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Vice-President: Ms KALA (Estonia)

Vice-President: Princess Bajrakitiyabha MAHIDOL (Thailand)

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Abbreviations used in this record:

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
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
G8	Group of Eight
HEU	high-enriched uranium
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INLEX	International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSServ	International Nuclear Security Advisory Service
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MW(e)	megawatt (electrical)
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PET	positron emission tomography
PET-CT	positron emission tomography-computed tomography
PHWR	pressurized heavy water reactor
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SALTO	Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation of Water Moderated Reactors Peer Review Service
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UNSCEAR	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
WANO	World Association of Nuclear Operators
WHO	World Health Organization

8. General debate and Annual Report for 2012 (continued) (GC(57)/3 and Supplement)

1. Mr MOKOTEDI (Botswana), welcoming the Agency's achievements over the previous year, particularly in the areas of technical cooperation, nuclear safety, safeguards and nuclear security, said that Botswana was fully committed to the Agency's objectives and continued to meet its financial obligations to the organization. He was pleased to report that Botswana had paid in full its annual contributions for the year 2013.
2. Botswana participated in AFRA, which brought immense benefits in the fields of agriculture, human health, water resources and food and nutrition. As a result of AFRA projects, the Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory had been appointed as the OIE Reference Laboratory for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, and the establishment of a radiotherapy centre at a teaching hospital in the country was nearing completion. However, like many other African Member States, Botswana needed support and assistance in the acquisition, adoption, adaptation and use of appropriate nuclear technologies in order to catalyse economic development, reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs.
3. Botswana greatly appreciated the growing attention being paid to cancer therapy in developing countries, where the shortage of equipment and expertise was preventing many patients from receiving appropriate radiotherapy treatment. His country had recently received an imPACT mission to review national capability and capacity in the area of cancer management. Recognizing that one of the major impediments to efficient cancer treatment was poor early diagnosis, Botswana welcomed parallel programmes for early cancer diagnosis, particularly in collaboration with the WHO and other United Nations entities.
4. National and regional projects supported by the Agency were generating encouraging results in areas including mutation breeding, improvements in milk and meat production, energy planning, environmental monitoring and the study of nutritional interventions in HIV/AIDS patients. Those projects had also motivated relevant institutions to commit themselves to addressing the challenges that affected the people of Botswana.
5. With the assistance of the Agency and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, physical protection had been upgraded at the radiotherapy centre, and capacity building and equipment, including a temporary container for the management of orphan or disused radioactive sources, had been provided for law enforcement agencies and the regulatory authority. Plans were also under way for the construction of a radioactive waste management and storage facility, with the Government having acquired land and final designs for the facility being completed.
6. Botswana emphasized the importance of the Agency's safeguards system and of continuing steps to strengthen that system. It therefore encouraged Member States to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, which would promote greater confidence among States with regard to the peaceful use of nuclear material.
7. Botswana remained committed to the implementation of relevant international instruments in relation to nuclear safety, security and safeguards. It was considering ratifying the amendment to the CPPNM and encouraged other Member States to do likewise.
8. In order to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the regulatory legislative framework and infrastructure and promote the safe use of nuclear technology in the country, the Government of

Botswana had started the process of transforming the regulatory body from a government department into an independent parastatal body.

9. Mr CHELO LOTSIMA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country had consistently sought to make the most of the advantages of the peaceful use of nuclear energy for its socio-economic development for the benefit of its population. Its long partnership with the Agency had enabled his country to put into place various items of nuclear infrastructure, of which the most important were the national committee for protection against ionizing radiation, the national regulatory authority, the TRIGA Mark I research reactor, now dismantled, and the TRIGA Mark II, whose restart after a technical shutdown for several years had been decided by the Government. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked the Agency for its assistance in keeping that reactor in service, thereby enabling the country to develop significantly its national competence in nuclear sciences and technology, which would play a major role in the future introduction of nuclear power, an option that his country was seriously considering. Noting that the TRIGA Mark II reactor was being modernized and refurbished with a view to its return to operation, he said that the Democratic Republic of the Congo would like to conclude bilateral and multilateral partnerships in order to complete the project.

10. Thanks to the long experience gained from the operation of the two research reactors, nuclear and radiological safety had been improved perceptibly in an effort to ensure conformity with international standards in the field. With the introduction of a national regulatory infrastructure, the research reactors were regularly inspected, and recommendations for the safe operation of those scientific tools were being formulated. At the beginning of October, the Democratic Republic of the Congo would host an important expert mission from the Agency with a view to elaborating a coherent regulatory inspection programme. His country was grateful to the Agency for helping Member States to set up appropriate regulatory infrastructures for safety and radiation protection. However, to achieve sustainability, such regulatory bodies needed further assistance from the Agency and other bodies in friendly countries with longer experience in that area.

11. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had welcomed the initiative to establish the Global TRIGA Research Reactor Network. It had signed the memorandum of agreement on cooperation between the parties involved, which sought to promote the dissemination of information and to improve cooperation between the nuclear community and civil society with regard to the role and importance of TRIGA research reactors.

12. Turning to the protection of the population against the dangers of ionizing radiation associated with the mining of uranium ore, he said that in 2009 the Government had decided to open a Regional Office of the Congo Atomic Energy Commission in the mining province of Katanga. The aim was to train workers and raise awareness of the effects and risks of radioactivity, provide for better communication of information, prevent illicit trafficking in radioactive and nuclear material and ensure a better understanding by local mining companies of questions relating to the use of radioactive sources.

13. In the 2012–2013 cycle, technical cooperation projects with the Agency and within the framework of AFRA had also brought benefits in areas including human and animal health, agriculture, water, capacity building and the development of institutional, technical and scientific infrastructures. His country was ready to place all its technical and scientific infrastructures and its long experience in the nuclear field at the service of the African region. It thanked the UNDP in Kinshasa for its positive role in the customs clearance of equipment sent by the Agency as well as the transfer of funds in the context of technical cooperation projects.

14. Nuclear non-proliferation remained a pending issue alongside nuclear disarmament. Despite a series of forums and meetings aiming at a world free of nuclear weapons, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones was a goal that seemed to recede further every day.

15. In the field of nuclear security, his country welcomed the human and technical resources being deployed to combat illicit trafficking and nuclear smuggling at the regional and international level. His country's approach to the issue was both bilateral and multilateral. It was determined to play its part alongside other countries and regional and international structures to combat those two threats.

16. In that context, a joint plan of action had been signed at the end of 2010 between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United States of America, the main objective of which was to provide an effective global response to recurring problems by strengthening the penal code with respect to nuclear offences, securing nuclear installations and providing training for personnel. The plan also included provisions to deploy physical detection facilities at borders.

17. In the same vein, his country was also in the process of concluding a plan of action with the European Commission that was to address aspects of chemical, biological and radiological weapons, starting with the radiological issues before moving on to other aspects of nuclear security.

18. Efforts were being made by his Government to enhance the security of sites at which nuclear reactors were located, thus meeting the concerns of INSServ and IPPAS missions to the country. Furthermore, his Government was also giving priority to combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials. Noting that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had already joined the European Union's Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence Initiative, he said that the Government had recently decided to ratify the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM and encouraged other States to do likewise. It was open to all forms of cooperation on combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials and had agreed to hold a regional course and workshop, in cooperation with the Agency, on uranium ore and opportunities for the socio-economic development of African countries.

