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President: Ms MANGIN (France)

Later: Mr ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

Mr BERDENNIKOV (Russian Federation)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹	Paragraphs
7 General debate and Annual Report for 2009 (<i>continued</i>)	1–153
Statements by the delegates of:	
Uruguay	1–7
Mauritania	8–13
Costa Rica	14–21
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22–36
Singapore	37–47
Vietnam	48–52
United Republic of Tanzania	53–63

¹ GC(54)/16.

Contents (continued)

	Paragraphs
Myanmar	64–79
Thailand	80–94
Jordan	95–110
Ecuador	111–123
Qatar	124–131
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	132–140
Zimbabwe	141–148
Sovereign Order of Malta	149–153

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
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HEU	high-enriched uranium
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review and Extension Conference	Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
PET	positron emission tomography
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SEANWFZ Treaty	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
SESAME	Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East
SQP	small quantities protocol

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2009 (continued)

(GC(54)/4)

1. Mr KREIMERMAN (Uruguay) said that his country based its international activities on the Charter of the United Nations. It was an active member of several UN peacekeeping forces and was proud to be one of the first countries to be involved in new UN initiatives, including the “Delivering as One” initiative. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, Uruguay had announced its intention to ensure that, by 2015, 50% of its energy mix was based on renewable energy.
2. Uruguay remained committed to safeguards, nuclear verification and non-proliferation, and considered that the best way to resolve international tensions in those areas was through dialogue and multilateral negotiation. It worked to identify synergies between safety and security, and to promote international cooperation. It supported the efforts of those countries that had developed initiatives to assure the non-discriminatory supply of nuclear fuel, in particular for small countries.
3. Uruguay had continued to participate actively in the work of the Agency, and had been a member of the Board of Governors from 2008 to 2010. During the past year, it had assumed the presidency of the Board of ARCAL Representatives and the Technical Coordination Board, and had played an active role in the development of the Regional Strategic Profile.
4. Turning to events within Uruguay, he said that the technical independence of the national regulatory authority had been strengthened by law. In the budget for 2010–2015, provision had been made to double the number of technical staff in the area of ionizing radiation with a view to enhancing the country’s economic development. A medical imaging centre had been established in Uruguay with a cyclotron and three PET cameras for the diagnosis of cancer, heart and brain disease. An industrial irradiation service had also been created. The Government had ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and had approved the national strategy for safe management of radioactive waste. It had also approved a national radiological emergency plan. Uruguay had ratified the additional protocol and had been applying integrated safeguards since January 2009.
5. Over recent years, Uruguay’s economy had been growing on average at a rate of 6% despite the global financial crisis. The Government was aiming to achieve similar rates of growth in the future, including through strengthening and diversifying production. To that end, a long-term energy policy developed with representatives of all political parties had been approved. Two of the main elements of that policy were the achievement of greater energy efficiency and the widespread use of the renewable energy sources available in the country, including wind, water and sun. He was pleased to report that Uruguay was already ahead of schedule in achieving the ambitious goal of ensuring that renewable energy accounted for 50% of the primary energy mix by 2015.
6. The Government was also considering the possibility of using nuclear energy for electricity generation. The commission established to study the nuclear power option comprised representatives from the four political parties with parliamentary representation and was working well. It was to be hoped that the Government and citizens of Uruguay would, within the next three years, have all the information they required to take an informed decision on that energy option. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had provided in that regard through various regional technical cooperation projects, which he hoped would continue. His country was also grateful for the invitation it had

received from the Agency to participate in the technical working group on nuclear power infrastructure that would meet in November to discuss the development and implementation of national nuclear power programmes.

7. Lastly, he said that Uruguay had been honoured to receive a visit from the Director General in March and remained committed to helping the Agency achieve all of its objectives.

8. Mr OULD HORMA (Mauritania) said his country, under President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, had recently embarked on a major socio-economic development campaign and was cooperating in every possible way with the Agency. Mauritania's participation in the current session affirmed the importance it attached to cooperation with the Agency in a number of areas in coordination with the competent technical and scientific authorities. Mauritania had joined the Agency in 2004 and, although a relative newcomer, was endeavouring to make up for missed opportunities and participate in all forms of cooperation.

9. Mauritania had enacted new laws, in particular a nuclear law that had been ratified by parliament in December 2009. Pursuant to that, it had established a body for the organization of nuclear safety and security.

10. It had also, in coordination and cooperation with the Agency and in record time, set up a cancer therapy centre equipped with advanced radiotherapy techniques and trained the staff to run it.

11. By way of an explanation for major investment in that particular area when other infrastructure in Mauritania was fragile, he said that for decades the health sector had suffered from neglect. That had led to serious deterioration in the health services at a time when there had been a rapid increase in the incidence of cancer. Cancer patients in Mauritania had been forced, at very high cost, to go to neighbouring countries for treatment. Often patients died while waiting for treatment and only returned home in coffins. Diagnosis and treatment were often too late. In view of that distressing situation, the national authorities had decided to address the problem by setting up the centre, which they hoped would be a model in the West African region and set an example of south-south cooperation.

12. Mauritania had also cooperated with the Agency in other, non-health, areas such as water, animal health, agriculture and mining. He expressed Mauritania's gratitude for the assistance received and for the Secretariat's efforts in that regard.

13. He expressed Mauritania's interest in and concern about the current debate on the Middle East with respect to who was entitled, or not, to possess nuclear energy and the concomitant fear that nuclear energy might be used for non-peaceful purposes. Mauritania stressed the importance of all countries of the region, including Israel, acceding to the NPT. There was no doubt that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East would substantially strengthen international efforts to establish peace in that region. In that context, his delegation reaffirmed the need for all Member States to support the Agency in its leading role in deterring any use of nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes and for the preservation of humanity.

14. Ms DENGO (Costa Rica) reaffirmed her country's commitment to the Agency's statutory objectives to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The Agency was the only international organization with the technical competence and capacities to contribute independently and objectively to those objectives.

15. The importance that her country attached to the Agency's activities was reflected in Costa Rica's recent effort, despite the impact of the international financial crisis on its economy, to settle its financial obligations. Having done so it had regained its voting rights and was looking forward to contributing to the discussion and decision-making on items before the General Conference.

16. It was essential that the Agency had the necessary financial resources to be able to carry out its important mandates and, moreover, that no mandate be given priority over any other. In fact, the maintenance of a balance among the three pillars of the Agency (safeguards and verification, nuclear safety and security, and the transfer of science and technology) was a concern that had been raised on several occasions by her country, GRULAC, and the Group of 77 and China. Any imbalances that existed in the appropriation of resources — and increases thereof — to the Agency's Major Programmes must be corrected.

