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President: Mr ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

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¹ GC(54)/16.

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Abbreviations used in this record:

AAEA	Arab Atomic Energy Agency
ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARASIA	Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CWC	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EU	European Union
HEU	high-enriched uranium
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IPEN	Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy
LDC	least developed country
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
New START	New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OAS	Organization of American States

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
SIT	sterile insect technique
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WHO	World Health Organization

– **Restoration of voting rights**
(GC(54)/INF/12)

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee that morning had considered a request for the restoration of voting rights under Article XIX.A of the Statute from Uzbekistan, contained in document GC(54)/INF/12. The Committee had recommended, without a vote, that Uzbekistan's voting rights be restored during the current session of the Conference and until the end of the payment plan on the understanding that Uzbekistan had entered into a payment plan agreement with the Agency to pay its Regular Budget arrears and that the Secretariat would report annually on the status of the payment plan. He took it that the Conference accepted that recommendation of the General Committee.

2. It was so decided.

22. Examination of delegates' credentials
(GC(54)/22)

3. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had also met that morning as a credentials committee to examine the credentials of all delegates, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure. Since that meeting, the Secretariat had received credentials in due form for the delegates from Croatia, Estonia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique, Qatar and the United Republic of Tanzania, and other communications for the delegate from Chad.

4. After discussion, the Committee had recommended adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of its report (GC(54)/22), with the reservations and positions expressed therein.

5. Mr TEHRANI (Iran), said that his country's acceptance of the Committee's recommendation did not in any way constitute recognition of the Israeli regime.

6. Mr SIRRY (Egypt), Mr QUEISI (Jordan) and Ms FEROUKHI (Algeria) said their acceptance of the Committee's recommendation did not imply recognition of Israel's borders.

7. The PRESIDENT said he took it that with those reservations the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of document GC(54)/22.

8. It was so decided.

8. Election of Members to the Board of Governors (GC(54)/5 and 19)

9. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the General Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot was held. Balloting would take place only with respect to those areas for which there was no agreed slate. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the General Conference's time.

10. However, Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, would need to be suspended in respect of the areas for which no secret ballot was to be held. If there was no objection, he would proceed with the election of Members to the Board of Governors in the manner outlined.

11. It was so agreed.

12. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document GC(54)/5, containing the designations of Members of the Agency which the Board of Governors had made to serve on the Board from the end of the 54th session of the Conference until the end of the 55th session in 2011.

13. Recalling that, under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, the presiding officer must indicate to the General Conference those elective places on the Board which must be filled, he referred the Conference to document GC(54)/19, paragraph 2 of which indicated, for each of the geographical areas, the number of Member States which must be elected so as to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A. of the Statute.

14. There were 11 seats to be filled: 3 for Latin America, 2 for Western Europe, 1 for Eastern Europe, 2 for Africa, 1 for the Middle East and South Asia, 1 for South East Asia and the Pacific and 1 — the so-called floating seat — which it was the turn of a Member State from the Middle East and South Asia to fill.

15. Paragraph 3 of that document contained a list of 24 Member States which had either been designated by the Board of Governors the previous June for membership of the Board pursuant to Article VI.A.1 of the Statute or elected by the General Conference in 2009 in accordance with Article VI.A.2 of the Statute and which would therefore be serving on the Board during the year 2010–2011.

16. In order to facilitate the election, delegates had been furnished with a note showing the results of consultations among the area groups regarding their candidates for the vacant seats as far as they were known. The note was purely informal in character and provided information insofar as it had been made available to him and to the Secretariat.

17. Agreement had been reached in respect of all areas listed in Article VI except for Africa, thus necessitating balloting to fill two vacancies in the area of Africa.

18. He suggested first taking up the areas in respect of which there was agreement and formally electing Members for those areas by suspending Rule 79 to dispense with the need to hold a ballot.

