clear and analytical picture of the Agency's important achievements in a range of areas in 2009. His country welcomed the fact that the safety performance of the nuclear industry had remained at a high level, showing a steady improvement over the previous decades. The good performance and safety record of nuclear power, continuing concerns about climate change and energy security, the high price of fossil fuels and the growing energy demand were leading to rising expectations of nuclear power. In that context, the Agency must continue to play an important role in strengthening the global nuclear safety framework. He commended the organization for supporting national and international efforts aimed at the safe and secure use of nuclear technology.

24. Technical cooperation had always been and would remain an important activity of the Agency. Human health, nuclear power, nuclear safety and security, industrial applications of radiation, management of radioactive waste and decommissioning were areas where the Agency's assistance was of a great significance. Cooperation on those issues within regions and between regions under the Agency's auspices was most welcome. The main task for the European region was to promote sharing of knowledge and best practices. His country was ready to support efforts in that regard by providing

experts and training facilities. Recognizing the need for assured, sufficient and predictable financing of technical cooperation activities, Bulgaria paid its annual contribution to the TCF in full and on time.

25. In June 2009, the European Union had adopted a nuclear safety directive which gave binding force to major nuclear safety standards in all 27 Member States. The entry into force of the directive had been preceded by discussions and Bulgaria, through its experts, had participated actively in the development of the directive within a series of forums held at the initiative of European Community institutions and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group. Following the harmonization of respective domestic legislation with the directive, Community law would be in line with the basic safety principles stipulated in the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Agency's Basic Safety Standards and Council Directive 96/29/EURATOM. The European Union was currently in the process of developing a similar directive on the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and his country welcomed the constructive approach applied to that process.

26. The Kozloduy nuclear power plant had conducted a periodic safety review of Units 5 and 6 in connection with the licence renewal and in fulfilment of operating license conditions. It was the first time such a review had been performed in the country and its scope complied with Agency standards, while the methodology used had been developed based on national legislation and following extensive consultations between the regulator and the licensee. Pursuant to the review, a report on the reassessment of unit safety, and programmes to enhance nuclear safety and radiation protection had been submitted to the Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Agency. After a thorough review of the documents, in November 2009 the Nuclear Regulatory Agency had issued a new operating licence for the two units expiring in 2017 and 2019 respectively. Inter alia, the licences specified the approaches, measures and timescales for further licence renewal with a view to long-term operation. Specific steps in that direction had already been taken by both the Kozloduy nuclear power plant and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency.

27. The application for approval of the technical design of the proposed Belene nuclear power plant was currently being reviewed. The expert reviews and assessments of the initial versions of the technical design, interim safety analysis report and the probabilistic safety analysis had been completed in September 2009. The main objectives of the regulatory review carried out by Nuclear Regulatory Agency and its consultants, including Agency experts, were to ensure that the design was in compliance with Bulgarian legislation, Agency safety requirements and best international practices, and in step with the latest scientific and technological developments. The applicant had been sent the results of the assessments and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency had received the revised documents in May 2010. A follow-up expert review of the Belene design was being carried out with active international involvement, including the Agency. An IPSART follow-up mission would be conducted in October 2010.

28. Safety should not be taken for granted. It was a continuous process which required open exchange of knowledge and experience and sharing of good practices among Member States and with international organizations. Bulgaria had invited the Agency to conduct two expert missions in 2012: an IRRS mission to review the activities of the regulator and an OSART mission to review operational safety at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant.

**Mr Mabhongo (South Africa) took the Chair.**

29. Mr YAMANI (Saudi Arabia) commended the Agency on its dedicated action to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to establish a global safety and security regime that protected humankind from the spectre of a nuclear catastrophe.

30. On 17 April 2010, the Government of Saudi Arabia had taken the wise decision to establish King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, which would seek to diversify energy sources

and establish national priorities and policies designed to meet the growing demand for energy and water. The City would identify national requirements and draw up detailed and well crafted plans to meet them, achieving an increase in the average rate of sustainable development in the Kingdom, raising living standards and improving the quality of life. It would also enable the Kingdom to increase its expertise in accordance with international treaties governing peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The City was mandated to represent the Kingdom at the Agency, to ensure compliance with international obligations pertaining to nuclear energy, to develop national scientific expertise and to obtain the requisite technology to take advantage of diverse applications of nuclear and renewable energy for peaceful purposes.

31. There had recently been a dramatic increase in the demand for nuclear energy owing to wider recognition of its benefits for electricity generation. He welcomed the Agency's undertaking at the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, held in Paris in March 2010, to assist States, especially developing countries, in establishing the necessary nuclear infrastructure.

32. He commended the Agency's activities to combat cancer and, in particular, the organization of the scientific forum on cancer in developing countries as a side event to the General Conference. He welcomed the Director General's decision to give priority to a matter of such vital importance.

33. Saudi Arabia attached great importance to nuclear safety and security. Although the prime responsibility in that regard lay with the States concerned, his country supported the Agency's efforts to promote a global safety culture, to establish effective and sustainable regulatory structures, to develop binding legal instruments and guidelines concerning peaceful uses of nuclear energy, ionizing radiation and radioactive material, and to promote international cooperation and exchange of experience in that regard. Saudi Arabia also supported measures to enhance the security of nuclear and radioactive material, and action to combat illicit trafficking in such material as well as nuclear and radiological terrorism. The Nuclear Security Summit convened in Washington in April 2010 had reaffirmed the determination of the participating States to support the Agency in its fight against nuclear terrorism and its action to promote nuclear security. The Agency had in turn committed itself to supporting States in their efforts to improve nuclear security structures.

34. He emphasized the importance of serious and ongoing action to achieve universality of the NPT in order to bolster international and regional security and stability, especially in the Middle East, given that Israel remained outside the non-proliferation regime. In that context, he welcomed the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially the decision to implement the 1995 resolution concerning the Middle East. He also welcomed the decision in the final document of the NPT Review Conference to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region, and expressed the hope that the Agency would play an effective role in preparing for that important event.

35. Ms ŽIAKOVÁ (Slovakia) said that her country welcomed the results of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the reaffirmation by the State Parties of their commitment to the non-proliferation regime.

36. Nuclear energy covered nearly 50% of Slovakia's electricity needs. The objective of Slovakia's energy security strategy up to 2030, which had been approved by the Government two years previously, was to achieve a competitive energy sector which provided a safe, reliable and efficient supply of all forms of energy at acceptable prices, taking into account consumer and environmental protection, sustainable development, supply and technical security. Under the strategy, nuclear power plants would continue to play a major role in meeting the country's electricity needs.

37. Important steps had been taken to offset the shortfall in electricity production caused by the shutdown of two units of the Bohunice nuclear power plant. The completion of the third and fourth

units of the Mochovce nuclear power plant was progressing well. On 4 September, the reactor pressure vessel of the third unit had been installed. The new units should begin operating in 2012 and 2013 respectively and would make a major contribution to ensuring the country's energy security. Her Government would also be supporting a private investment project to build a new nuclear power source at the Bohunice site without State participation.

38. An essential aspect of the European Union's Europe 2020 strategy was a gradual transition towards a low-carbon economy. Nuclear energy would continue to contribute to that objective, together with increasing use of renewable energy sources. In that connection, her Government had hosted the fifth plenary meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum in Bratislava in May. Founded in 2007 through the joint efforts of the Slovak and Czech Prime Ministers and the initiative of the European Commission, the Forum served as a platform for discussions on nuclear energy in the context of energy security and provided an opportunity to address topics related to research and science in that field. Three working groups dealt with nuclear energy opportunities, nuclear energy safety, and information and transparency. The Forum had welcomed the results of the Brussels conference organized in 2009 by the European Economic and Social Committee, and of the Luxembourg round table organized earlier in 2010 by the European Commission and the French National Association of Local Information Commissions on the possible application in the nuclear field of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

39. Slovakia attached great importance to nuclear safety and security. According to its independent nuclear regulatory authority, all nuclear installations in the country were operating safely and reliably, and in accordance with national regulations and Slovakia's international commitments.

40. The Agency's expert services were an essential part of international cooperation and a confidence-building measure which supported the national regulatory decision-making process. Her country appreciated in particular the participation of Agency experts in the mission to the railway vehicle inspection system in eastern Slovakia in October 2009. The mission's conclusions had helped settle a technical cross-border issue which had arisen after the introduction of new scanning equipment at the European Union Schengen border.

41. Turning to the field of human health, she drew attention to a new Slovak-Russian project relating to proton therapy in oncology whose aim was to provide better and more efficient treatment for cancer patients through range-intensity-modulated proton therapy, to decrease side-effects and improve the quality of life of patients. The proton therapy complex at the Central Military Hospital in Ružomberok had third-generation equipment. The technology had been under development for 25 years and three units were being put into operation in the Russian Federation, the United States and Slovakia. Her country believed that the future of proton therapy lay in third-generation single-room treatment units, which were suitable for small hospitals and were much more affordable for developing countries.

42. Slovakia had been working with the Agency on national, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects. Preparations for the new technical cooperation biennium had begun. Slovakia's national projects would focus on nuclear regulation, decommissioning, human health and nuclear science applications.

43. In the field of nuclear science applications, Slovak universities and research institutions were establishing a joint centre for nuclear technologies and education and training with the aim of improving applications of nuclear techniques in science and industry. The basic instrument at the centre was a tandem accelerator with the necessary infrastructure for ion beam analyses in nanotechnologies and accelerator mass spectrometry in environmental and medical sciences. The

centre was expected to operate as a regional European facility and could also provide training and analytical services to Member States through the Agency's technical cooperation projects. It would make modern nuclear technologies available to countries which could not afford such research. Slovakia also intended to contribute to regional projects, in particular in the areas of nuclear safety and technical assistance to Member States. As in the past, it would continue to provide experts and training facilities and would pursue a general policy of hosting fellows and scientists sponsored by the Agency.

44. Mr GALSTYAN (Armenia) said that the recent resurgence of interest in nuclear power could disrupt the sensitive balance of international security. Thus, more emphasis should be placed on the NPT safeguards regime to ensure non-proliferation and the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy. Armenia was improving its national legislation and complying fully with its international commitments in that regard, including those under its additional protocol.

45. Each year Armenia accepted up to 10 missions to verify the safety and security of its nuclear power plant. An OSART mission was scheduled for May 2011. International experts had helped to assess the seismic safety of the Armenian nuclear power plant. Modelling of various kinds of unforeseen incidents and emergencies had shown that the plant was within the design limits as regards seismic safety.