17. As regards technical cooperation, the Agency should foster cooperation among the developed and developing countries, thereby making greater use of their respective technical capacities and facilitating the transfer of nuclear technology and knowledge. The Agency's technical cooperation programme should remain the basic mechanism for the transfer of such technology for the benefit of all Member States. The creation of parallel programmes or alternative cooperation mechanisms should be avoided as they would only weaken the programme and reduce the Agency's ability to interact effectively and efficiently with all concerned.

18. To enhance the effectiveness of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, it was important to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations, particularly in spheres where other organizations had overarching competence, as was the case for health, agriculture and the environment. Thus, Costa Rica welcomed the fact that the Secretariat had developed the tools and necessary infrastructure to establish strategic alliances with other relevant international organizations, as well as national and regional institutions.

19. Costa Rica took pleasure in celebrating the fact that ARCAL had been in force for 25 years. During the past year Costa Rica, an active participant in ARCAL activities, had been involved in 30 projects under the Agreement, providing 27% of the extrabudgetary contributions received in 2009 for ARCAL activities. The Agreement was an ideal vehicle for cooperation with the Agency in the region and her country urged the Agency to continue supporting and expanding that mechanism.

20. Costa Rica was concerned about the low level of representation of GRULAC in senior positions in the Secretariat, especially considering that there were plenty of top-class professionals and experts in the region. She expressed the hope that the Director General would be able to correct that imbalance.

21. In conclusion, she reiterated the importance Costa Rica attached to the Agency, to the decisions of its Board of Governors, the resolutions of the General Conference, and the reports it submitted to the UN General Assembly and Security Council pursuant to safeguards-related obligations. Costa Rica supported the Agency's efforts to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons under the NPT. Those efforts should continue without the hindrance of any political considerations, which undermined the good name the Agency had earned in that sphere over the years.

22. Mr ALOBIDI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), pointing to the clear imbalance between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, said that the role given to the Agency had been selective from the start because it covered verification of the non-diversion of nuclear material from peaceful use to military purposes, but did not include the verification of obligations vis-à-vis nuclear arms reduction and disarmament.

23. As Libya's President Al Qaddafi had stated before the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2009, the Agency should undertake its verification role with respect to all States concerned without distinction. Further, when addressing the Security Council during the nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament summit on 24 September 2009, the Libyan representative had said that the Agency should monitor all nuclear installations without exception, including inspection of the Israeli Dimona reactor, otherwise all the Middle East States would have the right to possess nuclear weapons.

24. To deal with that imbalance, his country felt that the time had come for all the nuclear-weapon States and all States not party to the NPT to place all their nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards, in accordance with the NPT and the Agency's Statute, for the exclusive purpose of verifying the compliance of the nuclear-weapon States with their obligations.

25. In his statement to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Director General Amano had referred to that issue, saying that nuclear disarmament was an area of great interest for the Agency and that the Agency had a role to play through verification activities. He had also said that nuclear disarmament had a positive impact on non-proliferation efforts.

26. Libya affirmed the importance of strengthening the Agency's role in verifying disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States and implementation of Article VI of the NPT. It had asked the depositary countries to convene a conference for amendment of the Treaty and had called on all States party to the Treaty to support that goal through the proposal of two amendments to Article VI. Firstly, to ensure that the nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty worked towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control subject to verification. Secondly, to ensure that all nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty accepted safeguards, as set forth in an agreement to be negotiated and concluded in accordance with the Agency's safeguards system and Article III.1 and 2 of the NPT, for the principal purpose of verification of the fulfilment of their obligations with a view to full and comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

27. He expressed Libya's appreciation for the Agency's provision of technical cooperation, particularly in the areas of health and water resource management, in line with its national objectives and priorities. In implementing those activities, the Agency should refrain from subjecting assistance to any political or economic conditions that conflicted with the provisions of the Statute. Libya underlined the right of the developing countries to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, to obtain nuclear equipment and material, and to the transfer of related scientific and technological information.

28. In that context he emphasized, firstly, the inalienable right of States party to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including the nuclear fuel cycle. Secondly, the Agency was the sole competent authority entrusted with the task of inspection and verification. There was a need to expand that competence to include all States, nuclear and non-nuclear, so that the Agency was indeed an international agency. Thirdly, there was no need for any new standards or guidelines for the selection of technical cooperation projects since they were already effective and sufficient. Fourthly, the proposal regarding assurance of nuclear fuel supply had numerous technical, legal, commercial and economic aspects which should be examined in depth and be the subject of transparent negotiation.

29. Libya attached great importance to nuclear and radiation safety. It had acceded to a number of conventions and treaties, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and it also took part in related activities. It had set up an office of radiation monitoring and nuclear safety having the functions and competences of a future independent supervisory authority in line with the Agency's standards and the applicable national legislation. Also, Libya had acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It supported the role assumed by the Agency in combating the threat of nuclear terrorism.

30. Libya valued the Agency's efforts to verify Iran's nuclear programme and welcomed its conclusion about the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in that country. Libya urged Iran to continue its cooperation with the Agency in order to resolve all the related issues, including those regarding any possible military dimensions to its nuclear programme. Libya called for a resumption of

dialogue and negotiation, which was the best way to resolve all issues; the use of threat and sanctions as a way of coercing States to relinquish their sovereignty and rights had proved unsuccessful in the past and would do so in the future. Libya also called on the international community to treat the nuclear programmes of all States equally and to avoid a policy of double standards. Thus, pressure should be applied on Israel to accede to the NPT and to place all its nuclear installations under comprehensive Agency safeguards.

31. Israel had used force against a military site on Syrian territory claiming that it was being used for nuclear purposes. That was a flagrant violation of international law. In addition, the Agency had been hindered in fully carrying out its duties in that regard. It was surprising that the focus of attention had turned on the victim, a party to the NPT, when it would have been more appropriate to condemn and impose sanctions on the aggressor. That approach could only feed the rise in extremism and violence in the world. Israel's blatant aggression had been strongly condemned by the Arab States at the summit held in Sirt, Libya, in March 2010. Libya urged Syria to exercise transparency and to continue cooperating with the Agency in order to resolve the matter.

32. The Israeli nuclear programme, which was still outside the Agency's safeguards regime because Israel refused to accede to the NPT, represented a direct threat to international peace and security in the world, and especially in the Middle East region. It weakened the credibility of the NPT non-proliferation regime and, consequently, contributed to an arms race in the region.

33. He expressed Libya's disappointment at the support given to Israel by some States, especially some nuclear-weapon States which had greater responsibilities in achieving universality of the NPT as regards nuclear disarmament, and at the fact that they continued to cast a blind eye on Israel's possession of military nuclear capabilities, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. Libya warned that a policy of double standards would only exacerbate tension in the region.

34. Libya paid tribute to all those States which had supported the Arab resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities (GC(53)/RES/17) in 2009 and called upon those States which had abstained or voted against that resolution then to reconsider their position during the current session in the interests of global peace and security. He expressed the hope that there would be exhaustive and substantive discussion of the item.

