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President: Mr AZEEZ (Sri Lanka)

Later: Mr SONG Young-Wan (Republic of Korea)

Later: Mr HASANS (Latvia)

Later: Mr SCHARINGER (Germany)

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	Islamic Republic of Iran
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Abbreviations used in this record:

ABACC	Brazilian–Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AP	additional protocol
ARASIA	Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CNS	Convention on Nuclear Safety
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CRP	coordinated research project
CSA	comprehensive safeguards agreement
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
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
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HEU	high-enriched uranium
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

IEC	Incident and Emergency Centre
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
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
Joint Division	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
JPA	Joint Plan of Action
LWR	light-water reactor
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NDT	non-destructive testing
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NTI	Nuclear Threat Initiative
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

P5+1	the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PET	positron emission tomography
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
R&D	research and development
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
RSA	Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA
SEANWFZ Treaty	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
SESAME	Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East
SIT	sterile insect technique
SLC	State-level concept
SPECT	single photon emission computed tomography
SQP	small quantities protocol
TC	technical cooperation
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
WMD	weapons of mass destruction

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

1. Ms MOHD NUR (Malaysia) said that her country continued to attach the utmost importance to nuclear safety. She acknowledged the Agency's continuous efforts to strengthen the nuclear safety regime and implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and looked forward to the finalization of the comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident.
2. She reiterated the importance of global efforts to ensure nuclear security and the commitment of the Agency to developing a more effective international nuclear security regime. She welcomed the conclusions of the March 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, which included decisions to reduce the amount of nuclear material in the world.
3. Malaysia, which recognized the importance of preventing the unauthorized use of nuclear material and nuclear technology, maintained its detection capabilities at international borders and major ports of entry. She thanked the Agency for having provided the expertise needed for the revision of the INSSP, which had further strengthened the development of infrastructure and human capacity in Malaysia. As a regional nuclear security support centre, Malaysia cooperated with the Agency in disseminating best practices and sharing experience in the region.
4. Malaysia was currently in the final stages of revising its legislative and regulatory framework and was incorporating provisions for nuclear safety, security, safeguards and nuclear liability, which would enable it to accede to relevant international instruments. It recognized the importance of regional cooperation in regulatory control, and continued to participate actively in the activities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) to ensure the successful implementation of the ASEANTOM action plan for 2014–2015.
5. Resources for the TC programme must be adequate so that all planned activities could be implemented effectively and efficiently. Malaysia welcomed the report of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities and hoped that the Group's recommendations would be implemented successfully, ensuring that TC funding was sufficient, assured and predictable. Malaysia had always supported the TC programme, which should continue to be formulated and implemented in accordance with the Agency's guiding principles and the decisions and resolutions of the Policy-Making Organs. Malaysia was implementing national projects and participating in regional and interregional projects during the current cycle. It would continue to work closely with the Agency to ensure that all project activities were adequately funded, and thanked the Secretariat for its efforts to ensure the successful implementation of TC projects.
6. Malaysia welcomed the PUI, which offered opportunities for partnerships among Member States. She expressed appreciation to all those that had contributed to the Initiative and thanked Japan for its recent contribution. Malaysia looked forward to continued contributions following the 2015 NPT Review Conference.
7. Malaysia had always expressed its readiness to offer assistance in human capacity development to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It was currently hosting the 11th postgraduate education course in radiation protection and the safety of radioactive sources, and she thanked the Agency for the confidence it placed in her country.

8. Her country continued to support the Agency's work to modernize the nuclear application laboratories at Seibersdorf. Malaysian scientists had benefited tremendously from the hands-on training and research conducted at those laboratories and she welcomed the involvement of a Malaysian expert in the planning stage of the ReNuAL project.

9. Her country continued to support INPRO initiatives and would participate actively in activities under the INPRO Action Plan 2014–2015.

10. Malaysia welcomed the successful convening of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference in New York and would engage in activities leading to the Conference. She reaffirmed her country's support for the 2010 NPT Review Conference resolution on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. Malaysia also looked forward to the accession by the nuclear-weapon States to the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone at the earliest possible opportunity.

11. Mr MIKHADYUK (Belarus) said that his country had consistently contributed to strengthening the Agency's status as the leading international organization promoting the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy. In accordance with a decision of the United Nations General Assembly, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons would be celebrated for the first time on 26 September 2014. The Agency, which made a substantial contribution to building a world without nuclear weapons, might rightfully consider that day a professional holiday.

12. Through its safeguards system, the Agency played a key role in verifying compliance with the nuclear non-proliferation regime based on the NPT. The reform of the safeguards system had been one of the main subjects on the Agency's agenda over the previous year. His delegation welcomed the work of the Secretariat to organize an open dialogue on the conceptualization and development of safeguards implementation at the State level and the resulting supplementary document.

13. Practical cooperation between the Secretariat and States on safeguards issues must be implemented solely on the basis, and within the framework, of applicable international legal instruments. Substantive changes to the application of safeguards by the Secretariat must remain a topic for discussion by Member States and be reviewed by the Agency's governing bodies. The objectivity and impartiality of the Agency's safeguards system and the support of all Member States ensured the reliability of the non-proliferation system founded on the NPT.

14. Belarus also supported the Agency's leading role in promoting international cooperation in the area of nuclear security and in preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism. His country was grateful to the Secretariat and the United States of America for their consultative and technical support in ensuring nuclear security during the Ice Hockey World Championship in Minsk in May 2014.

15. The previous year had been significant for Belarus with regard to the development of nuclear energy. In April 2014, Belarus had started building the second unit of its nuclear power plant, and the above-ground construction phase had begun a few weeks previously. He was pleased to report that the construction project was being implemented in full compliance with established technical, financial and time parameters. The project was of utmost importance for Belarus, and would substantially improve the country's energy security and boost its technological and industrial development.

16. The construction process was taking place in close collaboration with the country's strategic partner, the Russian Federation. Under bilateral cooperation agreements, its Russian partners were providing Belarus with valuable assistance in all areas, including the creation of infrastructure and the training of specialists.

17. The safety and reliability of the new plant were of high priority to Belarus, which still remembered the bitter lessons and serious consequences of the Chernobyl accident. Safety considerations had been paramount in selecting the reactor and site. Belarus was also paying particular attention to the development of a nuclear safety infrastructure and the establishment of a competent, highly professional and independent regulatory body. It was taking full advantage of the opportunities for international cooperation in that regard. The Belarusian regulatory authority was working closely with its counterparts in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Armenia, various EU countries and the European Commission. In late 2013, the Department for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of Belarus had signed a cooperation agreement with the Federal Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service of the Russian Federation on the regulation of nuclear and radiation safety, which had entered into force when the regulator had been established. Belarus was currently working closely with the Russian Federation to arrange inspections of nuclear facilities and training for inspectors.

18. Belarus was planning to organize and conduct stress tests on its nuclear power plant in 2014–2016 in line with the relevant declaration by the EU and its neighbouring countries.

19. Under the TC programme, Belarus was receiving valuable assistance concerning the development of a national nuclear energy infrastructure and a system for the training of staff, and on the establishment of operators and regulators. It welcomed the consistently high level of effectiveness of TC projects and viewed assistance to newcomer countries that had started implementing nuclear power programmes as one of the priority areas of the Agency's TC programme, including its regional and interregional components. Belarus would continue to pay its contributions to the TCF in full and on time.

20. To ensure the effective implementation of its first nuclear power project, Belarus was making use of Agency advisory and evaluation missions. It had already received various expert missions, including an INIR mission, which had provided important recommendations and suggestions, and was in discussion with the Secretariat regarding the holding of IRRS, INSSserv, and Site and External Events Design Review Service missions.

21. Belarus was committed to complying with Agency norms and standards and to meeting its international nuclear obligations, including under applicable international treaties. It welcomed the results of the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which had taken place in Vienna in spring 2014, and noted that any amendments to that Convention should be comprehensively assessed in an extensive, multilateral preliminary discussion. Only well-thought out, accurate wording with clear added value would benefit the Convention.

22. Mr DE SALAZAR SERANTES (Spain) said that, given the international context in which the current meeting was taking place, it was necessary to reflect on the Agency's objectives. Many of the major challenges and very complex problems it faced would not be resolved easily, and all required joint efforts by the international community.

23. The three main objectives of trust, progress and cooperation were founded on the NPT. The roadmap in that regard was the action plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference with the aim of moving towards a world free of nuclear weapons. Achieving the universality of the NPT and ensuring compliance with that instrument were important and sensitive issues, particularly for countries in the Middle East. Universalization of the NPT, safeguards agreements and additional protocols constituted the framework for maintaining confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

24. Turning to the Iranian nuclear dossier, he said that the agreement reached by the Iranian authorities with the EU and other negotiating countries in November 2013 had established the framework needed to boost the Agency's efforts to fulfil its mandate. If a lasting diplomatic solution was to be reached, Iran would have to cooperate substantively with the Agency. Spain would continue

its dialogue with Iran in the hope that progress with regard to the nuclear dossier would facilitate advancements in other areas.