19. It was so agreed.

20. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Brazil, Chile and Ecuador to the three vacant seats for Latin America.
21. Brazil, Chile and Ecuador were duly elected.
22. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Belgium and Portugal to the two vacant seats for Western Europe.
23. Belgium and Portugal were duly elected.
24. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the Czech Republic to the one vacant seat for Eastern Europe.
25. The Czech Republic was duly elected.
26. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the United Arab Emirates to the one vacant seat for the Middle East and South Asia.
27. The United Arab Emirates was duly elected.
28. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Singapore to the one vacant seat for South East Asia and the Pacific.
29. Singapore was duly elected.
30. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Jordan to the floating seat, which it was the turn of a Member from the Middle East and South Asia to fill.
31. Jordan was duly elected.
32. The PRESIDENT said that a ballot would be needed to fill the remaining vacancies, two fixed seats for Africa. As the election was to fill two elective places, Rule 81 of the Rules of Procedure applied. In addition, Rule 84 provided that there should be a single ballot in respect of all the elective places to be filled, and Rule 79 provided that the election of Members to the Board of Governors “shall be by secret ballot. There shall be no nominations.” The relevant Rules governing voting rights of Member States applied.
33. He invited the Conference to proceed to a vote by secret ballot for the two African seats, noting that in accordance with Rule 85 of the Rules of Procedure, the two outgoing Board members from the area of Africa, Burkina Faso and Egypt, were ineligible under Article VI.A.2 of the Statute for re-election, and votes for the previously elected or designated Members Cameroon, Kenya and South Africa, or for Members of the Agency which were not in the area of Africa, would also not be valid.
34. Mr CHAOUCH (Tunisia), supported by Mr TAJOURI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and Mr ELAMIN (Sudan), asked that the names of the four candidates of the African Group be read to the Conference so that delegations would know which countries were standing for office and which, such as Sudan, had withdrawn.
35. Mr FORO (Burkina Faso), Chair of the African Group, said the four candidates were Tunisia, Niger, Tanzania and Nigeria.
36. The PRESIDENT said he wished to respect the African Group’s choice of the four candidates and at the same time uphold Rule 79, which stated that there should be no nominations in elections to the Board. He therefore suggested that delegations choose from the four candidates proposed but noted that they were free to vote for any eligible State from Africa.
37. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

38. At the invitation of the President, Ms Endjärv (Estonia) and Ms Cáceres Escalante (Peru) acted as tellers.

39. The PRESIDENT announced the result of the ballot to the Conference.

40. In the election of Members to the two vacant seats for Africa, the result of the vote was as follows:

<u>Ballot papers returned:</u>	126
<u>Invalid votes:</u>	0
<u>Abstentions:</u>	3
<u>Valid votes:</u>	123
<u>Required majority:</u>	62

Votes obtained:

Tunisia:	79
Niger:	60
Tanzania:	56
Nigeria:	31

41. Having obtained the required majority, Tunisia was duly elected to one of the vacant seats for Africa.

42. The PRESIDENT noted that, as only one country had reached the required majority, a further seat on the Board of Governors for the African region still remained to be filled. He therefore invited the General Conference to proceed to a vote by secret ballot for the remaining vacant seat for Africa.

43. A vote was taken by secret ballot.

44. The PRESIDENT announced the result of the ballot to the Conference.

45. In the election of one Member to the remaining vacant seat for Africa, the result of the vote was as follows:

<u>Ballot papers returned:</u>	123
<u>Invalid votes:</u>	0
<u>Abstentions:</u>	6
<u>Valid votes:</u>	117
<u>Required majority:</u>	59

Votes obtained:

Niger:	63
Tanzania:	37
Nigeria:	17

46. Having obtained the required majority, Niger was duly elected to the remaining vacant seat for Africa.

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

47. Mr CURIA (Argentina) highlighted the growing resurgence of nuclear activities in his country over the preceding year, following the Government's announcement in 2006 that it would increase the share of nuclear power in its national energy mix, in a safe and sustainable way, within the framework of the non-proliferation regime. Construction of the Atucha II unit had entered its final phase; connection to the national grid was expected in 2011. The project, headed by the national nuclear power operator, involved various industries and private enterprises and had yielded valuable experience and specialized training that would facilitate further development of the national nuclear power programme. Preliminary steps had been taken to prolong the life of the Embalse nuclear power plant. The possibility of building further units was being studied — particularly Atucha III, the fourth Argentine nuclear power plant, for which parliamentary approval had already been given. The Government intended some 18%, or 6000 MW(e), of the 32 000 MW(e) of additional electricity generation planned for the next 20 years to come from five or six new nuclear plants. Construction work on a prototype Argentine-designed modular plant, known as CAREM, would shortly begin in the north of the country.