35. The objective of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted in 1995 by the NPT Review and Extension Conference had been to set up a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. In its Final Document, the 2010 NPT Review Conference had reiterated that goal, noted the lack of progress in implementation of the 1995 Resolution, and reaffirmed the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards. It had also reaffirmed the urgency and importance of achieving universality of the Treaty. In addition, the 2010 Conference had called for the convening of a conference in 2012, attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Libya expressed some concern about the success of that conference in light of the aggressive policy and nature of the Israeli regime, which neither respected international law nor had a sincere desire to achieve peace and security in the region. Instead, Israel favoured the advancement of its own military nuclear programmes. Nevertheless, Libya felt that the States which had embraced the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East should uphold their responsibilities and that the resolution should be implemented without delay.

36. In conclusion, he reiterated the need for nuclear disarmament and called on all the nuclear-weapon States to eliminate their nuclear arsenals and halt all programmes aimed at the development of such weapons, thereby complying with their legal obligations under Article VI of the

NPT. The onus should clearly be borne by the States possessing such weapons to take concrete steps to rid the world of the threat they posed.

37. Mr York Chor TAN (Singapore) agreed with the Director General's view that the Agency's promotion of nuclear safety and security and nuclear science and technology needed to be strengthened and strongly supported his focus on the fight against cancer, especially in developing countries. At the same time, nuclear non-proliferation remained an important Agency mission, and safeguards and verification were important tools in that work.

38. Singapore welcomed the decision of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The path ahead would not be easy, and all parties must demonstrate political will to ensure a successful conference. Putting any country under undue pressure would facilitate neither preparations for the 2012 conference nor the negotiation of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, which Singapore had always supported.

39. Although the NPT States parties had been able to agree on the action section of the Review Conference's Final Document after an impasse of over 10 years, it was regrettable that discussions had continued to be highly polarized and that it had not been possible to reach an agreement that would further advance nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Much of the Final Document's language had even regressed compared with the 2000 NPT Review Conference. The credibility and relevance of the NPT would remain in question if key parties did not demonstrate leadership and the political will to advance the agenda of the Treaty. Nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States alike must abide by their respective rights and obligations as laid out in the Treaty. Singapore continued to support universalization of the NPT.

40. While it was the inalienable right of NPT States parties to pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy, all rights entailed responsibilities. As more countries explored the use of nuclear energy, it was necessary to guard against nuclear proliferation. Singapore was concerned by a few countries' non-cooperation with the Agency in the important area of safeguards and verification. The DPRK had withdrawn from the NPT in January 2003 and had ceased all cooperation with the Agency in April 2009. Though Iran had provided assurances regarding its declared nuclear materials and facilities, its undeclared nuclear plans and activities and its lack of full cooperation with the Agency created a lack of confidence and left the Agency unable to draw a conclusion concerning the peaceful nature of all its nuclear activities. Singapore therefore strongly urged Iran to strengthen its cooperation with the Agency and abide by its international obligations, including Security Council resolutions and decisions by the Agency's Board of Governors.

41. Singapore welcomed the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy in Paris in March and the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April and hoped that the latter would create momentum to strengthen global nuclear security and the Agency's work in that area. Organizers and participants should reach out to and include as many countries in the process as possible.

42. Singapore reiterated its support of the Agency as it prepared to join the Agency's Board of Governors for the term 2010–2012. The country welcomed the strengthening of its ties and cooperation with the Agency over the previous year. In January the Director General had met with Foreign Minister George Yeo on the margins of the Davos World Economic Forum, and during his visit to Singapore in August he had had good discussions with the country's leadership on the challenges and opportunities facing the Agency.

43. Singapore would be working closely with the Agency as it prepared a pre-feasibility study to explore whether nuclear power should be part of the country's energy mix, and in that context Singapore's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry had made an official visit to

the Agency in April. Agency missions to Singapore had included an IPPAS mission in November 2009 and a workshop on the additional protocol and trade control in August 2010.

44. Singapore appreciated the Agency's contributions to the ASEAN Regional Forum inter-sessional meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament, held in July 2010 in Singapore, on the theme "Peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology". Participants had agreed that the objective of a multilateral fuel cycle was to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and that it was complementary to a global non-proliferation regime. Singapore had also hosted a World Nuclear University course in May 2010 on key current issues in the global nuclear industry including a public lecture on the safety and security of nuclear power plants in urban settings.

45. Recognizing the importance of sufficient, assured and predictable funding for the Technical Cooperation Fund, Singapore announced that in 2011 it would continue to pledge and contribute its full share. It would also continue to strengthen technical cooperation with the Agency bilaterally and regionally through the RCA. Since 2001, 21 scientific visits, 80 fellowships and 24 regional training events had been conducted with the Agency, mainly in the areas of human health and radiation protection, and over the previous year in particular Singapore had provided technical assistance to many developing countries in Asia. It had signed its Country Programme Framework in February 2010.

46. Singapore supported strengthening international and regional safety and security standards and encouraged Member States considering nuclear power to establish an effective regulatory, administrative and legislative infrastructure. In that context, Singapore would work towards accession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the 2005 Amendment thereto and would join the Illicit Trafficking Database.

47. The Agency's role remained essential, especially as more countries explored the use of nuclear energy, science and technology, and support needed to continue for the three main pillars of its activities. Discussions at Agency meetings, including those of the Board, however, had become too political and polarized, and Member States needed to put aside their differences to give the Agency the necessary resources to respond credibly, professionally and effectively to the challenges facing it.

48. Mr Dinh Tien LE (Vietnam) said that his country's consistent policy was one of responsible and peaceful use of nuclear energy to further the socio-economic development of the country and improve the people's quality of life. Vietnam had recently decided to launch its own nuclear power programme, with the first plant scheduled to begin operation by the year 2020. Nuclear power was expected to occupy a significant place in Vietnam's electricity generation system in future.

49. Vietnam's nuclear infrastructure was still underdeveloped. As well as mobilizing domestic resources, the Government was strengthening its international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, especially with the Agency and countries expert in nuclear science, technology and industry. Vietnam commended the Agency on its efforts to support countries which were introducing or restarting a nuclear power programme.

50. Vietnam attached great importance to the implementation of its cooperation programme with the Agency in the fields of nuclear safety and security, safeguards and technical cooperation. The programme had achieved productive results in the training of human resources, the improvement of the national infrastructure for nuclear power and the increased use of radiation applications in many socio-economic spheres. All Vietnam's technical cooperation projects in the 2009–2011 cycle, including three projects related to nuclear power, were going well. On 28 April 2010, the Bhabhatron II therapy unit donated by the Government of India through the PACT programme had been inaugurated at the Can Tho Oncology Hospital in the south of Vietnam.