19. Global warming with its repercussions for ecosystems was a reality recognized by the international scientific community. Nuclear power was increasingly considered a viable option for meeting growing energy demand and reducing the use of fossil fuels, which caused pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases. In his country, the level of the Congo River continued to drop, leading to a marked reduction in electricity supply with a substantial negative effect on the national economy.

20. At a time when some countries were turning to nuclear power as a reliable alternative to combat the energy deficit, anticipate future energy demand, strengthen supply security and counter climate change, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was glad to be able to rely, once again, on the Agency and friendly countries, which had substantial experience with technology transfer in that area.

21. Mr KOVÁCS (Hungary) said that his country had been particularly aware of the effects of climate change in 2013, having experienced flooding followed by extreme heat and drought, and was pleased to be producing 40% of its electricity at the Paks nuclear power plant without the emission of greenhouse gases. In 2012, Hungary had presented its national action plan to the European Commission on the targeted safety enhancements of the Paks power plant and on the enhancements of Hungary's nuclear safety legislation. Some of the proposed measures had already been implemented; others were in progress. It was envisaged that all of the items covered by the national action plan would be implemented by the end of 2018.

22. The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority had granted a licence to extend the operating life of Paks unit 1 for an additional 20 years on the condition that periodic safety assessments be carried out

during the extended lifetime. In 2013, the Paks plant had hosted a SALTO mission and had also initiated an OSART review of the plant, which was envisaged to take place in 2014.

23. He was proud to report that the national radioactive waste repository for low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste had been inaugurated at Bataapati in 2012 following lengthy technical preparation and tremendous efforts to gain public support. The repository was expected to be able to accept waste throughout the whole lifetime and decommissioning of the Paks power plant. Hungary was grateful for the support of the international community and the Agency, which had facilitated completion of the repository.

24. Hungary had had the honour to preside over the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts held in July 2013, which had been attended by 1300 delegates from 125 States. The message of the Conference was consistent with his Government's view that the security of nuclear installations and material was of the utmost importance. Hungary was now translating the results of an IPPAS mission, conducted in May 2013, into practical action and had noted with satisfaction the large number of good practices identified during the mission.

25. Several trainees from Member States interested in the practical medical applications of nuclear energy had visited ScanoMed Hungary and been given the opportunity to study PET-CT applications in theory and in practice. Noting the intense interest in the training, he said that it was Hungary's expectation that ScanoMed would continue its educational activities with the Agency.

26. Turning to Hungary's support for the Agency's safeguards activities, he said that his country had continued to provide practical training for safeguards inspectors. The Centre for Energy Research also worked with the Agency, including in the field of nuclear forensics. Its collaboration with the Agency and the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority in the area of nuclear security had recently been formalized by the signature of practical arrangements, which were to be included in an umbrella agreement scheduled to be signed during the current session of the General Conference.

27. The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority had organized an exercise with the European Commission involving the testing of a booster system in a simulation of a dirty bomb attack. The use of the system had made it easier and faster to understand and contain the damage as well as to separate those victims that needed immediate assistance from those who were less affected by the radiation and the blast.

28. Hungary looked forward with great interest to the work of the recently formed centre of excellence, which was doing research on Generation VI gas-cooled fast reactors. Cooperation between the research institutes of the Visegrad 4 countries held the promise of feasible new nuclear technologies.

29. Hungary attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities and believed that the limited funds available for such activities could have a tremendous impact if properly invested. The participation and experience of countries with advanced nuclear and radiological infrastructure was indispensable for technical cooperation, and Hungary had therefore proposed that its facilities and individuals be used by the Agency within the framework of the 2014-2015 technical cooperation programme for Europe. Furthermore, implementation of the strategy for the technical cooperation programme in the Europe region had taken the relationship between the Secretariat and Member States to a new level, shifting from assistance to real cooperation. He commended the Agency for taking that bold step.

30. Hungary was working hard on the implementation of its strategy for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases. Nuclear energy was making an important contribution in that regard, and MVM

Hungarian Electricity Ltd, a fully State-owned company, was preparing to build new units at the Paks site with the full support of the Government.

31. In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's position that nuclear energy would continue to contribute significantly to the global energy mix, and in that connection, reaffirmed the full support of his country for the Agency.

32. Ms STIX-HACKL (Austria), restating her country's position regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recalled that the principle of not using nuclear fission for the generation of power was enshrined in the Austrian Constitution. Thus, her country had no operating nuclear power plants or related fuel cycle activities and had recently reduced nuclear risks further with the conversion of its last remaining research reactor from HEU to LEU, with the assistance and advice of the Agency and other institutions.

33. The risks associated with nuclear material and fuel cycle facilities needed to be addressed globally. In that respect, Austria welcomed the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, which had taken place in Vienna in July and where the Austrian Vice-Chancellor had given an inaugural speech. Noting that there was no room for complacency, she said that the Agency was playing its part to make the world a safer and more secure place.

34. After five regular review meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety it was increasingly evident that there was ample room for improvement of that instrument. Consequently, Austria had welcomed the establishment of the effectiveness and transparency working group by the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties. Austria was actively participating in the work of that group and still hoped that a broad consensus would be reached among the Contracting Parties to improve effectiveness, accountability and transparency. It would be advisable to extend the scope of the Convention's application to cover not only commercial reactors, but also research reactors, while also making its character more binding.

35. Recent developments were a strong reminder that every effort was needed to further improve nuclear safety. In that context, Austria appreciated the Director General's report on progress in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and noted with appreciation that pertinent activities would continue. Safety assessments, Agency peer reviews, emergency preparedness and response, as well as Agency safety standards, deserved particular attention.

36. Addressing nuclear-related risks required not only the highest standards for safety security and non-proliferation, but also relevant training. In that context, she highlighted the international consortium of universities from Austria, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom that had recently started the first international master's programme on nuclear security with strong support from the International Nuclear Security Education Network. She also drew attention to the Eastern European Research Reactor Initiative that was supported financially by the Agency and offered a six-week education and training course in nuclear subjects. Furthermore, the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation provided invaluable training for diplomats on issues closely related to the Agency, the CTBTO and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

37. The proliferation of nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and related technology constituted a serious threat to global security. Without complete disarmament, the fight against proliferation would be lost. After decades of complacency and stagnation, the United Nations had finally managed to conduct meaningful, substantive discussions on nuclear disarmament within the open-ended working group in Geneva. Austria looked forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament in New York, where the Austrian Federal President would make a statement.

38. It was vitally important for humanity to ensure that nuclear technology was not used for military purposes. Austria took note of the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran at the current session of the General Conference and welcomed the change in approach that had been announced for the upcoming meetings to deal with outstanding issues in a constructive and results-oriented manner.

39. Similarly, Austria hoped that the current status of non-compliance in Syria could soon be remedied.

40. Furthermore, Austria deplored the DPRK's decision to pursue its illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and reiterated the international community's call for the DPRK to return to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regimes.