25. Spain was concerned about the situation in the DPRK and supported the international community's efforts to encourage the DPRK to return to the Agency's verification regime and negotiate a diplomatic solution that included the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

26. His Government noted that the issue of the undeclared nuclear facility in Syria also remained under investigation.

27. Spain considered that mutual trust could only be achieved through transparency, and supported the State-level concept as an essential measure to increase the effectiveness of safeguards.

28. The threat of nuclear terrorism was becoming increasingly prominent in the international arena, and new measures were required to strengthen nuclear security. A resolution on that issue, co-sponsored by the European Union, had been submitted to the General Conference.

29. Spain had played an active part in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and would continue to cooperate with the Agency and provide technical assistance in accordance with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

30. The entry into force of the amendment to the CPPNM was an important step, and he urged parties to the Convention that had not yet done so to ratify that amendment.

31. His country's energy policy was based on the existence of a diversified, balanced and sustainable energy mix that drew on all available energy sources. Spanish nuclear power plants would help secure the country's energy supply, optimizing costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Spanish nuclear infrastructure ranked 12th in the world, and in 2013, 20% of the electricity generated in Spain had been supplied by its 7 nuclear reactors.

32. In 2013, the National Company for Radioactive Waste had submitted the necessary documentation for the implementation of an environmental impact assessment of the proposed centralized temporary storage facility for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In January 2014, it had submitted an application for the siting and construction of that facility, which was pending approval by the regulatory authority.

33. The Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO), which Colombia had recently joined, carried out important work in ensuring the highest levels of safety, security and radiation protection in member countries. He drew attention in that regard to the accomplishment of scientific tasks relating to the criteria for the licensing and inspection of cyclotrons used in medical applications and research, the results of the project on radiological and nuclear emergency response, and the establishment of an emergencies platform. He also referred to improvements identified from the stress testing of nuclear power plants in FORO member countries and the consequent strengthening of the safety of such plants in Latin America.

34. He was pleased that the General Conference had recognized the work of FORO through its resolution GC(57)/RES/9 and reaffirmed his country's commitment to strengthening its cooperation with the Agency to enable the organization to fulfil its statutory mandate.

35. Following the Fukushima accident, Spain had undertaken a thorough review of its safety standards for the operation of nuclear power plants. Its Nuclear Safety Council, which had been involved in that review, continued to play an active part in IRRS missions. Spain would be supporting the proposed amendment to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to be considered at the diplomatic conference in 2015.

36. His delegation agreed that cooperation was vital to overcoming the challenges faced by the international community. Spain was an ARCAL strategic partner and was working through its Research Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology on the development of interesting projects identifying regional needs relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Nuclear Safety Council was participating in technical cooperation programmes designed to improve the regulatory infrastructure in Latin America and North Africa, and Spain had allocated part of its extrabudgetary contribution to translating the Agency's standards into Spanish to help strengthen the regulatory capabilities of other Spanish-speaking countries.

37. Under its action plan with Morocco and with support from the Agency, Spain was developing activities to strengthen mutual security. The first joint exercise had already been undertaken and Spain was currently preparing other exercises. It hoped to extend the cooperation model to other countries.

38. His Government commended the Director General's efforts to promote trust, progress and cooperation, and noted that the evolving technical and political challenges could only be addressed successfully through an ability to adapt to a changing reality.

39. Mr KAMALVANDI (Islamic Republic of Iran), noting that the global population was expected to increase by 2 billion over the following 30 years, said that Iran, like certain other Member States, had chosen to use nuclear energy to meet growing demand for energy and address the consequences of climate change.

40. Thanks to huge investments in education, science and technology, Iran had greatly progressed. It had long been implementing a civilian nuclear programme with the cooperation of the Agency, as a result of which great achievements had been made in various civilian nuclear applications in such fields as medicine, agriculture and industry. Iran was ready to share its achievements with other Member States, especially developing countries.

41. As part of the country's long-term policy, the Bushehr nuclear power plant had been connected to the national grid in September 2011 and its management had been officially handed over to Iran two years later. The plant, which was being supervised by the national regulatory authorities, was currently operated by Iranian staff with the assistance of Russian specialists. The Iranian operator would assume sole control over the plant the following year. The first refuelling of the reactor had been completed successfully in July 2014. Despite the constraints imposed on Iran, the plant had since been operating continuously at full capacity, and all safety aspects had been carefully monitored under the supervision of the Iranian nuclear regulatory authority.

42. Turning to technical cooperation, he said that the Agency played a vital role in building the capacity of Member States, in particular through the promotion and facilitation of national, regional and interregional cooperation. For the successful implementation of TC projects, developing Member States should be provided with equipment and qualified expertise. The Agency was expected to facilitate the procurement of materials and equipment, particularly in the field of nuclear safety.

43. Iran attached importance to the development of the Nuclear Safety Standards and Nuclear Security Series publications. It called on the Secretariat to facilitate the participation of experts from all Member States, without discrimination, in meetings of the two committees that played an important role in the preparation of such documents. The Agency should also facilitate activities that further contributed to the promotion of safety, knowledge sharing, capacity building and improved cooperation among Member States.

44. Recalling resolution GC(57)/RES/10, which emphasized the need for the involvement of all Member States in nuclear security-related initiatives in an inclusive manner, he said that it was regrettable that, in adopting a selective approach, the host countries of the Nuclear Security Summits

had not respected that commitment. Iran did not recognize reflection of any documents or summit outcomes in relevant Agency meetings.

45. Iran strongly condemned acts of industrial sabotage against nuclear facilities, which could have dangerous consequences for the nuclear safety of installations and result in the transboundary release of radioactive substances. It had recently held an exhibition in Tehran on discovered acts of and failed attempts at sabotage, cyber-attacks and espionage against its nuclear industries. His country condemned all terrorist activities, including the brutal assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists. The latest belligerent incursion of a spy drone over a civilian nuclear facility in Natanz by the Zionist regime fully contravened the national sovereignty of Iran, constituted a violation of General Conference resolutions and international law, and should be strongly condemned.

46. Turning to the State-level concept, he said that while Iran supported the implementation of Agency safeguards and verification activities, the Agency was expected to ensure that the national sovereignty of Member States was not jeopardized. In that regard, State-level safeguards should be developed and implemented in a Member State exclusively with the agreement of and in close consultation with the Member State concerned, with the State's views and observations taken fully into account. If the development or implementation of the State-level concept resulted in any new obligation, either for the Member State or for the Agency, beyond those set out in the safeguards agreement, or in any modification to the interpretation of the parties' existing rights and obligations, a new agreement should be negotiated and adopted by the Agency and the Member State in question and subsequently ratified by the Member State in accordance with its constitutional process. Furthermore, the State-level concept should not lead to the discriminatory implementation of the Agency's activities in Member States. Noting that one vital element of the State-level concept was safeguards-relevant information, he said that, in the past, the use of open-source information had led to conclusions that were based on misleading or false information. In light of the questions and concerns raised by some Member States, it appeared that more work was required, and Iran encouraged the Secretariat to continue its consultations with Member States in order to clarify and remove any remaining ambiguities and concerns.

47. Undoubtedly, the continued existence of thousands of nuclear weapons posed a grave threat to humanity. A clear time frame, with a target date of 2025, for the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT, as proposed by NAM at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, was imperative. Iran therefore called on the United States and other nuclear-weapon States to promptly adopt and implement the measures necessary for the unequivocal and absolute removal of the role of nuclear weapons in all military and security concepts, doctrines and policies. The international community could not wait forever for a world free of nuclear weapons.

48. His country's 1974 initiative to help create a world free of nuclear weapons, namely the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, had not yet been realized owing to the failure of the Israeli Zionist regime to adhere to the NPT. Unfortunately, the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction scheduled for 2012 had still not been organized owing to the ill intention of the convenors to protect the Israeli regime from international condemnation. Such action undermined the credibility of the NPT and the review process.

49. Despite global concerns regarding the nuclear capabilities of the Zionist regime and various calls by the international community in the 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East and related resolutions of the General Assembly, the Agency and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, that regime had neither acceded to the NPT nor placed its underground nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

50. Since the election of President Rouhani, Iranian foreign policy, which was based on constructive interaction and mutual respect, had generated new opportunities and major achievements. Iran's full cooperation with the Agency, which sometimes went beyond its safeguards agreement and included the implementation of voluntary measures under the Joint Plan of Action and Framework for Cooperation, attested to its goodwill and genuine efforts to clarify fabricated ambiguities regarding its peaceful nuclear activities. Iran expected the Agency to appreciate such voluntary measures and facilitate the full exercise by Iran of its rights to peaceful nuclear energy.

