

General Conference

GC(58)/OR.3

Issued: August 2015

General Distribution

Original: English

Fifty-eighth regular session

Plenary

Record of the Third Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Tuesday, 23 September 2014, at 10.05 a.m.

President: Mr AZEEZ (Sri Lanka)

Later: Mr NAJAFI (Iran)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹	Paragraphs
7 General debate and Annual Report for 2013 (<i>continued</i>)	1–166
Statements by the delegates of:	
United Republic of Tanzania	1–8
Burkina Faso	9–16
Hungary	17–29
Ghana	30–40
Germany	41–59
Algeria	60–71
Iraq	72–82
Mozambique	83–90

¹ GC(58)/22.

Contents (continued)

	Paragraphs
Namibia	91–97
Switzerland	98–115
Armenia	116–125
Bahrain	126–132
Kenya	133–150
Czech Republic	151–158
Qatar	159–166

Abbreviations used in this record:

AEOI	Atomic Energy Organization of Iran
AFCONE	African Commission on Nuclear Energy
AFNDT	African Federation for Non-Destructive Testing
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AFRA-NEST	AFRA Network for Nuclear Education, Science and Technology
ANPP	Armenian nuclear power plant
AU-PATTEC	African Union's Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
BSS	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CSS	Commission on Safety Standards
CT	computed tomography
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
E3+3	France, Germany and the United Kingdom plus China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America
ECAS	Enhancing Capabilities of the Safeguards Analytical Services
EPREV	Emergency Preparedness Review
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCC	Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
HEU	high-enriched uranium
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSServ	International Nuclear Security Advisory Service
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
JPA	Joint Plan of Action
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MNSR	miniature neutron source reactor
NDT	non-destructive testing
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD)
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
NWAL	Network of Analytical Laboratories
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
P5+1	the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PWR	pressurized water reactor
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
SIT	sterile insect technique
SSDL	Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory
TAN-NEST	Tanzanian network for nuclear education, science and technology
UICC	Union for International Cancer Control
WENRA	Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association
WHO	World Health Organization

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2013(continued) (GC(58)/3 and Additional Information)

1. Mr MAKAME MBARAWA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that 2014 marked the 32nd anniversary of technical cooperation with the Agency by Tanzania. Over the previous 32 years, the Government had been working hard to apply nuclear sciences and technology in a range of development programmes and activities, in education, agricultural development, industrial processes, health and medical services, livestock development, construction and other areas. The country's success stories were on display at the Tanzanian stand at the exhibition under way during the current session of the General Conference.

2. Noting that the 2014 Scientific Forum was being held on the theme of radioactive waste, he affirmed the attention accorded by Tanzania to the need to strengthen and update its technical capabilities for the control of public exposures and management of radioactive waste, in compliance with the Agency's revised Basic Safety Standards (BSS). Strategies and techniques for the safe management of the various types of radioactive waste arising from different applications were important for the entire international community. Tanzania was therefore pleased to be among the beneficiaries of the regional programme and inter-regional projects to build capability in radioactive waste management and was currently exploring the possibility of using borehole technology as a long-term solution for radioactive waste disposal.

3. In an endeavour to enhance applications in agriculture (including livestock) and food security, Tanzania aimed to expand the use of the sterile insect technique (SIT) in pest control following the successful eradication of tsetse flies on the island of Zanzibar. Its emphasis was now shifting to fruit flies, which affected the country's coastal and island areas. It also aimed to investigate the feasibility of food irradiation to tackle the problem of heavy post-harvest agricultural food losses caused by microbial and insect damage attack. Furthermore after successful mutation breeding, Tanzania now had rice seeds with higher yields that were disease resistant. It hoped, within a few years, to release a new, high yielding rice mutant variety, well adapted to Tanzanian environmental conditions and accepted by the local market, and was working on strategies and modalities for seed multiplication and distribution. His Government invited the Agency and other partners to give further support to those initiatives.

4. He expressed his Government's appreciation for the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) mission held in Tanzania from 27 July to 5 August 2014, which had enabled the authorities to reassess Tanzania's national capabilities for response to radiation emergency preparedness. He affirmed Tanzania's support for the Agency's policies and programmes aimed at improving the safety and security of nuclear facilities across the world, and to strengthen national, regional and international efforts for emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

5. The problem of cancer was growing in Tanzania as everywhere else in the world and, in tackling that problem, his Government recognized the need for partnership with the Agency to achieve the strategic goals of its National Cancer Control Strategy. The Agency's technical cooperation with Tanzania had ensured the coordination and optimization of the country's cancer control activities. With assistance from the Agency and its Programme of Action for Cancer Treatment (PACT), a cobalt-60 treatment machine, a brachytherapy machine, a simulator, a treatment planning system and a gamma camera had been procured for the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam. Under the Agency's technical cooperation framework, another cancer treatment facility had also been established

in Bugando, in Mwanza region. Tanzania was now requesting further technical assistance for the procurement of linear accelerator machines, a CT simulator and a 3D treatment planning system, to attend to the needs of the country's growing number of cancer patients.

6. Tanzania's current energy demand stood at a rate of 1 GW, while its installed capacity was only some 600 MW, 75% of that from hydropower and the remainder mostly from thermal power plants operating on natural gas and fuel. Those energy sources could not sustainably meet the country's current and future energy demands. Accordingly, in collaboration with the Agency, Tanzania had carried out a study on a sustainable energy plan for the period 2010–2040, which had concluded that, under a high economic growth scenario, a total installed electricity generation capacity of about 9.49 GW was required to meet its electricity demand by 2040. This represented an average annual growth rate of 9.3% from the base year installed capacity of 1039.7 MW. By 2045, a projected total installed electricity generation capacity of 13 459.4 MW would be required, 3000 MW of that coming from nuclear power. To achieve that milestone of its nuclear power programme, the Government was seeking technical assistance from the Agency and other partners.

7. Cognizant of the need to develop its human resources, to ensure the sustainability of the application of nuclear sciences and technology, his Government was placing particular emphasis on training and capacity building in the area of nuclear technology. To that end, in 2011 it had launched a national technical cooperation project (URT0006) to establish a national network for nuclear education, science and technology (TAN-NEST), designed to maintain and further develop a high quality nuclear science and engineering programme in Tanzania. The aim is to ensure that students at any of the participating institutions in the country — and elsewhere in the region — should be able to follow basic nuclear education courses of the same standards and accumulate corresponding course credits. In that context, the Government of Tanzania highly appreciated the technical assistance furnished by the Agency in support of the AFRA Network for Education in Science and Technology (AFRA-NEST) and requested further assistance in the training of staff to teach on that network.

8. Reaffirming his Government's continued support for the Agency's efforts to fulfil its mandate, he confirmed that Tanzania had complied with its obligations by making timely contributions to the Agency's Regular Budget as required for each Member State. In that regard, he pledged payment in full of Tanzania's voluntary contribution to the Agency's Technical Cooperation Fund.

9. Mr SEBGO (Burkina Faso), noting that the current session was being held against a backdrop of ever greater commitment on the part of the international community to implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, expressed his country's satisfaction with the Agency's progress in evaluating the vulnerability of nuclear power plants, improving the capacity of States to react to a nuclear emergency, revising international nuclear safety standards and other key areas.

10. His delegation once again underlined the importance of the Agency's role in the promotion of the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy, science and technology. Highlighting the valuable opportunity presented by the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, held in Vienna in March and April 2014, for an exchange of views on enhancing the global legal and regulatory framework on issues relating to the safety and security of nuclear installations, he called on all Member States to cooperate closely with the Agency in securing their nuclear power plants and all other installations housing sources of ionizing radiation and in strengthening their exploitation capacities and ability to evaluate the related risks.

11. Efforts by the international community to combat nuclear terrorism notwithstanding, threats remained, necessitating still greater commitment. In that regard, the Agency was to be commended on its activities aimed at containing those threats and urging Member States to abide by their commitments in that area. The need to secure nuclear and radiological installations was more urgent

than ever, rendering indispensable implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment. In that context, he was pleased to confirm that Burkina Faso had ratified the amendment on 2 May 2014, demonstrating its commitment to the goals of the Convention. He also pointed out that physical protection should not be limited to nuclear materials and should also apply to Category 1 and 2 radioactive sources, as recommended in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

12. Recalling how the Fukushima Daiichi accident had demonstrated the importance of international cooperation in the management of such crises, he reported that, on 24 April 2014, Burkina Faso had ratified two more Agency conventions: the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

13. In addition, to enhance its activities in the area of nuclear security, earlier in 2014 Burkina Faso had revised its 2011 integrated nuclear security support plan and adopted a range of priority actions, including establishment of a national committee for nuclear security; development of regulations and procedures incorporating nuclear security provisions; evaluation of the nuclear security threat at sectorial and national levels; and development of a national detection strategy and plan of intervention in the event of malicious acts or incidents likely to jeopardize nuclear security.