46. Since the recommissioning of Unit No. 2 of the Armenian nuclear power plant, over US \$90 million had been spent on safety upgrading, which remained a high priority for his Government. He thanked the many donors who had contributed to that work, and the Agency for its coordination efforts. Also, work on expanding the existing dry storage facility for spent fuel at the plant was ongoing with construction about to enter the third phase.

47. The Armenian-Russian Mining Company had been set up in 2008 to prospect for possible uranium mining sites and exploration work was under way. His country was hoping to receive Agency assistance with the elaboration of normative documents in that field.

48. In October 2008, Armenia had joined the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

49. In addition, Armenia was now a fully-fledged member of the International Uranium Enrichment Centre in Angarsk, established by the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan.

50. His country was preparing to accede to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

51. On 20 August 2010, the Governments of Armenia and the Russian Federation had signed a cooperation agreement on the construction of a new nuclear power unit in Armenia, and a joint Armenian-Russian company had been set up by Government decree. The Russian NPP-92 design had been approved for the nuclear island of the new plant. The other components were the subject of negotiations and competitive bidding.

52. He noted the significance of INPRO for the further development of nuclear energy. INPRO was currently celebrating its 10th anniversary. Armenia was a major partner in INPRO projects, especially those relating to countries with a small energy grids and territories.

53. In closing, he expressed appreciation for the efficient cooperation between his country and the Agency. The Department of Technical Cooperation, in particular, had helped implement a range of national and regional projects in the country. He likewise thanked all donors and other partners for their support.

54. Mr TURGANOV (Kazakhstan) said that his country spared no effort to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. In closing down the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk and voluntary

relinquishing nuclear weapons it had demonstrated its commitment to the principles of the NPT. At the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan, the United Nations had declared 29 August 2010 — the 20th anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site — the first International Day against Nuclear Tests. Kazakhstan shared the view that the NPT and the global non-proliferation system as a whole could not function effectively without the entry into force of the CTBT.

55. His country had played a major role in the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and it hoped that that example could be useful to other regions of the world. In particular, it supported the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East. Kazakhstan would continue to work steadily towards the goal of a peaceful and secure world.

56. Kazakhstan was implementing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and encouraged those countries that had not yet done so to accede to that convention.

57. His country was implementing fully the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) by taking steps to improve further its system for preventing illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, it made very effort to maintain tight control over nuclear exports, including equipment used for uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing.

58. Kazakhstan appreciated the Agency's work to ensure that nuclear energy was used safely and securely, and only for peaceful purposes, and in particular its activities to strengthen the nuclear safety regime, which were of global importance as any large-scale nuclear accident could have serious cross-border consequences. In 2010, Kazakhstan had ratified and acceded to four conventions relating to nuclear safety, and its parliament was currently reviewing a draft law on accession to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

59. The Washington Nuclear Security Summit had reconfirmed the commitment of a majority of States to strengthening the nuclear security regime and Kazakhstan hoped that the principles agreed upon at that Summit would be fully supported by Agency Member States. Kazakhstan itself was taking steps to implement the Summit's work plan.

60. Work was under way in Kazakhstan on the decommissioning of the BN-350 reactor. The transfer of spent fuel to a long-term storage facility had begun and should be completed in 2010. With the support of the United States Department of Energy, a project was being implemented to convert the WWR-K research reactor at the Institute of Nuclear Physics to low-enriched fuel. Kazakhstan was also developing radioisotope production technology that used LEU.

61. He called on all States to work towards the universalization of safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and on those countries that had not yet concluded such agreements with the Agency to do so without delay.

62. As the Agency was the leading global forum in the area of scientific and technical cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, it was important that States support its activities to transfer and develop technologies and knowledge related to nuclear applications, including nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle. The Agency's efforts relating to human resources development in the field of nuclear science and technology were particularly important to Kazakhstan.

63. He drew attention to his country's work in collaboration with the Agency in the field of nuclear medicine, and also in assessing the contamination of part of the Semipalatinsk test site with a view to its economic use. Kazakhstan intended to develop its technical cooperation with the Agency further. It paid its contribution to the Agency's budget regularly and its voluntary contributions to the TCF, and it intended to meet its financial obligations in the future in full and without conditions.

64. Kazakhstan was a leading producer of uranium ore, had the capacity to produce nuclear fuel and intended to expand its involvement in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy within the framework of the NPT and the Agency. Kazatomprom, the national atomic energy company was in the process of establishing a vertically integrated company with a full nuclear fuel cycle. Uranium isotope separation would be conducted at facilities in the Russian Federation with the involvement of Kazakh partners.

65. His country supported the initiative to create an international nuclear fuel bank under Agency auspices and the discussion of that issue at the December meetings of the Board of Governors. It hoped a consensus could be reached on the matter. The establishment of international mechanisms for assurance of supply should not infringe the rights of Member States to develop their own nuclear fuel cycle capacities. Any such mechanism should also not be politicized or discriminatory but should be accessible to all States that were in compliance with their safeguards agreements. Any transfer of nuclear material should take place in accordance with non-political criteria in an objective and consistent manner. In January 2010, Kazakhstan had informed the Agency that it was prepared to host any future international nuclear fuel bank.

66. Though it was an active and responsible member of the Agency, his country was deeply concerned that it was denied the opportunity to participate fully in the work of the Agency's policy-making organs. It thus called for the early entry into force of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute.

67. Ms MYKOLAICHUK (Ukraine) welcomed the consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The action plan that had been agreed upon demonstrated the resolve of all States not only to uphold but also to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. Ukraine had always been committed to effective multilateral action against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and had contributed to the success of the Conference by chairing the committee on non-proliferation issues. In 2010, agreement had been secured on further steps to implement the 1995 NPT Review Conference resolution on the Middle East, including a conference to be held in 2012. It was important that the Agency's General Conference build on the results of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and avoid trends that might undermine the success achieved.

68. Ukraine reaffirmed the Agency's verification role under the NPT. The Agency's safeguards system was a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and a comprehensive safeguards agreement together with an additional protocol constituted the current highest verification standard. She noted the increased number of countries that had brought an additional protocol into force and, while the milestone of 100 countries had been reached, her country continued to call on those States which had not yet done so to follow suit as soon as possible.

69. Her country strictly fulfilled its non-proliferation obligations and had had a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol in force since January 2006. It appreciated the tireless efforts of the Agency's inspectors and welcomed the move towards integrated safeguards, and in particular the Agency's emphasis on an information-driven safeguards system. Work was ongoing to establish the necessary conditions for applying integrated safeguards in Ukraine.

70. Each country had the right to define its own energy strategy. The Agency had a key role to play in helping countries ensure that nuclear power was used under the most stringent legal, operational, safety, security and non-proliferation conditions. Human resources development, including education and training, was of vital importance for the safe, secure and peaceful use of atomic energy. Emerging and expanding nuclear power programmes, and the more sophisticated and wider use of radiation sources, would be short-lived without proper attention to safety and security. Ukraine strongly supported the Agency's activities aimed at improving nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, as

well as security, worldwide. International cooperation was crucial to promoting the global nuclear safety and security framework.

71. Both the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management had been developed, inter alia, on the basis of the lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident. Both conventions provided governments with valuable instruments for streamlining national activities to achieve the highest safety levels. It was in the best interests of any State embarking on a nuclear power programme to become a contracting party to those conventions without delay. The Agency's comprehensive set of safety standards was also of fundamental importance in any nuclear power programme and nuclear technology application. She noted with appreciation the recent establishment of the International Nuclear Safety Centre and the International Seismic Safety Centre and stressed the value of both the technical cooperation projects and the safety review services conducted by the Agency.

72. Ukraine supported the Agency's efforts aimed at strengthening regulatory cooperation between nuclear safety authorities to bridge the experience gap, as well as efforts in the capacity-building area, particularly for regulatory authorities. It also strongly supported the launch of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum.

73. In May 2010, the Agency had presented the final report of the European Commission-IAEA-Ukraine joint project on the safety evaluation of all operating Ukrainian nuclear power plants. During the preceding two years, Agency missions conducted at all 15 power reactors had addressed issues of design, operational and waste safety. The legal and governmental infrastructure had also been assessed by a full-scope IRRS mission. Ukraine was pleased to note the positive conclusions of that review and encouraged other countries with both mature and emerging nuclear power programmes to consider such missions and assessments.

74. Ukraine encouraged States to continue discussions within the Agency on the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner. A first important step had been taken in 2009 with the approval of the agreement between the Agency and the Russian Federation on the establishment of an LEU reserve. Her country had supported that agreement and believed the time was now ripe to make further progress by considering the conditions and modalities of the functioning of that reserve. Ukraine participated in the work of the International Uranium Enrichment Centre in Angarsk, the first such joint enterprise, that could serve as an example for future activities in the field.

75. Turning to nuclear security, she commended the Agency on its activities aimed at assisting States to prevent and combat nuclear terrorism, emphasizing the important role of the Agency in fostering international cooperation on nuclear security, establishing a comprehensive set of guidelines and assisting Member States on request. Both the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington and the 2010 NPT Review Conference had reaffirmed the Agency's role in strengthening nuclear security worldwide.

76. In April 2010, the Presidents of Ukraine and the United States had reaffirmed in a joint statement their shared vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and had pledged to work together to prevent nuclear proliferation and secure all vulnerable nuclear material. Ukraine had resolved to get rid of all HEU stocks by the next summit, with financial and technical support from its partners. Work on transporting HEU from Ukrainian research reactors had already begun and a substantial part of the stocks should have been removed by the end of 2010. That voluntary step sent a clear message that Ukraine took non-proliferation seriously, and it hoped that others would follow its example. Its decision also demonstrated its commitment to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1887 (2009).

77. Ukraine would continue to cooperate closely with partners to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism through the implementation of special security measures and through effective control over sensitive materials. In that connection and in the light of the increasing threat of nuclear proliferation, Ukraine supported calls for an early start to negotiations on an agreement to prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

78. With regard to the physical protection of nuclear material, Ukraine noted with concern that, five years after the amendment to the CPPNM had been adopted by consensus, only 41 of the 143 parties to the Convention had adhered to it. The amendment constituted an important benchmark in international efforts to improve the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities, was vitally important for nuclear security and would have a major impact on reducing the vulnerability of States to nuclear terrorism. Ukraine had deposited its instrument of ratification of the amendment in December 2008 and had incorporated all its provisions in national legislation. It called upon all States that had not yet done so to adhere to the Convention and the amendment and to act in accordance with the object and purpose of the amendment pending its entry into force.

79. With regard to nuclear security competence development, Ukraine was grateful to the Agency for its assistance with the development of training and education facilities at the Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry, where a milestone had been reached with the graduation of 48 nuclear security engineers in 2010. Ukraine stood ready to contribute to the implementation of the Agency's nuclear security education programme.