51. The JPA agreed between Iran and the P5+1 was an opportunity for cooperation and the reestablishment of mutual confidence. On numerous occasions, the reports of the Director General, including his most recent report (GOV/2014/43), had indicated that Iranian nuclear activities had remained exclusively peaceful under full-scope Agency safeguards. Pursuant to the Framework for Cooperation, Iran had implemented three sets of voluntary practical measures and continued to work with the Agency on implementing all the agreed measures.

52. A window of opportunity now existed to reach a comprehensive solution, and Iran's commitment to that goal was unquestionable. However, measures such as sanctions and double standards harmed the negotiation process and caused further mistrust. Iran expected its counterparts to adopt constructive and realistic approaches in the current negotiations and to fully respect its rights to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and research and development activities, thus putting an end to an unnecessary crisis.

53. In principle, the Iran's stance on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction had been expressed by means of a religious decree issued by its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. As stated by its Supreme Leader at the 16th NAM Summit: "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the use of nuclear, chemical and similar weapons as a great and unforgivable sin. Our motto is 'nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none'".

54. Iran continued to maintain its peaceful nuclear programme under the Agency safeguards and it hoped that new possibilities for further cooperation would be opened up through reasonable negotiations and goodwill from all sides.

55. He emphasized the importance of broader cooperation between Member States in various fields, in particular nuclear safety and technical cooperation, which would benefit all nations.

56. Mr MÜNT (Estonia) said that his country, which did not have nuclear installations, had started developing its national framework for radiation safety in the 1990s. Since it had joined the Agency in 1992, it had enjoyed the Agency's support for the creation and maintenance of a system of safety and protection that met internationally recognized criteria.

57. Estonia highly valued the Agency's technical cooperation programme and its role in enhancing nuclear safety and security, including through the development of competencies and improving the national regulatory framework. His country's participation in the TC programme remained relevant, in particular in regard to the establishment of national education and training programmes. Estonia was determined to continue its good cooperation with the Agency in order to achieve the highest levels of nuclear safety, and preparations had begun recently for the first IRRS mission to Estonia in 2016. Under the TC programme, a regional training course on hybrid imaging technology in nuclear medicine would be held in Estonia in October 2014.

58. Estonia, which had not ruled out the option of using nuclear power for energy production in the future, considered that the best knowledge, transparent and effective regulatory systems, good cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors and the implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Standards, were essential for its safe use. Estonia appreciated the work of

the Agency under safety conventions and looked forward to a successful diplomatic conference to amend the Convention on Nuclear Safety in February 2015.

59. His country recognized the Agency's important role in strengthening the international nuclear security framework by promoting the implementation of relevant legal instruments, enhancing international cooperation and assisting States in nuclear security capacity building. Estonia welcomed the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017 and was happy to continue its annual contributions to the NSF.

60. Estonia supported all measures leading to improved nuclear safety and security standards, both nationally and internationally. It called on Member States to ensure the highest levels of safety and security of their nuclear installations, which had a direct impact on their own and neighbouring countries, and highlighted the importance of transparency in the construction and operation of nuclear facilities.

61. The Agency's safeguards system played a central role in promoting non-proliferation and ensuring the non-diversion of nuclear technologies. Estonia welcomed the evolution of the State-level concept, which could further strengthen the safeguards system. His country, which supported the efforts to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, had provided a voluntary contribution to support the implementation of the JPA and encouraged other States to do likewise.

62. Estonia, which called on all countries to support the Agency's work to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, was interested in becoming an elected member of the Board of Governors in the coming years.

63. Mr SLAVINSKIS (Latvia) expressed appreciation of the Agency's activities aimed at providing Member States with impartial and objective advice on establishing the appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks and ensuring the highest standards of safety, security and safeguards. He commended the Department of Technical Cooperation for its support to Member States.

64. Following an extensive consultation process with a wide range of stakeholders and institutions, Latvia had submitted two national projects for the 2016–2017 planning cycle, focusing on education, training and raising public awareness of radiation and nuclear matters. Its future participation in regional projects would facilitate the exchange of expertise among radiation and nuclear experts from other Member States. Latvia would make a fellowship contribution in the field of medical radiology. It would also continue to participate in education and training activities and to work with the Department of Technical Cooperation to improve and strengthen national capabilities in the area of radiation safety and nuclear security.

65. With regard to radioactive waste management, he drew attention to the European Council directive on radioactive waste and spent fuel management adopted in 2011, which had established a legal framework based on acknowledged safety principles. Latvia was developing a new national radioactive waste management strategy that would contribute to the improvement of relevant infrastructure and closely following the Agency's recommendations and safety principles in that regard.

66. Latvia strongly supported efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the safeguards system — an essential element of the global non-proliferation regime. It called on all countries to conclude a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol, which together constituted the global verification standard.

67. Latvia strived to maintain the highest standards in the supervision of activities involving ionizing radiation. It continuously improved and monitored its radiation protection infrastructure with a view to ensuring public health and safety, and continued to promote a strong nuclear safety culture

among operators in order to raise awareness relating to responsibility for possible risks associated with the use of ionizing radiation.

68. Ms ŽIAKOVÁ (Slovakia) said that, despite the Fukushima Daiichi accident, nuclear energy continued to play an important role in global power generation. The Agency's updated projections for nuclear power growth indicated the expansion of nuclear power capacities by 2030, notably in the Far East and the Central and Eastern European region. The main driving force for that development was an optimal and well-balanced energy mix with an emphasis on low-carbon technologies and affordable energy prices. Those were important elements of Slovakia's energy policy for the medium and long term, and the maintenance and further development of nuclear power was therefore a key aspect of the country's energy security.

69. The recent meeting of the European Nuclear Energy Forum held in Bratislava in June 2014 had reiterated the importance of nuclear energy and of the need to develop a global approach at the EU level that was technology neutral and could address security of supply, competitiveness and environmental protection.

70. The development and use of nuclear energy were closely linked to the safe and responsible management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. Since States were ultimately responsible for spent fuel and radioactive waste management, it was incumbent upon them to establish relevant national strategies. In January 2014, her Government had approved an updated back-end strategy concerning the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which addressed not only technical aspects of decommissioning, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, but also economic and environmental aspects. Slovakia therefore welcomed the theme of the 2014 Scientific Forum concerning science and technology for safe and sustainable solutions in radioactive waste management.

71. Noting the importance of nuclear and radiation safety for the peaceful use of atomic energy, she said that one of the Agency's vital roles was to support safety-related activities by establishing safety standards and making its expert services available to the Member States, including for assessing compliance with safety standards and sharing best practices. Slovakia supported the Agency's efforts aimed at fostering global nuclear safety by networking, integrating safety-related activities, supporting Member States in the application of safety standards and promoting adherence to international safety conventions.

72. The recommendations and suggestions of Slovakia's 2012 IRRS mission had been subject to thorough analysis and an action plan had been drawn up. Slovakia would host a follow-up mission in February 2015 to assess the progress made in implementation.

73. Slovakia welcomed the numerous technical meetings and related activities organized by the Agency to support implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The national report that Slovakia had prepared for the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety detailed how Slovakia was implementing the required actions. It had been provided on a voluntary basis, expressing her country's commitment to implementing the Action Plan in a transparent and accountable manner.

74. Slovakia attached great importance to the Agency's role in the further development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology. The University Centre of Electron Accelerators at the Slovak Medical University had, in collaboration with the IAEA Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences, developed a pilot project on the use of electron beams to treat environments polluted by polychlorinated biphenyls. The technology developed was transportable and could be used at sites contaminated with dioxins and chlorinated pesticides and for the treatment of sewage sludge, demonstrating that nuclear technologies could make a valuable contribution to environmental protection.

75. The Agency's involvement in technical cooperation projects was crucial, particularly with regard to the application of safety standards and in cases where an impartial opinion was required. The European region had already begun to prepare its new regional projects for the next biennium. Those projects would provide an effective and efficient mechanism to support the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies, address socioeconomic needs and contribute to sustainable development based on the principles of responsiveness, collaboration and solidarity.

76. Slovakia supported the Agency's activities in assisting newcomer Member States to establish and improve their regulatory infrastructure and develop their human resources, including through the identification of needs, efficient provision of assistance and monitoring of the results achieved. Noting the importance of coordinating the Agency's activities with other assistance programmes, she said that Slovakia was ready to share its experience in establishing a regulatory infrastructure and developing nuclear power and nuclear techniques with all interested Member States under the auspices of the Agency.

77. In closing, she said that Slovakia would continue to provide experts and training facilities and to accept fellows and scientific visitors proposed by the Agency.

78. Mr KOSTOV (Bulgaria) said that his country was committed to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to the strengthening of global security and stability. Bulgaria called for the universalization of the NPT and of additional protocols, and believed that Agency safeguards activities played an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT.

79. Bulgaria reaffirmed its full support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and commended the efforts of the facilitator, Mr Laajava, towards convening a Conference on the matter. The decision of the League of Arab States to include the topic of Israeli nuclear capabilities on the Conference agenda was regrettable. Bulgaria firmly believed that, only through trust and cooperation would it be possible to reach the desired consensus and make progress towards implementing the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, in particular relating to the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East.