14. He reviewed the fruitful technical cooperation between the Agency and Burkina Faso, which aimed to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology in the country's social and economic development. That cooperation extended to national and regional projects in agriculture, animal husbandry, water resources, health and other areas and had made possible the conduct in 2009 of a feasibility study for the establishment of a radiotherapy centre and the opening in 2012 of a nuclear medicine department at the Yalgado Ouedraogo University Hospital in Ouagadougou to improve the treatment of cancer and cardiovascular and thyroid conditions. In addition, in 2013, with support from the Agency and the WHO and with the help of an impACT mission, the Government had launched a national cancer programme and strategic plan for 2013–2017, including a project to construct and equip the Ouagadougou Centre for Cancerology, which was scheduled to be operational by the end of 2018.

15. He also acknowledged with gratitude the technical and financial assistance provided by the Agency for efforts to build the operational capacity of the country's radioprotection and nuclear safety infrastructure. Burkina Faso had also benefited from the technical and financial support furnished by the Agency to the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA). A fruitful partnership between AFRA and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) would be a major asset in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technologies for the development of the African continent.

16. In addition, given the recognized need for stronger collaboration between the various organizations of the UN system, his delegation welcomed the operational strengthening of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. It also encouraged the Agency to strengthen further its partnership with the WHO, particularly in the fight against cancer.

17. Mr ARADSZKI (Hungary), recalling the national energy strategy adopted by his Government in 2011, reaffirmed Hungary's strong commitment to nuclear energy. Outlining some of the steps taken in that area, he said that, in October 2013, a request had been made for a licence to extend the operating life of unit 2 of the Paks power plant beyond its designed lifetime. A decision was expected before the end of the year. Furthermore, in January 2014, the Government had signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Russian Federation for the construction of new units at the site of the Paks power plant. Finance would be assured through a loan contract between the parties and a

government commissioner had been appointed to ensure the smooth implementation of the construction and commissioning of the new units.

18. Hungary welcomed the Agency's work to enhance the capabilities of Member States in the use of nuclear energy, which contributed to a reduction in global carbon emissions.

19. It also welcomed the Agency's efforts to implement the Agency's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Noting that Hungary's national action plan on nuclear safety, which included proposals by the regulatory body to amend the legal framework to meet post-Fukushima safety requirements, was valid until 2018, he said that Hungary would be hosting an IRRS mission in 2015 and noted that an OSART mission would shortly be conducted at the Paks power plant.

20. Hungary had taken part in the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and was pleased that its national report had been well received. It had supported the convening of a diplomatic conference in February 2015 to consider a Swiss amendment to the Convention.

21. A few weeks previously, Hungary had reached an important milestone by eliminating the consequences of the 2003 fuel incident. The casks with the damaged fuel had been transported in accordance with EU regulations and transport safety requirements and had safely arrived in the Russian Federation for further processing in August. While no further physical action was required at the Paks site, the lessons learned must be incorporated fully into the operation and supervision of the power plant.

22. His country was strongly committed to enhancing global efforts in the field of nuclear security and looked forward to the holding by the Agency of the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2016. It was participating actively in the nuclear security summit process and looked forward to beginning preparations for the fourth Summit to be held in the United States.

23. Implementation of the measures suggested by the IPPAS mission conducted the previous year was on schedule and Hungary was working on the active implementation of its relevant cooperation agreement with the Agency on matters of nuclear security. Earlier in the year, his country had hosted a national training course organized by the Agency on cybersecurity, and its cooperation in the field of nuclear forensics was proving beneficial to all concerned.

24. An important step had been taken at the end of the previous year to improve the security of nuclear installations in Hungary with the repatriation of the last batch of HEU to the Russian Federation, the country of origin. He expressed his country's deep appreciation to the Governments of the Russian Federation and the United States, and to the Agency, whose help and cooperation had made the transportation possible.

25. Turning to Hungary's in-kind support for the Agency's safeguards activities, he said that his country had continued to provide training for safeguards inspectors. It had participated actively in drafting the Agency's safeguards implementation guides and had conducted a two-day large-scale national nuclear emergency preparedness and response exercise attended by more than 20 observers. Hungary was grateful to the Agency for lending the Centre for Energy Research the equipment required to recalibrate the whole body counters at three Hungarian institutions.

26. Hungary attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities. It had held eight workshops and training courses over the previous year, including in the field of human health and in helping governments to undertake an analysis using multiple criteria before deciding to embark on a nuclear power programme.

27. Where international cooperation in the field of nuclear power was concerned, which his country highly valued, he said that his Government was implementing a joint training programme with Viet Nam under which it had trained 160 experts since 2012. The theoretical training was provided at the Institute of Nuclear Techniques and the practical training given at the Maintenance Training Centre at the Paks nuclear power plant.

28. Hungary valued the Agency's work in nuclear applications, including with respect to water resources and conservation of cultural heritage. It was particularly pleased that PACT was having an impact in countries in need.

29. In conclusion, he emphasized his Government's position that nuclear energy should contribute to the global energy mix and, in that connection, reaffirmed the full support of his country for the Agency.

30. Mr BARNOR (Ghana) said that his delegation welcomed the strengthened focus on the peaceful application of nuclear energy in the areas of agriculture, health, industry, environment, human resource and capacity development. The people and Government of Ghana appreciated the Agency's support in those areas, notably, in the establishment of an accelerator centre in Accra, and set continued store by the mutually beneficial partnership between the Agency and Ghana, through the increased application of peaceful nuclear technologies.

31. Where Ghana's nuclear power infrastructure was concerned, work was progressing on various fronts, including the identification of an appropriate site, technology and energy assessment, the development of human resources and management systems, grid assessment and stakeholder engagement, among others. All those efforts had been directed towards development of the capacity for a comprehensive review and updating of Ghana's energy plan. To that end, public awareness programmes and other stakeholder engagement meetings had been organized to educate both the public and the relevant stakeholders. In addition, stakeholder meetings had been organized to seek support and information for the execution of the various tasks involved.

32. A bill was currently before parliament for the establishment of an independent nuclear regulatory authority, with the mandate to oversee and certify the various stages of the construction of the country's first nuclear power plant. The Government was providing increased support for the nuclear power programme through the development of the required policy guidelines. Encouraged also by the decades of political stability in Ghana, many of the country's partners were showing a keen interest in those developments. Thanks to continued support from the Agency through its technical cooperation programme, Ghana would eventually commission its first nuclear power plant, thereby boosting social and economic development, not only in Ghana, but also across the West African subregion through the existing power pool system.

33. Through the technical cooperation programme and the Agency's other coordinated research projects, Ghana had steadily built its capabilities in the application of isotope techniques to water resource assessment and had recently included isotope hydrology in the national water resource assessment programme. Efforts were currently under way to employ those techniques in developing a comprehensive aquifer map of the country, which, together with other water resource information, was imperative for national policy implementation.

34. In addition, significant progress had been made in the Agency-led project on the integrated and sustainable management of shared aquifer systems and basins of the Sahel region. The role played by the Agency and other supporting countries in fostering understanding of national and transboundary aquifer systems was highly commendable. Ghana urged other Member States with the technological capabilities and financial resources to consider extending their support, which would help stem the grave challenge to many countries in the Sahel region of environment-induced migration and extreme

poverty. To that end, the Agency should seek to ensure that its contribution in that area was captured as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, thus ensuring that it continued to attract the necessary support in that area.

35. Recognizing the importance of sustainable nuclear education and training in the broader framework of capacity building and nuclear knowledge management for the nuclear industry, Ghana firmly maintained its commitment to the Agency's human resource development initiatives and to the Nuclear Knowledge Management programme at the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences at the University of Ghana, which was the AFRA regional designated centre for professional training and higher education in nuclear science and technology and radiation protection. It was particularly grateful for the Agency's support for the School, through the granting of fellowships to Ghanaian students for PhD programmes. That support had enabled Ghana to offer courses and programmes at the School. The Agency fellowships had also significantly helped Member States in the AFRA region to build capacity in the nuclear industry, in particular for regulatory activities and research in nuclear and radioactive source usage, safety, security and safeguards. The fellows and alumni of the School were now playing the leading role in efforts to preserve and expand nuclear knowledge in their respective countries.

36. Noting with gratification that most of the Ghanaians benefiting from the Agency's PhD sandwich programmes had joined the School's teaching staff, his delegation looked forward to further cooperation in that field in support of the gradual transition of nuclear knowledge expertise from the older to the younger generation.

37. With support, once again, from the Agency and other stakeholder institutions, Ghana had been able to develop its human resource capabilities for radioactive waste management. It has also developed draft radioactive waste management regulations and a radioactive waste management policy and strategy.

38. Successful implementation of the borehole disposal concept would provide Ghana with a disposal option for the disused sealed radioactive sources generated and would enable it to develop the necessary technical capabilities to pioneer borehole disposal technology both in the West Africa subregion and in Africa as a whole.