41. Austria had always been a strong supporter of strengthening the Agency's safeguards system. The Agency needed to be given the necessary legal authority to perform its vital task with confidence, and Austria strongly urged all States that had not yet done so to bring an additional protocol into force.

42. Austria had always done more than provide host country support to the Agency, including by contributing to the facilities in Vienna and at the Seibersdorf laboratories. She was pleased to confirm that Austria intended once again to pay its share of the TCF in full and on time.

43. Mr SINHA (India) said that the Fukushima Ministerial Conference held in Japan in December 2012 and the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century held in the Russian Federation in June 2013 had underscored the role that nuclear energy continued to play in enabling countries to achieve energy security and sustainable development goals. Lessons had been learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident and new guidelines had been developed for further enhanced levels of the safety of nuclear reactors against beyond-design-basis accident scenarios.

44. India was committed to implementing the highest standards of safety for its nuclear power plants and associated fuel cycle facilities and would continue to assist the Secretariat in its endeavours to enhance nuclear safety through the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The first OSART mission to India, to Units 3 and 4 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, had taken place in October 2012, and a follow-up mission was planned in 2014. Preparation was under way for an IRRS mission. Also in October 2012, India had hosted an international workshop on the safety of multi-unit nuclear power plant sites against external natural hazards organized with the Agency, which had addressed the complex task of safety evaluation of a multi-unit site and discussed actions taken by Member States and international organizations following the Fukushima accident.

45. Indian nuclear power plants, as well as several fuel cycle facilities, had reached their highest levels of performance the previous year. Average annual availability of the Indian nuclear power plants had remained at 90%, and six of the 19 reactors currently under operation in the country had registered continuous operation of more than 300 days during the year. Noting that Indian nuclear power sector had registered over 379 reactor years of safe operation, he said that the Indian PHWRs offered a highly competitive capital cost per MW(e) and a low unit energy cost.

46. Unit 1 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant had achieved first criticality on 13 July 2013, and was expected to begin commercial operation shortly. Unit 2 was also in an advanced stage of commissioning.

47. The construction of four indigenously designed 700 MW(e) PHWRs, two each at the existing sites of Kakrapar in Gujarat and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, was progressing on schedule, and India was planning to construct sixteen more PHWRs of 700 MW(e) at five different inland sites.

48. The construction of the 500 MW(e) prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam was nearing completion, with the reactor expected to achieve first criticality in approximately one year. The

necessary infrastructure had already been created for a co-located fast reactor fuel cycle facility to reprocess and refabricate the fuel.

49. The fast breeder test reactor, located at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, had been performing well, providing valuable operating experience and also technical input for India's fast reactor programme.

50. India was continuing the intense development of technologies based on the thorium fuel cycle for demonstration in its advanced heavy water reactor programme, and had shared its rich experience in the development and implementation of the thorium utilization programme at the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century. Thorium-based fuel cycles and technologies presented opportunities for enhanced passive safety features, utilization of the larger natural resources of thorium, and inherent proliferation resistance. International collaboration with the Agency would help to provide a much wider resource base for future nuclear technology development in that area.

51. India had continued to make good progress in identifying new uranium resources through extensive exploration, with reserves having increased in the order of 5% the previous year.

52. The Nuclear Fuel Complex had developed a new process route to manufacture pressure tubes with improved metallurgical properties leading to better performance.

53. India continued to host events in support of many Agency programmes, including an Agency technical meeting on advanced fuel cycles for PHWRs in April 2013 and an Agency inter-regional training course on uranium exploration and processing techniques.

54. India, as a founder member of INPRO, was pleased with the significant progress made over the years. The INPRO methodology for the assessment of innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycles provided a broad framework for formulating specific goals and acceptance criteria for new designs. India would continue to support INPRO, making a voluntary contribution of US \$50 000 later in the year.

55. India welcomed the theme of the 2013 Scientific Forum and considered that the impact of nuclear power in addressing climate change concerns needed to be emphasized.

56. India was developing technologies for high-temperature reactors and hydrogen production processes, as well as hydrogen storage materials and fuel cells for applications in transport and power generation sectors. A hydrogen economic evaluation programme software tool had been developed by an Indian team under a contract with the Agency for use in the economic analysis of nuclear hydrogen production, with a view to comparing various options.

57. India attached importance to non-power applications of nuclear and radiation technologies in the areas of health care, water, industry and environmental protection. India remained a strong supporter and contributor to RCA initiatives, and had been the RCA lead country in the area of industrial applications and cancer treatment during the last few years.

58. Noting with appreciation the Agency's efforts in cancer management, and in particular PACT, he said that the Tata Memorial Centre, an autonomous institution under India's Department of Atomic Energy, continued to play a major role in developing cost-effective methods for cancer diagnosis and treatment. One method it had developed that used acetic acid for cervical cancer screening had been shown in a study of 150 000 women over 12 years to reduce mortality by 31%.

59. India had an active programme in nuclear fusion. The steady-state superconducting tokamak at the Institute for Plasma Research had been successfully commissioned, with the first plasma obtained

in June. As a partner in the ITER project, India was working on the development of the concepts for test blanket modules. It also engaged in research and development for its roadmap of accelerator driven systems.

60. India, which had actively participated in the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in July, had signed an arrangement with the Agency concerning its voluntary contribution to the NSF. During the previous year, his country had identified activities to be taken up with the Agency, the first of which would be held in September under the auspices of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which was being established near New Delhi. Off-campus activities, involving organization of different training programmes, had already begun.

61. Turning to the world energy scenario beyond 2050, he said that as the accessibility, affordability, and global availability of fossil fuels declined, other energy sources, including nuclear energy, would be required to ensure a clean and sustainable energy supply. To that end, a rational approach, seeking a well-balanced use of all available energy resources, must be adopted. The role of the Agency should be further strengthened to facilitate the pooling of international knowledge resources and promote the achievement of sustainable energy security at the global level.

62. Mr ABDULLATIF ABDULLA (Bahrain) said that his country's main aim in joining the Agency had been to take advantages of services such as the exchange of nuclear expertise and technology among industrial and developing countries, the encouragement of safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the promotion of nuclear safety and security, science and technology, safeguards and technical monitoring.

63. The effective application of Agency safeguards was an extremely important means of building confidence among States and encouraged the launching of initiatives aimed at creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, including in the Arabian Gulf region. Bahrain regretted that the regional conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction planned for 2012 had not been held, and hoped that it would be convened at the earliest possible opportunity. As weapons of mass destruction posed a major threat to international peace and security, Bahrain emphasized the need to compel Israel to implement relevant international resolutions and to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards.

64. While Bahrain supported the right of all countries to produce nuclear energy and to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, it urged the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency and to respond positively to international efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement of the issues relating to its nuclear programme.

65. Bahrain had benefited from its cooperation with the Agency, for instance through the SQP. Two workshops had been organized in the Kingdom. The first had been held to train national experts in using the regulatory authority's data system to manage and monitor the occupational exposure of staff working in the radiation sector, and to establish a national register to monitor radiation doses. The second workshop had focused on the development of a legal framework for radiation safety.