80. Bulgaria supported the Agency's efforts to continue its verification activities in Iran and to resolve all outstanding issues. Implementation of all practical measures agreed under the Framework for Cooperation was of great importance in order to address the concerns of the international community.

81. Bulgaria welcomed the progress made during negotiations between Iran and the E3+3 to achieve a final settlement on the Iranian nuclear programme. It hoped that the extended deadline for negotiations, set for 24 November 2014, would facilitate the conclusion of a final agreement.

82. His country remained seriously concerned about the nuclear weapons and missile programmes of the DPRK and the decision of that country to cease cooperation with the Agency. It called on the DPRK to return to full compliance with all its NPT and Agency safeguards obligations and to provide the Agency with access to individuals, documentation, equipment and facilities.

83. Bulgaria urged Syria to cooperate with the Agency to clarify matters with regard to the Dair Alzour site and other sites, and to bring into force an additional protocol as soon as possible.

84. The conclusions of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century clearly demonstrated that nuclear power remained an important tool for a number of States in order to improve energy security, provide for sustainable development and combat climate change. In addition, many countries had given high priority to extending the operational cycles of nuclear power plants beyond the anticipated 30–40 years. Bulgaria therefore greatly appreciated the

Agency's constant guidance, knowledge sharing and assistance in strengthening the capabilities of Member States for analysing and planning national energy resources.

85. Capacity building and nuclear research programmes were of great importance to Bulgaria, and it therefore participated actively in the work of international scientific organizations such as the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research in the Russian Federation and CERN in Switzerland.

86. During the reporting period Bulgaria had hosted two high-level Agency visits. His delegation expressed great appreciation of the Director General's visit to Bulgaria in June 2014, during which he had met with high-level officials and learnt more about the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Bulgaria and the country's non-proliferation policy. The Director-General had been able to see first-hand the measures implemented at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in light of the Fukushima accident, and a practical agreement between the Agency and the University of National and World Economy on cooperation in the field of scientific research and the organization of a Master's degree programme on nuclear security had been signed. The Deputy Director General for Nuclear Energy had visited Bulgaria in September 2013 at the invitation of the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Agency. Meetings with members of parliament and representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Energy had helped to extend cooperation between Bulgaria and the Agency in the fields of safe operation and knowledge management. The Deputy Director General had visited the Kozloduy plant and had been made aware of the status of the facility and activities for the safety upgrade.

87. In June 2014, a follow-up OSART mission had been conducted at the Kozloduy power plant. The conclusions of the OSART team, namely that the managers of Kozloduy were committed to improving the operational safety and reliability of their plant through a systematic approach in the implementation of measures aimed at achieving and maintaining the highest standards of nuclear industry, clearly reflected the Bulgarian approach to using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The follow-up OSART mission and the proposed follow-up IRRS mission in 2016 clearly illustrated the country's commitment to the IAEA Action Plan for Nuclear Safety and European Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom.

88. The methodology for self-assessment of nuclear security culture had been tested at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant and the final report on its applicability would be ready by the end of the year. Bulgaria, which planned to conduct regular self-assessments in order to maintain a good nuclear security culture, remained committed to cooperation in preventing, detecting and responding to theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material and other radioactive substances.

89. The technical cooperation programme was the primary mechanism for supporting the efforts of Member States to build capacity building, address development priorities in a variety of fields, identify and meet future energy needs, and improve nuclear safety and security worldwide. In accordance with its CPF, Bulgaria had participated in projects in the fields of nuclear safety, nuclear energy and medicine during the most recent technical cooperation cycle, and their successful implementation had allowed beneficiary organizations in Bulgaria to meet challenges and promptly resolve relevant issues. A regional workshop focusing on project planning and design for the following cycle had been held in early September and a regional workshop on public information and involvement in regulatory activities would be held in November. Bulgaria was an active participant in technical cooperation projects in the European region, and more than 170 Bulgarian specialists and scientists had attended a variety of events organized in 2013–2014.

90. In conclusion, he expressed his country's confidence in the work of the Director General and his staff, and assured them of Bulgaria's continued support.

91. Mr MARSÁN AGUILERA (Cuba) said that his country advocated a balance between the various pillars of the Agency. It had therefore been pleased to note from the Annual Report for 2013 that the Agency's programmatic work had focused on nuclear technology and applications, safety and security, verification and technical cooperation in an equitable manner.

92. Technical cooperation was one of the main pillars of the Agency's work and warranted priority attention. During the 2012–2013 cycle, Cuba had achieved an implementation rate of over 97% and Cuban specialists had participated in a large number of expert missions, technical meetings, regional projects and training initiatives. In 2014, Cuba had updated its CPF for the period 2014–2018, with a focus on national efforts for the early detection and treatment of cancer, which was the primary cause of death in Cuba.

93. In 2013, Latin America had boasted the highest implementation rate of the four regions, despite benefiting the least from a financial point of view. That situation should be rectified in the next cycle; the region could and should receive more TC resources.

94. His Government attached particular importance to cooperation among developing countries. It continued to support the ARCAL programme, which was an essential mechanism for promoting cooperation on nuclear matters among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

95. Cuba attached great importance to the application of nuclear technologies in key areas for the economy and society. The Director General's successful visit to Cuba had further strengthened ties between Cuba and the Agency and had informed him of the significant progress the country had made in the application of nuclear technologies, including a major investment by the Cuban Government in infrastructure and equipment to strengthen the national cancer control programme.

96. Cuba was participating actively in 20 CRPs and continued to attach particular priority to PACT, which should be provided with the financial resources necessary to enhance its scope and results.

97. Nuclear security could not be properly addressed through a selective approach. International standards in that area should be adopted within the framework of the Agency after transparent and inclusive multilateral intergovernmental negotiations. Cuba looked forward to the holding of the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2016. Such events should be held every three years, with a view to following up the agreements reached.

98. He acknowledged the excellent cooperation between his country and the Agency to improve nuclear security at borders and at facilities using radiation sources. The implementation of the INSSP provided a good example of such cooperation.

99. Cuba was devoting considerable human and material resources to nuclear and radiation safety and, together with other countries, was contributing through the provision of radiation protection services and experts. Cuba recognized the important work carried out by the Ibero–American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO) in maintaining the highest levels of radiation protection and nuclear safety and security in member countries and, by extension, throughout the Latin America region. He welcomed Colombia as a new FORO member.

100. Cuba had received double IAEA certification for seven consecutive years and had obtained satisfactory results in IAEA inspections during 2013.

101. The impartial and professional conduct of the Secretariat was essential to maintain the credibility of the Agency's safeguards activities. Cuba had repeatedly criticized the manipulation and politicization of safeguards, as well as the double standards that certain Member States were trying to impose. The principle of confidentiality in the Agency's safeguards activities should always be strictly observed and exclusively voluntary decisions should not be turned into obligations.

102. The Supplementary Document to the Report on the Conceptualization and Implementation of Safeguards at the State Level (GOV/2014/41), which had been presented and noted at the meeting of Board of Governors in June, should be analysed with extreme caution, duly respecting and clarifying the concerns expressed by Member States.

103. Cuba welcomed the progress made in the negotiations between the Agency and Iran on clarifying outstanding issues regarding the Iranian nuclear programme. It hoped that continued progress would be made.

104. Cuba continued to support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The failure to hold the conference on that issue could damage the credibility of the system established by the NPT regime, and Cuba called for the conference to be held without further delay.

105. He roundly condemned the unjust economic, commercial and financial blockade, which had been imposed on his country by the Government of the United States of America and continued to affect the implementation of Agency technical cooperation activities by making it more difficult to obtain the equipment approved for projects, thereby delaying project implementation and increasing costs. It was unacceptable and unjustifiable that Cuba had still not been able to meet its financial commitments to the Agency as a consequence of that blockade. Cuba hoped that a rapid solution could be found to that unsustainable situation, which was causing serious difficulties in his country's relations with a United Nations body in blatant violation of international law and the Agency's Statute.

106. Cuba advocated greater efficiency and effectiveness in the decision-making process at the Agency. The General Conference, as the supreme legislative body in which all Member States participated, should be strengthened. The composition and functions of the Board of Governors should be examined in depth in the context of the analysis of Article VI of the Statute.

107. The complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons was the only way to avoid the use of or the threat of the use of such weapons, and the Agency had an important role to play in attaining that objective. He invited all participants to attend a ceremony on 24 September, organized by GRULAC and NAM to mark the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September.

108. In conclusion, he cited the historic leader of the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro, who had referred to the right to life in a world without nuclear weapons: "When the life of humankind, of your people and your most beloved human beings run such a risk, nobody can afford to be indifferent; not one minute can be lost in demanding respect for that right; tomorrow will be too late".

Mr Azeez (Sri Lanka), President, took the Chair.