39. With regard to the conversion of HEU-based research and test reactors to LEU fuel, he reported that Ghana had conducted feasibility studies for the possible conversion of its research reactor, with support from the Agency and the Argonne National Laboratory in the United States and, to that end, a reactor core conversion safety analysis report had been completed. Plans to return HEU spent fuel had been initiated in February 2011, with the establishment of an international miniature neutron source reactor (MNSR) working group to coordinate those activities. Ghana had requested the Agency's assistance in the removal and transport of the irradiated HEU MNSR core and a project and supply agreement had been signed by Ghana and China, with the Agency's support and guidance, to ship the first LEU fuel to Ghana.

40. In the area of nuclear security, Ghana shared the concern of the international community regarding the need for Member States to implement all necessary measures, including the provision of adequate protection for nuclear and radioactive materials under their control against theft and sabotage. For its part, Ghana had supported the nuclear security training programmes organized by the Agency through the provision of experts and facilities. Its commitment to support international efforts to fight nuclear terrorism was demonstrated by its active involvement in nuclear security efforts, such as those by the Agency's international network of nuclear security support centres of excellence aimed at helping to build national capacity for nuclear security in Member States.

41. Mr HERDAN (Germany) said that, recognizing the central role played by the Agency in virtually every aspect of nuclear technology, Germany would continue to be a constructive partner of the Secretariat and all Member States.

42. Following the Fukushima Daiichi accident three years previously, Germany had decided to phase out nuclear power by the end of 2022. At the same time, it respected the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix, whether with or without nuclear energy. Its own energy policy goals, however, were very ambitious and, in the future, its energy supply was to be based predominantly on renewable sources. Transforming the energy system consisted of three pillars: increasing the share of renewable energies; increasing energy efficiency; and making future grids more flexible. Switching to renewables was both cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. Grids needed to be enlarged and made more flexible to accommodate the integration of electricity from renewable energy sources.

43. Germany would continue, however, to use nuclear power for nearly another decade, until 2022. At the same time, it was aware of the cross-border implications of the safety of nuclear power plants and would continue to attach the highest importance to safe nuclear technology. In addition, it would have to focus on the back-end of the fuel cycle: its closed down reactors would have to be decommissioned and dismantled and treatment and disposal of the waste would take several more decades.

44. Beyond power production, the use of nuclear technology in other areas, in particular in industry, medicine, food and research, would increase and Germany would keep working hard to maintain a leading position. Other fields, such as scientific research, materials development, medicine, energy storage and semi-conductor production, also had nuclear applications and innovative high technology components and materials for nuclear applications were being developed and produced in Germany.

45. Turning to the issue of budget negotiations, he recalled Germany's advocacy of a nominal zero-growth line in all international organizations, to ensure a proper balance in public expenditure in times of continuing global financial uncertainty and additional budgetary constraints. In the end, however, in view of the Agency's special role, Germany had been able to accept 1.1% compensation for inflation in the Regular Budget for 2015.

46. In addition to the Regular Budget, Germany also contributed to specific needs of the Agency: since 2011, it had donated some €5 million to the Nuclear Security Fund and more than €5 million to the ECAS project. In support of the ReNuAL initiative, its Permanent Representative was co-chairing the relevant group of Member States and Germany was also considering making a financial contribution to the project later in the year. Germany attached considerable importance to measures to improve transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, related not only to the budget, but also to the management of the Agency, and it appreciated the continued efforts of the Director General in that regard.

47. Germany accorded particular importance to effective and efficient Agency safeguards and had one of the oldest national support programmes, which would celebrate its 36th anniversary in 2014. The programme contributed to state-of-the-art verification methods and techniques and provided training, expert advice and consultancy services to the Secretariat and other Member States. In addition, the Jülich research centre was a candidate for membership in the Agency's Network of Analytical Laboratories (NWAL).

48. Noting that, for the 124 States which had in place additional protocols to their safeguards agreements, the Agency could provide assurances that there were no indications of undeclared nuclear material or activities, Germany welcomed the fact that three more countries had joined that group since the last session of the Conference and urged all other States that had not yet done so to follow

suit. Given the continuing growth in verification demand worldwide and the need for cost-effectiveness, it welcomed the efforts by the Secretariat to improve the implementation of safeguards. At the same time, it supported the further evolution of individual State-level approaches in a structured and objective manner, considering both the technical situation and the legal and institutional structures within a State. That approach would be conducive to more cost-effective safeguards measures within each State.

49. In the area of nuclear safety, cooperation between regulators and a worldwide system of mutual controls had proved to be important pillars in the international nuclear safety regime. The three conventions on nuclear safety, together with the self-assessments and international peer reviews conducted in cooperation with the Agency and known as Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions, constituted valuable tools in that process. Accordingly, Germany particularly appreciated the revision of the IRRS Guidelines, which would ensure greater transparency as requested by the Nuclear Safety Action Plan. In addition, Germany particularly welcomed the Agency's activities in the framework of the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS), the Safety Standard Committees and the implementation of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan.

50. Germany had actively supported all the activities related to the Fukushima Daiichi response effort and would maintain that support: accordingly, it looked forward to presentation of the Agency's report on that issue by the end of the year.

51. In regard to nuclear security, his delegation highly appreciated the Agency's efforts to encourage States to ratify the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the most important instrument for enhancing nuclear security worldwide. It also welcomed the Agency's efforts to implement the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2013, by preparing and organizing the international conference on computer security in a nuclear world, to be held in June 2015. Those efforts would help raise awareness of the growing threat of computer-based attacks and their potential impact on nuclear safety and security, promote the guidance provided in the Nuclear Security Series and foster the application of effective computer security measures.

52. Where high activity sources were concerned, Germany had undertaken to work over the following two years with France, Netherlands and the United States of America, and in close consultation with the Agency, on drawing up a road map of actions and cooperative measures to strengthen the international framework, support alternatives, and enhance the efforts of the ad hoc group of States that were major suppliers of radioactive sources.

53. Germany also greatly appreciated the valuable assistance provided under the Agency's technical cooperation programme to Member States in such areas as health — in particular, cancer treatment — water management, agriculture and environmental protection. It would continue to support the Agency's efforts in that regard, including through support for ReNuAL and aimed to increase its cooperation in specific projects.

54. Germany commended the efforts by the INPRO team, in coordination with other international initiatives, to serve as an essential forum for exchange on national approaches to nuclear infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of long-term strategic planning, sustainability and global dialogue.

55. Implementation of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle remained an important task. Noting that the establishment of the Agency LEU bank appeared to pose particular challenges, in particular with regard to operation, safeguards and future costs, Germany stressed the agreement by the Board of Governors that the LEU bank must not affect the proper functioning of the nuclear fuel market.

56. Looking forward to the next Review Conference of the NPT, in 2015 in New York, Germany stressed the need for progress on all three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use. The detailed, forward-looking 2010 NPT Action Plan had served well as a yardstick to measure progress achieved and, in Germany's view, renewed consensus could be sought on the Action Plan in 2015. In that context, Germany regretted that the conference on a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery had not yet taken place.

57. Where the dispute about Iran's nuclear programme was concerned, the JPA agreed on by the E3+3 and Iran in Geneva in 2013 remained an important step towards a lasting solution. At the same time, the scope of Iran's nuclear programme, including enrichment and heavy water-related activities, was still a source of grave concern to the international community. Germany therefore reiterated its demand that Iran fully cooperate with the Agency and provide the necessary transparency. A serious effort to resolve all measures under the Framework for Cooperation was vital to dispel all doubts relating to Iran's past nuclear activities. While the E3+3 and Iran had made tangible progress towards a comprehensive agreement, significant differences remained on key issues. It was now up to Iran to take the strategic decision to limit its nuclear programme significantly and to agree to corresponding transparency measures to help restore mutual trust and confidence. Reaching an agreement by 24 November, one year after agreement on the JPA, would be crucial.

58. For its part, the DPRK's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes remained a threat to regional and international security. The prospect of proliferation to and from the DPRK was alarming and Germany called upon all States to comply strictly with their obligations under Security Council resolutions and to send a clear signal to the DPRK regime that nuclear brinkmanship would not be tolerated.

59. In conclusion, he reiterated that nuclear technologies needed intensive international collaboration and oversight and, to that end, looked forward to continued constructive cooperation with the Secretariat and all Member States.

60. Mr YOUSFI (Algeria) reaffirmed Algeria's commitment to the indispensable role played by the Agency in the consolidation of national capacities in the nuclear field. Accordingly, it commended the Director General on his judicious choice of the theme of "Radioactive waste: meeting the challenge — science and technology for safe and sustainable solutions" for the 2014 Scientific Forum, as a subject of great importance in ensuring a sustainable social and economic development which preserved the environment.

61. Algeria accorded particular importance to the balance between the three pillars underpinning the Agency's mandate: the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety and security, and safeguards. It also attached great importance to the Country Programme Framework 2012–2017 as an instrument for deepening technical cooperation between Algeria and the Agency and, in that context, was pleased to report a project implementation rate in 2013 in excess of 80%, thanks to the dedication of the staff of the Department for Technical Cooperation and their national counterparts responsible for project implementation.