66. Bahrain had also benefited from Agency support in implementing two important environmental projects: the establishment of a gamma spectrometry laboratory for environmental radioactivity monitoring; and the establishment of a national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety. It hoped that the Agency would also support the planned projects concerning strengthening national capabilities to measure radiological impacts in the event of an emergency involving nuclear facilities, and the establishment of a secondary standards dosimetry laboratory.

67. Bahrain commended the cooperation between the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Agency. A workshop had been held in Vienna from 27 to 29 August 2013 to review the preliminary draft of the Regional Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Plan for the countries of the Gulf region.

68. Mr STUART (Australia) said that all members of the Agency needed to work together to ensure that an effective safeguards system was in place in order to have necessary assurances about the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. That was the basic foundation for nuclear trade, cooperation, security and continuing progress on nuclear disarmament. To be most effective, a safeguards system must have universal coverage. Australia continued to call on all NPT States that had yet to fulfil their obligations under the Treaty to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements without delay. Credible verification was also required in order to provide confidence that safeguards were effective in detecting both the misuse of declared facilities and the existence of undeclared facilities or activities. The additional protocol was an essential component to guarantee maximum effectiveness of the safeguards system. Australia strongly encouraged those States that had yet to sign, ratify and implement an additional protocol to do so as soon as possible.

69. Australia welcomed the Director General's report on the conceptualization and development of safeguards implementation at the State level (GOV/2013/38). In order to address new challenges, the Agency needed to use all of the safeguards-relevant information at its disposal, take advantage of new techniques and technologies, and make the most effective use of its finite resources. Australia had been operating under a State level approach for around 12 years. Its experience had been positive; the Agency had been objective in its work, the conclusions robust, and the administrative burden, including for the Australian Government, had been reduced.

70. It was a matter of continuing concern that a few States remained in breach of their obligations. Iran continued to defy binding United Nations Security Council resolutions and Board requirements. It had found reasons to obfuscate and avoid any meaningful effort to address substantial evidence of possible military dimensions to its nuclear activities. Australia called upon the new Government of Iran to enter into substantive and meaningful negotiations in order to resolve all outstanding issues related to its nuclear programme and demonstrate conclusively to the international community the programme's peaceful intent.

71. Australia was deeply concerned by the DPRK's uranium enrichment activities and particularly by media reports that it had restarted its 5 MW(e) reactor, in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Australia continued to urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to comply with its obligations under the NPT and Agency safeguards. The Agency should remain ready to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.

72. Australia continued to urge Syria to act as soon as possible to implement the resolution adopted by the Board in June 2011 and to cooperate with the Agency in order to resolve all outstanding safeguards issues.

73. Australia had long supported the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Full compliance by all States in the Middle East with non-proliferation obligations was critical to building mutual confidence and security in the region. Australia encouraged all States to work constructively towards that goal.

74. Australia continued to work with the Agency to encourage all countries to develop and implement effective safeguards, including by using its role as chair of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network to promote best practice in safeguards implementation as well as the overall non-proliferation regime in the Asia-Pacific region. It would ensure that the Australian safeguards support programme,

which had been in place since 1980, continued to make valuable contributions in such areas as analytical services for environmental sampling, remote monitoring and training. Australia had also expanded its participation in the Network of Analytical Laboratories via a new cutting-edge mass spectrometer facility at the University of Western Australia.

75. Constant vigilance and collective action was necessary to ensure nuclear security. The International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July 2013 had provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made by the international community. The Ministerial Declaration affirmed the need for definitive action, including by implementing the CPPNM and its amendment, improving information sharing in nuclear security, participating in peer reviews, and minimizing the use of HEU. Australia encouraged all States to implement that declaration and looked forward to hosting an IPPAS mission in November 2013.

76. Australia acknowledged the Agency's efforts in implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The international experts' meetings on topics central to the cause or consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident had strengthened information sharing and cooperation. The Agency had also made good progress towards updating Safety Requirements publications to take into account the lessons learned from the accident. Australia also welcomed Japan's plans to improve the management of contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi power station.

77. His country strongly supported the efforts of the Contracting Parties to identify suitable options to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It called on Member States with nuclear power reactors to host regular Agency peer review missions and report the findings and recommendations publicly. As the chair of UNSCEAR, Australia also noted the important work of the Committee to produce a study of the health and environmental effects of the Fukushima accident.

78. As a major uranium producer and exporter, Australia was committed to the safe and environmentally sound mining, processing and transport of uranium. His country sought to strengthen informed discussion among existing and prospective uranium mining countries and was pleased to be hosting a side event during the General Conference concerning responsible uranium mining.

79. Australia had obtained environmental approvals for a large-scale molybdenum-99 processing plant that would be able to supply up to a quarter of global demand following the closure of current production reactors in the coming years, and the first stage of the licence application was under review. Production at the new plant would be fully LEU-based, thus continuing to advance global nuclear non-proliferation efforts by minimizing the civilian use of HEU. Waste would be treated in a co-located treatment plant based on Australia's innovative Synroc technology.

80. Australia fully supported the right of Member States to enjoy the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with their international obligations. It continued to be one of the top contributors to the Agency's TCF, shared its skilled scientific research base with other Member States, and facilitated the use and exchange of equipment and personnel. It would further enhance the capability of its neutron beam facilities at the OPAL reactor as new instruments were commissioned in 2014.

81. The Agency continued to face many challenges, but Australia remained confident that it had the leadership, capacity and resilience to meet its statutory objectives and to contribute to a better world.

82. Mr ALHAMMADI (Qatar) said that his country was seeking to benefit from peaceful uses of nuclear energy and was currently developing the legislative infrastructure required for the establishment of institutions to organize and regulate the country's application of nuclear technology in energy, health, industry, agriculture, water management and other areas. It was also establishing a network of qualified human resources to manage those institutions. Qatar appreciated the support and

assistance that it was receiving from the Agency under current technical cooperation projects and looked forward to the expansion of such cooperation under future projects.

83. The international community had been seeking for the past two years to draw appropriate lessons from the Fukushima events with a view to preventing such accidents in the future. His delegation commended the Agency's efforts in that regard as well as the joint action by Member States to strengthen nuclear and radiation safety at the local, regional and international levels with a view to restoring confidence in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear power plants. Dissemination of the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident would help to prevent any repetition of such events in other nuclear reactors. Qatar looked forward to publication of the findings of the Agency's integrated monitoring and regulatory assessment of safety levels in a wide range of reactors throughout the world. The results would constitute an important step towards transparency and full compliance by States with the Agency's recommendations in that regard.

84. Many countries, especially in the Middle East region, had expressed an interest in recent years in using nuclear technology for energy production. While Qatar approved of that trend, it urged countries in the region with functioning nuclear facilities or facilities under construction to accede to international nuclear safety instruments in order to protect the facilities' safety and security against leakages that could have a dangerous impact on the region as a whole. Individual States bore full responsibility for internal nuclear safety and security and also for ensuring compliance with the State's regional and international obligations in that regard. Steps should be taken to create a regional and international cooperative network to support such compliance and to reassure the international community in general and neighbouring regional States in particular.