48. Argentina participated actively in international efforts to develop new-generation reactors and fuel cycles that would provide even higher levels of operational safety, substantially reduce radioactive waste generation and eliminate proliferation risks. For example, Argentina regularly contributed experts and extrabudgetary funds to INPRO. Work to resume gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment at the Pilcaniyeu Technological Complex was continuing, and preliminary studies of centrifuge and laser technology had been undertaken. Argentina's enrichment-related activities were intended to meet future demand for LEU for use in fuel elements for heavy water moderated natural uranium power reactors (an Argentine technology used successfully since 2001 with significant improvements in burnup and savings in fuel costs), in low-enriched fuel for domestic research and production reactors and possibly exported experimental reactors, and in the medium term in CAREM reactors.

49. In the field of uranium mining, there was intensified exploration of the country's geological potential, and environmental rehabilitation of previously mined sites was continuing, as was the industrial-scale production of heavy water at Arroyito, which would provide the 600 tonnes needed for the initial inventory at Atucha II.

50. Reaffirming its commitment to the international non-proliferation regime, in 2009 Argentina had completed the conversion of all research reactors to low-enriched fuel and the transfer of almost all remaining HEU to its country of origin, reducing the quantity held by Argentina to a minimum for laboratory use.

51. With regard to applications of nuclear technology, particularly for human health, the Government had increased its support for public nuclear medicine centres by providing them with the latest equipment. The centres undertook treatment and research, as well as providing training for staff from Argentina and other Latin American countries. In the face of the global uncertainty of molybdenum-99 supply, Argentina had not only continued to satisfy the demands of its domestic

market, but significantly stepped up its production to meet the needs of other countries in the region. A new research reactor of higher power and capacity was planned, and activities had also increased in the areas of power and research reactors, the fuel cycle, spent fuel and radioactive waste management, medical and industrial applications of nuclear technology, and basic scientific research related to nuclear activities. Specialized training was being provided with particular emphasis on nuclear reactors, the fuel cycle, radiochemistry and medical physics.

52. Argentina remained open to establishing and strengthening cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as evidenced by its continued involvement in bilateral and multilateral technical assistance and cooperation. Under the auspices of the Agency and ARCAL, it participated actively in the technical cooperation programme, hosting scientific courses, workshops and meetings; made experts available to provide training for fellowships and scientific visits; made regular extrabudgetary contributions to INPRO, to regional activities on seismic risks for nuclear facilities, and to ARCAL; and maintained specific bilateral cooperation agreements with 31 States relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

53. Argentina attached particular importance to nuclear, radiological, transport and waste safety, as a pillar of the Agency's work, and to international cooperation in that area. It was vital to have solid, effective and sustainable regulatory infrastructure if the expansion of nuclear activities was to be safe and efficient. The development of regional nuclear safety training centres was also important, particularly in view of the upsurge in international interest in nuclear energy. Argentina's postgraduate course in radiation protection, safety of radioactive sources and nuclear safety was being held for the thirtieth time in 2010. He welcomed the activities of the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies during 2010. IPEN had joined the Forum as its eighth member, and an agreement had been signed that week between the Forum and the Agency to formalize their valuable collaboration.

54. The Agency's safety standards must be technical, objective and universal, in accordance with its Statute. Ideally, recommendations on safety and security should be unified and produced jointly by experts from both fields. Although it was a medium- and long-term objective, work should be directed towards that goal.

55. International safeguards, as another pillar of the Agency's work, were particularly important for facilitating nuclear expansion and should be carried out in an atmosphere of cooperation and dialogue between the Agency and Member States, guided by the principles of non-discrimination, quality, technical excellence and objectivity. In line with that spirit of confidence-building, he drew attention to the work of ABACC, established almost 20 years previously, and its cooperation with the Agency, which could and should be enhanced. The Presidents of Argentina and Brazil had recently highlighted the contribution of ABACC to the international non-proliferation regime, stating that it should be fully recognized through further cooperation and the free access of both countries to sensitive technologies relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

56. With regard to regulation and monitoring, he emphasized the work of his country's independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority, the existence of which demonstrated his Government's commitment to the need for proper monitoring in order to ensure safe and efficient nuclear activities and their acceptance by the public. Over the last year, the Authority had continued the licensing process for Atucha II and the CAREM reactor, and for prolonging the life of the Atucha I and Embalse reactors.