62. Noting the key importance of human health, food and agriculture for the African continent, he conveyed his country's approval that a large part of the financial resources allocated by the Agency to technical cooperation activities for Africa were designated for those purposes. Given its active engagement in regional activities in nuclear medicine, radiological protection and radiation dosimetry, Algeria welcomed the Regional Conference on Nuclear Medicine held in June 2014 and looked forward to the Eighth African Conference on Research Reactors to be held in December 2014.

63. Cognizant that the promotion of nuclear science and technology could not be achieved without the development of adequate human resources, Algeria was committed to the development of the

Algerian Training Institute in Nuclear Energy, which could assume a regional role. As a founder member of the AFRA regional agreement, Algeria also welcomed the results that had been achieved since its entry into force, and took the opportunity of its 25th anniversary to renew its support of and commitment to regional activities undertaken under its auspices.

64. Sharing the growing interest in many countries in nuclear power generation, Algeria was making preparations to include that source of energy in its national mix, with the construction of its first nuclear power plant being scheduled for 2027. In addition, as a member of INPRO, Algeria was closely following future trends in nuclear energy systems.

65. Algeria appreciated the Agency's role in the promotion of a nuclear safety and security culture, along with the technical assistance provided to developing countries for the establishment of national competence in that area and the strengthening of the physical protection infrastructures for nuclear installations and materials. It also welcomed the progress made in implementing the Agency's Nuclear Safety Action Plan and in preparing a report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident, which was to be finalized before the end of 2014. Noting that nuclear safety was a constant preoccupation for his country, he welcomed the global approach that had been adopted in that regard, bringing together the formation of competences and the Agency's criteria and instructions regarding the regular evaluation of the safety of research reactors.

66. Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the area of nuclear security, he reported that in Algeria, alongside the establishment of a nuclear security training and support centre, the legislative and regulatory framework had been strengthened with the amendment of the Criminal Code to criminalize the malicious use of radioactive materials and acts of nuclear terrorism. In addition, a specific regulation had been issued for the physical protection of nuclear materials and installations and the security of radioactive sources, based largely on Agency recommendations.

67. In fulfilment of its commitments to international peace and security, Algeria had ratified all instruments relating to nuclear security and, in that regard, reiterated the importance of universal adherence to all such international legal instruments. Where safeguards were concerned, Algeria considered the Agency's verification system to be a fundamental element in the nuclear non-proliferation regime and reaffirmed its confidence in the Secretariat with regard to the conduct of statutory verification missions. It took note of the progress achieved in strengthening and improving the effectiveness of the safeguards system, and encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts in that regard in conformity with its Statute. It renewed its support for the Agency's authority as the duly mandated institution for verification, and for the universalization of its safeguards system as an effective nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament instrument. Where implementation of the comprehensive safeguards agreements was concerned, Algeria reiterated its full confidence in, and willingness to cooperate with, the Agency.

68. It was Algeria's conviction that all matters of international peace and security must be resolved in a peaceful manner and through dialogue and cooperation. The 17th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Algiers from 26 to 29 May 2014 under the theme "Enhanced solidarity for peace and prosperity", clearly reaffirmed the Movement's founding principles. In that context, Algeria welcomed the encouraging developments regarding the long-standing Iranian nuclear issue, thereby confirming the resolute commitment of all parties concerned to a peaceful and definitive resolution.

69. At the same time, the Algerian delegation remained seriously concerned by the status quo situation relating to the implementation of Agency safeguards in the Middle East and by the continued impediment to fulfilment of the mandate conferred upon the Director General by the General Conference posed by Israel's persistent refusal to accede to the NPT and to submit all its

nuclear installations to the Agency's verification regime. That impasse in the application of safeguards in the Middle East, which must be cause for serious concern for the entire international community, contravened the commitments made at the international level to disarmament and non-proliferation, and aggravated the security imbalance in the region.

70. For that reason, adherence to the NPT by all the countries of the region, without exception, and the submission of all their installations to the Agency's verification regime constituted indispensable preconditions for the restoration of confidence among the countries of the region. In that context, as a founding member of the Treaty of Pelindaba establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, Algeria exhorted the international community to make an even greater effort to establish a comparable zone in the Middle East. It deeply regretted the unjustified postponement of the conference, initially planned for 2012, to launch a process for establishing such a zone and reiterated its support for the Facilitator, Mr Laajava, and his efforts to create the necessary conditions for the successful holding of the conference, with the participation of all parties concerned and in accordance with the 1995 resolution.

71. In conclusion, turning to the financial challenges faced by the Agency in recent years, particularly with regard to the financing of its technical cooperation activities, he was pleased to report that Algeria paid its financial obligations to the Agency in full and on time, and welcomed the positive evolution, albeit relative, in the rate of attainment for the Technical Cooperation Fund. It was also encouraged by the results of the deliberations of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities, including the Technical Cooperation Fund, which were likely to facilitate discussions of future budget programming.

72. Mr JEJJO (Iraq) reiterated the concern expressed by Iraq at the Conference's 57th session about fast-moving events in the Middle East that were leading to a deteriorating security situation in the region, an increase in terrorist threats to nuclear and radiological facilities and installations and the possibility of terrorist groups using the equipment and materials in them in their criminal operations. He also repeated his Government's warnings that terrorism was one of the greatest and most dangerous threats confronting international peace and security and that increased nuclear security measures were a necessary means of preventing nuclear and radioactive materials falling into the hands of terrorists.

73. Over the previous few months, Iraq had been subject to ferocious terrorist attacks targeting several of its regions, including by the notorious terrorist organization ISIL. A great deal had been discovered about the nature of those terrorist organizations and groups, and their sources of funding and support, leading the international community to re-evaluate their potential impact on international peace and security, and the UN Security Council to adopt its resolution 2170 (2014). Implementation of that resolution required coordinated international efforts to combat terrorism, dry up its sources of funding and prevent funds and arms reaching those extremist organizations and groups. In that context, Iraq appreciated the efforts by the five permanent members of the Security Council and the EU to form an international alliance and draw up realistic plans to confront the extremist groups and to contain the danger that they posed and their spread around the world.

74. Although terrorists currently controlled several regions of Iraq and their facilities, the national institutions had embarked on an assessment of the likely risks that control by those terrorist groups posed to the facilities and materials, and all necessary measures had been taken to limit those risks through coordination between all the institutions under the leadership of the national operations centre, which fell under the direct authority of the Prime Minister's Office.

75. In addition, the Iraqi authorities were working tirelessly to improve the safety and security of nuclear activities at the legislative and executive levels. At the legislative level, Iraq had recently

ratified the Convention on the Protection of Nuclear Material, which came into force on 6 August 2014, in addition to ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The competent authorities were currently preparing a bill on accession to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel, for submission to Parliament for approval.

76. At the implementation level, Iraq had begun discussions with the Agency on development of its national nuclear security programme, with a view to boosting its capacity to protect materials and facilities, to ensure information security and to conduct nuclear forensics. At their first meeting, held in Amman in August 2014, the two parties had discussed the proposed integrated nuclear security plan. Iraq's gratitude was due to the staff of the Division of Nuclear Security for their work to develop the capabilities of Iraqi experts in that field and to the Government of Jordan for hosting the workshop. In addition, Iraq and the United States had signed a joint action programme to combat smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials with the aim of strengthening cooperation between the two countries in that area.

77. Iraq had also made great progress towards establishing a national system for the control of dual purpose materials and equipment, having completed the second phase of that programme, which would enhance control of sensitive materials and equipment listed in the conventions and treaties of the international disarmament and non-proliferation system.

78. Over seven years, Iraq had been working with experts from the Agency, several friendly countries and the EU on a programme to dismantle the destroyed nuclear sites and facilities of the former Iraqi nuclear programme, and on management of the radioactive waste resulting from them. Although the dismantling of those installations and facilities, destroyed during military operations in 1991, posed enormous challenges, a great deal had been achieved on the ground through exclusively Iraqi efforts. Iraq was very proud of the technical achievements of its nationals who had carried out that work, of their meticulous care and level of preparedness, and their execution of the task in the light of the difficult security conditions and environment. Several installations and systems both within and outside the Tuwaitha nuclear complex had been dismantled and work was currently under way on detailed plans to dismantle other facilities in line with the priorities set in agreement with the Agency.

79. The Iraqi Government was working to ensure the enhanced safety of future generations and to prevent them from being adversely affected by various kinds of environmental pollution, in particular radioactive pollution, resulting from the activities carried out in the destroyed nuclear facilities or the depleted uranium used during the 1991 and 2003 wars. That work was being carried out in compliance with the Agency's instructions and, to that end, a national committee had been set up to draft a comprehensive strategy for the management and secure disposal of radioactive waste, with representation of all the State institutions.

80. Iraq was also working to introduce certain nuclear applications for the peaceful uses of atomic energy, such as the electron and ion accelerator for use in scientific research and in medical, environmental, agricultural, industrial and other applications, and hoped that the Agency would provide further support in those areas. In that context, he reiterated Iraq's continuing need for international support to clean its environment of all harmful pollutants.

81. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of the NPT and to the comprehensive safeguards system as the cornerstones for the maintenance of regional and international peace and security. In that regard, he stressed the urgent need to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, a move essential to the peace and stability of the region. Efforts must continue to convene a special conference on the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, in accordance with the resolutions adopted in the

final documents of the 1995 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences. In that context, he also highlighted the need for Israel to accede to the NPT and to submit all its nuclear installations to the Agency's safeguards system.

82. The development of peaceful programmes was the inalienable right of all countries, and of particular importance to the developing countries, which should be able to draw up national development programmes without hindrance and without the imposition of conditions that affected their State interests. Accordingly, his Government welcomed the continued approach of dialogue and diplomatic discussion between the Agency and Iran on the one hand, and the P5+1 group on the other, to find a solution to all outstanding issues in accordance with the standards of international law.

83. Mr NAMBURETE (Mozambique) said that an environment of political stability and worldwide commitment to peace and welfare were conditions sine qua non for mutual trust and for the peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Accordingly, Mozambique commended the Agency in particular on the scientific progress achieved in 2012 and 2013 in the areas of plant breeding and genetics and in the sustainable control of insect pests, including tsetse flies and mosquitoes, given their potential impact on food security and public health.

84. It also took note of the encouraging steps towards the setting up of the Virtual University for Cancer Control and Regional Training Network, the secretariat of which would be based in Uganda, which would make an immense contribution to the human resource development for cancer control and related activities, benefiting all people.

85. As one of the 162 Member States that advocated the right of all countries to develop the peaceful use of nuclear science and technologies for social and economic development, Mozambique was resolutely opposed to the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons and of nuclear technology for military purposes, by any country in the world, including Member States of the Agency. Since 2006, when it had acceded to the Agency, it had maintained as its purpose the use of nuclear technology for development. In that context, it continued to benefit from the Agency's technical assistance in such areas as human and animal health, agriculture, energy planning, mining and radiation safety and protection, through training measures, the installation of laboratories and enhancement of research activities using nuclear techniques.

86. Recognizing the need to comply with the Agency's safety requirements, in 2009 Mozambique had established its regulatory body, the National Atomic Energy Agency. It had also recently tabled its Nuclear Act and Integrated Nuclear Support Security Plan before parliament, and hoped to see them approved early in 2015.

87. He was also pleased to report that, during the Conference's current session, Mozambique would be signing its first Country Programme Framework with the Agency, for the period 2014–2019. Priority under the Framework would be given to areas of social concern, where technical cooperation was particularly valuable, such as agriculture, human health, water resources, environmental management, industrial applications, radioactive waste management and radiation protection and energy planning. The potential contribution of the use of nuclear technology was already visible in the projects currently under implementation.

88. Progress was also being made in the country's health project, where, with support from the Agency, work was under way on setting up the country's first radiotherapy centre. Another important project was under way in the area of animal health and production, designed to improve the country's animal reproduction and breeding capacity and animal health through the use of nuclear techniques and related technologies. Positive results had already been achieved thanks to the technical training, laboratory equipment, consumables and diagnostic kits, along with related technical assistance,

provided by the Agency. Benefits from that cooperation were also being felt in the areas of energy planning and mining.

89. Capacity building under the technical cooperation programme was of particular value to developing countries, with the ultimate goal of fostering the sustainable use of nuclear science in those countries, helping them to create a highly trained human resource base. Accordingly, he expressed Mozambique's acknowledgement to the Secretariat for its support in that regard, which represented a significant contribution to the development of its human resources.

90. Mozambique welcomed the topic for the 2014 Scientific Forum, which was particularly relevant to countries such as his own, which were facing a serious challenge of radioactive waste. He expressed his country's hope that the Forum would help those countries find scientific means of tackling the problem.

91. Ms HAINGURA (Namibia) expressed her delegation's gratitude to the Director-General for his visit to Namibia in December 2013, during which he had attended the commissioning of a new nuclear medicine facility that had made quality and vital diagnostic and therapeutic services accessible and affordable to more than 800 000 people in northern Namibia, in particular in the area of cancer control. The eighth Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference, held in Namibia, had demonstrated again that the growth in cancer mortality and morbidity was a global trend and that developing countries such as Namibia were the worst affected. Accordingly, Namibia particularly welcomed the Agency's focus on cancer control through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

92. Namibia set particular store by interventions designed to meet such basic needs as improving public health, enhancing food security, creating opportunities for people to participate in economic and industrial development and empowering citizens to pursue a dignified and self-sustaining life. It therefore valued the role played by the Agency and nuclear technology as important vehicles for the promotion of social and economic development. Recognizing in that context the importance of Country Programme Frameworks as an important vehicle that enhanced and integrated the application of nuclear technology in national development programmes, her Government looked forward to signing a new Framework to consolidate the good foundation that had been established to date.

93. Namibia also supported initiatives that promoted food security, which remained a priority concern for the country, and was encouraged by the positive technological developments in that area, in particular in crop mutation for the creation of drought-resistant and high-yielding crops, and the technology to improve nutrient efficiency in crop production. To that end, it appreciated the efforts of the Agency to improve the laboratories at Seibersdorf and welcomed the continued support provided by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture to Member States in the use of nuclear techniques to improve food security and sustainable agriculture.

94. While Namibia placed great emphasis on technical cooperation and appreciated nuclear technology as a useful tool for the enhancement of social and economic development, it remained cognizant of its potential harmful effects. In that regard, it had made great strides in improving its regulatory framework for the control and monitoring of radiological impacts in all facilities and practices. The necessary legislative and regulatory framework had been established and the institutional infrastructure was in place. While the country prepared to expand the scope of nuclear technology application, it was at the same time strengthening the regulatory system and capacity for the safe and secure use of nuclear technology, including its obligation to ensure that nuclear material was used for peaceful purposes only.

95. Given that nuclear power remained a viable option for many developing countries, including her own, to ensure energy security for sustainable development, she was pleased to announce that Namibia

had now adopted its Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy, defining its intentions regarding the extraction, processing and value addition to uranium ore and uranium ore products. She stressed that it was the inalienable right of Namibia to participate in any and all activities in the nuclear fuel cycle in line with the Agency's Statute and its national development strategies. It welcomed discussions that would lead to mutually beneficial outcomes in that area. In that context, she informed the Conference that Namibia would be hosting the 51st meeting of the Joint Agency–NEA Uranium Group to discuss and exchange technical information on uranium resources, exploration and environmental technologies.

96. Namibia's Nuclear Science and Technology Policy set out its intentions in the use and application of nuclear technology to human health, agricultural productivity and industrial processes. That and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy were anchored in the country's Vision 2030, which was to develop a prosperous and industrialized country, developed by its own human resources and enjoying peace, harmony and political stability. In that regard, it looked forward to a fruitful engagement with the Agency and other partners in translating those policies into practical strategic interventions that met the needs and aspirations of the Namibian people.

97. Namibia recognized that nuclear technology was a highly specialized domain, requiring the development of skills, infrastructure and the ability to translate the technology into viable projects and programmes. One of its key priorities in that regard was to translate its policies into meaningful outcomes to improve the level and quality of its education and to strengthen its research performance. Accordingly, it had started to develop educational programmes and improve the institutional infrastructure that would support innovation, research and related development activities. It believed that mutually beneficial partnerships provided the cornerstone for industrial development and the use of nuclear technology as a vehicle that added value in the process of economic growth and wealth creation for the country as a whole.

98. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland) said that the accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima had set a grave challenge before the global nuclear community and the Agency. If, every 25 years, efforts to implement nuclear technologies were to be disrupted by a serious accident, it would be well nigh impossible to reassure citizens that those efforts served the welfare and development of humanity, as stated in the Agency's Statute. Accordingly, the safety authorities of the States Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had understood the need for decisive action.

99. In line with a recommendation of the Agency's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, Switzerland had introduced an amendment to strengthen the safety both of new and older reactors, which would be considered at a diplomatic conference in Vienna in February 2015. Three years after the Fukushima Daiichi accident, Governments had both the responsibility and the opportunity to restore and strengthen confidence in the safety of their nuclear facilities and in multilateral arrangements for that purpose. Switzerland therefore called on all States Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to ensure the success of that diplomatic conference. Aware of its own responsibility in that regard, Switzerland would make a substantial financial contribution to facilitate the meeting.

100. Recalling that the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA) had already decided to adopt practices in line with those proposed in the Swiss amendment, he suggested that an amendment to the Convention on Nuclear Safety would preclude the eventual creation of two safety levels. While the current wording of the amendment was not the optimal wording for attainment of its purpose, and it had not achieved consensus at the Sixth Review Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the decision to hold a diplomatic conference was in itself evidence of the will of the States Parties to seek that consensus. Switzerland would continue participating in the informal negotiating process led by the Ambassador of Argentina and called upon all States parties to do likewise.