85. Qatar supported the Agency's pioneering role in promoting a wide range of scientific programmes. It also attached great importance to the Agency's action, especially in recent years, in support of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and universal ratification of the NPT. However, Qatar was concerned about persistent inequalities in respect of the implementation of the provisions of the NPT and the resolutions adopted by the NPT Review Conferences and the Agency's General Conference.

86. While Qatar was not opposed to the discussion of ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the safeguards regime, including the concept of State-level safeguards, it emphasized the importance of a non-discriminatory and comprehensive approach covering all the Agency's fields of competence and its responsibilities under the NPT and other relevant disarmament agreements. All the international community's concerns should be taken into account, first and foremost the need to ensure the universality of the NPT and to eliminate all nuclear weapons as soon as possible. Nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy were the three core components of the Agency's work, and nuclear disarmament was the international community's key objective.

87. A great deal of time had passed since the adoption of the resolution on the Middle East at the NPT Review and Extension Conference in 1995. Yet no real progress had been made towards its implementation. Israel was the sole State in the Middle East that had failed to ratify the NPT and that remained outside the Agency's safeguards regime. That dangerous situation posed a threat to regional and international peace and security. His delegation called on the international community to support the efforts of the States of the region to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, to take firm action to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and to oppose Israel's policy of procrastination, which had prevented the convening of a conference in 2012 that would have constituted a major step towards ridding the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

88. The Arab Group would submit a draft resolution to the General Conference concerning Israeli nuclear capabilities and Egypt would submit a draft resolution concerning the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East. He urged Member States to support the two draft resolutions.

89. Qatar, motivated by its desire to make a positive and effective contribution to achieving the Agency's goals, had submitted its candidacy for membership of the Board of Governors. It had obtained the support of the Middle East and South Asia Group and hoped to receive the support of all Member States. Qatar would do its utmost, in cooperation with the other members of the Board of Governors, to ensure that the Agency fulfilled the aspirations of its Member States by promoting international peace and security and the welfare and progress of humankind.

90. Mr PARVEZ (Pakistan) said that his country had always enjoyed a very productive and mutually beneficial relationship with the Agency and was using nuclear technology in many different areas including cancer diagnosis and treatment, agriculture, food preservation, water management, industry and power generation.

91. Pakistan was facing a severe electrical power shortage, which was hampering economic growth. As the country's accessible conventional energy sources were limited, nuclear power had to form an integral part of Pakistan's energy portfolio. Pakistan took pride in the fact that nuclear energy sector, though still small in size, had been the best performing energy sector in the country.

92. Pakistan's belief in the role of nuclear power as a viable, safe, and environmentally friendly resource and its plan to build more nuclear power plants stemmed from the safe and successful operation of the Karachi nuclear power plant (KANUPP) for more than 40 years despite the withdrawal of vendor support. While KANUPP was still licensed to operate after refurbishments and safety retrofits and was performing well, Pakistan also had two 325 MW(e) units operating safely at the Chashma nuclear power plant (CHASNUPP). Two further units were under construction with Chinese assistance and would probably be connected to the grid by 2016, months ahead of schedule.

93. All Pakistan's nuclear power plants, without exception, were under Agency safeguards. His country was also signatory to a number of the international conventions and treaties pertaining to nuclear safety and security.

94. Pakistan's regulatory process had also developed with the establishment in 2001 of an independent regulatory and licensing body, the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, which had established itself as a credible overseer whose technical experts had been making important contributions to most Agency safety standards committees. It had also maintained very close contacts with other national regulatory bodies including China's National Nuclear Safety Administration and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

95. The Fukushima Daiichi accident had been a watershed for the global nuclear industry. Many lessons had been learned and the extensive mutual consultations and implementation of safety upgrades had brought the nuclear community even closer together. Pakistan appreciated the leading role that the Agency had played in harmonizing and coordinating that global effort, including through the preparation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

96. Pakistan had been actively engaged in reviewing thoroughly the safety and emergency preparedness of its own nuclear power plants. Just three months after the accident, it had formulated a Fukushima response action plan, which set out a wide range of actions to enhance the diversity and flexibility of safety and response mechanisms and provide for a thorough revision and upgrading of emergency preparedness. The measures identified were at various stages of implementation.

97. Pakistan recognized that safety enhancement was a continuing process. Teams of independent specialists had been established to conduct internal peer reviews of operational safety and periodic

reviews of the progress made on the Fukushima response action plan, and to strengthen further that plan where required.

98. In its work on safety assurance and enhancement, Pakistan had also tried to remain fully engaged with the international community. It had been the beneficiary of various types of safety missions and had also received a number of WANO peer review missions.

99. Pakistan also attached great importance to nuclear security as a national responsibility and was fully committed to participating in the Agency's related activities and programmes, including the Incident and Trafficking Database. At the national level, Pakistan was putting in place a system to control the illegal movement of nuclear material through the deployment of radiation portal monitors at several exit and entry points. Noting that a national training academy was running multi-tier training modules on nuclear security issues, he said that the Agency was providing assistance in enhancing physical protection and nuclear security through the establishment of a training infrastructure as well as the implementation of security upgrades at nuclear facilities.

100. With more than 55 reactor-years experience of operation and maintenance, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was ready to launch an expansion programme. It earnestly looked forward to international support, which it believed could not be justly denied for long.

101. Pakistan also had a very extensive programme for the application of nuclear techniques in many socio-economic sectors, notably the health sector. Although the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was currently operating 18 nuclear medicine and oncology hospitals across the country, capacity was insufficient to meet the growing needs for cancer diagnosis and treatment. Pakistan intended to continue expanding its capabilities in that regard, including through the establishment of small satellite centres, connected to better-equipped regional hubs by means of a telemedicine system, to bring basic cancer treatment facilities even closer to the people.

102. Pakistan routinely produced most of the radioisotopes it needed and, noting the decline in supplies of molybdenum-99 over the previous decade, had now established a molybdenum-99 production plant at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology. That facility, which was licensed by the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, was currently meeting the requirements of hospitals in the country; plans were being made to export the radiopharmaceutical in the near future.

103. Pakistan had also established a very broad educational and training programme in specialized areas such as radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and medical physics. With its extensive experience in those fields, his country was able to provide expert services and training facilities to other countries. The Agency could provide a forum for planning and undertaking such joint ventures.

104. Pakistan appreciated the positive role played by the Agency in fostering the peaceful applications of nuclear technology around the world. His country had greatly benefited from its cooperation with the Agency, and was pleased to have been able to make some modest contributions to the Agency's activities by sharing its experience and providing the services of experts in several technical areas.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol (Thailand), Vice-President, took the Chair.

105. Mr GROSSI (Argentina) said that the current session of the General Conference was taking place during a year of considerable Agency activity. The International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century held in St Petersburg in June had confirmed the validity of nuclear power and its importance for sustainable development. In the post-Fukushima period, that political signal was essential for any serious analysis of the world energy scene in the decades to come.

106. That being said, it was also clear that safety and security must have absolute priority in all countries with nuclear activities, starting with those that had military programmes including nuclear arsenals, followed by those that had nuclear power programmes, and including also those that benefited from nuclear applications in the areas of science and medicine. That basic commitment continued to be the cornerstone of the nuclear architecture and Argentina would continue its work in that framework.