57. In conclusion, recalling that the Agency's basic statutory mission was to promote and increase the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, he said that in the coming years, its role and activities in that regard would become even more important in meeting

the world's growing energy needs and using nuclear technology to alleviate poverty and improve standards of living for millions of people.

58. Ms RODRÍGUEZ MANCIA (Guatemala) said that her country agreed with the view expressed by the Director General in his opening statement that the Agency should not be seen only as a "nuclear watchdog". The three pillars of its work were verification, nuclear safety and technical cooperation, and other areas of activity such as nuclear energy and nuclear applications were also important.

59. Disarmament and non-proliferation were fundamental principles of Guatemala's foreign policy and it actively supported all initiatives promoting them. As a party to the Tlatelolco Treaty, Guatemala was part of the first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone on the planet. It had a safeguards agreement and an additional protocol in force with the Agency, and had signed an amended small quantities protocol that would soon enter into force. In addition, Guatemala had taken steps to ratify the CTBT as early as possible.

60. Her country firmly believed in the inalienable right of all States to have access to nuclear energy and its peaceful uses, but along with that right came certain obligations, such as the obligation to comply with the Agency's safeguards regime. In that connection, she called on all countries which did not yet have safeguards instruments in force to sign them without delay so that the Agency could fulfil its mandate, and she called upon those which did have them to facilitate their full implementation.

61. The growing demand for nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially among developing countries facing mounting challenges which far exceeded their technological and financial capabilities, made it essential that Agency technical cooperation receive more financial resources from the Regular Budget and no longer depend on increases in voluntary contributions.

62. The technical cooperation programme for Guatemala contributed to the country's social and economic development, complementing to a large extent the Government's efforts to advance its social agenda and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

63. Two new projects had been approved for Guatemala in the 2009–2011 cycle, one on strengthening of cancer therapy and the other on support for development of human resources and nuclear technology. In addition, five new project proposals had been submitted for the 2011–2013 cycle, in the areas of human health and nuclear medicine, food security and nutrition, radiation protection, pest control and water resource management.

64. The lack of facilities for cancer treatment was a serious concern in Guatemala. It only had two cobalt machines to cover the whole population, and one of those was obsolescent. It had asked the Agency and donors to provide greater assistance in that regard, and a recent PACT mission to Guatemala had assessed the current situation to ensure an adequate response. She welcomed the emphasis placed by the Director General on combating cancer, inter alia by making it the topic of the Scientific Forum during the current session, and hoped that the Forum's conclusions would be put into practice, drawing on the expertise of participants and the commitment of the international community.

65. In recent months, Guatemala had been severely affected by a series of natural disasters and the effects of climate change. It was currently in a state of emergency owing to heavy rain, flooding and landslides that had left many people without homes. Crops had been badly damaged, putting food security at risk, and the destruction of bridges and roads had jeopardized the communications infrastructure. The Government had requested the support of the international community and had organized an international cooperation conference for the reconstruction with transformation of Guatemala, to be held on 11 and 12 October 2010.

66. Guatemala had recently ratified the ARCAL Agreement and was now a full member. In the 25 years since ARCAL's inception, its members had increased their national capacities and potential

in food security, human health, the environment, energy and industry, and radiological safety. It was important to strengthen the activities of the ARCAL Technical Coordination Board, and in that context she welcomed the meeting of Latin American National Liaison Officers held in March 2010.

67. The medfly programme centre based in Guatemala had received fellows from various parts of the world, contributing to efforts to eradicate the medfly and thus increase fruit production.

68. Guatemala's efforts to develop its own human resources had benefited greatly from the country's participation in the training programmes offered by the Agency in a variety of areas, and Guatemala appreciated the cooperation and assistance of the Agency in implementing projects, and looked forward to future collaboration with it.

69. Mr LARSEN (Haiti), having thanked the Agency for the assistance it had provided following the earthquake in his country in January 2010, said that Haiti attached great importance to the norms that governed the international community, without which international relations would be a jungle where multilateralism had no meaning. He therefore encouraged all States that had not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement the NPT in the interest of bringing about a safer world.