101. Another important event related to nuclear safety on the Agency's calendar, at which Switzerland intended to play an active role, was the NPT Review Conference, to be held in May 2015 to review implementation of the recommendations of the previous conference in 2010.

102. Turning to the issue of nuclear security, he said that the responsible use of nuclear energy must take into account the risk of diversion of nuclear or radiological materials and the Netherlands Government was therefore to be commended on its organization of the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit at The Hague, which had brought attention to that issue. While nuclear security was the exclusive responsibility of individual States, his delegation called on States that had not done so to ratify and implement the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment, and to implement the measures contained in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. As the institution recognized by all States as playing a leading role in the field of nuclear safety, the Agency was best placed to provide advice and establish best practices in that area for States seeking such guidance.

103. If the objective of nuclear security was to be attainable, the security of all nuclear or radiological materials, whether civilian or military, must be strengthened, and military materials, by virtue of their destructive capacity, posed the greater risk. It was therefore timely, at the threshold of the 2015 NPT Review Conference and looking forward also to the fourth Nuclear Safety Summit and the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2016, to send a clear signal on the need to strengthen all areas of nuclear security.

104. Turning to the Agency's verification activities, he stressed that the Agency's safeguards were essential to the non-proliferation regime and that States must work together to ensure their effectiveness and efficiency. In that context, Switzerland particularly appreciated the work by the Secretariat over the previous two years on the State-level approach, which had resulted in the publication of a valuable supplementary document on the issue. In its view, those improvements would benefit not only the Agency but also the State concerned in terms of savings in cost and effort.

105. If, however, the improvements proved to be insignificant, the debate should be reopened, since it would mean that, first, the resolution on safeguards routinely adopted by the General Conference calling for their effective and efficient application and, second, some of the recommendations contained in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference would not be fulfilled. That would be clarified by the periodic reports of the Secretariat on the implementation of the State-level approach.

106. Switzerland would maintain its commitment to optimizing the safeguards system and stressed the need to send a clear signal to the 2015 NPT Review Conference and to establish a new relationship of trust between States parties.

107. His delegation also welcomed the cooperation in evidence since January 2014 between the Agency and Iran. The process was now entering a decisive phase and the two sides were encouraged to strengthen that cooperation in pursuit of a diplomatic solution acceptable to all parties.

108. Turning to the Safeguards Statement for 2013, which listed Switzerland in the group of States for which assessments about the absence of undeclared material and activities were still in progress, he pointed out that the Agency's assessments for Switzerland had been completed in 2011 and that no issues remained open and requested the Secretariat to rectify that anomaly in the next Safeguards Statement. At the same time, he expressed appreciation for a two-day course organized by the Secretariat in November 2013 for inspectors from the Swiss national nuclear materials accounting and control system, together with officials from various nuclear material facilities.

109. With regard to the question of how to ensure sustainable funding for technical cooperation activities, it was clear from the discussions on the subject that the subject had not yet been exhausted. His delegation was among those which believed that Article 2 of the Statute was the fundamental reason for the accession of the vast majority of States to the Agency and thus the Technical Cooperation Fund should therefore be integrated into the Regular Budget.

110. With regard to the application of nuclear energy in his country, he reported that, on 25 May 2011, following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the Swiss Federal Council and Parliament had decided to phase out the use of nuclear energy for electricity production. Pursuant to that decision, the country's five nuclear power plants would be decommissioned at the end of their operating life and would not be replaced. To that end, the Government had developed an energy strategy up to 2050 (SE 2050), which was before parliament. The energy strategy not only included measures in the field of energy, such as non-replacement of nuclear power plants, reduced energy consumption, renewable energy and energy-efficient transport alternatives, it also reconfigured the country's medium-term energy and climate policies. The Federal Council set great store by the systematic integration of the country's existing energy efficiency potential, which should then be supported by the proper use of its existing hydropower and renewable energy potential. As a second step, it aimed to replace the existing incentive system by an innovation-based system.

111. In preparing the proposed strategy, the Government had undertaken a full revision of the country's Energy Act. Consideration of the proposal in parliament would continue until 2015 and, once adopted, would probably be put to a referendum and was likely to enter into force in 2016.

112. In view of those developments, in October 2013, the Bern power utility BKW Energie AG had announced its decision to shut down the Mühleberg nuclear power plant in 2019. That decision had been motivated by economic and political considerations, added to the investment costs required for safe operation of plant in the long term.

113. On the issue of nuclear waste, he explained that the Swiss Nuclear Energy Act required nuclear operators to meet their own waste disposal costs, while the costs of decommissioning nuclear facilities and storing radioactive waste were covered by two independent funds. A study had found, however, that the claims on those two funds would be higher than anticipated because returns had been lower and implementation costs higher than expected. Consequently, the Government had decided to increase the financial contributions to 30% and to cut the rates adopted for returns on equity.

114. Where waste management was concerned, a three-stage study had been under way since 2008 to identify sites for a deep geological repository. At the end of the first stage in 2011, six geological sites had been selected and declared technically suitable for the storage of nuclear waste. Those six sites were being extensively evaluated in terms of technical safety. The regions that might end up hosting a repository were able to take part in the process, through regional conferences on the siting of the facilities, discussion of the regional development strategy and analysis of social and economic impacts. By about 2027, the process should have led to identification of one site for low and intermediate level waste and another for highly radioactive waste. The possibility of a combined repository would also be considered.

115. Looking forward to Switzerland's imminent return to membership of the Board, he gave assurances that his delegation would actively participate in its work and would support joint initiatives to achieve the objectives of the Statute.

116. Mr GALSTYAN (Armenia) said that, for the further development of nuclear power, it was crucial to respect the non-proliferation regime and to implement NPT safeguards. To that end, Armenia was constantly updating its national legislation and fulfilling all its international commitments. Thus, in September 2013, the parliament had adopted amendments to the country's Act

on the safe use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, relating to nuclear material accountancy and control.

117. Armenia was developing cooperation with other countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In December 2013, it had signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear safety with the Russian Federation which, once ratified and in force, would enable Armenia to expand its nuclear safety infrastructure, including with new nuclear power units based on a Russian design, and by training and upgrading specialists in nuclear safety in line with the Agency's recommendations.

118. In addition, it had been agreed with Agency representatives that an IPPAS mission would be conducted to Armenia in early December 2014.

119. He gave full reassurances that the safety of the existing unit of the Armenian nuclear power plant (ANPP) was being closely monitored by the national authorities. In November 2013, the Armenian nuclear energy safety council had examined reports by the heads of the ANPP and the State nuclear safety regulatory committee and considered the issue of the construction of a new nuclear power unit in Armenia. It had noted that the construction site had been selected, an assessment of the unit's environmental impact had been carried out and the design of the reactor facility had been chosen. Owing to lack of funding, however, construction of the new unit had been delayed and, in March 2014, the Government had decided to extend the design life of unit 2 of the ANPP. A draft intergovernmental agreement between Armenia and the Russian Federation on the provision of funding for that programme had been drawn up and in May 2014 a government programme had been approved for the commissioning of the new unit in 2027.

120. Armenia firmly intended to develop nuclear power as a fundamental element of its energy programme. It would only be able to maintain appropriate levels of energy security and to ensure its independence, however, with a nuclear power plant as part of its basic electricity supply system. It was currently negotiating with potential investors for construction of a new nuclear power unit.

121. With the help of the Agency and international experts, significant work had been conducted to strengthen the seismic safety of the existing ANPP unit, including through an Agency project on its seismic certification and a European Commission project on its pipeline integrity. The Agency re-evaluation of the seismic safety of ANPP unit 2, which had involved more than 20 missions to provide support and to verify the work carried out, had been completed and was set out in document IAEA/RU-5869.

122. In October 2013, in the framework of EU technical support, Armenia and the organization ITER-Consult had started work on a radioactive waste and spent fuel management strategy. An inter-agency working group had been set up, comprising specialists in all relevant areas. An analysis of the current situation with regard to the safe management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel had been conducted and current legislation analysed. In line with the current workplan, a number of measures had been conducted to develop the strategy, including a visit to Italy by Armenian experts to familiarize themselves with waste management practices in that country. According to the work schedule, development of the strategy should be complete by the end of 2015. In accordance with the provisions of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, a working group had been set up to prepare a national report, the draft of which was currently with the State nuclear safety regulatory committee for approval.

123. With the support of the EU, Armenia had conducted a stress test on the existing ANPP unit. In January 2014, a final report on the stress test had been submitted for consideration by the State nuclear safety regulatory committee, which was currently preparing a national report.

124. In September 2014, the sixth technical conference on international assistance for the improvement of ANPP safety had been held. The conference, attended by representatives of the Agency, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United States and the EU, through its Armenian on-site assistance programme, had reviewed the participation of Armenia and donor countries in the improvement of the safety of the existing ANPP unit. Since that meeting, the ANPP had continued systematic and extensive work to improve safety, with technical support from the Czech Republic, the EU, Germany, Italy, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, to all of which he conveyed Armenia's gratitude.