107. The preceding year had been one of achievement for the Argentinian nuclear programme. The Atucha II nuclear power plant would shortly be commissioned, boosting the revival of domestic heavy water production. The lifetime extension of the Embalse nuclear power plant was another important milestone; it had been financed by the Development Bank of Latin America — the first time that a multilateral lender had granted a loan to fund a purely nuclear project. In that connection, progress had been made with all the spare parts for the reactor being manufactured by Argentine companies, thus promoting national industrial development.

108. Argentina's nuclear plan would continue with its fourth and fifth nuclear power plants. As announced in St Petersburg, the country intended to meet 15%–18% of its total electric power demand using nuclear power. That would place Argentina among the world's leading producers and consumers of nuclear power.

109. His country had been promoting the development of small and medium-sized modular reactors and hoped to become a significant player in that sector at a time when the nuclear community was beginning to seriously contemplate that option.

110. The CAREM project, the prototype of which was under construction, would result in a power reactor in the range of 100–300 MW, adaptable to the characteristics and needs of developing countries, particularly for supplying electric power in isolated regions, or countries whose grids were not ready to accommodate larger plants. The project would undoubtedly also be attractive for desalination projects. A construction licence had been issued for the project, the first concrete would be completed before the end of the current year, and the pressure vessel and the fuel elements would be fabricated by an Argentine company.

111. Argentina was a responsible and active exporter of nuclear technology. In addition to projects already implemented in Algeria, Australia, Egypt and Peru, Argentina had a joint undertaking with Brazil for the construction of reactors with characteristics similar to his country's RA10 and the multipurpose Brazilian reactor for the production of medical radioisotopes and irradiation testing of fuel and materials, among other functions.

112. As for the fuel cycle, the Pilcaniyeu enrichment plant would be commissioned shortly and research and development continued on ultracentrifuge and laser induction separation technologies.

113. With regard to public health, the Government of Argentina continued to promote and strengthen human resources training, research and development, diagnosis and treatment in its nuclear medicine centres as part of its commitment to gear technological development towards society as a whole.

114. His country had developed technology for molybdenum-99 production using low-enriched uranium targets and was one of their main promoters worldwide. It was supplying that radioisotope in various countries, in particular in the Latin American region.

115. Argentina would continue working with the Agency's technical cooperation programme, for which it continued to offer its expertise and training facilities for the benefit of technicians and professionals from its own region and elsewhere. His country had a long tradition of science and technology education, particularly in the nuclear field, and currently held the presidency of the Latin American Network for Education in Nuclear Technology, which had 18 members. Argentina also

cooperated with the Agency through the distance education portal, to the benefit of the entire Latin America region.

116. His country noted with satisfaction the reports on nuclear safety and security, as well as the Agency's activities in the area of nuclear science, technology and applications. Argentina's commitment to the highest standards of nuclear safety remained one of the pillars of its nuclear policy. The Argentine nuclear regulator, an independent technical body, was pursuing its activities in the context of a national programme in full expansion.

117. At the international level, his country welcomed the Director General's initiative to produce a comprehensive report on the Fukushima accident, which would facilitate the systematic and comprehensive compilation of rigorous, authoritative information and analysis.

118. Regarding nuclear security, Argentina believed that the approach outlined in the plan for 2014–2017 reflected a more balanced treatment of the issue. It was particularly gratified to see explicit recognition of the close relationship between safety and security measures, which Argentina had been stressing for a number of years.

119. Argentina attached great importance to the application of the safeguards system and continued to support Agency efforts to increase its efficiency. In that regard, the Secretariat should intensify its efforts aimed at dialogue and exchange of views with interested States, in particular on issues that did not yet have the necessary level of support and agreement, such as the State-level approach that was under consideration by the Board.

120. His Government once again stressed the importance that it attached to ABACC, which continued to provide credible assurances and confidence in the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy in both countries. He noted that ABACC was expanding its collaborative ties, chiefly with the Agency, and Argentina hoped that that trend would continue. His country also valued the interaction with Euratom, through a joint effort at improving technical capacities available in the area of verification.

121. The preceding year had been another period of intense activity for the Ibero–American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulators, whose objective was to support and promote nuclear safety and security in the region. The 22nd Ibero–American Summit of Heads of State in November 2012 in Cadiz, Spain, had given special recognition to that work, noting its value as a joint review process by the member countries.

122. Regarding the application of safeguards in the Middle East, Argentina supported the Director General's efforts to make progress through dialogue with the parties concerned. His country recognized the complexity of the matter and noted the positive precedent of the forum organized by the Agency in November 2011 over which Norway had presided, which had provided an opportunity for inclusive, constructive and focused dialogue facilitating the sharing of experiences in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world. That format might be used as a model for making future progress on the issue.

123. Finally, Argentina congratulated the Director General on his appointment to a second term of office and assured him of its unconditional support in the four years to come.

124. Ms DRÁBOVÁ (Czech Republic) said that her country attached the utmost importance to the responsible use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in all aspects. As a party to all relevant conventions, the Czech Republic had always honoured its international obligations and consistently adhered to the highest reasonably achievable standards of safety and security. Besides legally binding measures, her country also complied with a number of voluntary initiatives and codes of conduct.

125. The Czech Republic strongly endorsed the universal adoption of the NPT and the full and effective implementation of that instrument. Her country viewed safeguards agreements and additional protocols as the current verification standard, and its firm commitment to achieving stronger safeguards was demonstrated by its participation, since 2002, in the Member States Support Programme. The Czech Republic had organized training for safeguards inspectors, facilitated the development and testing of new Agency surveillance systems and offered high quality analytical services.

126. Nuclear terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to global peace and security. While stricter export controls and strengthened international regimes and mechanisms were essential to prevent the misuse of nuclear and radioactive materials, sensitive equipment or technologies, the primary responsibility for ensuring that the transfer of nuclear-related materials items did not in any way assist the proliferation of nuclear weapons remained with supplying States. In June, her country had assumed the chairmanship of the NSG, which had, at its last plenary meeting, adopted a number of amendments to the trigger list and dual-use lists, thus completing a thorough three-year review which aimed to respond to the latest security challenges and advances in technology.

127. Within the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the Czech Republic had removed all HEU from its territory and converted all its research and training reactors to LEU fuel. Recognizing the importance of that activity, the Czech Republic rendered assistance to other countries by sharing its experience and equipment, namely the high-capacity transport and storage casks for spent fuel developed in the Czech Republic.

128. The Czech Republic had always observed the main principles of nuclear installation safety and learned from international practice with a view to continuously strengthening nuclear safety. For more than two decades, it had been using the Agency's independent peer reviews to support its national efforts, and regular OSART reviews complemented the mandatory 10-year safety reviews of the Dukovany and Temelín nuclear power plants. Her country also made use of other peer reviews offered by the Agency and, in April, had hosted a site safety review mission on seismic hazards at the Temelín nuclear power plant, where the construction of two more units was planned. It also invited missions to assess the regulatory body's performance and infrastructure at ten-year intervals, with the next IRRS mission at the State Office for Nuclear Safety commencing in November. The first full-scale corporate OSART mission would take place within a few weeks at the ČEZ Company, which operated both Czech nuclear power plants.