109. Mr BAILEY (Canada) said that since the international community had been presented with revelations about extensive clandestine nuclear activities in Iran more than 12 years previously, that country had ignored repeated calls to reveal the true nature and intent of its nuclear activities and return to compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement. Instead, it had chosen a path of concealment and deception in its dealings with the Agency.

110. The Joint Statement on a Framework for Cooperation signed by the Agency and Iran was intended to set in motion a step-by-step process whereby Iran would provide full disclosure to the Agency to resolve outstanding questions, including those with military dimensions. While Canada welcomed the Agency's continuing resolve to clarify the nature of Iran's nuclear programme, it remained sceptical about Iran's intentions regarding the Framework. Almost a year had passed since the Joint Statement had been signed and Iran had offered little more than rehashed and dubious explanations for its nuclear weapons-related work. The Director General's latest report on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council

resolutions in Iran (GOV/2014/43) indicated that Iran was not cooperating sufficiently with the Agency to resolve serious concerns regarding the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme. Despite the public commitment to cooperate with the Agency made by the Iranian President and Foreign Minister during the Director General's visit to Tehran in August, the promised cooperation had not been forthcoming.

111. Opacity regarding Iran's past and present nuclear activities could never be accepted. Issues concerning possible military dimensions, raised by multiple Member States and corroborated by the Agency through its own investigative and analytical techniques, were a serious concern and required urgent and in-depth exploration. The outstanding questions regarding suspected military dimensions had to be resolved if any comprehensive agreement regarding the Iranian nuclear programme was to be achieved. Iran must also realize that it would take time to establish confidence in its nuclear programme and that a comprehensive assessment of the full range of its nuclear activities would be necessary; the international community would not rush to make a judgment on the basis of partial information. In order to earn the confidence of the international community, Iran should make an ongoing commitment to transparency and cooperation. Most Member States had chosen that path and, given Iran's history, nothing less could be accepted.

112. Noting that the Director General's most recent report on the application of safeguards in the DPRK in document GOV/2014/42-GC(58)/21 pointed to increased activity at North Korean nuclear facilities, he said that Canada remained seriously concerned about the status of North Korean uranium enrichment activities, plutonium reprocessing capabilities and LWR construction which, coupled with the three nuclear tests conducted to date and ongoing ballistic missile tests, represented violations of Security Council resolutions and of the commitments made by the DPRK in the 2005 Joint Statement. Public pronouncements by the regime that it was preparing for yet another nuclear test were particularly concerning. Canada condemned the continuing provocative actions taken by the North Korean regime and reaffirmed its immutable view that the DPRK, despite its nuclear tests, could not be considered a nuclear-weapon State under the NPT. The DPRK must abandon its nuclear weapons development and allow the return of Agency inspectors. Only by making concrete commitments towards denuclearization could the DPRK be reintegrated into the international community.

113. More than four years had elapsed since the Board of Governors had reported Syria to the Security Council owing to the clandestine construction of a nuclear reactor at Dair Alzour. Syria had continually failed to cooperate with the Agency and requests for access to Dair Alzour and the three other locations functionally related to that reactor had not been met. The Agency must remain seized of the matter until unresolved questions relating to Syria's past activities had been answered definitively, and Canada once again called on Syria to cooperate with the Agency

114. Canada fully supported the Secretariat's continuing efforts to further evolve the implementation of safeguards, and welcomed the supplementary document to the report on the conceptualization and development of safeguards implementation at the State level (GOV/2014/41) presented to the Board of Governors. The State-level concept would allow the Agency to maintain or improve its efficiency and to concentrate its efforts on areas of greater safeguards significance while respecting the fundamental principles of non-discriminatory and technically based safeguards. Canada had been impressed and encouraged by the in-depth consultations and numerous meetings organized by the Agency and encouraged it to continue its important work to strengthen the safeguards system.

115. Canada strongly supported the Agency's efforts to improve its safeguards analytical services and had made a further contribution of \$1.3 million to the ECAS project, in addition to its previous contribution of \$1 million. It was also providing support to the Agency through the country's safeguards support programme.

116. In 2013, Canada had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM. It had also invited the Agency to organize an IPPAS mission for 2015, with a view to demonstrating the high level of physical protection of nuclear material in Canada and reaffirming the country's commitment to transparency regarding such important issues.

117. The nuclear security summit process was important for the Agency's work to strengthen nuclear security and combat nuclear terrorism. Canada, which had fulfilled all the commitments it had undertaken at the summits, had also taken measures at the national and international levels, including contributing more than \$17 million to the NSF since 2004. It would also be implementing other programmes to strengthen physical security; prevent the loss, theft and misuse of radioactive sources; and combat illicit trafficking by strengthening detection capabilities.

118. Canada was determined to respect its commitment to minimizing its stocks of HEU and planned to stop using HEU for the production of medical isotopes by 2016, while actively contributing to the development and marketing of technologies that did not require a reactor to produce such isotopes. In addition, it continued to return to the United States any HEU stored at government sites. His Government was working closely with the Canadian nuclear industry in the area of nuclear security, and encouraged cooperation with industry elsewhere in the world in order to promote a global nuclear security culture.

119. The Agency would remain a trusted partner of Canada in the implementation of commitments made at the Nuclear Security Summit. Over the coming years, Canada would turn increasingly to the Agency and other vital initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Partnership, the Proliferation Security Initiative and efforts under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), so as to maintain the positive momentum and continue the achievements resulting from the summits. The Joint Statement on strengthening nuclear security implementation endorsed by 35 Agency Member States at the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, which contained a commitment to embed the objectives of the nuclear security fundamentals and Agency recommendations in national rules and regulations and to host peer reviews to ensure effective implementation, would make a significant contribution to global nuclear security. The Government of Canada called on all Member States to undertake a similar commitment.

120. Canada continued to actively support the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety as a tool for strengthening nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and protection of people and the environment. His country noted the significant advances made in the implementation of the Action Plan and was pleased to be making a substantive contribution to the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident, which it trusted would be comprehensive and authoritative. It also continued to support the enhancement of the Nuclear Safety Standards and the Nuclear Security Series and anticipated improved symbiosis between the two in the future.

121. Canada strongly endorsed the principles of openness and transparency and encouraged Member States to place in the public domain the results of international peer review missions and national reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Canada would continue its strong contribution to international nuclear safety by leading and participating in IRRS missions. It welcomed the improvements to implementation guides that had been approved at the Sixth Review Meeting and looked forward to a positive outcome at the forthcoming diplomatic conference to consider a proposal to amend the Convention.

122. Strengthening the international emergency preparedness and response framework was an important element of the Action Plan. Canada had conducted a national exercise in May 2014, which had provided the Agency with an opportunity to test its assessment and prognosis capabilities.

123. Nuclear power remained a key part of Canada's energy mix and a major contributor to the country's status as a world leader in clean energy. Canada's signing of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage had marked the first step in a process to strengthen the country's nuclear liability framework and was part of his Government's commitment to the establishment of a global nuclear liability regime.

124. Ms GUEVARA (Philippines) said that, in cooperation with the Agency, her country aimed to create and maintain a reservoir of scientific and technological know-how. The Philippine exhibit at the General Conference on moving forward with nuclear science and technology showcased her country's accomplishments in nuclear science, technology, innovation and safety.

125. Turning to efforts to enhance agricultural productivity in the Philippines, she said that radioisotopes and stable isotope tracers had increased the efficiency of fertiliser use in rice and corn by 70% and of water use by 25%, and as a result, previous recommended levels of fertilizer and water inputs in agricultural production had been updated. In 2013, the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had trained Cambodian agricultural scientists in the assessment of nutrient and fertilizer management in rice production. In addition, plant growth promoters from irradiated carrageenan had significantly increased the yield of mungbean and peanuts.

126. In regard to improvements in industrial competitiveness, she said that the electron beam irradiation facility, which would be inaugurated in December 2014, would improve the quality of industrial materials. The use of gamma radiation in a new quarantine treatment would enhance the export competitiveness of the Philippine super mango.

127. Regarding the provision of better access to clean and safe drinking water, she said that the Philippines was one of three participating pilot countries in the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement (IWAVE) project. That project was integrated with a project on groundwater resources and vulnerability assessment of the Philippines and the two project sites were in drought regions.

128. In the area of nuclear medicine, the first Tc-99m generator facility had been established in the Philippines with Agency assistance. A new medical cyclotron service facility was being constructed by the private sector in cooperation with the Department of Health.

129. Noting that the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had been designated an Agency collaborating centre on harmful algal blooms studies in 2005 and 2010, she said that her country was continuing its research work and technology transfer initiatives on harmful algal blooms, and was sharing its expertise with other Agency Member States. In June 2014, her country had hosted the first regional coordination meeting for the Agency project RAS/7/026 on supporting the use of receptor binding assay to reduce the adverse impacts of harmful algal toxins on seafood safety, during which participants from seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region had discussed cooperative solutions to gaps and constraints in national marine environment monitoring programmes on red tide.