51. Nuclear energy played an increasingly important role in the modern world in ensuring security of energy supplies, environmental protection and sustainable development. However, it also posed great challenges, including national infrastructure development, nuclear safety and security and non-proliferation. Vietnam had fulfilled its obligations to the Agency and participated in international initiatives for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy. It had participated in the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, held in Paris in March 2010, and the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, DC, in April 2010. Vietnam had also decided to accede to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and had declared its support for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in March 2010. Vietnam also continued to cooperate with the Agency, the United States and the Russian Federation in implementing the full core conversion of the Dalat nuclear research reactor from HEU to LEU and cooperated with the Agency, the European Union and other countries on a number of projects related to safety and security.

52. In conclusion, he commended all the staff of the Agency for their dedicated and effective work and reaffirmed Vietnam's full support for the activities of the Agency in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity.

53. Mr LUMBANGA (Tanzania) reaffirmed his country's unwavering support for the Agency's dual function of ensuring the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Those two missions were fundamental and went hand in hand.

54. Under the various relevant multilateral agreements, safeguards agreements, conventions and treaties to which it was party, Tanzania had been cooperating on various programmes to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology and to ensure security and safety. In addition, it had been supporting nuclear non-proliferation and meeting its safeguards obligations, and it had been contributing its full share of the Agency's Regular Budget and of the TCF target.

55. His country was grateful to the Agency for all the support it had been given, in particular via the technical cooperation programme through the successful implementation of national and regional projects. Tanzania had benefited specifically in the spheres of health, agriculture, water resource management, safety, security, and the building of capacities and of regulatory infrastructure.

56. With a view to consolidating the achievements made so far under Agency technical cooperation, Tanzania had submitted a new Country Programme Note. That Note emphasized the national poverty eradication strategy, which not only was the main thrust of national development objectives but also contributed to attainment of the MDGs. The programmes in the new cycle focused on end-user oriented activities with visible socio-economic impact and, at the same time, addressed broader national, rather than institutional, needs. They included activities that promoted the utilization of technologies to ensure food security by, for example, reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing water resource management.

57. Tanzania commended the Agency's decision to focus the 2010 Scientific Forum on the topic of cancer in developing countries. The number of reported cancer cases in Tanzania was approximately 35 000 per year. The diagnostic and treatment capacity of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, the only cancer centre in the country, was still inadequate and only a small proportion of cases could be dealt with there.

58. In that context, Tanzania was grateful for the Agency's efforts under PACT to strengthen the capacity of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, thereby making Tanzania a model for cancer therapy in Africa. It was also grateful to the Agency for establishing radiotherapy services and a radioimmunoassay laboratory, which were very important in the early detection of cancer. Support for further cancer centres in the country would increase early detection capabilities and ensure greater access to life-saving treatment for those cases diagnosed.

59. The energy and mining sectors were critical to Tanzania's economy and to poverty eradication. He expressed his country's gratitude for the support given thus far by the Agency, through regional projects and expert services, in developing regulations for the mining and milling of radioactive ores, including uranium. Tanzania would continue to work closely with the Agency to prepare an appropriate legal framework to ensure that uranium exploitation was conducted according to Agency standards. Also, it requested technical assistance in the development and utilization of capabilities to assess radiological safety in mines with respect to technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material and pollution.

60. Tanzania generated energy from a variety of sources, such as natural gas, coal, hydropower, solar and biomass. It had one of the world's lowest per capita electricity consumptions, largely due to the high cost of generation. Nuclear electricity generation was now being given priority for inclusion in the national energy mix. Like other developing Member States, Tanzania was interested in having a sustainable nuclear power sector and sought Agency support in the development and deployment of a safe and economically viable small or medium-size reactor.

61. Tanzania had been active in dealing with illicit trafficking in nuclear and radiological material. It acknowledged the Agency's role in assisting Member States to establish and maintain effective nuclear security through capacity-building and human resource management, and to implement the relevant legal instruments for international nuclear security and safety. Tanzania would continue to cooperate with the Agency and other Member States in putting in place systems for emergency response, notification, licensing, import and export, entry point control, inspection, and enforcement of the radiation safety and security of nuclear and radioactive sources.

62. Tanzania would continue to meet its financial commitments to the Agency and its obligations under the various agreements to which it was party. Also, it was committed to establishing an adequate legal framework to govern the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

63. Tanzania believed that the challenges facing the Agency were not insurmountable provided Member States and other key stakeholders worked together in a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation.

Mr Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia), President, took the Chair.

64. Mr WIN (Myanmar) expressed his country's appreciation to the Director General and his staff for the activities carried out during the past year in fulfilment of the Agency's mandate.

65. The Annual Report for 2009 offered a comprehensive review of the Agency's continued efforts during the past year in the areas of nuclear power, nuclear fuel cycle and materials, nuclear science, capacity-building, nuclear knowledge management, food and agriculture, human health, water resources, the environment, radiation technology, radioisotope production, the safety of nuclear installations, radiation and transport safety, radioactive waste management, nuclear security, technical cooperation and the verification of compliance with nuclear non-proliferation undertakings.

66. The use of coal and other fossil fuels for electricity generation had given rise to concerns about global warming. Nuclear power, on the other hand, was becoming an important contributor to meeting carbon emission limits and addressing climate change problems. Myanmar supported the Agency's activities to assist Member States in launching nuclear power programmes, to increase public awareness about nuclear power, and to enhance States' capacities to improve nuclear power plant operating performance, life cycle management, human performance and quality assurance, as well as to develop innovative nuclear technology systems.

67. The Agency would continue to play a vital role in promoting prosperity and combating climate change by helping Member States to build the necessary infrastructure for the safe, secure and

peaceful use of nuclear energy, and also in improving human welfare around the world through the use of nuclear technology for food, medicine and safe drinking water.

68. The Agency's technical assistance programme offered important benefits to Member States and made a fundamental contribution to sustainable development in various economic sectors in developing countries. Myanmar was grateful for the Agency's role in the transfer of nuclear science and technology and in promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy under the three pillars of its mandate.

69. Through the joint FAO/IAEA programme, the Agency was helping developing countries to implement modern plant breeding programmes using radiation-induced mutation and efficiency-enhancing molecular technologies. Nuclear techniques were being used to enhance crop biodiversity and adaptability, improving the yield and quality of various crop mutants. The Agency was also assisting Member States in the application of nuclear technology to improve livestock productivity and health. The programme was therefore contributing to environmentally sustainable food security in those countries.

70. With Agency assistance, capacities in the developing countries had been enhanced with regard to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of health problems by applying nuclear technology within the framework of quality assurance. In particular, PACT and the WHO-IAEA joint programme on cancer control were saving the lives of many cancer patients in developing countries through radiotherapy. Training opportunities in cancer control had increased through the PACT regional cancer training networks and the Agency's Virtual University for Cancer Control.