129. The Czech Republic had begun to implement the national action plan developed as follow-up to the post-Fukushima European Union stress tests, with a view to strengthening further the safety of its nuclear facilities. The plan would be updated in the light of possible new knowledge and findings.

130. An integral part of her country's work was also the periodic organization of large-scale emergency exercises involving all relevant crisis management authorities. Social media had been used to communicate the most recent exercise carried out at Dukovany nuclear power plant earlier in the year.

131. Noting that institutions in the Czech Republic were actively engaged in multilateral activities in the nuclear field, she drew attention to the Eastern European Research Reactor Initiative, consisting of a coalition of eight research reactors from six European countries, that was being presented by her country during current General Conference.

132. The Czech Republic supported the technical cooperation programme by sharing its know-how in various fields and meeting its financial obligations to the TCF. As a net contributor to the Fund, her country played a significant role in co-sponsoring the implementation of its national projects and had provided targeted extrabudgetary contributions in the order of €200 000 each year to other priority

activities. It continued to assist Armenia in enhancing the operational safety of the Metsamor nuclear power plant, strengthening the nuclear regulatory authority and improving the radiotherapy services of the National Center of Oncology in Yerevan.

133. Her country, which had the highest average levels of indoor radon concentration in dwellings in the world, had gained extensive experience in regard to that issue and had developed a sound technological and legal base for control and regulation of exposure to radon and other natural sources. In the current phase of its special radon programme, her country was striving to raise awareness of the issue and to identify means of disseminating information to relevant stakeholders effectively to ensure that the radon issue was taken into account in all activities related to the protection of new buildings and the treatment of existing buildings. Earlier in September, her country had organized the 7th Conference on Protection against Radon at Home and Work, which had enjoyed widespread international attention.

134. Mr LEBAI JURI (Malaysia) said that his country had always attached the utmost importance to nuclear safety and acknowledged the Agency's continuous efforts to strengthen the nuclear safety regime and implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety taking into account lessons learnt from the Fukushima. Malaysia congratulated the Government of Japan on the successful conclusion of the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in December 2012, which it had been honoured to co-chair.

135. Malaysia commended the Agency for successfully convening the International Conference on Nuclear Security, which had renewed the commitment to a more effective global nuclear security regime. Malaysia, which believed that nuclear security needed to be addressed within the broader context of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, had successfully developed its national nuclear security regime by strengthening the nuclear security infrastructure and establishing standard operating procedures and a system providing for national coordination between different enforcement agencies as well as legal control over security of nuclear and radioactive materials. His country, which had been recognized as a nuclear security support centre, was grateful to the Agency for providing assistance in that regard, and stood ready to share its experience in establishing a nuclear security regime with other Member States.

136. The sovereign right to use nuclear energy came with the responsibility ensure its utilization in a safe, secure and peaceful manner. Malaysia therefore welcomed the declarations of commitment from Member States with a view to achieving the objectives of an improved nuclear liability regime. Malaysia was improving its legislative and regulatory framework and was currently revising its legislation to develop a comprehensive nuclear law that would incorporate provisions for nuclear safety, security and safeguards and enable the ratification of relevant international nuclear instruments, including those on nuclear liability. Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation in regulatory control, Malaysia also welcomed the establishment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations regulatory network (ASEANTOM) and fully supported the achievement of its goals and objectives.

137. The technical cooperation programme, to which Malaysia attached importance, should be based upon Member States' evolving needs and requests, and should receive sufficient, assured and predictable funding. During the current cycle, Malaysia had been involved in implementing national and regional projects, in particular under the RCA, and had also contributed in kind through the provision of training and expertise and hosting events. Malaysia was grateful to those that had contributed under the PUI and hoped to continue to work closely with the Agency to ensure that all its project activities would be adequately funded.

138. In order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the technical cooperation programme, project progress evaluation should not be based solely on spending or encumbrances, but should also

take into consideration all measurable parameters forming the basis of the logical framework approach and the overall impact of projects against the objectives set.

139. Noting the importance of qualified personnel in order to develop and sustain a radiation protection infrastructure, he said that Malaysia was pleased to be able to continue hosting the postgraduate education course in radiation protection and the safety of radioactive sources.

140. Malaysia attached high importance to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and to projects being conducted under coordinated research activities, which provided an effective mechanism for knowledge sharing.

141. Malaysia recognized the importance of the Agency's nuclear applications laboratories at Seibersdorf for supporting nuclear science activities, especially in developing countries, and wished to lend its support to their planned renovation.

142. Noting that many Member States were exploring the nuclear option as a source of reliable and sustainable electricity generation, he said that Malaysia welcomed the conclusion of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century held in St Petersburg in June, which had effectively communicated various new ideas on nuclear power programmes.

143. Malaysia attributed great importance to nuclear knowledge management and the dissemination of nuclear knowledge to the public. His country recognized the valuable role of INIS in that connection and encouraged the Agency to continue supporting such activities for the benefit of all Member States.

144. Malaysia firmly supported the convening of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, as agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and appreciated the Director General's efforts in that regard. Malaysia, which looked forward to participating actively in all activities leading to the 2015 Review Conference, continued to believe that any outstanding issues arising within the context of the NPT should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

145. Mr LE BEMADJIEL (Chad) said that his country, which had considerable uranium potential, was taking active steps to promote the peaceful application of nuclear techniques and strengthen the relevant international legal framework. Chad was committed to working with all Member States to make the world a safer place by ridding it of all weapons of mass destruction and strengthening the radiation safety and nuclear security regime.

146. His Government recognized the importance of matters relating to non-proliferation, radiation safety and nuclear security, and was cooperating in that regard through Agency consultative missions.

147. Chad was grateful to the Agency's Secretariat and staff that had spared no effort in order to facilitate technical cooperation activities, which had brought considerable benefits to the country in the area of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. His country welcomed the Agency's activities relating to human health, in particular cancer control, capacity building at the ministries of agriculture and livestock, sustainable development of energy and water resources, as well as activities associated with the establishment of the Chad Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. His country looked forward to the results to be achieved.

148. Chad was considering using isotope techniques to study the waters of the Nubian sandstone aquifer that it shared with Egypt, Libya and Sudan, and the waters of countries of the Sahara.

149. He welcomed the varied assistance provided by the Agency as part of its regional and subregional programmes in which his country took an active role. His country intended to participate actively in AFRA.

150. He hoped that the CPF signed between his country and the Agency in 2011 covering the period to 2014 would be implemented appropriately and lead to the development of technical cooperation projects that were of relevance and benefit to the people of Chad.

151. Mr ŽUGIC (Serbia) said that the significant role of the Agency lay in verifying that the nuclear activities of Member States were performed for peaceful purposes only and in compliance with the NPT activities, and in contributing to social and economic development through the use and application of nuclear energy.

152. Serbia continued to support the Agency's efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness through the development of integrated safeguards. Serbia, which was strongly committed to the nuclear non-proliferation regime, had signed its additional protocol in 2009, and preparations for the ratification and implementation of that instrument were under way. Serbia, which had joined the NSG in April 2013, was committed to confronting the threat of nuclear terrorism and had carried out a number of actions to raise awareness in that regard. It welcomed the Agency's activities in preventing possible acts of nuclear terrorism and fully supported the programmes and funds established in that regard.