130. The Philippines supported the Agency's work on strengthening the global nuclear safety regime, notably through the efficient and effective implementation of international legal instruments, the development of safety standards, the enhancement of national safety infrastructures, the coordination of international emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, and the promotion of nuclear safety culture worldwide.

131. Her country welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, particularly in regard to the safety assessment of nuclear power plants, Agency peer review services, and emergency preparedness and response. Her country looked forward to the release of the Agency's comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

132. The Philippines was using the Agency's expertise to strengthen its nuclear safety infrastructure and regulatory framework through national technical cooperation projects, and was sharing its experiences on nuclear safety through the regional projects and networks, such as the Asian Nuclear Safety Network. It was grateful to the EU for its assistance in enhancing the competence of the country's nuclear regulatory body on nuclear safety. Her country was also collaborating with the United States in the development of its nuclear emergency support centre, and was enhancing its emergency preparedness and response capability.

133. Her country's achievements in various aspects of nuclear security would not have been possible without the cooperation of partner States, the Agency, the European Union, and other organizations. She noted that a national nuclear security support centre was being established with assistance from the Agency, and recalled that the Philippines had requested an INSServ mission to assist the government in preparing for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Heads of States Meeting, to be held in the country in late 2015.

134. The Philippines appreciated the Agency's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation and agreed that the Agency should be given the tools and resources necessary to effectively implement a credible verification system.

135. The Philippines shared the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and reiterated its commitment to realizing the objectives of the NPT in a comprehensive manner. There should be equal progress in all three pillars of the Treaty, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Her country continued to support efforts within the United Nations and through other avenues to keep the twin issues of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation on the agenda, and recalled that the sixth ASEAN regional forum inter-sessional meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament, held in Tokyo in July 2014, had affirmed that the 2015 NPT Review Conference constituted a significant step towards the shared goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

136. The Agency could only continue to play its vital role in facilitating the use of science and technology for development and maintaining international peace and security through strong partnerships with Member States. The Philippines remained committed to continuing its cooperation with a view to ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and pursuing the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

137. Ms KJÆRSGAARD PLESNER (Denmark) said that the Director General's visit to Denmark in December 2013 had contributed to the success of the Conference "An open World: Science, Technology and Society in the light of Bohr's Thoughts" and had helped to raise awareness of the Agency's valuable work, including of its lesser known tasks.

138. Denmark firmly supported the Agency's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation. Its safeguards work was pivotal for ensuring that no nuclear material was diverted for military purposes, and a collective responsibility existed to ensure that the Agency had the right instruments to carry out that task. Denmark supported the Secretariat's work to increase the efficiency of safeguards while maintaining their effectiveness, including through the application of the State-level concept. Her country appreciated the transparency shown by the Secretariat in developing that concept.

139. The United Nations Security Council also had a key responsibility for non-proliferation, as shown by its resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) and by country-specific resolutions on the DPRK and Iran.

140. As far as the DPRK was concerned, Denmark shared the serious concern expressed by the Director General in his latest report (GOV/2014/42-GC(58)/21). Her country had strongly condemned the nuclear tests already conducted and urged the DPRK to refrain from further tests.

141. Since the previous session of the General Conference, there had been a number of developments concerning Iran's nuclear programme. While Denmark welcomed the agreements that had been reached between Iran and the Agency, and between Iran and the E3+3, it was seriously concerned that Iran had not carried out all the practical measures contained in the most recent step of the Framework for Cooperation, as was evident from the Director General's latest report in document GOV/2014/43. Iran's full cooperation with the Agency in clarifying all outstanding issues, past and present, including the possible military dimensions of the programme, was essential to achieve a long-term settlement. Denmark also welcomed the Agency's monitoring and verification work related to the Joint Plan of Action and was pleased to be part of the broad group of countries supporting that work financially.

142. Denmark deeply regretted the absence of any developments over the previous year that would indicate Syria's willingness to remedy its non-compliance with its safeguards agreement. Her country continued to call on Syria to comply with the Board's 2011 resolution on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic contained in document GOV/2011/41 and cooperate fully with the Agency, including by bringing into force an additional protocol.

143. Over the previous year, Denmark had benefited from Agency seminars and workshops on safeguards, safety and security as it had worked to clarify issues concerning possible uranium extraction in Greenland and ensure that any related work was carried out in line with the highest international standards and best practices. It had received useful advice and training, and the Agency's professional approach had also served to reinforce her country's strong support for the Agency's work on safety and security — issues of profound importance to all countries given possible transboundary effects of a nuclear accident or incident.

144. The Agency's work in the area of nuclear security was vital and Denmark had been proud to announce a further pledge to the NSF at the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in support of the Agency's nuclear security-related activities. Her country was also committed to ensuring sufficient funds for the Agency's nuclear security work through the Regular Budget. It looked forward to the high-level Agency International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in December 2016.

145. The year 2014 marked the second time that Denmark had been rated first in the NTI Nuclear Materials Security Index among countries without nuclear materials. Denmark was proud of that rating and was ready to share relevant experiences with interested countries.

146. Turning to nuclear safety, she said it was important that the impressive set of activities and outcomes reported by the Director General was continued and integrated into the Agency's regular safety programme. Denmark was looking forward to the publication in 2015 of the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident. While many of the action points of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety were primarily aimed at countries with nuclear power programmes, Denmark had also taken steps to implement relevant parts. It had worked to improve its emergency preparedness system in order to achieve a higher level of awareness and coordination among the various national authorities involved in emergency planning. Denmark had continued to strengthen its system to permanently monitor radiation levels in Denmark and Greenland. It was also strengthening cooperation in the nuclear sphere with its Nordic neighbours.

147. Denmark, which attached high importance to continuing efforts to improve the international nuclear safety architecture, hoped that the 2015 diplomatic conference would result in the further strengthening of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

148. It had been a challenge to find a safe and sustainable solution for the waste resulting from the decommissioning of Denmark's research reactor, and her country therefore welcomed the theme of the 2014 Scientific Forum.

149. Turning to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, she said that Denmark had made the decision not to include nuclear power in its own energy mix, as its national long-term energy production plans were based on the development and expansion of more sustainable forms of energy. However, it respected the choice of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations. It also recognized the interest of a number of States in introducing nuclear power and highly valued the Agency's contribution to ensuring that that was done under the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

150. Denmark fully supported the Agency's technical cooperation work in such crucial areas as human health, food security, water and the environment, and had been pleased to pledge its full share of the TCF target for 2015.

151. Ms WHELAN (Ireland) said that a cornerstone of Ireland's foreign policy was its support for the NPT — an instrument that provided a unique framework within which States could develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes subject to binding international standards of safety, security and verification. In advance of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, Ireland repeated its call to those States that had not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States.

152. Ireland was fully committed to working with its partners in the international community, in particular the Agency, to make progress in each of the three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. The current situation whereby significant progress continued to be made with respect to non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies, while progress in the area of disarmament had been disappointingly limited, could not be allowed to continue.

153. While Ireland had opted not to use nuclear energy for electricity generation, it recognized the sovereign right of every State to decide upon its own energy mix, provided that all States, without exception, seeking to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, demonstrated the peaceful nature of their nuclear activities. Full cooperation with the Agency was therefore essential since adherence to the Agency's strengthened safeguards system remained the most effective means of enabling the Agency to offer credible assurances to the international community in that regard.

154. International peace and security would be significantly strengthened by progress towards the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as called for in the 1995 resolution. It was regrettable that, despite the commendable efforts of the facilitator and of those States of the region that had tried to create conditions conducive to a successful conference in which all States of the region could participate, it had not been possible to convene a conference within the time frame envisaged. Ireland understood the frustration that the conference had not yet been held, but urged all sides to stay the course. While the process of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would not be easy, it was important that all sides remained open to dialogue and engagement, and that every effort was made to avoid steps or gestures that would make that goal more difficult.

155. She was pleased to report that Ireland had recently deposited its instrument of ratification of the amendment to the CPPNM. Her country endorsed the Director General's assessment that the amendment's entry into force was the single most important step that could be taken collectively to improve the safety and security of nuclear materials at an international level.

156. As an island State, Ireland commended the Agency on its efforts to support greater communication in the area of the maritime transport of radioactive materials, including through the promotion of a dialogue open to all members of the Agency. Ireland welcomed the report of the working group on government to government communications in the area of the maritime transport of radioactive materials, and was pleased that it had been circulated as an information circular to all Member States. The progress achieved thus far underlined the benefits to be derived from working together for the common good, and she thanked the outgoing chairman of the dialogue between coastal and shipping States, the Ambassador of France, for her efforts.