71. In Myanmar, the Agency's technical cooperation projects had been of particular significance in helping to achieve the national development objectives. Current priority areas were agriculture, livestock production and health, human health, strengthening of national capacity in nuclear science and technology, radiation safety, water resource management and industrial applications of radioisotopes.

72. Myanmar had ten active projects in the 2009–2011 technical cooperation programme, five of which were in the field of food and agriculture, two in human health, and three in nuclear science and technology. In addition, Myanmar had participated in many regional and interregional projects and had taken part in activities under the RCA.

73. Myanmar was a developing country with limited infrastructure, expertise and human resources in nuclear science and technology applications. Efforts were being made to strengthen the national infrastructure for the promotion of such applications for peaceful developmental purposes and Myanmar was interested in Agency assistance in capacity-building, developing skilled and well-trained human resources and establishing the required infrastructure.

74. His Government acknowledged the support given by the Agency to Member States in the various areas of radiation safety, the development of safety standards and safety guides, the setting up of nuclear safety knowledge networks and strengthening worldwide nuclear and radiological, transport and waste safety by means of international safety instruments.

75. He reiterated Myanmar's support for the Agency's efforts to improve global nuclear security by promoting education in that regard and strengthening measures for the detection of illicit nuclear trafficking, responding to nuclear security incidents, upgrading the physical protection of nuclear facilities, quality control of nuclear security equipment, and facilitating and implementing international nuclear security instruments in Member States.

76. Myanmar firmly supported global nuclear non-proliferation and a nuclear-weapon-free world. It had been party to the NPT since December 1992, signed an SQP pursuant to the NPT in 1995, the

CTBT in 1996 and, as a member of ASEAN, had also acceded to the SEANWZ Treaty, which had entered into force in 1997.

77. At the same time, Myanmar supported the legitimate right of every State to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It believed in the principles of non-politicization of the NPT and non-discrimination against developing countries in the implementation of the NPT.

78. Myanmar had been a steadfast contributor to regional peace and stability in collaboration with other ASEAN Member States. In the past year there had been unfounded allegations reported in the international media that Myanmar was attempting to develop a nuclear weapons programme. He reaffirmed that the applications of nuclear science and technology in Myanmar were for peaceful developmental purposes only and that Myanmar would never engage in activities related to the production and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

79. In conclusion, he thanked the Agency on behalf of his Government for its dedicated efforts and excellent contributions to the promotion of safe, secure and peaceful uses of atomic energy. He reiterated Myanmar's firm support for the activities carried out by the Agency in fulfilment of its mandate.

80. Ms PHETCHARATANA (Thailand) expressed appreciation for the Agency's contribution to the advancement of nuclear science and technology, as well as applications of nuclear techniques, in a number of areas for the benefit of all sectors of society. Also, Thailand recognized the Agency's important task in verifying the peaceful nature of nuclear activities undertaken by States party to the NPT. Agency safeguards were a vital tool for ensuring the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

81. The global community's reliance on the Agency in those two interrelated aspects had been reaffirmed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, held in New York. In addition, it was worth noting that support had been widely expressed at that Conference for equipping the Agency with adequate resources for its extensive responsibilities.

82. With only five years to go until the 2015 deadline for achievement of the MDGs, many countries were intensifying their efforts to accelerate progress to that end. Thailand recognized the significant contribution of the Agency's technical cooperation programme to socio-economic development in Member States, particularly in the areas of electricity generation, medicine and health, food and agriculture, environmental protection, water resources management and industry, and thus also to attainment of the MDGs. Thailand had already pledged 100% of its share of the TCF target for 2011.

83. Thailand had long enjoyed close cooperation with the Agency in the area of nuclear applications. Under the technical cooperation programme, at both the bilateral and the regional level, her country had improved its capacity-building and its technological expertise, especially in the spheres of medicine and agriculture. It now had several laboratories for radiodiagnosis and radiotherapy, and was home to the South East Asia regional reference laboratory for foot-and-mouth disease.

84. Her delegation commended the Director General's initiative to make cancer in developing countries the subject of the 2010 Scientific Forum. Cancer was responsible for more deaths globally than tuberculosis, HIV and malaria combined. In the developing world, early diagnosis and effective treatment of cancer through radiotherapy needed to be improved in order to help save more lives. Thailand therefore supported PACT, which made a great contribution to enhancing cancer care capacity and services in developing countries in an integrated and sustainable manner. Thailand looked forward to continuing its cancer-related technical cooperation activities in the years to come.

85. Thailand was ready to share its long experience in radiation medicine and cancer treatment with other Member States. It was willing to collaborate with the Agency in hosting relevant technical training sessions for other developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Also, it could work with the Agency and WHO in establishing cancer facilities in other countries in the region.

86. Thailand had moved ahead regarding implementation of its national power development plan, which included 5000 MW of nuclear power, as well as a nuclear power infrastructure establishment plan. In that context, she expressed her Government's appreciation to the Agency for providing technical assistance through an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review. The Ministry of Energy anticipated finalizing the self-evaluation report by the end of 2010 for submission to the National Energy Policy Council and the cabinet in early 2011 for consideration as to whether Thailand would embark on its nuclear power development project.

87. The Agency continued to be a cornerstone for the verification and non-diversion of peaceful nuclear activities. As a fundamental pillar of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, it had helped to create an environment conducive to cooperation and confidence-building.

88. Thailand supported the strengthening of Agency safeguards through the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. The confidence they built contributed, in turn, to the Agency's work in promoting peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology.

89. Strengthening nuclear safety and security was another key element of the Agency's work to which the international community attached great importance. With growing interest in nuclear power and ever-wider use of nuclear technology, there was a need for continued vigilance in both areas. Although safety and security were primarily national responsibilities, Thailand was aware that they would not be achieved in a fully comprehensive, integrated and sustainable manner without the technical support of the Agency. Thailand therefore commended the Agency's active role in assisting Member States in that regard.

90. The Nuclear Security Summit, held in Washington, DC, in 2010, had highlighted the Agency's role in nuclear security. The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan were recognized as making a significant contribution to global nuclear security norm building. Thailand was convinced that the Agency should continue to play a central role in strengthening global nuclear security through its technical cooperation activities.

91. International cooperative frameworks played a vital role in improving global nuclear security and in addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism, and that was another area in which the Agency's technical expertise was useful. For its part, Thailand had recently joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

92. At the regional level, Thailand was working closely with other ASEAN Member States within the framework of the Treaty on the SEANWFZ Treaty to ensure that the region could benefit from nuclear technology while promoting confidence about the peaceful nature of nuclear activities in the region. At the SEANWFZ Commission meeting held in Hanoi in July 2010, the ASEAN Member States had agreed to forge cooperation with other nuclear-weapon-free zones in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and also to increase cooperation with the Agency in relevant capacity-building programmes. In addition, Thailand was working towards enhancing transparency regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in the region through the exchange of information on nuclear activities among ASEAN countries, and towards promoting cooperation amongst nuclear regulators in the region to strengthen exchanges of best practices on national regulations. Such regional initiatives would complement the work of the Agency.