70. Haiti had benefited greatly from Agency assistance through technical cooperation over the preceding seven years in areas such as energy planning, water resource management, agriculture and nutrition. However, all those efforts had been thrown into doubt by the earthquake of January 2010, which had heavily damaged Haiti's already limited scientific, technical and infrastructural capacities. Haiti was redoubling its efforts to rebuild its physical and human resources. In that context, he thanked ARCAL and the Agency for launching a special project to support that rebuilding process.

71. ARCAL was an important regional cooperation mechanism which continued to demonstrate the value of a cooperation network based on a system of scientific and technical expertise. As a country that had benefited over many years from membership, Haiti encouraged ARCAL to develop partnerships with organizations such as PAHO, WHO, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the OAS.

72. For four years Haiti had been stressing the need for the Board of Governors to put the issue of LDCs on its agenda with a view to taking measures to address their huge deficit in terms of nuclear knowledge so that they could benefit normally from peaceful applications of nuclear energy. He called on Member States of the G-77, the EU, the African Union and UNASUR, as well as on the United States of America and Canada, to devote greater attention to the specific needs of LDCs.

73. In that connection, and in accordance with operative paragraph 20 of resolution GC(53)/RES/12, he called on the Secretariat to conduct an in-depth study of the specific problems encountered by LDCs in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The difficulties faced by LDCs were different from those of emerging countries and developed countries. The United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 2011 would be an opportunity for the international community, including the Agency, to address once again the specific problems of LDCs. Haiti hoped that the Agency would participate in that conference by showing how much nuclear energy could contribute to helping to resolve the difficulties of LDCs in the light of the aforementioned study. It was important to deploy all available technical resources, including correctly-used nuclear and isotopic techniques, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and ensure economic growth and sustainable development for LDCs.

74. Haiti strongly supported efforts to counter terrorism in general and nuclear terrorism in particular. It had therefore signed and ratified legal instruments including the NPT and the CWC, and also participated in the work of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism.

75. He praised the Director General for the dexterity he had shown in his first year leading the Agency and for the emphasis he had placed on the Agency's cancer control activities. His delegation hoped that the Director General would devote particular attention to the concerns of LDCs during the remainder of his tenure. It was important that the Agency project its image as a cooperation and development body, not just as one concerned with science and technology. The Agency was beginning to be recognized as an organization capable of contributing to the development of developing countries and LDCs in the five key areas of water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, and the time had come for the Agency to lay more stress on that aspect of its activities by cultivating partnerships with other UN system organizations concerned with sustainable solutions to the problems of development.

76. Mr DIALLO (Burkina Faso) welcomed the new Director General's commitment to making the atom an instrument of peace and development in the world.

77. His country welcomed the significant progress made by the 2010 NPT Review Conference and also recent international initiatives aimed at promoting the entry into force of the CTBT. Efforts must be redoubled to honour international commitments in that area and to ensure that security policies relied less heavily on nuclear weapons. In that connection, he welcomed the signing of the New START Treaty by the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation.

78. Burkina Faso supported the universal application of safeguards and reiterated its commitment to the Agency's safeguards system. It called on others that had not yet done so to adhere to the relevant instruments. His country had approved the amendment to the SQP in February 2008 and had hosted the first regional course for francophone countries on the national accounting and control systems for the SQP in July 2010. Thus his country had achieved full adherence to Agency safeguards, giving a clear indication of its desire to use nuclear energy only for socio-economic development.

79. Burkina Faso called on the Agency and technical and financial partners to support the AFRA programme more consistently. It also requested assistance from the Agency and the international community in incorporating nuclear power into the energy policy of the African Union through the African nuclear energy commission that was being set up.

80. Technical cooperation was one of the main activities of the Agency. Burkina Faso had benefited from projects relating to health, nutrition, the environment and energy demand planning. It had particularly appreciated the Agency's technical and financial assistance, both with setting up a nuclear medicine service at the national hospital and with starting the process of establishing the first national radiotherapy centre, in the form of training and expert missions.