125. He reiterated Armenia's keen interest in taking part in a number of INPRO projects, in particular those aimed at defining appropriate scenarios for cooperation between countries for the transition to sustainable nuclear energy systems (synergies and roadmaps) and the development of small and medium-sized nuclear reactors. Armenia was an active member of INPRO. In early 2014, the Agency and the regional nuclear safety training centre at the State Engineering University of Armenia had reached an agreement on the live streaming of lectures from the Agency under the INPRO project and the training of postgraduate students had begun in September 2014.

126. Mr ABDULLA (Bahrain) said that his country looked forward to a more extensive exchange of knowledge and nuclear technologies between the industrialized and developing countries, and the encouragement of safe and peaceful uses of atomic energy, with a view to deriving maximum benefit from the work of the Agency, in pursuit of the goals of peace and security, the furtherance of science and technology, and the implementation of technical safeguards and verification.

127. He emphasized Bahrain's support for the Agency's role in the effective application of safeguards in view of their great importance for the promotion of mutual trust in the Middle East and initiatives to rid that part of the world, including the Arabian Gulf, of nuclear weapons. In that context, his delegation regretted the failure to convene a regional conference to establish a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East in 2012 as decided, and hoped that it would be convened in the very near future.

128. Given the grave threat to international peace and security posed by weapons of mass destruction, Bahrain called for pressure to be placed on Israel to implement the relevant international resolutions, to accede to the NPT and to submit its nuclear installations to Agency control. Bahrain upheld the right of every State to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and called upon Iran to cooperate fully with the Agency. It hoped that the current international efforts would lead to a peaceful settlement of that country's nuclear issue.

129. As part of the country's efforts to apply international conventions and to enact domestic laws to curb the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear materials, in May 2014 the Council of Ministers of Bahrain had adopted a decision to set up a committee to prepare two bills: the first setting out provisions on nuclear weapons and nuclear materials, and the second prohibiting biological weapons.

130. He expressed appreciation for the close cooperation between Bahrain and the Agency in the training of national experts in such areas as use of the Regulatory Authority Information System, monitoring occupational exposure to radiation, establishing a national register to monitor occupational exposure to radiation, and also for the various projects that the Agency had set up in Bahrain.

131. In that context, he listed the following projects which Bahrain had submitted to the Agency under the technical cooperation programme: first, on the development of national capacities in the separation of radionuclides and the measurement of alpha and beta radiation and emissions from radionuclides in environmental and biological samples; second, for the promotion of national capacities in preparedness and response to radiation emergencies; third, to remove insecticide residues from water and foodstuffs; fourth, on the development of nuclear medical treatments and radiology

procedures; fifth, to set up a national committee to determine national criteria for foodstuffs and fisheries; and sixth, on technology to measure pollution of foodstuffs, water and the environment with nuclear materials. His Government hoped to receive the necessary support for the implementation of those undertakings.

132. Lastly, acknowledging with gratitude the cooperation between the Agency and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), he drew attention to the workshop held in Vienna from 31 March to 2 April 2014 to review the first draft of the GCC regional radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness and response plan.

133. Mr NJOROGE (Kenya) expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Agency through national, regional and international technical cooperation projects, which had a sustained and positive impact on Kenya's social and economic development in such fields as human health, livestock, agriculture, food security, water resource management, industrial development, environmental management and nuclear energy development.

134. Accordingly, Kenya was delighted that the Director General had visited the country on 9 and 10 December 2013. His visit had helped boost Kenya's efforts to expand its cooperation with the Agency, notably in nuclear power development, and to enhance long-standing ties with the IAEA in areas such as food and agriculture, water, health and industry. Kenya looked forward to renewed cooperation as it implemented its national development blueprint, Vision 2030, that aimed to transform Kenya into a middle income economy by the year 2030.

135. Recognizing the importance of energy security for sustainable development, Kenya applauded the critical role played by the Agency in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and establishing safety standards and guidance. It also commended the Agency on its promotion of international cooperation in that field, with a view to strengthening global nuclear safety, nuclear security and safeguards.

136. His Government recognized that nuclear power provided a proven, clean, safe and economical option in achieving energy security and, in that belief, had included nuclear energy in the country's energy strategy. The pre-feasibility study to that end had been completed and work was now under way on the feasibility studies for the nuclear power programme. Kenya also expressed gratitude to the Agency for the valuable support it continued to provide in human capacity building for the country's nuclear power programme, in collaboration with various partners and through the PUI.

137. As an embarking country, Kenya was currently reviewing its legal, institutional and regulatory framework and therefore welcomed the legislative and technical assistance that it continued to receive from the Agency, such as the legislative assistance and awareness mission in February 2014. In addition, Kenya had invited the Agency to conduct a phase 1 INIR mission, with preparations commencing in early 2015, in order to obtain expert advice and independent assessment on progress in establishing the national nuclear power infrastructure.

138. In its awareness of the importance of the marine environment, Kenya was fully committed to its protection. Marine and coastal ecosystems in Kenya were threatened by a number of natural and anthropogenic stressors, whose cumulative impacts included detrimental effects on exposed organisms; impaired ecosystem health; and local declines and high rates of mortality in biodiversity. To tackle that problem, the Government was working in partnership with the Agency on its capacity to assess pollution in the marine environment. That partnership had resulted into the setting up of a pollution monitoring programme along the Kenyan coast, which included reconstruction of the area's pollution history through the application of nuclear techniques, with the aim of understanding past trends in order to develop predictive models for future scenarios.

139. Kenya was also working in partnership with the Agency to establish a state-of-the-art laboratory using nuclear techniques to quantify biotoxins in fish farming. The aim was to transform aquaculture production, raising it from subsistence to commercial status, thereby contributing significantly to increased fish export to the global market and boosting the national economy by creating employment, earning foreign exchange, reducing poverty and enhancing food security.

140. He reported on measures by the Government to enhance the security and safety of radioactive materials and sources, including completion of the first phase of the construction of a central radioactive waste processing facility. All unused radioactive materials and orphan sources would be collected, processed and kept in interim storage while efforts to locate a site for a near surface repository continued. Kenya had set up a National Nuclear Security Committee to coordinate all nuclear security issues at both local and international levels and an Agency International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) mission had been carried out in October 2013.

141. Kenya strongly welcomed the continued focus of the Agency on cancer control and, noting with appreciation the comprehensive nature of programmes such as PACT, urged the Agency to continue its partnership with such organizations as the WHO, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), to strengthen the capacity of Member States to deal with that problem. In that regard, Kenya applauded the Agency's participation in the eighth Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference, held in Windhoek in July 2014.

142. For its part, through the implementation of various technical cooperation projects, Kenya had strengthened its national capacity and facilities for the delivery of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services. It expressed its gratitude to the Agency for the support and collaboration in equipment supply and capacity building and looked forward to continued partnership in that area.

143. Kenya had made significant progress in strengthening its national infrastructure in the food and agriculture sector, including, in conjunction with other Member States, in responding to the global threat of stem rust disease in wheat, where Kenya had carried out technical coordination and screening of wheat for Member States. In addition, Kenya had prepared a selection of resistant wheat mutant lines for a number of countries in the framework of the interregional technical cooperation project on responding to the transboundary threat of wheat black stem rust (Ug99). Its most important achievement in that endeavour had been the release of two mutant varieties for commercial production in Kenya, which would also be available to any other Member State and which would ease the costs of spraying wheat against that highly destructive disease.

144. Significant progress had also been achieved in the application of nuclear and isotopic technologies to improve soil productivity and water use efficiency, providing sustainable protection against such climate change effects as water scarcity, soil degradation and potential salinization. The country's agricultural productivity had been extensively boosted through the promotion of water management technologies, conservation agriculture and integrated soil fertility management. At the same time, the capacity of stakeholder institutions to develop and implement agricultural technology options had been enhanced at local and national levels.

145. Kenyan agriculturalists had identified drought-tolerant crops and grasses to circumvent the dry seasons and had carried out field trials and mutation breeding processes to increase biomass. Those varieties would be used to prepare total mixed rations as security against livestock deaths during time of scarcity. The country therefore looked forward to disseminating its success story on the use of nuclear techniques to improve livestock fertility and diagnostics. In addition, with support from the Agency, screening facilities for the identification of doubled haploid and maize lethal necrosis disease had been put in place and were in operation.

146. Kenya welcomed the continuing cooperation between the Agency and the African Union–Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) in raising awareness regarding tsetse flies and the resultant trypanosomosis disease problem and working towards the eradication of the flies and the disease by creating tsetse-free zones in Africa through the sterile insect technique (SIT), while ensuring that reclaimed land areas were put to economic use for the country's social and economic development. The campaign had had a positive impact in many African countries and Kenya therefore encouraged the Agency to continue its capacity building initiatives and operational assistance to field project activities at the national and regional levels.

147. Kenya appreciated the continued assistance provided by the Agency in the use of isotope and nuclear techniques in water resource development and management. The country was currently implementing a national technical cooperation project in that critical sector in partnership with the Agency. The Government recognized the importance of isotope hydrology in water resources management and had therefore committed funds towards the acquisition of equipment, thus strengthening the cost sharing basis with the Agency.