93. The three pillars of the Agency's work remained relevant to current international security and socio-economic development. The Agency had worked to bring the benefits of nuclear technology to Member States while minimizing the risks. The Agency's effort to reinforce technical cooperation activities and promote close partnership with other relevant international organizations was commendable and ensured that the benefits of nuclear technology were having an ever-increasing impact.

94. In conclusion, she reiterated Thailand's full support and confidence in the work of the Agency under the able leadership of its Director General, Yukiya Amano.

95. Mr TOUKAN (Jordan) said his country was aware of the importance of nuclear energy and its applications and was convinced that it helped to achieve socio-economic development and protect the environment. In cooperation with the Agency over many years, Jordan had expanded its various peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the development of infrastructure, scientific and educational capacity-building, and benefits in the fields of health, medical treatment, cancer control and food security. It had also made strenuous efforts to make nuclear energy an alternative available to all Member States through its participation in various Agency activities.

96. Convinced that nuclear energy was of strategic importance in overcoming the shortfall in natural resources required for sustainable energy, water desalination and to combat climate change, Jordan was giving priority in its nuclear programme to major projects in support of its socio-economic development and to meet its future energy and water needs.

97. Under the road map for implementation of its national nuclear energy strategy, Jordan had taken a number of well-planned and transparent steps to contract out to companies worldwide studies relating to the establishment of a nuclear power plant in the country. Currently, studies were under way to identify the most suitable site, including the investigation of geological, seismic and environmental aspects.

98. As regards identification of the right nuclear technology, the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission had worked together with some foreign consulting companies to consider seven bids based on various nuclear reactor technologies. The fundamental criteria had been the safest nuclear power reactors and nuclear fuel cycles based on tried and tested third-generation power reactors that met the highest international standards of nuclear safety and security. After comprehensive evaluation, three bids put forward by three foreign companies had been selected from which would be chosen the most appropriate technology and the strategic partner to become a potential investor in and operator of the Jordanian nuclear power plant in the near future.

99. Jordan had major uranium ore resources; indeed, that was one of the pillars supporting the Jordanian nuclear programme and of clear value for Jordanian self-reliance in nuclear power generation. At the beginning of the year, Jordan had signed an agreement with the French AREVA company for uranium mining in the central region of the country where the uranium ore reserves were estimated to be approximately 65 000 tons. In addition, Jordan was cooperating with other foreign companies on exploration activities and geophysical studies in other areas of the country with a view to identifying potential resources of other nuclear ores, like thorium and zirconium.

100. Jordan, which attached great importance to professional capacity-building in the field of nuclear power plant safety and security, had established a university course in nuclear engineering at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. In that regard, the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission and the University had signed a contract with China for the purchase of modern information technology for the study of nuclear engineering. The Atomic Energy Commission had also signed a contract with the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute and Daewoo Engineering and Construction to build a 5 MW nuclear research reactor on the campus to raise the level of research at the University.

101. A memorandum of understanding had been signed with the French Government for the creation of a centre of excellence in Jordan specializing in nuclear energy and in major projects to ensure development of the human resources required for implementation of the Jordanian nuclear programme, and also to provide training services at the regional level.

102. In the framework of bilateral cooperation, Jordan had signed nuclear cooperation agreements with a number of States in order to benefit from their nuclear expertise, including France, China, South Korea, Canada, Russia, the United Kingdom, Spain, Argentina and most recently Japan. It expected to conclude other such cooperation agreements later in the year with the Czech Republic, Romania and Italy, and was still negotiating with other States, such as the United States of America.

103. The Agency provided assistance through its technical cooperation programme, which served the priorities of Member States by focusing on their special development needs in the context of national, regional and interregional projects. Jordan had participated in many such projects, including one to study the economic and technical feasibility of a nuclear power and sea water desalination plant, and another to assess, on a laboratory and pilot scale, the potential of an extraction technique for recovering yellowcake from phosphoric acid, now to be implemented on a large scale. There were two technical cooperation projects currently under way in that field, one on uranium exploration and the other on uranium extraction. Other important technical cooperation projects included the SESAME project, considered a centre of excellence for scientific research in the Middle East, which had first opened in 2008. With installation of equipment for the synchrotron accelerator and also of the radiation lines now being finalized, the start of operation was anticipated in 2013.

104. Jordan welcomed the proposals from Member States and the Director General relating to the establishment of a mechanism for assured nuclear fuel supply. It was appropriate to start constructive and substantive dialogue in that regard to help States implement sustainable civil nuclear programmes and broaden the options for an assured nuclear fuel supply covering the complete nuclear fuel cycle, including the supply of last resort. Jordan therefore encouraged positive discussion of those proposals and emphasized the need for an in-depth study of all the relevant legal, political and technical implications.

105. Jordan had reaffirmed its resolve to expand its options by buying nuclear fuel from global markets without prejudice to its right under Article IV of the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty. Also, Jordan urged all parties to the NPT to participate in the exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

106. Jordan attached great importance to the safeguards regime and considered it to be a basic element of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to limit nuclear energy to peaceful applications for the benefit of States in compliance with their obligations under the NPT. For its part, Jordan had signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency and an additional protocol thereto to strengthen the comprehensive safeguards regime.

107. Jordan was firmly convinced that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction posed a threat to global peace and security and especially to stability in the Middle East region, which continued to suffer from failure to implement resolutions related to ridding it of nuclear weapons.

108. Jordan stressed the need for Israel to accede to the NPT and to place all its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards, thereby achieving universality of the Treaty in the region. That would not only pave the way for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and help in the achievement of international peace and security, but also act as an incentive to States of the region to

focus on socio-economic development instead of an arms race, which hindered development and confidence-building and exacerbated tensions.

109. In that connection, Jordan welcomed the importance attached in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to Israel acceding to the Treaty and subjecting all its nuclear installations to Agency comprehensive safeguards and, in particular, to the convening of a conference in 2012 attended by all the States of the Middle East to participate in dialogue aimed at making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

110. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his country's confidence in the effective role performed by the Agency in various fields of the peaceful use of nuclear technology and its capacity to provide technical assistance to contribute to nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr Berdennikov (Russian Federation) took the Chair.

111. Mr STACEY MORENO (Ecuador) said that his country firmly believed in the universalization of the non-proliferation regime and so welcomed the Kingdom of Swaziland as a member of the Agency. He underlined the inalienable right of all States party to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the same time, that right brought with it certain obligations that needed to be met in full and transparently.

112. The advances in nuclear technology in recent decades had helped to reduce poverty and improve the conditions of life and safety of citizens. Convinced that the multilateral mechanisms should address the new international challenges and threats, Ecuador believed that the principles guiding the Agency should be respected and not used for political purposes or to promote geopolitical confrontation.