81. Burkina Faso was participating in a tripartite Model Project with Mali and the Agency on combating trypanosomiasis using the SIT, which had been strengthened by the advent of PATTEC. He welcomed the Agency's designation of the International Centre of Research and Development for Livestock in Subhumid Zones (CIRDES) as a collaboration centre for the use of the SIT. His country also appreciated the Agency's assistance with developing expertise on child nutrition and its impact on malaria control and with strengthening the operating capacity of Burkina Faso's new regulatory infrastructure.

82. His country was keen to promote education and research in nuclear science and technology and improve knowledge of groundwater resources and the management of air quality in cities. It was currently preparing its technical cooperation programme for the 2012-2013 cycle, based on the second CPF.

83. Finally, Burkina Faso pledged its contribution to the TCF for 2011.

84. Mr QUIMBAYA MORALES (Colombia) said that disarmament and non-proliferation were the basic principles of his country's foreign policy. Colombia remained committed to the NPT and to the Tlatelolco Treaty. It supported multilateral initiatives aimed at ridding the world of the nuclear threat and wished to see Latin America and the Caribbean remain a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

85. His country welcomed the Agency's technical cooperation programmes on studying water resources and improving cancer therapy.

86. Under an action plan on building capacity for strengthening nuclear security, a Nuclear Security Support Centre would be opened in Colombia in October 2010.

87. Thanks to Agency cooperation, Colombia had made significant progress towards adopting nuclear and radiation safety standards for better processing of nuclear waste and for the protection of public health from radiation risks.

88. His country supported efforts aimed at enhancing the safety of the maritime transport of radioactive waste and welcomed the dialogue between coastal and shipping States on strengthening confidence-building measures between the sectors concerned.

89. Colombia attached great importance to the Agency's verification work; its additional protocol had entered into force in 2009.

90. At the regional level, ARCAL had contributed to promoting and strengthening cooperation among developing countries during the 25 years it had been in existence.

91. In conclusion, he said that the threats of proliferation affected all humankind. Colombia therefore supported multilateral bodies in the hope that the existing international system could promote trust, peace and security by diplomatic means.

92. Mr ELWAZER (Palestine) said that the Agency's strong support for the fight against cancer was warmly welcomed everywhere, especially by poor countries.

93. Palestine had carefully studied the outcome of the Director General's visit to the Middle East region, particularly his visit to Israel. In that context, it supported the statement by the Arab Group to the Board of Governors at its September 2010 meeting², the draft resolution concerning "Israeli nuclear capabilities" submitted by the Arab States that were members of the Agency to the General Conference at its current session, and the statement by the Chairperson of the Arab Group concerning that item.

94. Palestine also supported the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council and the decisions of the NPT Review Conferences, especially the May 2010 Conference, all of which called on Israel to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards as a prerequisite for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Israel's decision to remain outside the safeguards regime and its refusal to sign the NPT constituted a threat to regional and international peace and security. As Israel was the only State in the region whose facilities were not subject to safeguards, it should reveal the nuclear weapons in its possession and abandon its longstanding policy of ambiguity regarding a nuclear arsenal that was no longer a secret to anyone.

95. Palestine further called on all the world's nuclear-weapon States to eliminate those weapons in the interests of humankind and the preservation of life on earth.

² See GOV/OR.1283, paras 8–17.

96. The Agency played an important role in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in areas such as medicine, industry and research. The applications were easy to use and produced fast and reliable results. In many cases, for instance medical applications, no alternatives were available. The Agency's technical cooperation programme made a substantial contribution to international confidence in the role of nuclear technology in various fields, since it supported the establishment of the requisite infrastructure for peaceful, safe and secure uses of nuclear energy.

97. The Palestinian people were exposed to a serious risk of nuclear radiation because of Israel's possession of reactors, such as that in Dimona, that were approaching the end of their active life. The possible occurrence of an accident posed a clear and substantial risk to the Palestinian people and to neighbouring Arab countries. It was a situation that could not under any circumstances be ignored or passed over in silence. It was therefore essential for the Agency to undertake a prompt and serious study of the matter followed by action to avert the risk and reassure the peoples of the region.

98. He thanked the Agency for its support for projects on the following subjects: strengthening environmental monitoring capabilities; supporting radiological mapping of Palestine; development of a radiation safety infrastructure (phase II); establishing national capabilities for response to a radiological and nuclear emergency; manpower development; and nuclear technology support. That support would make a substantial contribution towards realizing the Palestinian people's dream of living a normal life like other peoples and achieving prosperity for their children.