80. Her country also appreciated the considerable activities of the Agency related to strengthening of nuclear security measures at major public events, in particular the support that it was providing to Ukraine and Poland in preparation for the 2012 European football championship.

81. Ukraine welcomed the Agency's activities aimed at increasing the contribution of nuclear technology to health and economic development, and at promoting the dissemination of knowledge on the peaceful application of nuclear technology. It encouraged the Agency to pursue its work, in cooperation with other international organizations and stakeholders, to ensure better use of medical radioisotope supplies, and commended the Director General for his work on improving cancer control in developing countries.

82. Technical cooperation was an important statutory function of the Agency. Regional and national technical cooperation projects had significantly contributed to the safety and effectiveness of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Ukraine. Benefits had included safety improvements at the country's nuclear power plants and improvements in the quality and effectiveness of nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and medical physics.

83. Finally, Ukraine, with support from Belarus and the Russian Federation, planned to host an international conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident in April 2011. Her country was grateful to the Director General, who had already indicated that the Agency was prepared to assist with the preparations for that event, and it looked forward to broad participation by interested States and international institutions. Ukraine's strategy focused on fostering the region's long-term development and providing people with the support they needed to lead safe and healthy lives. With the support of the international community, Ukraine was still restoring the Chernobyl site. As the major projects were entering the construction phase, substantial sums would be required to complete them. Her country counted on the support of donors and States at the conference to raise the funds required to bring the projects to a successful conclusion.

84. Mr BOKOLE OMPOKA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) recalled that his country had joined the Agency in 1961, after becoming in 1959 the first country in Africa to construct and operate a research reactor for the production of isotopes and for training. It had signed and ratified several

international legal instruments in the nuclear field, including the NPT, a safeguards agreement and additional protocol, and the Pelindaba Treaty.

85. Thanks to the support of the Agency and some friendly countries, his country's nuclear programme had continued for more than half a century with no major incident. His country had decided to refurbish its research reactor and it was aware of the challenges it would have to face as regards the application of safety and security standards. In opting to pursue its nuclear programme, it wished to reassure the Agency that that programme would be entirely peaceful in nature, focusing notably on training, research and the production of radioisotopes for medicine, agriculture and industry, without precluding the use or introduction of other technologies to achieve a diversified and up-to-date R&D programme.

86. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was grateful for the assistance provided by the Agency and other countries to help it address the numerous challenges associated with the use of nuclear energy in areas ranging from training of human resources to building modern infrastructure. It would continue to work on implementing the recommendations of the Agency's INSARR mission to improve the safety of the TRIGA Mark II research reactor and, in the nuclear security field, had successfully taken part in a technical cooperation project to improve the physical protection of nuclear and radiological facilities. It was eager to continue developing its civil nuclear programme, together with bilateral and multilateral partners, in strict compliance with its international commitments.

87. It was no secret that uranium from the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been used by other nations for their nuclear weapons programmes. His country was now considering the possibility of reactivating uranium mining to increase its national income and promote its socio-economic development. A regulatory infrastructure for nuclear and radiation safety had been established in his country five years previously and qualified human resources had been developed through the technical cooperation programme. An evaluation of national uranium resources would need to be undertaken to give the Government a clear idea of their availability, and his country was officially requesting the Agency's assistance in that connection.

88. Stories had circulated in the specialized international press concerning illicit trafficking in nuclear material in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, trafficking in radioactive minerals exported by the country and illegal mining of uranium by companies only licensed to mine copper and/or cobalt. His country hoped that such unfounded reports could be stopped once and for all and noted with satisfaction that various international missions investigating the so-called illicit trafficking had never proved any link between the presence of such materials in the country and illicit trafficking in nuclear material.

89. Uranium mining at the Shinkolobwe mine had ceased in 1937. However, there was uranium at other mining sites in the country, and the copper and cobalt ores that were mined in the Katanga province and exported often contained traces of uranium. During the 1990s — a time of political instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo — the majority of mines had been abandoned and gradually taken over by the unemployed. Some accidents had taken place, including the collapse of the Shinkolobwe mine, which had raised questions regarding protection and security at that site. The President had issued a decree banning small-scale mining of copper and cobalt at the site and Shinkolobwe had been officially closed for all mining activity by Presidential Decree No. 007-002 of 11 July 2007.

90. His country made every effort to carry out regular controls of national borders with a team consisting of national nuclear experts and members of security forces. Large portals were currently being installed at border crossings, and strengthened administrative monitoring procedures would be implemented at some parts of the border. With borders as extensive as those in his country, the

implementation of such a programme required the collaboration of all. His country was therefore planning to request technical assistance from the Agency and friendly countries in order to ensure appropriate and global response to all nuclear threats.

91. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the consensus reached by the participants at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and called upon the Agency to implement fully its verification activities to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation, and greater assistance to technologically deprived countries, would help promote peace in a world free from any nuclear threat.

92. Mr ABUBAKAR (Nigeria) offered his country's condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan for the devastation and loss of life caused by the unprecedented flooding.

93. His country wished to place on record its appreciation for the new Director General's support for Nigeria's key nuclear programmes.

94. He commended the Agency's excellent work in fostering and deepening international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Nigeria agreed with the widely acknowledged view that all countries had the right to develop and harness nuclear energy, but that that right came with responsibilities. It welcomed the Agency's continued support for programmes to expand the use of nuclear power for electricity generation around the world. A recent Agency publication indicated that more than sixty new countries were considering introducing nuclear power, and twenty of them, including many developing countries, were likely to bring their first nuclear power plants on line within two decades. He thanked the Agency for the support it had been providing to newcomer countries in that respect, but drew attention to the need for effective adherence to the global nuclear safety framework as those countries began harnessing nuclear energy.

95. His country viewed the commencement of implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan 2010–2013 as an important milestone on the path towards enhancing physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. It was an opportunity for increased education and training in nuclear security for all regions of the world. Agency document INCIRC/225/Rev.4 (Corrected) on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities was of immense value in the collective pursuit of nuclear security and his country hoped that Member States would incorporate that important text in their national legislation and inter-State agreements.

96. He welcomed the fact that the Scientific Forum during the current General Conference was devoted to the theme of cancer in developing countries. He also expressed appreciation to the Agency for the support given to Nigeria in the implementation of its national nuclear medicine and radiotherapy programmes, particularly in the area of human capacity development, to ensure effectiveness and sustainability in service delivery for the early detection and management of cancer. With a population of over 150 million people, Nigeria had an estimated 100 000 new cases of cancer annually. The three national facilities were grossly inadequate to cope with demand, hence Nigeria's continued partnership with the Agency through its technical cooperation programme with a view to constructing more modern facilities and expanding infrastructure, and building the requisite human capacity to deploy nuclear medicine and radiotherapy effectively as an important component of the national cancer control programme.

97. In employing those techniques, Nigeria was committed to ensuring that the facilities were operated in a safe manner in conformity with the highest international standards, as prescribed by its national nuclear regulatory body. He expressed appreciation to the Agency for working with the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority to develop national capacity and install a therapy-level secondary standards dosimetry laboratory. That should help further enhance the use of radiotherapy

and nuclear medicine for cancer management in Nigeria. His country hoped that its national programme would continue to benefit from PACT.

98. With a large and fast-growing population, Nigeria was hard-pressed to adjust its development strategies to meet the timelines and expectations of the Millennium Development Goals and its national economic empowerment development strategy. Thus, there was a need for enhanced human capacity as the bedrock for provision of adequate infrastructure within targeted deadlines. Key areas of concern included electricity supplies, human health, agriculture and food security, water resources development and management, and education, with a specific focus on science and technology.

99. Nigeria shared the concerns of the Agency and the international community regarding nuclear security and it noted with satisfaction the various Agency missions to the country in that connection. The country was committed to ensuring effective nuclear safety and security through prevention of access to nuclear material for malicious purposes and legislation to enhance bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation among Member States, a position which had been reaffirmed at the Nuclear Security Summit in April 2010 which Nigeria had attended. The enthusiasm shown by the participating countries at the Nuclear Security Summit was very encouraging.

100. In line with its national commitment to limiting access to radioactive sources and facilities, the Government of Nigeria had upgraded its monitoring facilities and major ports to track the import of radioactive material. He expressed appreciation to the Agency for donating the radiation portal monitor currently installed at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos, and for developing Nigeria's capacity to secure legacy radioactive sources.

101. His country had embarked on a nuclear power programme as part of its long-term strategy to achieve energy self-sufficiency and security. In addition to increasing power output, the programme aimed to diversify Nigeria's electricity generation base beyond the traditional sources of oil, gas and hydroelectric power to include nuclear energy and renewables. In 2007, his Government had approved a national nuclear power road map and had mandated the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission to coordinate and manage its sustainable implementation, with a full commitment to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. With Agency support, his country had achieved the first milestone in the plan to bring nuclear energy for electricity generation on line in the next ten years. It was committed to the timely and successful implementation of that important project.

102. Nigeria's national nuclear regulator had developed a set of regulations and guidelines to ensure nuclear safety and radiation protection. The country had acceded to and ratified the relevant treaties and conventions preparatory to the commencement of operation of nuclear power plants, thereby demonstrating its commitment to complying with international legal and regulatory requirements for nuclear safety, security and safeguards. It was grateful to the Agency for the advisory mission in 2009 in relation to the regulatory requirements for licensing of sites for nuclear power plants, and for the support for the national workshop on safety requirements for the selection of nuclear power plant sites, both of which had greatly enhanced the regulatory regime for the national nuclear power programme.

103. Nigeria remained committed to the NPT and the Pelindaba Treaty. Its nascent national nuclear power programme would be implemented within the framework of the NPT, thereby ensuring that its nuclear science and technology programmes were purely for peaceful purposes and were aimed at enhancing the living standards of the Nigerian people.

104. The successful implementation of the national nuclear power programme hinged on the availability of adequate and qualified manpower. Consequently, Nigeria was committed to building the requisite human capacity and, to that end, it had established two additional nuclear energy training centres to provide professional training in nuclear science and engineering. It had also committed

resources to expanding and upgrading facilities to ensure the critical mass of personnel needed to sustain national programmes was available.

105. Nigeria's strategy for cooperation with the Agency through its technical cooperation programme had been fine-tuned to ensure that national development objectives were synchronized with Agency programming, thus ensuring sustainability. He expressed appreciation to the Agency for its regional and interregional programmes in support of Nigeria's nuclear power programme. Agency backing was still needed in other key areas of the country's socio-economic development.