157. Turning to the benefits of nuclear sciences and applications, she drew attention to the Agency's work in the area of radiation medicine. Cancer, which killed more people every year than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined, was increasingly treatable in developed countries, but many developing countries lacked the equipment and human resources to respond effectively to that growing epidemic. In recognition of the Agency's important contribution to international efforts to support low- and middle-income Member States in the development and implementation of national cancer control programmes, Ireland had made a voluntary contribution of €125 000 to the PUI in 2013 in support of PACT. It welcomed the successful conclusion of an impACT mission to Mozambique, and the holding of two further missions to Rwanda and Burundi scheduled in the following months. Ireland looked forward to the successful implementation of impACT missions in Palestine and Sierra Leone, once circumstances allowed them to proceed, and welcomed the Director General's efforts to highlight that important aspect of the Agency's work.

158. The General Conference marked an important stage in collective preparations in advance of the 2015 NPT Review Conference, as did the forthcoming Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Ireland had participated in the first and second conferences in Norway and Mexico and encouraged all Agency Member States to attend the conference to be hosted by Austria in December 2014.

159. The Agency was to be commended for the dedicated and professional manner in which it had pursued its statutory objective for over five decades. Ireland was due to join the Board of Governors at the conclusion of the current session of the General Conference and would, during its tenure as a Board member, endeavour to ensure that the Agency was supported in fulfilling its mandate.

160. Mr QUIÑONES (Dominican Republic) said that there were many areas in which the Agency's activities could make an important contribution towards a safer and more prosperous world; its work was fundamental for reducing the risk of radiological accidents, illicit trafficking of radioactive materials and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

161. Noting that the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy was the responsibility of all, he said that since the Dominican Republic had joined the Agency in 1957, it had been seeking to contribute to the Agency's activities. It had joined the majority of the international treaties adopted to consolidate efforts providing for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, and would be depositing the instrument of acceptance of the amendment to the CPPNM during the current session of the General Conference.

162. His country appreciated the Agency's support in training personnel to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive material. It also welcomed cooperation with the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States Department of Energy concerning the provision of radiation detection systems at a number of ports, and hoped to continue expanding those programmes.

163. As a coastal country, the Dominican Republic welcomed the measures taken by the Agency to promote the safe transport of nuclear materials and dialogue between coastal and shipping States.

164. The Ministry of Energy and Mines, established in June 2013, was responsible for developing research projects, implementing international agreements, and promoting legislative initiatives. In line with the country's interest in the progressive development of nuclear energy and its applications, and in adopting policies that would foster its expansion, the Ministry had started the process of revising the applicable legal framework and aimed to finalize the process in the near future.

165. The Dominican Republic attached great importance to the assistance provided by the Agency through its technical cooperation programme. The transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries in such areas as medicine, agriculture, industry and water resources management helped to address a variety of challenges, including ensuring access to food and water, combating poverty and disease and adapting to climate change. In regard to energy, the Agency's assistance was vital in enabling developing countries to evaluate the benefits and feasibility of the nuclear option when facing the need to diversify their electricity mix.

166. His Government was confident that the Agency's support, through the technical cooperation programme, would allow the country to implement projects that would contribute to the achievement of the objectives outlined in the National Development Strategy 2030, which included strengthening of health systems, protecting the environment, reinforcing national science, technology and innovation and, in particular, promoting the development of nuclear energy applications. It would pay particular attention to the development of the next CPF and noted that the Agency had already assisted with numerous projects, such as the Centre for Nuclear Research and Applications (CIAN), the radiotherapy service at the National Oncology Hospital, the operation of cyclotron centres, national nutrition programmes, and environmental conservation and marine biodiversity projects.

167. Thanks to the significant progress made in his country in the area of nuclear medicine, the entire population would soon have access to nuclear medicine techniques, in line with the President's drive to ensure that all citizens had access to high-quality health-care services.

168. A thermoluminescence dosimetry testing unit had become operational towards the end of 2013 offering external dosimetry services, and it would be possible to establish the first national dosimetry bank in the country in line with the Agency's safety regulations.

169. The Dominican Republic was seeking to consolidate the development of human resources in the use of nuclear applications through fellowships and capacity-building courses in countries of the region, as well as to equip the Centre for Nuclear Research and Applications (CIAN). Noting the vital importance of agricultural exports to the country, he said that an industrial irradiation plant would directly benefit vulnerable communities and add value to the agricultural export process.

170. The Dominican Republic was grateful to the Department of Technical Cooperation for its valuable contribution to the initiatives under way and those planned for the future, which had a timely impact on priority areas for national development and on the attainment of the MDGs.

171. As part of its collaboration with the Agency, the Government of the Dominican Republic welcomed the opportunity to host regional and interregional Agency meetings, and looked forward to hosting a course on nuclear law for the Latin American region organized by the Agency in December 2014. It was also pleased to be holding a regional training course concerning safety assessments prior to the final disposal of radioactive waste.

172. The Dominican Republic, which acknowledged the contribution of the ARCAL in capacity building, research, and development, had achieved significant results through its participation in ten ARCAL projects in areas including health, industry, energy, food security and radiation safety. His country was pleased to note that that valuable international instrument had been extended for a further five-year period.

173. Princess Bajrakitiyabha MAHIDOL (Thailand) said that the Agency had an important and meaningful role to play in ensuring that the peaceful use of atomic energy was enhanced and secured, particularly given that nuclear power had emerged as a possible option in response to the international community's growing demand for energy. Thailand, which continued to attach great importance to issues of nuclear safety, security and safeguards at international, regional and national levels, was committed to maintaining a constructive role in upholding the underlying principles of the Agency.

174. At the Nuclear Security Summit earlier in the year, Thailand had stressed the need for the international community, including the Agency, to work together to help countries bridge capacity gaps in implementation in order to strengthen nuclear security. All key stakeholders should be engaged to help raise awareness about building a nuclear security culture.

175. At the regional level, Thailand was pleased that the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) had concluded a second formal meeting in August 2014. That meeting had reviewed activities conducted over the past year and discussed further activities under the work plan for 2015–2016, including a number of regional workshops and training courses on emergency preparedness and response, nuclear security culture and management.

176. Thailand was confident that the Network would further support and contribute to the common purpose of preserving South East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and noted that ASEAN was currently in consultations with the nuclear-weapon States regarding their signature and ratification of protocols to the SEANWFZ Treaty at the earliest opportunity. Thailand was dismayed that the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction provided for in the outcome decision of the 2010 NPT Review Conference had still not been convened. It called on all parties concerned to work together in good faith through constructive dialogue to bring about the convening of that important conference as soon as possible.

177. Thailand noted with satisfaction that all ten ASEAN members had now become Member States of the Agency. The ASEAN Secretariat and the Agency had begun to explore the possibility of formalized cooperation, which Thailand hoped would be further developed, with a view to further strengthening nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the region.

178. Her country had also been working to strengthen nuclear safety and security at the national level. It had expanded its early warning environmental radiation monitoring stations to 17 ambient and 3 underwater gamma radiation monitoring stations, and was also involved in efforts with ASEAN member States to establish an ASEANTOM environmental radiation monitoring network for the sharing of activities and data.

179. Thailand and the Agency had hosted a national nuclear security workshop on the INSSP in November 2013, which had aimed to increase awareness of nuclear security issues among organizations responsible for nuclear security and to discuss further implementation of the Plan in Thailand. Her country had also joined the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres and the International Nuclear Security Education Network.

180. In addition to programmes for building capacity and improving facilities, Thailand was in the process of amending its Atomic Energy for Peace Act, to allow the country to proceed with the ratification of relevant international conventions.

181. The use of nuclear energy remained an important part of Thailand's energy mix because of its low carbon emissions and its cost effectiveness compared to other energy sources. In order to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear energy, Thailand needed to focus on strengthening related national legislation, nuclear safety and security measures and human resources, while increasing public

awareness and understanding, including through close coordination among the relevant Thai agencies, and continuous cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the Agency.

182. Radioactive waste management was a key requirement for the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. Thailand welcomed the theme of the 2014 Scientific Forum and invited delegates to visit an exhibition on the control and care of radioactive waste in Thailand being held during the session of the General Conference.

183. Thailand had been working closely with the Agency on several technical cooperation projects in various areas, including food and agriculture and the medical applications of atomic energy, and seven technical cooperation projects with the Agency for the 2016–2017 cycle had been finalized. The Ministry of Public Health was undertaking several projects on quality assurance of diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy systems with a view to standardizing services throughout the Thai public health system.

184. Thailand had also been able to extend cooperation in the field of radiation metrology to neighbouring countries, such as Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. Radiation workers in nearby countries would be able to register with the Department of Medical Sciences in order to make use of the personal monitoring service using optically stimulated luminescence dosimeters, which her country had been the first ASEAN member to introduce.

185. Thailand was also pleased to announce that, as in previous years, it had pledged its full target share to the TCF for 2015.

186. In the face of current challenges and the transboundary impact of nuclear accidents and threats, cooperation between the Agency and other international organizations, and among Member States, remained vitally important. The Agency could be assured of Thailand's continued cooperation and support.

187. Mr MCCOOK (Jamaica) expressed satisfaction that the number of smaller developing countries was increasing in the Agency's membership, since such countries stood to benefit from the Agency's unique and important contribution, particularly through technical assistance and capacity building.