99. However, the Palestinian people suffered much as a result of the obstacles and delays imposed by Israel on the delivery of material and equipment provided by the Agency under the technical cooperation programme. The Agency itself could testify to the fact, since one set of equipment had been held up for more than two years and the Israeli authorities were preventing its delivery to the Palestinian Authority.

100. The Palestinian question was the core issue in the Middle East conflict. In the absence of a just, comprehensive and lasting solution based on the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland in accordance with international resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194, to exercise the right of self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its eternal capital, there would never be peace, security or stability in the region.

101. Mr MAHJOUR (Arab Atomic Energy Agency) said that the AAEA was a League of Arab States organization that supported the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the Arab States. It could boast numerous achievements on behalf of its member States and hoped to achieve even more through productive interaction between its members and cooperation with other countries and relevant regional and international organizations. An important recent event organized jointly by the AAEA and the IAEA had been the First Arab Conference on the Prospects of Nuclear Power for Electricity Generation and Seawater Desalination, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 23 to 25 June 2010. The Conference had attracted a large number of participants and scientific experts. The IAEA had also participated in a large number of activities organized by the Arab Agency and numerous programmes and projects were planned for 2011.

102. The AAEA hoped that such cooperation would develop into an effective partnership, especially since the Arab States had launched promising nuclear programmes aimed at promoting the development and well-being of the Arab peoples. It looked forward to continuous cooperation and coordination with regional and international bodies on AAEA programmes involving peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the areas of agriculture, industry, medicine, the environment and scientific research.

103. The AAEA sought to promote a culture of nuclear safety and security by disseminating information and materials in the Arabic language. Cooperation programmes were being developed

with the WHO, UNIDO and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory of the United States Department of Energy. Moreover, it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding the previous day with the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety. Such joint efforts would assist in reducing the costs of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in enhancing efficiency, given the Arab States' urgent need for relevant international expertise.

104. Most of the Arab States had recently expressed the wish to include the options of electricity generation and seawater desalination among national strategies to diversify their energy mix. The main factors prompting them to build nuclear power plants included the increased demand for energy, water shortages, declining oil and gas reserves combined with fluctuating prices, the link between energy and development, and the desire for self-sufficiency. During the past 25 years nuclear energy had proved to be a safe and secure option. A further advantage was that it did not generate greenhouse gases. The position of the Arab States had been reflected in Arab Summit resolutions approving the Arab strategy for peaceful uses of nuclear energy until the year 2020 developed by the AAEA in cooperation with its member States.

105. Most Arab States needed to develop the knowledge, skills and human and financial resources required to start building nuclear power plants for electricity generation and seawater desalination. The development of such infrastructure called for close cooperation between the AAEA, the IAEA, Arab member States of the two Agencies and countries with advanced nuclear programmes.

106. He welcomed the fact that the Agency's 2010 Scientific Forum had focused on cancer in developing countries. The fight against poverty and disease had also been one of the priorities of the recent UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. He urged the IAEA and WHO to cooperate with the AAEA on a joint project to fight cancer in the Arab States and to seek practical ways to prevent an increase in its incidence.

107. He also urged the IAEA to continue providing technical support for Arab cooperation projects sponsored by the AAEA involving peaceful uses of nuclear energy, given their contribution to stability in the region and to sustainable development. He mentioned in particular the projects "Capacity-building and human resources development in the Arab States" and "Radiation monitoring and early warning networks", which ARASIA would submit to the Agency in the framework of technical cooperation between the League of Arab States and the UN.

108. The AAEA reaffirmed the inalienable right of Arab States parties to the NPT to possess and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, a right that could not be restricted on any pretext.

109. As Israel's nuclear capabilities were a major source of anxiety and fear, the AAEA called for the drafting of a treaty aimed at establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and urged all States in the region to accede to the NPT in order to maintain world peace and security.

18. Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GC(54)/12 and Corr.1; GC(54)/L.3 and Add.1, and L.4)

110. The PRESIDENT said that the item had been included in the agenda pursuant to resolution GC(53)/RES/15 adopted by the General Conference the preceding year. Since its adoption, the Director General had periodically reported to the Board on the implementation of safeguards in the

DPRK, and in document GC(54)/12 and Corr.1 he summarized the developments of the preceding year.

111. Mr BARRETT (Canada), introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(54)/L.3, said that it had been negotiated by a core group of countries in consultation with China and the Russian Federation. Many additional States had attached their names to the draft resolution over the preceding week, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 49. The resolution was similar to the one that the General Conference had adopted by consensus the preceding year. It reiterated concerns about actions by the DPRK which posed serious challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and to peace and security. It stressed the desire for a diplomatic solution to the DPRK nuclear issues so as to achieve the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The draft resolution condemned the nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK in 2009 and strongly urged it not to conduct any more, and stressed the importance of the implementation of obligations pursuant to UN Security Council resolutions. It supported the Six-Party Talks as an effective mechanism for dealing with the issue, and stressed the importance of the full implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement. Consistent with the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and relevant Security Council resolutions, the draft resolution reaffirmed that the DPRK could not have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT. It called upon the DPRK to come into full compliance with the NPT. The draft resolution deplored the DPRK's actions to cease all cooperation with the Agency and called upon it to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards. The draft resolution would be supported by the five Agency members involved in the Six-Party Talks. Given the broad support it had already received Canada hoped that the resolution could be adopted by consensus.

112. Mr ELAMIN (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group to introduce a proposed amendment, set out in document GC(54)/L.4, to the draft resolution under discussion, said that the proposal was to insert a paragraph after operative paragraph 7 reading “Stresses that measures requested by this resolution constitute steps towards achieving the universal application of the NPT and of comprehensive IAEA safeguards” and to renumber all subsequent paragraphs accordingly. The amendment showed the Arab Group's support for the ongoing efforts to contain and resolve the DPRK issue, in accordance with its firm belief in the necessity to continue serious work to achieve the universality of the NPT.

113. Mr POTTS (Australia) proposed adding the words “in the North East Asia region” to the end of the amendment proposed by the Arab Group. That would make the wording of the amendment consistent with the title and focus of the resolution. He proposed the sub-amendment with a view to achieving the consensus which the DPRK resolution had always enjoyed in the past.

114. Mr NAKANE (Japan) expressed support for the sub-amendment proposed by Australia.

115. Mr ELAMIN (Sudan) said that the Arab Group did not support the proposed sub-amendment.

116. Mr FAWZY (Egypt) suggested inserting the words “inter alia” prior to Australia's proposed sub-amendment.

117. Mr POTTS (Australia) said he did not accept that suggestion.

118. Mr KHULLAR (India) said that his country did not accept the proposed amendment or sub-amendment.

119. Mr RECKER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed support for the universalization of the NPT and the Agency's comprehensive safeguards. The European Union deeply regretted that the consensual approach taken for years on the DPRK resolution might be broken on the present occasion. The European Union supported the amendment proposed by Australia and hoped

that a consensual approach could be restored. In the spirit of consensus, it rejected the Egyptian proposal.

120. Mr SHIM Yoon-Joe (Republic of Korea) expressed his country's regret that the Arab Group had presented the same proposal it had withdrawn from the preceding session of the General Conference and asked the Group to reconsider its proposal. If the draft resolution were amended to include the proposed paragraph, it might not be able to enjoy consensus. The application of the NPT and comprehensive safeguards in the DPRK were international legal obligations pursuant to Security Council resolution 1874 (2009). The Arab Group's proposal was therefore neither appropriate nor relevant. It did not provide added value that warranted risking the adoption of the resolution by consensus and the communication of a unified message from the Agency to the DPRK.

121. Mr FAWZY (Egypt) said that in proposing the sub-amendment, his country had been attempting to fine-tune the text to reflect the views of the various groups. His country supported the spirit of non-confrontation and compromise in the General Conference, and was therefore willing to defer a decision on the issue until the next day so that further consultations might be conducted on the proposals.

122. After a procedural discussion, Mr CURIA (Argentina) moved that the meeting be adjourned until the next day under Rules 61 and 62 of the Rules of Procedure.

123. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to vote by show of hands on the motion to adjourn the meeting.

124. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.