106. One important element in any national nuclear power programme was the establishment of effective waste management facilities. Nigeria had started work on the development of a national programme and facility for the management of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste at the Nuclear Technology Centre in Sheda, near Abuja. Once successfully completed, the project would lay the foundation for the planning and implementation of a comprehensive nuclear waste management programme.

107. His Government, working in concert with the Agency, had established an isotope hydrology laboratory which was expected to provide the technical basis for mapping groundwater aquifers, so as to ensure sustainability of water supply aquifers in the face of population growth and climate change. His country would continue to count on Agency support for the full realization of its objectives.

108. In the field of radiation processing, the Nuclear Technology Centre in Abuja had one of the largest gamma irradiation facilities in the region and had benefited enormously from Agency support. Nigeria would appreciate continued Agency assistance to strengthen the facility and position it as a regional centre for radiation processing with enhanced capacity in quality control and quality assurance procedures for certification.

109. Nigeria was a candidate for membership of the Board of Governors to fill the seat vacated by Burkina Faso. Its strong interest in the work of the Board was fuelled by the need to advance further the primary objective of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which had become more critical than ever for developing countries.

110. His country deeply appreciated the assistance it continued to receive from the Agency. It remained committed to the ideals of the organization and thanked the Director General for his efforts to prevent the diversion of nuclear material for military purposes.

111. Mr KEBEDE (Ethiopia) said that his country had begun work on its second five-year development plan, for 2010–2013, which prioritized such areas as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, rural and social development and good governance, education and health. Extensive technology, human resources and institutional capacity would be required to implement it successfully. Although the Government planned to mobilize as many resources as possible locally, the support of the international community, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, would remain important. The primary aim was to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the country's socio-economic development vision.

112. Cooperation with the Agency on the transfer of knowledge and skills for the safe and peaceful application of nuclear technologies, and concerted efforts to reduce the nuclear threat, were areas of success. Thanks to Agency assistance, including training, provision of equipment and expert missions, Ethiopia had managed to develop core institutional capabilities and modest capabilities in tsetse control, cancer treatment, diagnostic nuclear medicine, isotope hydrology and non-destructive testing. However, it had not yet been able to achieve optimal utilization of the transferred technologies, nor to sustain the services introduced through technical cooperation projects. It was trying to make its

technical cooperation more effective, efficient and sustainable, but still needed support from the Agency and other partners.

113. The project with the highest priority was one on eliminating tsetse flies from the Southern Rift Valley. The tsetse population had been suppressed using integrated conventional techniques, with the active involvement of local communities, so farmers had experienced some relief from trypanosomosis and had benefited from improved milk and meat production. On the strength of that encouraging outcome, efforts were being made to expand suppression activities. His Government was grateful to the African Development Bank and other donors for their support for the field work. Unfortunately, the required fly colony size had not been reached at the required pace, a challenge that was inevitable when dealing with biological material. Nevertheless, Ethiopia remained committed to using SIT technology to eradicate tsetse flies and encouraged the Agency and other development partners to redouble their efforts. Success in that project could set a precedent for overcoming the same problem in other African countries.

114. Through national and regional projects, Ethiopia had established a radiotherapy centre with two cobalt-60 machines and a nuclear medicine unit with a single SPECT gamma camera. However, those facilities were inadequate for a population of over 80 million with an estimated 150 000 new cancer cases per year. The country's five-year development plan and health sector development programme gave priority to cancer treatment and it was planned to set up more facilities in those fields. He appealed to all development partners to step up their efforts to ensure that the technology could be made available to save lives. Current programmes and plans must be fully implemented and more effective cooperation frameworks established to mobilize the required resources. Ethiopia welcomed the fact that the current year's scientific forum was dedicated to cancer in developing countries and hoped it would come up with initiatives to enhance the efforts of the Agency and Member States under the technical cooperation programme and PACT.

115. An isotope hydrology laboratory that had been set up through technical cooperation was to be used to map groundwater resources in an attempt to address the country's water resource problems.

116. Efforts to establish a non-destructive testing service to support the metals industry were also ongoing. The Agency was also providing technical support for the launching of other applications of isotope and nuclear technologies in industrial processes, as well as for the construction of a new radioactive waste management facility as part of efforts to ensure that a strong radiation protection capability was in place, which was essential for the safe and peaceful application of radiation and isotopic techniques. Organizational, infrastructure and legal capabilities had been established and the Ethiopian radiation protection authority was now able to undertake the required regulatory activities.

117. Ethiopia remained committed to cooperating with the Agency in ensuring the safe and peaceful application of nuclear technologies throughout the world. He called on all Member States to engage in transparent and constructive cooperation with the Agency and to support and become a party to the relevant international and regional initiatives aimed at ensuring global peace and security. In that regard, the recent entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty was encouraging and Ethiopia called upon all signatory States that had not yet ratified that instrument to do so without delay.

118. In conclusion, he thanked the Secretariat for its dedication and hard work to make the cooperation with his country more relevant, successful and effective.

119. Mr BARRETT (Canada) said that the Agency had been founded on three principles: that nuclear power should be used peacefully; that it should be safe and secure; and that it should be available to all who could demonstrate their capability to use it safely, securely and peacefully. Those principles made nuclear cooperation among nations possible. The Agency had grown considerably in membership since its founding and its mandate remained as relevant as when the Statute had first entered into

force. However, today the Agency was in danger of being pulled away from the technical and consensus-driven perspective that had served the organization so well. Divisive resolutions that fell outside its mandate threatened to disrupt the good work being done. He urged all Member States to focus on the core technical competencies of the Agency's work, rather than on complex and highly political issues of regional security that the Agency lacked the mandate to solve.

120. Canada encouraged all States to adopt the new enhanced verification standard of a comprehensive safeguards agreement plus an additional protocol. The State-level approach to safeguards was also a significant development. For Member States where integrated safeguards were being applied, the State-level approach used information and risk assessment to establish confidence in a country's declarations that it was using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Canada looked forward to working with the Secretariat on further developing that approach.

121. In the preceding year, there had been disturbing news on the safeguards front in the form of the revelation of the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Canada saw Iran's actions as symptomatic of its attitude towards safeguards and its disregard for its international obligations and the decisions of the Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council. He called on Iran to take the steps needed to build confidence in the international community that its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful in intention. The right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy came with responsibilities, in particular the responsibility to provide verifiable assurances of peaceful intentions.

122. His country also urged the Syrian Arab Republic to provide Agency inspectors with all the information and access requested, including access to the Dair Alzour site. It encouraged the Agency to use all the tools at its disposal to advance its investigation.

123. The DPRK continued to demonstrate its complete disregard for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Canada strongly urged the DPRK to resume cooperation with the Agency, to accept and implement comprehensive Agency safeguards, and to come into full compliance with the NPT.

124. His country welcomed the Agency's work in the vital areas of nuclear safety and security. Canada contributed to the development of Agency safety and security standards. Its long experience showed that nuclear energy could be made safe and secure. It therefore encouraged the Secretariat to take a more active role in rebutting inaccurate information about the safety of nuclear energy.

125. Nuclear security was essential for the responsible and sustainable development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and for the prevention of nuclear terrorism which was one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. His country therefore welcomed the success of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington in 2010.

126. Canada's world-class nuclear industry had 50 years of experience which gave it a full understanding of the advantages that the peaceful use of nuclear energy had to offer and of nuclear energy's vital role in the world's future. Canada continued to invest in clean energy technologies, including nuclear power, and in its proliferation-resistant CANDU reactors. Its nuclear industry was well positioned to capitalize on the opportunities of the global nuclear renaissance, including through the restructuring of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. In August 2010, it had also delivered on its commitment to return its National Research Universal reactor to service.

127. He applauded the Director General's work to broaden understanding of the Agency's work outside the area of non-proliferation. Canada remained a strongly supporter of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, which made a positive contribution to global peace, security and prosperity, and it was a major contributor to the TCF. He commended the efforts of the Department of Technical

Cooperation to improve transparency, accountability and results-based management and encouraged it to continue those efforts.

128. Finally, he reaffirmed Canada's strong commitment to the vision of the future of the Agency voiced by the Director General in his opening statement, and to the Agency's mission.

129. Mr MOHAMAD (Malaysia) said that technical cooperation should be based on Member States' needs and requests, be formulated in accordance with established guidelines and, given that countries' capabilities, needs and priorities varied, should be in line with their respective legitimate national development requirements. In addition, regional and interregional projects should be formulated with a high level of transparency in consultation with Member States.

130. Resources for technical cooperation must be sufficient, assured and predictable and his country looked forward to a genuine dialogue in the context of the working group on financing of the Agency's activities on the nature and level of the TCF and its relationship to the Regular Budget

131. Malaysia looked forward the revised Medium Term Strategy for 2012–2017. Its six guiding principles should ensure the necessary balance in the Agency's future activities and their consistency with the Statute.

132. Malaysia's technical cooperation projects were formulated through active engagement with the Programme Management Officer in accordance with national development needs and priorities. To formulate effective projects, a dynamic process was needed based on evolving needs instead of a static CPF.

133. His country had welcomed the Agency's evaluation of its technical cooperation projects in 2009, which process was an essential part of effective programme implementation. To capitalize on evaluation activities, the Agency must share its findings with Member States, which would then be able to address any issues and correct misinterpretations before the final report was published.

134. Malaysia appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions of Member States, including the Peaceful Uses Initiative of the United States, which would be highly beneficial in view of the increasing demands on the Agency resulting from the resurgence of interest in nuclear power.

135. His country had launched the tenth Malaysia Plan for the period 2011–2015, which included a new national energy policy which aimed at increasing and diversifying electricity generation capacity by developing alternative energy sources, in particular hydroelectric power, by importing coal and liquefied natural gas as of 2015, exploring the use of supercritical coal technology to reduce carbon emissions and by using nuclear energy as a longer-term option. The Agency had provided valuable support with planning and preparatory activities for nuclear power and the development of a national radioactive waste management infrastructure. Malaysia had also welcomed the opportunity to participate in a number of INPRO activities and it agreed with the four priority areas outlined by the Director General on which Agency assistance for nuclear power development would focus.

136. Action 58 in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which his country welcomed, expressed support for further discussions on the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including assurance of supply mechanisms and schemes for dealing with the back end of the fuel cycle, without prejudice to States' rights under the Treaty or their national fuel cycle policies, and addressing the technical, legal and economic complexity of those issues and safeguards requirements.

137. Malaysia continued to accord high priority to peaceful nuclear applications in areas such as food and water security, natural resources and environmental management, industrial development and nuclear medicine. Such applications were supported through the development of national nuclear

technology research, development, application and commercialization capabilities, a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework, institutional and technological infrastructure, and human resources, and by ensuring compliance with the international system of nuclear governance.