153. His country would continue to support the international community's efforts to combat illicit trafficking, improve the physical protection regime and gain control over orphan sources. The International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July had reflected the importance of nuclear security worldwide and recognition of the fact that, although the responsibility for nuclear security rested with individual States, there were regional and global interests in the matter which could be greatly enhanced through collective actions and international cooperation. Serbia had signed the amendment to the CPPNM and intended to initiate joint inter-agency preparations for ratification and implementation. He thanked the Agency for providing assistance in that regard.

154. The Serbian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency founded three years previously as a regulatory body continued to develop its regulatory capacities, capabilities and functions by enacting new regulations, establishing new programmes and preparing for further accession to international legal instruments. Serbia continued to incorporate into national legislation provisions of international conventions, providing a better framework for strengthening the nuclear safety regime. Procedures had been initiated for international ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was likely to be the next instrument to be ratified.

155. The importance of the Agency's assistance, including through the technical cooperation programme, was essential to enable Member States to achieve a higher level of nuclear safety and security, and sustainable development. Serbia was grateful for the continuous support that it received for activities in a number of fields, in particular, concerning improving the functions of the regulatory body and decommissioning and related activities at the Vinča site, as well as human health. It was currently involved in several national and regional projects. Serbia had also submitted national project proposals for the forthcoming cycle and had expressed interest in taking part in a number of regional projects.

156. He strongly supported the 2012 Annual Report, which highlighted the importance of the Agency's efforts to maintain peace and sustainable global development. Serbia remained committed to the principles and goals of the Agency and to the safe and secure application of nuclear energy.

157. Ms GEELS (New Zealand) said that as a strong supporter of the NPT, her country was dedicated to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and continued to encourage all efforts to that end. New Zealand was committed to helping prevent the spread of nuclear weapons through the implementation of safeguards under the NPT and through its support for a range of other multilateral initiatives including the G8 Global Partnership and the Proliferation Security Initiative. The Agency played a central role in advancing the non-proliferation agenda.

158. Like other NPT States, New Zealand enjoyed the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with Articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty. The people of New Zealand contributed to and benefited from advances in nuclear science in fields as diverse as human health, water management and food quality. Her country was pleased to be a supporter of the PUI and had recently announced a third contribution of NZ \$50 000 to the initiative.

159. New Zealand did not intend to utilize nuclear energy to generate electricity but recognized that nuclear power did form part of the existing or planned energy mix of a number of countries. All countries developing and using nuclear energy needed to apply the highest standards of safety and security, and safeguards, through all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, including transport and waste management.

160. The international community was still learning lessons from the tragic Fukushima nuclear accident. Much work had been done by the Agency and its Member States to strengthen the global nuclear safety regime; however, progress should not be allowed to lead to complacency. Recent reports of ongoing radioactive discharges from Fukushima into the Pacific Ocean had reinforced the importance of continued vigilance and transparency on nuclear safety issues. New Zealand's recent contribution to the PUI would be going directly towards sustaining the Agency's 2011 technical cooperation project on establishing a benchmark for assessing the radiological impact of nuclear power activities on the marine environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

161. Nuclear accidents were not confined within national boundaries, and New Zealand was susceptible to damage as a result of an accident occurring during the maritime transport of nuclear material. Her country was concerned to ensure that such shipments were carried out under the highest possible safety and security conditions, and that communication between shipping and other interested States was timely, transparent and took place within a well defined framework that included proper emergency preparedness and response systems. New Zealand was also interested in efforts to improve the international nuclear liability regime, including through INLEX, to ensure that the concerns of States that might suffer damage as a result of an accident involving nuclear material, including a maritime transport accident were addressed. Efforts must be made to ensure existing legal and institutional frameworks, including for nuclear safety and liability, were adequate to address new challenges posed by innovative nuclear power projects such as transportable nuclear power plants.

162. New Zealand was pleased to have played a constructive role in the working group established by the 2011 International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Radioactive Material to develop best practice guidelines for systematic and timely communication between the governments of shipping and coastal States. Although the guidelines developed fell short of what New Zealand considered to be best practice in the field, her country looked forward to their implementation and would welcome any additional voluntary measures by the States concerned.

163. Like nuclear safety, nuclear security was an issue of global importance, not least because of its transboundary implications. New Zealand had been pleased to participate in the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July, which had highlighted the central role of the Agency in supporting Member States to meet their nuclear security obligations and in coordinating international

activities in the field of nuclear security. New Zealand considered the Agency's work on nuclear security to be indispensable, and had contributed regularly to the NSF, most recently in June 2013.

164. New Zealand was also a strong supporter of a range of other international initiatives designed to strengthen the global nuclear security framework. It was an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit process and a regular contributor to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the G8 Global Partnership, to which it had donated \$7 million over the previous ten years. Later that year, New Zealand intended to introduce legislation that would allow it to ratify both the amendment to the CPPNM and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

165. The integrity of the Agency's verification activities was of fundamental importance for the assurances New Zealand sought that nuclear activities undertaken by States were solely for peaceful purposes. Her country welcomed the Secretariat's recent paper on the State-level concept as part of the Agency's efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation and address new challenges with the finite resources available.

166. New Zealand believed that the additional protocol constituted the contemporary verification standard and should always feature as a condition for new supply arrangements. It encouraged all countries that had not yet done so, particularly those with significant nuclear activities, to conclude and bring into force an additional protocol as a matter of urgency. States that remained outside the NPT safeguards system should remedy that situation as a matter of priority.

167. New Zealand was pleased to have made significant recent progress towards ratifying the modified SQP and hoped to be in a position to complete the process before the end of the year. It looked forward to working closely with the Agency to achieve that important objective.

168. The international non-proliferation regime continued to face a number of complex compliance challenges. New Zealand remained concerned about Iran's ongoing failure to meet its obligations under United Nations Security Council and Board of Governors resolutions and about possible military dimensions of the Iranian nuclear programme. Her country was hopeful of positive developments on the Iran nuclear file and looked forward to concrete actions from Iran.

169. New Zealand endorsed the calls of the international community for Syria to comply urgently with its safeguards agreement and provide the necessary access and information to allow the Agency to verify that all nuclear materials were properly accounted for and that Syria's nuclear programme was exclusively peaceful in nature.

170. New Zealand was also deeply concerned about the DPRK's ongoing actions, including a third nuclear test, that were in breach of Security Council and Board of Governors resolutions, seriously undermined the international non-proliferation regime, and represented a significant threat to peace and security in New Zealand's region. Recent reports suggesting that the Yongbyon reactor had been restarted were a matter for further concern. Her country called on the DPRK to abandon its nuclear and missile programmes and engage constructively with the international community.

171. As a firm advocate of nuclear-weapon-free zones, her country had welcomed the reaffirmation at the 2010 NPT Review Conference of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East and the agreement to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in that region. New Zealand was deeply disappointed that it had not yet been possible to convene such a conference and called on all parties to work constructively to live up to the expectations of 1995.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.