113. Noting that the Ecuadorian Constitution prohibited the development, production, possession, sale, import, transport, supply and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, he said that a global culture of confidence needed to be developed to banish the threats posed by the malicious use of nuclear energy. People should work together so that nuclear technology served the causes of development in the areas of energy, food, water resources management, medicine, nutrition, agriculture and protection of the environment. Ecuador believed the Agency to be the most appropriate forum for achieving those objectives.

114. Since the creation of the UN system, Ecuador had been a tireless advocate of peace and universal disarmament and the non-use and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Belonging to the world's first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone, it condemned any non-peaceful nuclear initiatives. The example set by Latin America could be followed in other parts of the world, particularly the Middle East. Ecuador was in favour of diplomatic dialogue to find consensual solutions to international conflicts and rejected the adoption of unilateral coercive measures outside the UN system and international law.

115. Ecuador underlined the importance of the conclusions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Emphasis had been placed by the Conference on the entry into force of the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. An action plan had been adopted for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the importance of concluding nuclear-weapon-free zones along the lines of existing models like the Tlatelolco Treaty had been stressed. It had been recognized that cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace and prosperity throughout the world was one of the core objectives enshrined in the Agency's Statute.

116. Nuclear security should be subject to strict standards observed by all States without exception. Ecuador acknowledged the support given to it in that field by the Agency and reaffirmed that it was the responsibility of all to ensure control over the use of nuclear technology.

117. There was a need for an international regime for the safe transport of radioactive material that covered liability for damage to human health and the environment and for economic loss. A crucial aspect in that regard was clear and transparent communication among States about shipments, especially by sea.

118. Ecuador, recognizing the Agency as the competent authority to verify and ensure compliance with safeguards agreements and additional protocols, highlighted the importance of universal application, without exception, of the Agency's safeguards system. However, efforts being made to that end by the Agency should be accompanied by an appropriate international cooperation programme for development, in particular for the least well-off countries.

119. Progress in science in the past decades had meant that the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, created originally for non-peaceful purposes, were constantly increasing. He urged the Secretariat to redouble its efforts with respect to technical cooperation for the benefit of the global community.

120. Ecuador was grateful to the Agency for its support in the implementation of projects contributing to its sustainable socio-economic growth. Ecuador's Country Programme Framework for 2010–2015 represented a road map for its growing participation in the benefits of nuclear energy, enabling more technical assistance in areas identified as having a high priority.

121. His country was also grateful for efforts to implement projects under ARCAL, which was currently celebrating its 25th anniversary.

122. Ecuador considered that changing the energy mix, by reducing the use of fossil fuels and including cleaner energy sources such as nuclear energy, would help protect the environment and combat climate change. It had therefore launched the Yasuni-ITT (Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini) initiative, proposed by the Ecuadorian President, to refrain indefinitely from exploiting the oil reserves, estimated at 846 million barrels, lying in the Ecuadorian Amazon forest. The region was also home to indigenous populations living in voluntary isolation and had one of the highest biodiversity levels in the world. Ecuador invited the international community to join that initiative for sustainable development and to reduce carbon emissions by contributing at least \$3.6 billion, equivalent to 50% of the revenues Ecuador would receive if it opted for exploiting the oil, through a trust fund administered by the UNDP.

123. Finally, he thanked GRULAC for its support for Ecuador's membership of the Board of Governors for the coming period.

124. Mr AL-HAMMADI (Qatar) underlined his country's firm support for the Agency in implementation of its significant and expanding task with respect to the utilization of nuclear energy and the application of up-to-date nuclear techniques for the benefit of humankind.

125. The State of Qatar had joined the Agency in 1976 because it had been convinced of the Agency's important role in transferring the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, through its numerous scientific and technical programmes, for the achievement of progress and prosperity. The Agency's other main role was to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and, in that regard, he expressed Qatar's concern about the serious shortcoming in the effectiveness of the current safeguards system posed by the non-application of comprehensive safeguards in States that had not acceded to the NPT.

126. Since the adoption by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference of the Resolution on the Middle East there had been no tangible progress as regards implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime or nuclear disarmament in the Middle East. Whereas the Arab States had taken a unified stance and had acceded to the NPT, Israel remained the only State outside the regime, claiming that the international measures to persuade it to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to place its military nuclear installations under comprehensive safeguards were illegal. That was a serious shortcoming that threatened regional and international peace and security.

127. The current session of the General Conference was being held in the wake of the most recent NPT Review Conference, which had agreed to hold a conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in 2012 attended by all States of the Middle East and other States concerned. There was cause for optimism that, provided the participating States — particularly the nuclear States — demonstrated the serious will to do so, the process of ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons could get under way. The Agency had been assigned a central role in that it had been asked to prepare background documentation for the conference, and he hoped it would do so on the basis of international resolutions, objectively and in a just and balanced way.

128. In recent years, a number of States — especially in the Middle East — had shown an interest in utilizing nuclear technology for the purpose of energy generation. It was important that all States taking that path accede to the relevant international instruments so as to ensure the safety and security of installations and avoid the hazards of contamination.

129. The State of Qatar valued the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which helped States to develop their human and technical capabilities in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. Qatar, which hoped to increase the number of projects it was implementing with the Agency, had recently prepared its Country Programme Framework in which it had defined its future needs.

130. Qatar was pleased with the special efforts that had been made by Director General Amano in his first year of office to place particular emphasis on cancer therapy in the developing States.

131. In conclusion, he said Qatar looked forward to continued benefits from atomic energy in such spheres as health and nutrition, and to the end of the threat of destructive nuclear wars.

132. Mr TODOROV (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that his country had joined all relevant instruments so as to be in line with international efforts to strengthen the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities and the non-proliferation regime. The threat of nuclear terrorism and other security issues merited special attention and the strong commitment of all countries and their close cooperation was indispensable in that regard.

133. In view of his country's ambition to join the European Union it had, over the past decade, developed and implemented a wide range of measures to strengthen its nuclear regulatory framework and infrastructure. Effective instruments had been put in place to protect its border against illicit trafficking in radioactive and nuclear materials. It would continue to build capacity in order to achieve further improvements regarding the physical protection of nuclear applications, border control management and the regulatory infrastructure.

134. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a strong supporter of the Agency's global role in the domain of the peaceful use of nuclear applications and welcomed its readiness to develop initiatives proposed by its Member States. In particular, his country applauded the stepping up of Agency activities in the area of agricultural and food safety within the European region. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been among the first countries in the region to initiate and successfully implement projects having a positive impact on crop breeding and good agricultural

practices, including quality and food safety, under its national strategy for agriculture and rural development.