138. An area of concern was the effect of maintenance work and outages on major producers of molybdenum-99, which had disrupted supplies for medical applications in recent years. The Agency had an important role to play in addressing that issue.

139. He thanked the Agency for its extensive review of Malaysia's draft nuclear law and the suggested improvements to strengthen it. Malaysia had also adopted a Strategic Trade Act covering export control measures for all single- and dual-use strategic goods, including nuclear, chemical, biological and missile-related items.

140. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in 2010, his country's Prime Minister had proposed the development of a legally binding instrument for global nuclear security.

141. His country welcomed the recent moves towards greater transparency with regard to the arsenals of the nuclear-weapon States. Such developments should contribute to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and help create an environment conducive to addressing the issues of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security.

142. Malaysia called for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues relating to the nuclear programmes of the DPRK, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. With respect to the DPRK issue, it called for the six-party talks to be resumed at an appropriate time.

143. Finally, his country firmly supported the resolution adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

144. Ms FEROUKHI (Algeria) said that the increasing interest in nuclear energy, in particular in developing countries, and the international consensus that had prevailed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference concerning the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, disarmament and non-proliferation, had a positive impact on the Agency's mandate, which was based on three pillars of equal importance, namely promotion of nuclear energy for socio-economic development, safety and security, and safeguards.

145. As a developing country, Algeria paid its contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF consistently and on time, demonstrating the importance her country attached to the cooperation the Agency provided to Member States in response to their national priorities without discrimination or selectivity. In that context, she called upon those countries that had not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify the amendment to Article VI of the Statute in order to achieve balance in the geographical composition of the Board.

146. Her country welcomed the fact that the scientific forum during the current General Conference was devoted to the topic of cancer in developing countries, and noted the importance of strengthening national capacities in the human health field in the majority of developing countries. PACT, which had been launched in 2005, and the imPACT missions had prompted Member States to evaluate and develop national programmes and plans for cancer control in the long term. She expressed the hope that the scientific forum would serve as a catalyst for the Agency's efforts and for the mobilization of additional human and financial resources in order to respond to the needs and priorities of Member States in the area of cancer prevention, treatment and control. Algeria, for its part, would continue to provide assistance to African countries and host a regional cancer treatment centre with the collaboration of the Agency.

147. There was renewed interest in nuclear energy given the fact that world energy demand was expected to double by 2050, and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by half. Nuclear power offered a credible and clean alternative to fossil fuels and a number of countries, including her own, had requested Agency assistance with a view to introducing nuclear power into their energy mix. The Agency needed to have the required human and financial resources to face the challenges of the nuclear renaissance and, in particular, to assist the newcomers, primarily developing countries.

148. Algeria attached great importance to safety and security, which were an integral part of any nuclear programme. Nuclear security was primarily the responsibility of the State concerned. Her country supported the efforts aimed at preventing non-State actors from acquiring, gaining access to, or using nuclear material or weapons.

149. Her country appreciated the Agency's efforts in such areas as R&D in support of nuclear security, training of human resources, strengthening infrastructure for regulation and control of radioactive sources, and prevention of nuclear accidents and incidents. She also drew attention to the usefulness of the legal documents published in the Agency's Safety Standards Series, as well as the safety standards both binding and non-binding. The progress made in the area of safety, and the steps taken by the nuclear industry to develop ever safer reactors were welcome.

150. As had been reaffirmed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, State Parties to the NPT that complied with their international obligations could not accept any limitation on their inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy or their fuel cycle options as a result of proliferation risks. The lack of consensus regarding assurances of supply could erode the NPT by bringing about a new division between those who possessed nuclear technology and those who did not.

151. As an institution duly mandated to verify compliance with non-proliferation commitments, the Agency had a unique role to play in maintaining peace and security, as had been reaffirmed in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The impartiality and professionalism with which the Secretariat carried out its verification mission must be shielded from undue interference or pressure.

152. Algeria had been one of the first countries to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty. The entry into force of that Treaty was a significant confidence-building measure and a concrete contribution to non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

153. The Middle East region continued to pose serious security and development problems. Algeria encouraged the Director General to continue his efforts to implement the General Conference resolutions on safeguards in the Middle East and Israeli nuclear capabilities in order to respond to the serious concerns of countries in the region caused by the lack of verification of the Israeli nuclear programme. Her country supported the convening of an international conference on the Middle East in 2012, and the achievement of common objectives such as universalization of the NPT and comprehensive safeguards agreements and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, as called for in the resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review Conference.

154. Her country's cooperation activities with the Agency were focused on strengthening national capacities in non-power applications, including in health, agriculture, water resources and industry, and on preparations for the introduction of nuclear power. Algerian experts and professionals had benefited from Agency fellowships, workshops, seminars and conferences.

155. Reaffirming Algeria's commitment to the AFRA programme, she said that support was needed from the Agency and from African partners to improve the ability of African countries to benefit fully from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

156. Along with many other African countries, Algeria was interested in efforts to combat the desert locust and called upon the Agency to continue its collaboration with the FAO to develop further use of

nuclear techniques to combat that pest, as requested in General Conference resolutions. The establishment of a locust control centre would be particularly useful.

157. Ms NEE-WHANG (Ghana) commended the Agency for the emphasis placed on human health, nuclear safety, and food and agriculture in its activities in 2009.

158. Developments in nuclear technology which had brought benefits to society had also given rise to security and safety concerns which had to be addressed through collective efforts.

159. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Member States had agreed on an outcome document, which, although it did not fully meet all aspirations, was a step forward towards the common goal of nuclear disarmament. Her country had been encouraged by the atmosphere of respect and the goodwill that had prevailed at the conference, which had resulted in the adoption of the final document by consensus. It was to be hoped that the coming years would witness significant progress in implementation of the NPT. Ghana was firmly committed to the Treaty and would continue to support efforts to advance the implementation of its three pillars — nuclear non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear disarmament — and to make it universal.

160. The Agency's technical cooperation programme covered a wide range of activities of vital importance to developing countries, particularly in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, nuclear and radiation safety, the development of nuclear techniques to treat diseases, enhance crop resistance to diseases, increase yields, control food insects and pests and improve livestock, and in capacity building.

161. Ghana continued to be a beneficiary of programmes on the application of nuclear technology and techniques for enhancing the health, agricultural and industrial sectors. Its CPF with the Agency had included activities on crop improvement, pest management, food preservation, medical sterilization, radioisotope technology applications in industry, and nuclear medicine. Following the refurbishment of the gamma irradiation facility with Government assistance, Ghana could now improve food preservation to reduce post-harvest losses. The facility would also enhance quarantine treatment of agricultural produce to promote food exports, and the sterilization of medical supplies. The facility would play a critical role in the activities of the Radiation Entomology Centre in connection with the use of sterile insects for tsetse fly and mosquito control. Her country appreciated the Agency's assistance with the refurbishment of the facility and the training of staff to operate the irradiator.

162. Given the upsurge of cancer in developing countries, her country was committed to PACT, and it was grateful to the Agency for selecting Ghana as a PACT demonstration site. Ghana would continue to cooperate with the Agency to elaborate effective strategies for cancer management and control within the country and the West Africa subregion. A recent impact assessment mission by a PACT mission to Ghana had revealed that, in addition to the two existing radiotherapy centres, three further radiotherapy centres were needed, as well as a nuclear and medical imaging centre for the diagnosis and early detection of various forms of cancer, in order to expand access to treatment. Her country was confident that it could count on continued Agency assistance in that regard.

163. As part of the cancer control programme in Africa, the Virtual University for Cancer Control and Regional Training Network in Africa (VUCCnet) had been successfully launched in Ghana. That event had brought together cancer control specialists and educators from cancer centres and relevant educational institutions in selected African countries, the Agency and the WHO, and other international cancer control experts to plan the implementation of the pilot phase. Ghana was prepared to serve as host country in the subregion for the education and training of radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine specialists and physicists.

164. Physical protection upgrades had been provided for national nuclear facilities with the help of the Agency and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Ghana was grateful to the latter for funding the construction of the additional source storage vault and associated protection upgrades, as well as to the European Union for funding the expert services and human resources development programmes organized at the National Nuclear Support Centre.

165. Ghana remained committed to the implementation of international instruments governing nuclear safeguards, safety and security, and it was working to ratify all relevant texts. To that end, a bill to establish an independent nuclear regulatory authority would soon be submitted to parliament for approval, in order to pave the way for the establishment of effective institutional and human capacities to address proposals for the utilization of nuclear energy as an additional source of energy.

166. Ghana joined other African Member States in expressing gratitude to the Agency, and in particular to the staff of the Division for Africa, for its support for AFRA. It urged Member States to assist national and regional initiatives of AFRA countries.

**Mr Soltanieh (Islamic Republic of Iran) took the Chair.**

167. Mr UZCÁTEGUI DUQUE (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reiterated his country's support for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Agency's Statute. The principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and self-determination were of fundamental importance to preserving international peace and security, to which his country was committed. The commitment to nuclear disarmament was enshrined in the country's Constitution, Article 129 of which prohibited the manufacture and use of nuclear weapons in Venezuela. In addition, the country belonged to the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone via its adherence to the Tlatelolco Treaty.

168. Venezuela accorded high priority to strengthening integration with other Latin American and Caribbean countries and South-South relations, and to promoting solidarity among all peoples. Both ARCAL and the Agency facilitated the achievement of those objectives, and ensuring that projects and initiatives contributed to development should remain the principal focus of those forums.

169. ARCAL had expanded in scope and membership over the 25 years it had been in existence. With a view to contributing to the strengthening of regional training in isotope hydrology, Venezuela had made the Inter-American Centre for Environmental and Territorial Development and Research (CIDIAT) available to the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Centre offered training for between 30 and 40 people annually, funded by the Agency. He underlined the importance of transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy through training geared towards national priorities and objectives, with a view to the assimilation and application of that knowledge in areas which affected people's lives, thus contributing effectively to socio-economic development.

170. The General Conference should be cautious in dealing with possible mechanisms for supply of nuclear fuel. Any attempt to apply commercial practices or other mechanisms aimed at monopolizing or preventing access to nuclear technology and knowledge would run counter to the principles enshrined in the Statute of the Agency, whose main objective was to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Thus, his country rejected any initiative which sought to hamper access to nuclear energy for any developing country through discriminatory practices. It was even less desirable that the Agency become a commercial cartel that sought to monopolize nuclear technology, including the fuel cycle. The proposals for assurance of supply mechanisms had, inter alia, economic, financial and security implications, and the imposition of politically motivated discriminatory practices could not be discounted. The countries putting forward the proposals had not addressed those concerns and further discussion was needed.