148. Kenya had collaborated with the Agency in the establishment of a Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL), managed by the Kenya Bureau of Standards, which had since been recognized by the Agency's SSDL Network. A non-destructive testing (NDT) laboratory had also been established under the Kenya Bureau of Standards, through a national technical cooperation project, and was currently providing variant testing services using a range of methodologies. The NDT laboratory had gained membership of the African Federation for Non-Destructive Testing (AFNDT), which promoted NDT activities within the region. In addition, capacity building in that area had been enhanced through a technical cooperation project aimed at establishing a teaching, training and research centre for NDT of materials at the University of Nairobi.

149. Kenya welcomed the progress made in the ReNuAL project and had become a friend of the ReNuAL project in recognition of the important role played by laboratories in the peaceful application of nuclear energy and as a vital tool in the delivery of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme.

150. As an active member of AFRA since 1991, Kenya was proud to be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Agreement, which was implemented under the auspices of the Agency. In that context, he applauded the Agreement's social and economic impacts in his country, including, through its technical cooperation projects, enhancement of technical capacity and capabilities in nuclear science and technology in Kenya through improved human resources, enhanced nuclear infrastructure and increased uses of nuclear science and technology. Among the areas that had achieved significant outputs with a greater impact on society, he highlighted radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, NDT, isotope hydrology, radiation protection, food and agriculture, nuclear instrumentation and nutrition.

151. Ms DRÁBOVÁ (Czech Republic) highlighted the two Agency review missions hosted in the Czech Republic at the end of 2013. The review of corporate safety performance at the country's largest national electricity company, ČEZ, had been completed in October and marked the first time since the Agency's launch of its OSART missions that experts had addressed the corporate aspects of a company in relation to the nuclear safety of nuclear power plants, emphasizing the organizational and human side rather than the technology. The OSART team had identified good corporate practices and provided proposals for the improvement of corporate processes and performance important to the operational safety of such plants.

152. In November 2013, the Czech Republic had hosted an IRRS mission, which had reviewed the legal and regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety, addressing all facilities and activities regulated by the State Office for Nuclear Safety. As recommended by the Agency's Nuclear Safety

Action Plan, special attention had been given to regulatory implications for nuclear safety in the light of the Fukushima Daiichi accident and a number of good practices had been identified. The IRRS review team had concluded that the Czech regulatory system for nuclear and radiation safety was robust; the regulator was an effective and independent regulatory body; the Czech Republic actively participated in the global safety regime; and the regulator benefited from experienced, technically competent and well motivated staff.

153. With regard to lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the review team had found that the Czech authorities had thoroughly assessed the regulatory implications of the accident and identified and scheduled actions that would further enhance nuclear and radiation safety. Both the review and its preparations had provided an invaluable opportunity for the State Office for Nuclear Safety to improve the country's safety framework.

154. The IRRS team had also recommended improvements to enhance the effectiveness of the regulatory framework and functions, including updating the Atomic Act, the country's legislation on administrative and legal aspects of nuclear activities. Although the current Atomic Act had served its purpose effectively over the past 17 years, there was need to bring its legally binding safety requirements into line with EU legislation, Agency safety standards, and WENRA reference levels. The fundamental changes undergone by those instruments over the previous decade should be reflected in a new Atomic Act and set of implementing regulations. Accordingly, a new bill had been drafted and submitted for consideration and further processing.

155. In a letter addressed to the European Commission in June 2014, the Czech Government had expressed the common view of 10 European countries on the role of nuclear energy in the European energy mix. The letter had called for a level playing field for all low-emission sources in the EU, in reaction to market failures which prevented new nuclear build programmes from contributing to energy security, sustainability, decarbonization and the securing of indigenous energy supply. Given the key role of nuclear power in meeting those goals, it was essential to step up efforts to ensure the highest level of nuclear safety. In that context, she recalled the decision at the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to submit the Swiss proposal to amend Article 18 of the Convention to a diplomatic conference. A similar, although broader process of legislative development in the area of nuclear safety had been in progress in the EU, which had recently amended its 2009 Nuclear Safety Directive, to include, among other measures, a high-level EU-wide safety objective to prevent accidents and avoid radioactive releases, providing a reference for the implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements to existing nuclear installations. That amendment could help guide discussions of the Swiss proposal.

156. Recalling with gratification the first ever visit, in 2014, by the Director General to the Czech Republic, during which discussions had turned on collaboration with the Agency through the PUI and the technical cooperation programme, she gave assurances that the Czech Republic continued to attach great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities. The limited funds available would bring significant impact if they were tailored to the actual needs of Member States and were used effectively and transparently. In that context, she stressed that technical cooperation projects should serve the purposes of capacity building, experience sharing and maintaining Agency standards. Accordingly, she was pleased to confirm that the Czech Republic had maintained its status as a net contributor, providing extrabudgetary contributions amounting to some €200 000 each year and targeted at priority activities, such as assisting Armenia to upgrade its national nuclear regulatory infrastructure, strengthen the radiation therapy services of the Oncological Centre in Yerevan and enhance the operational safety of the Medzamor nuclear power plant.

157. Where safeguards were concerned, the Czech Republic strongly supported universal adoption and implementation of the Agency's comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols

as the current verification standard. It also believed that the State-level approach contributed significantly to the strengthening of the safeguards system.

158. In that context, the Czech Republic had been honoured to have chaired the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) from June 2013 to June 2014 and took pride in both the fundamental review of NSG control lists concluded at the Group's plenary meeting in Prague in 2013 and the decision at that plenary meeting to create a Technical Experts Group as a standing body to consider additional measures to keep the NSG lists up to date.

159. Mr ALHAMMADI (Qatar) said that his country looked forward to wide-ranging cooperation with the Agency in order to accelerate the implementation of its economic and environmental development programmes. One of the basic goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 was to develop a diverse and competitive national economy that met the present and future needs of the population, and to manage the environment along lines that ensured harmony and consistency between socioeconomic development and environmental protection. The Agency's pioneering role in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in particular in the areas of research, health, energy, agriculture and the environment and through its technical cooperation programme, would stimulate closer and broader cooperation of benefit to Qatar and the region as a whole and enhance the Agency's presence at the regional and international level.

160. The impact of risks stemming from errors or omissions in safety procedures, from natural disasters or from terrorist acts was not limited to specific countries or regions but threatened the whole of humankind and undermined plans to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Absolute priority must therefore be accorded to nuclear safety and security in plans for the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in a collective task involving international organizations, States, scientific institutions, commercial enterprises and civil society. It would also provide collective reassurance.

161. The Agency played a pivotal role in promoting global nuclear security. Qatar welcomed the increased importance attached in its work to the strengthening of nuclear safety and security. It also commended the Agency's role in coordinating the activities of international organizations and other international initiatives.

162. Qatar welcomed the Director General's reports on nuclear safety and security. It urged all States to give priority to measures aimed at supporting the Agency's role in those two vital areas and to provide it with the resources it required; on the one hand, to furnish reliable guarantees to the international community of the effectiveness of the safety and security measures applied in nuclear reactors and, on the other, to support the strengthening of such measures and the development of safe and secure nuclear power technology.

163. The Middle East region had been suffering for several decades from instability and the lack of any clear prospect of a stable future. One of the main sources of instability was Israel's refusal to become involved in efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone, to accede to the NPT and to apply a comprehensive safeguards agreement to its nuclear facilities. Israel also laid down preconditions and imposed a fabricated hierarchical sequence, arguing that a comprehensive peace must be achieved in the region before it could become involved in efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone. That position was incompatible with international law and exposed the region to further insecurity and political instability. The accession of Israel to the NPT and the placement of its installations under comprehensive safeguards would pave the way not only for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East but also for the achievement of a just and durable peace in the region

164. Qatar urged the Director General to engage in additional consultations with the States of the region to facilitate the early application of comprehensive Agency safeguards to all nuclear activities in the Middle East. It called on all parties involved, particularly those responsible for the maintenance

of international peace and security, including the NPT depositary States, to provide the Director General with all possible assistance to facilitate the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East as speedily as possible.

165. Qatar had participated since autumn 2013 in a large number of activities, symposiums and information meetings on the concept of safeguards implementation at the State level. It was now proposed to apply that concept universally, although it had been applied in the past to only 53 States. Qatar had followed with interest the discussions of the matter in the Board of Governors the previous week and it encouraged the Agency to continue its dialogue with Member States in order to respond to any concerns that arose. It noted with satisfaction that the Director General had confirmed, in his introductory statement, that the publication of the supplementary document was simply a stage in the consultation process and did not imply its closure.

166. There was a universal desire to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards regime and to ensure that the Agency's work was based on convictions, clarity and solid legal foundations. Qatar hoped that the discussions on the implementation of the State-level concept would stimulate efforts to achieve other NPT goals, including promotion of the universality of the treaty and serious multilateral action to achieve nuclear disarmament.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.