135. Expressing appreciation for the Agency's technical cooperation programme, he said that the envisioned Country Programme Framework for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would be implemented by means of national and regional projects. The driving force would be the progress in existing programmes to address the country's priority development sectors.

136. Project proposals had already been submitted for the 2012–2013 cycle and were undergoing evaluation. The projects selected were in full compliance with the new Country Programme Framework for 2012–2015, which was about to be signed, and focused on building capacities in the areas of human health, food safety, cultural heritage protection and knowledge management.

137. The application of nuclear technologies in the field of medicine was extremely important for improving health services and his Government was committed to projects in that field.

138. His country appreciated the Agency's activities aimed at strengthening regional cooperation. It participated extensively in regional and interregional technical cooperation as a complement to its national activities. It contributed actively to the technical cooperation programme by hosting workshops and fellowships and offering expertise to other Member States in the areas of human health, food safety and veterinary medicine.

139. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was happy to host foreign participants in training programmes in its institutions and for its institutions to become centres of excellence. It had expressed explicit interest in hosting Agency Radiation Safety Infrastructure Appraisal missions, Quality Assurance Team for Radiation Oncology audits, and security-related missions. It would continue to be an active partner in helping to ensure the effectiveness of regional cooperation.

140. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supported the continuation of Agency activities focused on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of society as a whole.

141. Ms MUTANDIRO (Zimbabwe) welcomed Swaziland's membership of the Agency, which brought the number of African Member States to over 40 and would strengthen cooperative synergies in AFRA subregional programmes for southern Africa.

142. For developing countries, the technical cooperation programme remained the most important means of transferring nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, with nuclear applications playing a critical role in improving socio-economic conditions. The Agency's assistance in such areas as agricultural productivity, human health, water management and environmental protection had contributed significantly towards achievement of the MDGs. Her country called for the strengthening of the Agency's promotional activities, in particular by ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the technical cooperation programme and the provision of sufficient, assured and predictable resources for it.

143. Over the years, a strong partnership had evolved between Zimbabwe and the Agency, with significant achievements in such areas as human and animal health, agricultural production, water resources development, industrial applications, radiation safety and capacity-building. Zimbabwe was especially grateful for the technical support extended to its radiation protection agency in strengthening the national safety regulatory infrastructure. Her country attached priority to following the recommendations made by the Agency during its advisory mission to Zimbabwe the preceding year, and was aware of the need to strengthen further the radiation protection agency through building capacity for the effective control of radioactive sources. Although nuclear safety and security were national responsibilities, the Agency played a fundamental role in developing safety standards and nuclear security guidelines and conventions based on best practices. Zimbabwe welcomed the

Agency's commitment to promoting high levels of nuclear safety by strengthening international cooperation, providing review services to Member States and supporting knowledge networks and training.

144. Although safety and security considerations were important in the use of nuclear energy, they should not be used as a pretext to prevent the transfer of nuclear technologies to developing countries for peaceful purposes. As Zimbabwe looked into future development strategies, the relevant authorities followed keenly all developments in nuclear research, technologies and applications. Consequently, future Country Programme Frameworks would provide for enhanced cooperation in the fields of energy planning, soil and water management, food safety, livestock production, pest control, nuclear medicine and cancer control. Zimbabwe appreciated the Agency's assistance through AFRA projects on isotope hydrology, PACT and PATTEC.

145. Her country applauded the Director General's decision to attach priority in 2010 to global awareness of the challenges of cancer control in developing countries — an initiative that was already bearing fruit at the highest political levels. Zimbabwe hoped that all efforts in that regard, including the Scientific Forum being held alongside the General Conference, would lead to the development of comprehensive international strategies and programmes to combat the disease. International collaboration on measures to address the high costs of cancer treatment equipment needed to be strengthened and Zimbabwe welcomed the Agency's efforts to engage with the equipment manufacturers.

146. As a beneficiary of Agency assistance through PACT, her country commended that programme's invaluable contribution to effective cancer control. However, its scope needed to be broadened in order to benefit all developing countries, particularly those lacking the most basic infrastructure. Given the shortage of skills in developing countries in that field, Zimbabwe welcomed the establishment of the virtual university aimed at building radiation medicine capacities and she called on international partners to increase their financial support to enable the Agency to help more Member States cope with the cancer pandemic and make cancer therapy accessible to all those in need.

147. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Zimbabwe had been privileged to chair a committee on nuclear disarmament. Although the action plan on nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear energy and the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East had not met its expectations, Zimbabwe welcomed the consensus reached thereon and supported international efforts towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. As a State party to the Pelindaba Treaty, Zimbabwe strongly believed that the creation of such zones was a positive step towards the goal of global nuclear disarmament. It welcomed the decision to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and urged all parties concerned to work towards creating an environment conducive to the holding of the conference. The NPT was the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and its universality should be achieved as a matter of urgency.

148. With regard to assurance of nuclear fuel supply, in the absence of comprehensive discussions addressing the many concerns expressed by Member States related to the far-reaching political, economic, legal, technical and security aspects, Zimbabwe felt that any decision on that issue would be premature. Proliferation concerns should not be used to restrict the inalienable right of all States to develop and research all aspects of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes in conformity with their respective safeguards obligations.

149. Mr DONÁ (Sovereign Order of Malta) said that humanity was facing critical challenges related to maintaining and enhancing its continued prosperity within the context of ever-increasing demands

being placed on sustainable food production, health and security. The availability and use of energy resources that would foster sustainable development and decrease greenhouse gas emissions was of critical importance. In that regard, the Agency was well placed to assist Member States in meeting those challenges.

150. The human race was a single family working together. There was a need to reinvigorate that sentiment through multilateralism marked by dialogue and honest and responsible cooperation on the part of all members of the international community. Every State should pursue the development and well-being of all nations and peoples, and not national power, whether economic or military. The essential points of reference were the dignity and fundamental rights of the human being.

151. The work of the Agency in fulfilment of its triple mandate — technology, safety and verification — should always be aimed at uniting efforts towards safety, security, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The Sovereign Order of Malta drew particular attention to the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology, respect for the environment and mindfulness of the most disadvantaged populations. Such a common commitment could lead not only to an equitable distribution of the earth's resources but, above all, to the building, as set down in Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of a "social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized".

152. Nuclear technology could yield many positive fruits in such vital fields for human beings as food security and medicine. The work being carried out by the Agency in that regard, and in particular through PACT, was very significant for Sovereign Order of Malta specialists working worldwide.

153. The Order was interested in a collaborative arrangement with the Agency aimed at the development of human resources through capacity-building and action plans for low- and middle-income countries. Existing cooperation included the facilitation of training in nuclear medicine, the promotion of related fellowships, and the provision of experts in support of joint cancer management initiatives. The Order already had a number of cooperation agreements in place with States, international organizations (e.g. FAO, IOM, UNHCR), and with the European Commission, and its worldwide relief service, Malteser International, cooperated closely with WHO.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.