171. Venezuela had made major efforts in the preceding decade to improve standards of living. Its human development index had risen from 0.793 to 0.844 between 1995 and 2007. Between 2003 and 2009, extreme poverty had decreased from 30% to only 7.2%. Non-extreme poverty had dropped from 32.3% to 21.3% in the same period. In 2003, unemployment had stood at 16.8% and it was currently around 6%. Furthermore, in October 2005 the country had declared itself free of illiteracy. Those achievements were the fruit of a sustained increase in social investment which had doubled over the preceding 12 years.

172. His country had important progress to report at the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals which had opened the preceding day. It had continued to work on alternative energy sources that would allow it to diversify its energy mix and achieve sustainable energy development, and it was thus interested in developing its capabilities in the area of nuclear power. It had also enjoyed fruitful cooperation with the Agency in the fields of health and water resources, inter alia. At domestic level, it had established a high-level commission to develop cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

173. The Venezuelan National Assembly had recently approved the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, which would lead to much closer cooperation between the Venezuelan authorities and the Agency and was an important step in strengthening the country's regulatory infrastructure in order to ensure early response in the event of an emergency.

174. His country had consistently defended a multipolar world. The global situation had changed significantly since the founding of the Agency and, over the preceding 10 years, a new balance of power had emerged. Multilateral organizations had to keep abreast of new political realities and thus needed to establish more democratic structures in their policy-making organs.

175. It was a matter for concern that some countries had developed military doctrines that contemplated the use, or threat of use of force employing nuclear weapons, and that expanded the possible reasons for using such weapons or justified the development of more sophisticated nuclear weapons, even though it was clear that the existence and proliferation of nuclear weapons, instead of enhancing security, reduced the scope for achieving lasting and sustainable peace. Thus, it was essential to intensify disarmament and non-proliferation efforts in order to free the world of such destructive weapons. Venezuela had consistently advocated disarmament and non-proliferation in the relevant forums.

176. The NPT, which was recognized by all as the cornerstone of the disarmament regime, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, was still under great pressure. Agreements were being signed with countries that were not party to the Treaty. The existence of military nuclear programmes that were not under Agency supervision was being ignored, while other countries were being cynically hounded for exercising their right to have access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, using the terrorist threat as a pretext, work had been resumed on the production of new and more powerful nuclear weapons. The greatest responsibility lay with the nuclear-weapon States to work towards reducing and eliminating their nuclear arsenals, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the NPT. Negotiations in good faith to that end were essential to strengthen peace.

177. Another measure that could strengthen non-proliferation and deserved special mention was the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. His country had always supported the initiatives to establish such a zone in the Middle East, as an effective way of contributing to peace and stability. A nuclear-weapon-free zone should be established in that region as soon as possible, in line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Israel, the only country in the region that had not adhered to the NPT or declared its intention to do so, should

renounce the possession of nuclear weapons, join the Treaty without delay and place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards in line with Security Council resolution 487 (1981). His country was concerned at the statements made by the Prime Minister of Israel admitting possession of nuclear weapons, which had a negative impact on peace and stability in the region.

178. The CTBT was an important instrument in the disarmament and non-proliferation field and support for its early entry into force was fully in line with the objective of achieving greater security and was, indeed, a moral imperative since it would impede the development of new nuclear weapons.

179. Efforts in support of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation must be multilateral, simultaneous and non-discriminatory. Venezuela rejected the notion that some countries' nuclear weapons posed no threat while those possessed by other States put the world in mortal peril. He recalled that any attack or threat of attack on nuclear facilities, including those under construction, violated the climate of peace and confidence that must prevail in international relations and posed a serious threat to the survival of the human race and the environment. His country rejected the classic imperialist notion of a preventive war, where attacks on sovereign States were justified on the basis of alleged and unproven threats.

180. It was unacceptable that discriminatory practices and double standards were applied in dealing with such matters, violating the principle of the legal equality of States by forcing some countries to comply with obligations while others were exempted. In that context, he noted that the Agency had found no evidence that the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran was anything but peaceful in nature. His country called for an end to the threats and persecution by a group of countries which seemed not to be committed to resolving that issue and which, to justify their imperialist geopolitical and commercial ambitions in the region, had fuelled a media slur campaign against Iran. That privileged group of countries had brought numerous resolutions to the Security Council, assuming de facto, though not de jure, competencies which belonged exclusively to the Agency, and jeopardizing the organization's credibility and the independence that was essential to its functioning. While the Board of Governors had been considering aspects of Iran's nuclear programme, the Security Council had at the same time been considering a series of resolutions which undermined the Agency's authority. His country stressed that the only appropriate forum for finding a peaceful negotiated solution to that issue was the Agency.

181. In conclusion, his country agreed with the Director General that the Agency should no longer continue to be seen in the eyes of the public as a nuclear watchdog. It was important that an authentic picture of the organization's activities and its objectivity and professionalism be put across to the world at large. Venezuela looked forward to more focus on activities aimed at helping Member States benefit from nuclear energy and less on politicization of the Agency's work and pressurization of some States by others.

182. Ms TROJANOWSKA (Poland) welcomed the consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the final document of which addressed areas closely connected with the Agency's activities: non-proliferation and compliance, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and nuclear security. The universal adoption and implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols were prerequisites for a credible and effective safeguards system. Having fulfilled all its obligations as a European Union member State with regard to safeguards legal instruments, her country called upon those which had not yet done so to join the Agency's comprehensive safeguards system as soon as possible. States with SQPs should also conclude an exchange of letters with the Agency to reinforce the safeguards system.

183. The Agency played a crucial role in planning and coordinating efforts to protect the world against nuclear terrorism. Poland had ratified both the amended CPPNM and the International

Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and it invited other States to follow suit in order to make those instruments as effective as possible. Her country strongly supported the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan and welcomed all initiatives worldwide to counteract global security hazards. In particular, the Nuclear Security Summit convened by the United States in April 2010, in which Poland had participated, had been an unprecedented event, raising awareness of the risks of nuclear terrorism and reinforcing the commitment to improving nuclear security standards, as well as underlining the essential role of the Agency in that area. Given the success of the Summit, the participating countries had decided to continue the process. In response to the call contained in the communiqué issued after the Summit to promote further strengthening of global nuclear security through dialogue and international cooperation, Poland had hosted a regional seminar for Central and Eastern European countries in August 2010 that had been attended by participants from 14 States and Agency experts. Not only had that event provided an opportunity to summarize discussions and ideas presented at the Nuclear Security Summit, it had also been a useful platform for information exchange on efforts to strengthen nuclear security at national and international levels. Her country looked forward to further meetings to continue that initiative.

184. Poland had been involved in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative since its inception and, under it, had undertaken the conversion of its nuclear research reactor to LEU fuel, which was expected to be completed in 2012. Her country also participated in the international radiological threat reduction programme under that Initiative. It had transferred unirradiated HEU fuel to the Russian Federation, which operation had been completed in 2006. Currently, spent nuclear fuel of Russian origin was being repatriated to the Russian Federation. She thanked all parties involved in that complex process, in particular the United States institutions which had covered most of the costs.

185. Poland was concerned to maintain the highest levels of nuclear safety worldwide. Although safety was a national responsibility, it could have implications beyond national boundaries and international cooperation was essential. The Agency, through its statutory programme, was a globally recognized forum for such cooperation and Poland, which was party to all international legal instruments developed in that field under the auspices of the Agency, was fully convinced of their importance and their essential role in keeping nuclear facilities and material safe and secure worldwide.

186. Representatives of her country had always participated in the review meetings under the relevant safety conventions and would be participating in the upcoming review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to be held in 2011. Poland had ratified the Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and had deposited its instrument of ratification with the Agency that very day.

187. The main objective of Poland's newly launched nuclear power programme was to define the optimum scope of nuclear power and to prepare lists and schedules of activities for the government administration, the regulator and the investor. Poland was also developing the legal and institutional infrastructure required to achieve coherence and stability in the development of the nuclear power sector. The final approval of the programme would require consultations and a public debate. It was planned that the first power reactors would begin operation at the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century.

188. Following the guidance provided in Agency publications, her country had organized a national seminar in April 2010 in preparation for an INIR mission, which would be initiated following the self-evaluation process.

189. In order to ensure that the country was prepared for the nuclear power programme, Poland's regulatory body had requested an IRRS mission, which was planned to take place in 2012 following

self-assessment. With a view to enhancing the capabilities of the regulatory body through bilateral cooperation, it was planned that an agreement would be signed that very week between the regulatory bodies of Poland and the United States. All preparatory work on the nuclear power programme was being conducted in strict compliance with international law and European Union regulations, and in accordance with Agency guidelines and recommendations. She expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by the Agency and the OECD/NEA, which Poland hoped to join soon. Cooperation with those organizations would optimize the introduction of nuclear power in Poland and reduce costs.

190. Technical cooperation had always been and remained an important activity in relations between the Agency and its Member States. In Europe, the technical cooperation programme had been greatly enhanced by regular consultations and meetings aimed at developing new managerial tools to help make programmes more effective and efficient. Poland was a good example of a country that had moved from being just a recipient to being an important donor. The Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology in Warsaw had recently been designated an Agency Collaborating Centre. Together with other new European Union members, Poland played an important double role in Agency technical cooperation, contributing to TCDC. Apart from national projects with a high rate of Government cost sharing, it actively participated in regional projects, offering its knowledge and competence to other Member States. It also welcomed the strategy for the technical cooperation programme in Europe that had been approved in February 2010.

191. Financing of technical cooperation activities should be assured, sufficient and predictable, and all Member States should demonstrate their commitment to the programme by pledging and paying in full and on time their shares of the TCF target and their NPCs. Thus, her country strongly supported application of the due account principle. As in the past, it had pledged and paid its share of the TCF target.

192. Mr SVEDAS (Lithuania) said that the dynamic change taking place in the global nuclear community, in particular with respect to nuclear power programmes, highlighted the need for strong international cooperation on safety, security and safeguards issues. His country strongly supported the Agency's efforts to improve the safeguards system. An additional protocol and a comprehensive safeguards agreement represented the current verification standard, which needed to be further strengthened, universalized and applied as a condition for the supply of nuclear material and technology. Lithuania encouraged all States to bring into force a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol, and to adhere to and implement fully such international instruments such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the CPPNM and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

193. The Ignalina nuclear power plant had been shut down on 31 December 2009. During its 26 years of operation, no incident had occurred which had been classified at higher than 0 on the INES scale. Every effort was being made to ensure that the decommissioning process was safe. Lithuania would continue to cooperate closely with the Agency on the management of radioactive waste and was doing pioneering work on the management of radioactive graphite from RBMK reactors. In the future, it would be happy to share its accumulated knowledge and experience with other countries.

194. Site preparation for construction of the new Visaginas nuclear power plant was due to be complete by the end of 2010. That new facility would replace the Ignalina plant and enable the Baltic region to reduce its reliance fossil fuels, and strengthen security of supply. In 2009, in accordance with the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact in a Transboundary Context, his country had successfully completed the transboundary environmental impact assessment process, and the Agency had carried out an in-depth and independent review of the Visaginas environmental impact assessment procedures. Lithuania's nuclear regulatory legislation was currently being revised in order to increase

the efficiency of the nuclear safety regulatory authority, and particular attention was being given to Agency recommendations and international best practices. Discussions with potential investors in the nuclear power plant project were ongoing.

195. In view of the rapid expansion of nuclear power in the Baltic region, it was important to stress the need for full compliance with international obligations in the areas of nuclear safety, security and transboundary environmental impact assessment. Transparency was also crucial for building confidence among countries in the region. In that context, a round table on regional nuclear energy projects had been organized in Lithuania in June, providing an opportunity for the Baltic and Nordic States, Poland, Belarus and the Russian Federation to discuss nuclear power developments in the Baltic region. His country was grateful to the Director General and his staff for their active participation in that event.

196. The Agency played a key role in assessing the safety and security of new nuclear sites and assessing the readiness of national nuclear infrastructure and the maturity of the national regulatory system and safety culture. Lithuania encouraged other States to make use of the Agency's services in those areas.

197. Human health was and would always be a top priority. His country was implementing a national cancer prevention and control programme and considerable progress had been made in early detection and treatment, and in the prevention of breast, cervix, and prostate cancer. Moreover, additional accelerators for radiotherapy had been installed in recent years. Lithuania supported PACT and would do everything possible to contribute to its implementation.

198. Finally, he expressed appreciation for the Agency's continuing support in strengthening capabilities for managing, preserving and transferring nuclear knowledge, and in developing new skills and competencies in nuclear-related areas.

199. Mr HAKIMI (Afghanistan) said that his Government regarded the work of the Agency as playing a key role in helping to enhance global scientific and technical cooperation and ensure nuclear safety and security. It appreciated the fact that the Agency carried out its mandate with independence, objectivity and transparency. Securing energy supplies while counteracting climate change would remain high on the organization's agenda, as would joint efforts on nutrition, potable water and health care. He thanked the Secretariat for publishing the Programme Performance Report for 2008–2009 (GOV/2010/40) and congratulated the staff of the Agency on the favourable results that had been accomplished in that biennium. It was important to ensure that sufficient resources continued to be allocated for Member States — and especially for developing countries — interested in introducing nuclear technology. His country continued to support the Agency's work and was interested in increasing further its level of cooperation with it.

200. In February 2010, a national consultants meeting had been held in Vienna to review Afghanistan's technical cooperation programme at which operational difficulties in implementing technical cooperation and new ideas and proposals had been openly discussed. One vital issue was the need for additional fellowships for candidates from Afghanistan, identifying potential host countries and institutions willing to accept those candidates. It had also been stressed that the Afghanistan High Commission of Atomic Energy should play an even more active role in coordinating all institutions receiving technical assistance from the Agency. In addition, the participants from Afghanistan had pledged to enhance cooperation between the High Commission of Atomic Energy, the National Liaison Officer and officials from relevant ministries.

201. The PCMF IT platform established the CPF as the basis for the programming process. In that connection, his country would like to emphasize the importance of national development plans and UNDAF. In June 2010, a draft CPF had been prepared which was currently under review in Kabul. A

final draft would be sent to the Agency shortly for consideration. Once the content of the CPF had been agreed upon, a detailed plan of action could be established, leading to project concepts for the upcoming technical cooperation cycles. Previous projects had been closely reviewed and new projects proposed. The National Liaison Officer would be entering Afghanistan's Country Programme Note in the PCMF shortly.

202. He stressed the importance of Agency technical cooperation for Afghanistan. It was important that adequate financial resources be allocated for technical cooperation, and continuously adjusted to match altered requirements. His country, which contributed itself to the TCF, appreciated the contributions of all Member States to the Fund, which enabled the Agency to make an important contribution to international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Agency was not a development aid agency and the technical cooperation programme should not be based on a donor-recipient relationship but on the conviction that technical cooperation was a mutually beneficial partnership that was indispensable for accomplishing the organization's main statutory objective of promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. In that connection, he noted that non-power nuclear applications were growing in relevance. Radiation and isotopic techniques were essential tools in such areas as potable water, nutrition and medicine. Hence peaceful applications of nuclear energy provided a powerful stimulus to socio-economic development in developing countries.

203. With regard to the 2009 technical cooperation programme in Asia and the Pacific, his country supported the emphasis on strengthening institutional capacity for applications in health, agriculture and energy, with a particular focus on newcomers to nuclear power. Afghanistan was particularly interested in benefiting from better crop yields, food, soils and water resources. In that connection, he expressed support for the work of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts to build capacity and transfer know-how with a view to developing the infrastructure of underdeveloped Member States.

204. He welcomed the fact that new resources for the TCF had reached a total of \$112 million in 2009, an increase of \$20 million over the preceding year. He also highlighted the encouraging findings of two internal studies which had shown that a third of the technical cooperation programme contributed directly to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and had confirmed the close connection between Agency technical cooperation and the Millennium Development Goals. The Agency should continue to strive to establish mechanisms to ensure that resources for technical cooperation were sufficient, assured and predictable, and to develop new forms of partnership that would help streamline the organization's operations in line with the SMART concept.

205. The Government of Afghanistan supported all efforts to strengthen the Agency's technical cooperation programme by increasing efficiency, effectiveness and the long-term impact of programmes, and it encouraged regional programming with an eye, inter alia, to the promotion of horizontal cooperation aimed at higher levels of national ownership, improved delivery of services and regional self-reliance. He noted the December 2009 agreement regarding the development of a Regional Cooperative Framework for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, he expressed the hope that, in future, a greater share of funds would be disbursed in the Asia and the Pacific region in the areas of human capacity development and programme support, as well as human health, which were currently underfunded by comparison with other world regions. At present, Afghanistan was participating in 21 regional Agency programmes and his Government aimed to increase that number and increase participation by women.

206. As a result of his country's recent history and geopolitical situation, the Afghan Government approached the issues of international nuclear safety and security with particular diligence. It was

firmly convinced that the international community should establish a more robust protection system, supported by laws and regulations.

207. He noted with appreciation that global nuclear safety efforts remained at a high level and commended the Agency's efforts to support international cooperation in that area, in particular its activities on capacity building, the adoption of a regional approach to best practices and exchange of information, and continued assistance to developing countries with improving emergency response capabilities.

208. Afghanistan appreciated the Agency's efforts to assist Member States to establish sustainable nuclear security capacity through evaluation missions, training, education and legal assistance, with a view to enhancing levels of physical protection of nuclear facilities and preventing illicit trafficking. It strongly advocated regional cooperation in that area and greater involvement of Member States in programme implementation. The Government of Afghanistan called upon all Member States to contribute to the effective implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan 2010–2013 and it welcomed the outcome of the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington in April 2010. It looked forward to further progress at the next such summit to be held in 2012 in the Republic of Korea.

209. Agency safeguards were a crucial component of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and his Government commended the Agency's contribution in verifying nuclear arms control and arms reduction agreements. In its verification role, the Agency depended on the support of its members, and enhanced sharing of information and unreserved cooperation with and support for Agency inspectors were essential for its work in that area. Afghanistan supported all Agency activities aimed at resolving outstanding issues relating to the nature and scope of Member States' nuclear programmes.

210. The NPT remained the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. Recent disarmament efforts should help reduce the perceived security value of nuclear weapons and have an impact on the ambitions of those countries interested in acquiring such weapons. The Government of Afghanistan was a committed opponent of nuclear weapons.

211. His country welcomed the promising outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Among other important issues, the Conference had stressed the importance of full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. Afghanistan looked forward to the convening in 2012, as proposed at the NPT Review Conference, of a conference of all States in the Middle East on the establishment in that region of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

212. In conclusion, he reaffirmed Afghanistan's unwavering commitment to the Agency. The increasing global need for nuclear applications would make the Agency's role even more important in the future. Though promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, and especially technical assistance, remained the Agency's statutory objective, its activities in the fields of nuclear safety and security were increasing in significance.

213. Mr MINTY (South Africa) said that the General Conference was taking place at a time when the world situation was more conducive to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, helping pave the way for the New START agreement and the successful 2010 NPT Review Conference. Optimal use should be made of that positive development to add impetus to the Agency's work. The outcomes of the 2010 NPT Review Conference had the potential to strengthen global peace and security and could play a meaningful role in outlining the future approach towards the eventual achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

214. Nuclear-weapon-free zones were an integral part of the NPT and continued to be an important aspect of the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation process. South Africa welcomed the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty and looked forward to more countries ratifying it.

215. He emphasized the importance of energy security in promoting sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a number of States had supported the view that the Agency had an important role to play in assisting developing States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving their scientific, technological and regulatory capabilities. South Africa strongly supported the Agency's continued contribution towards the Millennium Development Goals and its interaction with NEPAD.

216. The acute need to secure reliable energy supplies and reduce carbon emissions had put nuclear energy firmly on the agenda as a viable choice to be pursued in order to achieve a balanced energy mix. Nuclear energy was increasingly becoming a preferred solution for energy security and in efforts to mitigate the challenges of climate change. As many more countries decided to introduce nuclear power to address their energy needs, it was imperative that the Agency's safeguards system be strengthened. The additional protocol was an important tool for providing credible assurances of the absence of undeclared nuclear material.

217. In 1998, South Africa had presented a new energy policy that had made nuclear energy an integral part of its energy mix. In June 2008, it had approved a nuclear energy policy. Earlier in the current year, his Government had set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Energy to pursue an integrated resource plan to ensure a balance between available energy sources, the cost of deployment of the different technologies, and the benefits for the South African people and economy in the short and long term. The Department of Energy was also leading the elaboration of a nuclear energy implementation strategy that would look at how the Government could develop and/or enhance the infrastructure required for new builds. Through that endeavour, more jobs would be created and South Africa would work with international partners with cost-effective plans that addressed that issue with minimum impact on cost and the delivery schedule.

218. The Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa continued to carry out feasibility studies into the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle to ensure security of fuel supply for nuclear new builds. The studies would feed into the nuclear energy implementation strategy, which in turn would feed into the integrated resource plan process.

219. With regard to new nuclear power plants, the South African electricity utility, Eskom, had been pursuing its environmental impact assessment of three potential sites for nuclear power plants. Since 2007, there had been extensive public participation in that process, which had culminated in the release in March 2010 of a draft environmental impact report for public comment. It was anticipated that a final report would be completed before the end of 2010 and submitted to the Government for evaluation and a decision on environmental authorization in the first half of 2011. To assist communities, organizations and individuals in participating in the process in a meaningful manner, Eskom had been conducting nuclear awareness workshops in the vicinity of the proposed nuclear sites and had hosted representatives from communities around one of the sites on a visit to the Koeberg nuclear power plant.

220. The management of radioactive waste, especially high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel, continued to pose challenges. South Africa had made some progress through the establishment of a legal framework to manage radioactive waste. The National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute Act had come into force, and steps were being taken to set up the Institute and address matters such as funding and human resources.

221. The role of nuclear technologies in African development could not be overlooked. The solutions implemented through Agency technical cooperation and AFRA programmes had contributed to Africa's development in many ways, but a great deal of work still needed to be done. The African

region would look at how to optimize the use of nuclear technologies on the continent. As part of its contribution to that endeavour, in the preceding year the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa had participated in the safe packaging of disused high-activity sealed radioactive sources in Sudan, Tanzania, Vietnam and Uruguay, with other countries to follow in the near future. It also continued to host several training workshops as part of its contribution to human resources development within South Africa.

222. Following the successful conversion of the SAFARI-1 research reactor core to LEU fuel in 2009, the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa and its subsidiary, NTP Radioisotopes, had accelerated their programme to convert the production processes for molybdenum-99 and iodine-131 to use LEU target plates. As of July 2010, South Africa had begun delivering LEU-based isotopes to the world market, thus becoming the first large-scale supplier of molybdenum-99 based entirely on LEU. In 2009–2010, during the serious shortages in the supply of isotopes of critical importance to the global nuclear medicine community, production levels had been increased and every effort made to reduce the impact of that situation, without compromising safety or quality.

223. South Africa continued to pay due attention to strengthening the safety of its nuclear facilities. Following the first 10-year safety review, important safety enhancements had been implemented at one of its nuclear facilities. As a result, the PSA estimated frequency of core damage was now similar to the reference nuclear power plants operated by Électricité de France, and better than the Agency recommendations for new nuclear power plants. The second 10-year safety review had commenced and would contribute to a further strengthening of safety.

224. South Africa had also made considerable strides in the area of nuclear security, which was rightfully a national responsibility. It would, however, be counting on the help of the Agency in that regard, if and when necessary. Nuclear security needed to be considered in all its aspects and must not focus only on nuclear terrorism. South Africa's national nuclear regulator was finalizing a nuclear security framework which would be integrated into the safety culture of operators.

225. It was cause for concern that no progress had been made with regard to the decision that had been taken collectively to expand the Agency's Board of Governors. Continuing failure to achieve that objective was not only an impediment to the democratization of the Agency but also meant that the organization continued to fall short of being a truly inclusive multilateral body. South Africa was of the view that there should be an increase in the number of African countries on the Board, reflecting the increase in African Member States to 42.

226. He underscored the importance which South Africa attached to the TCF, which should form an integral part of the Agency's budget. A step in that direction would constitute a long overdue correction of the fundamental mistake of funding technical cooperation through voluntary contributions, when it was in fact a core Agency activity. There was also a continuing need to ensure that resources for technical cooperation were adequate and predictable. His country endorsed the view expressed by the External Auditor that Member States should ensure that extrabudgetary funds did not replace regular and predictable funds for core activities.

227. Through the INES Advisory Committee, chaired jointly by representatives from South Africa and Spain, his country had been closely involved in updating and extending INES procedures. South Africa's nuclear facilities would implement the new INES User's Manual (2008) with effect from 1 October 2010. The national nuclear regulator had also initiated a process to broaden the application of INES to other institutions and facilities in the country.

228. Finally, he expressed appreciation to the Agency and those countries that had provided assistance with the nuclear security arrangements for the 2010 World Cup held in South Africa, and looked forward to continued cooperation in the future. South Africa encouraged the Agency to

continue its support for improving nuclear security, accounting and control of nuclear material and the prevention of illicit trafficking.

229. Mr KARIMOV (Azerbaijan) welcomed the successes achieved by the Agency in ensuring nuclear and radiation safety through the development of guidelines for the management of nuclear material, strengthening of physical protection and the implementation of measures to prevent nuclear terrorism.

230. His country highly valued the Agency's role in maintaining a balance between the development of nuclear power and the application of a strict non-proliferation regime. In cooperation with the Agency and the international community, Azerbaijan was taking the measures needed to strengthen its nuclear security and prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material.

231. His country advocated strengthening the Agency's role and authority, was eager to develop its cooperation with the Agency, and had established a State commission for cooperation with the Agency to that end.

232. The Agency continued to help his country develop its national safety infrastructure for the safe management of radioactive material. In 2008, Azerbaijan had established a regulatory body responsible for improving its national system of accounting for, and control, storage, use and disposal of radiation sources. Agency staff had prepared over ten regulatory and legal documents regulating the activities of various bodies. A great deal of work had gone into producing a national register of all organizations working in the nuclear field, and of the ionizing radiation sources and nuclear material they possessed.

233. With Agency support, Azerbaijan had undertaken a thorough analysis of existing national legislation relating to nuclear and radiological activities and had developed proposals to improve it. Work had also been conducted with the Agency's Department of Safeguards to improve the State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. A recent Agency expert mission to assess the country's state of readiness to respond to nuclear or radiological accidents had been particularly beneficial for the development of a national response plan.

234. The range of the Agency's activities would continue to grow in the coming decades as the role of nuclear power in securing energy supplies to ensure sustainable development increased, driven by dwindling fossil fuel reserves and the impact of the use of such fuels on the climate and environment. However, the occupation of foreign territory posed an even greater threat to security and political stability than the issue of reliable energy supplies. In that connection, he called on the Agency to take decisive measures against attempts to use temporarily occupied Azerbaijani territory for illicit activities such as trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material and dual-use technologies and equipment. Armenia continued to ignore four United Nations Security Council resolutions requiring it to cease its occupation of 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan. Such a situation threatened regional stability, peace and security. His country understood Armenia's desire to develop nuclear power for the purposes of economic development and improving the welfare of its people. However, any safeguards commitments Armenia might have made would remain unfulfilled until such time as it complied with international law by abandoning expansionist plans and liberating the territory it had occupied.

235. Technical cooperation was the main means by which the Agency responded to the needs of its Member States. Azerbaijan was implementing both national and regional technical cooperation projects. In particular, it was implementing four national projects in such important socio-economic areas as improving cancer treatment infrastructure, setting up a secondary standards dosimetry laboratory, planning the establishment of a research reactor, and developing radiation processing

capacities. For the latter two projects, Azerbaijan had set aside 15 hectares of land, begun geological exploration work and started planning work for the establishment of the necessary infrastructure.

236. His country was also conducting a project to develop its radionuclide monitoring capacities, in compliance with the initiative of the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the Agency on improving control of disused radioactive sources. It devoted particular attention to improving its regulatory infrastructure, radiation safety and physical protection of radioactive material, and radiation protection of persons working with ionizing radiation sources, and was involved in a number of related regional and interregional projects. Azerbaijan's involvement in such projects, particularly those related to nuclear science, technology and applications, served to support and develop its scientific potential. More than 30 specialists from the country had benefited from various forms of training in those fields over the preceding year. His country appreciated the work of the Agency in organizing education systems for training specialists in nuclear science and technology, taking due account of nuclear safety and security. He encouraged the Agency to offer interested Member States broader access to information on innovative nuclear technologies.

237. Ms THOLE (Zambia) said that her country, as a committed advocate of general and complete disarmament, welcomed the significant progress that had been made by the United States and Russia towards concluding a legally binding treaty to reduce further their nuclear arsenals, and encouraged all other nuclear-weapon States to follow that good example. The steps by the United Kingdom and France to cease production of fissile material for nuclear weapons were encouraging and would help build confidence, but the total elimination of nuclear weapons should be the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. The delay of the entry into force of the CTBT remained a source of worry and Zambia urged those States on which its entry into force was dependent to sign and ratify the Treaty.

238. Zambia had ratified the Pelindaba Treaty in June 2010. It welcomed efforts by other regions to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and looked forward to seeing such a zone become a reality in the Middle East, as it would enhance peace and security in that region and beyond.

239. The threat of nuclear terrorism was real and all States needed to cooperate to ensure that terrorists did not have access to nuclear weapons. With the Agency's assistance, a radiation portal monitor had been installed on a railway line linking Zambia to the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, and a second monitor would be installed at a suitable site on the southern border of the country. Her country supported the strengthening of the Agency's safeguards regime. It had signed an additional protocol in May 2009 and was actively working towards its national implementation.

240. Zambia supported the right of States to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. With steadily increasing energy demands, nuclear power could offer a supplementary and alternative source of energy. Zambia was considering exploiting its potential uranium reserves as a possible means of meeting its energy needs. Nuclear power could mitigate the negative environmental impact of the country's current energy sources and address the problems of climate change. As uranium mining and milling posed a number of challenges, including security and waste disposal, Zambia would be looking for regional and international partners to assist in its exploitation of that resource. It had already begun to develop capacities for the establishment of a strong radiation protection authority to ensure the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive material.

241. Her country welcomed the extensive support it had received through the Agency's technical cooperation programme. Many successful projects had been implemented, including on the establishment of a cancer hospital where the second phase of activities, involving the construction of wards, radioactive iodine treatment rooms and a radiotherapy training centre, was almost complete. The Government had also worked with PACT, the Agency and the WHO to establish a cancer control plan which would enhance the sustainability of operations at the hospital. Through such efforts, it was

hoped that the impact of cancer in the country could be reduced. Technical cooperation had also facilitated the introduction of several mutant varieties of bean and cassava with higher yields and greater resistance to the effects of climate change. The consultations on Zambia's CPF for 2010–2015 were complete.

242. Zambia had continued to invest in the development of infrastructure at the Central Veterinary Research Institute, with a view to building capacities to curb livestock diseases that had negatively impacted livestock productivity, depriving most rural farmers of their livelihood. However, there was still a need for further human resources development and the acquisition of modern equipment. The country sought the Agency's support in increasing livestock productivity to create wealth for a sizeable proportion of the rural population.

243. She congratulated AFRA on continuing to provide expertise on nuclear applications in medicine, food and agriculture, and other areas pertinent to human development, and she confirmed that Zambia would be paying its assessed voluntary contribution to the TCF for 2011.

**The meeting rose at 8.15 p.m.**