188. Jamaica, which attached great importance to the Agency's work in promoting the peaceful application of nuclear technology, considered that nuclear security must be strengthened through a solid regulatory framework, the sharing of best practices and capacity building. It had welcomed the opportunity to host a regional Caribbean workshop in March 2014, with the aim of raising awareness in relation to adherence to the international legal instruments adopted by the Agency, and was endeavouring to complete its own legislative measures as early as possible.

189. All members must continue to ensure the effective implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which would also serve to strengthen nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety. While recognizing the mechanisms in place to enhance cooperation in the area of nuclear transportation and waste, he said that emergency preparedness and response mechanisms were limited in their capacity to respond adequately and effectively to a nuclear accident or incident, and highlighted the importance of regional and global approaches in that regard. Jamaica, like other members of the Caribbean Community, remained concerned about the transportation of nuclear waste through the region and the potential impact of any incident relating to such shipments on the region.

190. Jamaica noted with concern from the Nuclear Security Report 2014 (GC(58)/14) that there had been numerous incidents of illegal possession of nuclear material and radioactive sources over the reporting period. Robust security measures must be implemented to address such events.

191. As a party to the NPT, Jamaica attached priority to all three pillars of the Treaty. It encouraged those States that had not yet done so to accede to legally binding international conventions and to commit in earnest to negotiations geared towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. As a member of the Latin American and Caribbean region, Jamaica continued to adhere to the terms of the Tlatelolco Treaty. His country's commitment to international peace and security had also been reaffirmed in the Havana Declaration of the January 2014 Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. Jamaica encouraged other regions to pursue that goal in their global commitment to international peace and security.

192. Jamaica, which attached importance to the strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, had benefited significantly from knowledge transfer and capacity building through related programmes, including on nuclear science, medical physics and water resources. The Agency's focus on integrating national development priorities into the country's programme was a key component in project planning, management and design, and the critical role of the ARCAL Agreement in that regard could not be overemphasized. Jamaica was deeply appreciative to the Agency and its partners, and looked forward to maintaining and strengthening that partnership.

193. Technical cooperation had been highly useful in the field of nuclear medicine, and substantial progress had been achieved in that priority area by countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region, including through projects such as an interregional project concerning the development of nuclear medicine in combatting noncommunicable diseases. He noted that the region had enjoyed an 89.3% implementation rate.

194. The sustainable use of research reactors for the production of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals in the Latin American and Caribbean region was another initiative being explored in conjunction with the Agency.

195. Jamaica was committed to the safe and effective use of nuclear technology and pledged its full and support in helping the Agency to fulfil its mandate.

196. Mr AL HINAI (Oman) said that the fact that most countries in the world had now joined the Agency demonstrated the great importance attached to its work and its outstanding role in all areas relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful applications, as well as nuclear safety and security.

197. Since the 57th session of the General Conference, the Sultanate of Oman had participated for the first time in a number of events concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its associated requirements. Following Oman's ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in August 2013, his country had attended the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, where it had submitted its first report on radiation safety in the country, although it currently possessed no nuclear installations or reactors.

198. The Contracting Parties had agreed by consensus to introduce a number of amendments to the three guidance documents relating to the Convention with a view to providing clearer guidelines concerning the measures that should be taken by Contracting Parties to achieve the aims of the Convention, providing for higher quality national reports, and an improved review procedure.

199. The Swiss proposal concerning an amendment to Article 18 of the Convention had been motivated by the many appeals made following the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents for action to guarantee the safety of all nuclear reactors, mitigate the effects of an accident should one occur, and avoid off-site contamination of human beings and the environment. Oman firmly believed that the endorsement of those objectives and their application to existing plants would build confidence in the safety of nuclear energy among the general public. It hoped that the proposed

amendment would be discussed seriously during the diplomatic conference, and that it would be implemented without delay.

200. The Sultanate of Oman had also participated for the first time in a meeting of representatives of competent authorities identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency in Vienna in May 2014, where it had submitted a detailed report on its emergency preparedness and response infrastructure. His country recognized the importance of regional and international cooperation in support of preparedness and response to a nuclear or radiological emergency, which could have transboundary consequences, and had been pleased to exchange information and views on all relevant issues.

201. His country was taking serious action to develop its emergency preparedness and response infrastructure through a national project within the Agency's technical cooperation programme. It was also cooperating with other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council to prepare a regional emergency preparedness and response plan and was grateful to the Agency for its support in that regard. It had attended the field exercise held in Saudi Arabia, in December 2013, to verify the feasibility of the practical implementation of the plan and all the Agency's recommendations and comments had been taken into account.

202. The 2014 Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague had been an event of primary importance for the strengthening of global nuclear security, where the progress made since the summits in 2010 and 2012 had been assessed. The Sultanate of Oman supported the commitment to the shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy outlined in the Summit Communiqué, as well as the statement that measures to strengthen nuclear security should not hamper the rights of States to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

203. Noting the Agency's key role in strengthening nuclear security, coordinating action among international organizations and other international initiatives, and supporting national efforts to improve nuclear security, he said that all States, including his own, would undoubtedly benefit from the guidance contained in the IAEA Nuclear Security Series. The development of model legislation on nuclear security by the Agency would assist States in drafting national legislation that was consistent with relevant international legal instruments since there were many aspects of nuclear security that needed to be continually upgraded to an acceptable level.

204. His country's integrated security plan would shortly be completed and would reflect the results of meetings and workshops held with the Agency's Division of Nuclear Security during the preceding months. Oman was grateful to the Agency for its efforts and cooperation in that connection.

205. Oman was very disappointed by the failure to make any progress towards the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The international conference on the subject, scheduled to be held in 2012 pursuant to a decision of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, had not yet been convened, and there were currently no grounds for optimism regarding the prospect of holding it in the near future. The delay in finding appropriate solutions to the situation in the Middle East would inevitably make it even more complex. The Conference should, at its current session, take the requisite action in that regard before it was too late, especially since the next NPT Review Conference was to be held early in 2015. The third session of the Preparatory Committee, which had been held in New York earlier in the year, had made no progress towards implementing the 1995 resolution on the subject.

206. The Sultanate of Oman attached great importance to the assurance of water availability and to optimum exploitation of water resources to meet current and future needs in line with sustainable development. The support it had received from the Agency under the IAEA Water Availability

Enhancement (IWAVE) project had helped his country to identify existing information gaps and build national capacity required for data collection, management and analysis with a view to conducting water resource assessment studies and drawing up clear and appropriate management plans.

207. Steps were being taken to develop a model concept for the hydrological characteristics of the Samail Catchment, and the experience and expertise acquired would enable the Sultanate to continue studying other catchment areas and take appropriate decisions concerning sustainable water resource management. The Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Sultan Qaboos University and Oman Oil Company were currently developing a model for the catchment in cooperation with the Agency.

208. Oman noted with satisfaction the extension of the ARASIA Agreement, which was being sponsored by the Agency, for a third six-year period from July 2014. Since its accession to that Agreement in 2010, the Sultanate of Oman had participated in a number of ARASIA project activities, which complemented national projects undertaken in cooperation with the Agency. His country hoped that the Agency's support for the ARASIA projects being designed would continue with a view to their incorporation into the Agency's technical cooperation programme for the period 2016–2017.

209. Mr MARAFI (Kuwait) said that the 58th session of the General Conference coincided with the 50th anniversary of Kuwait's Agency membership. Since joining, Kuwait had cooperated closely with the Agency and supported all its programmes and activities aimed at developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy and promoting the development of diverse sectors in Member States.

210. Socioeconomic development necessitated a major increase in energy supplies in the coming decades. Noting that nuclear energy was deemed to be a supplementary rather than an alternative source of energy, he said that any energy choice would be determined by national policies based on needs, aspiration and capacities.

211. Kuwait was cooperating actively with the Agency with a view to building its national capacity and the institutions required for the implementation of key projects. It looked forward to further cooperation to that end. Kuwait had also participated in consultations and meetings between experts from member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Agency on the implementation of a joint programme on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There had been important achievements over the preceding five years and his country looked forward to further close cooperation in the future.

212. The technical cooperation programme was a cornerstone of the Agency's work in support of capacity building and the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology to developing countries. Kuwait had long attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities and greatly appreciated the Agency's efforts in support of the Asia and the Pacific region, particularly the organization of regional workshops and training courses. It looked forward to continued constructive cooperation and thanked the Agency staff that had visited Kuwait for their valuable assistance. As part of its CPF signed in 2014, six national programmes involving different national sectors and institutions were being implemented during the 2014–2015 cycle.

213. Kuwait attached great importance to the safety and security of radioactive sources and nuclear material, while underscoring the need to establish and implement rules and guidelines aimed at controlling the movement of such material. Kuwait had taken note of the Director General's reports on the subject and was particularly interested in the Agency's integrated nuclear security support plans. It had participated in the International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna with a view to keeping track of all international efforts aimed at protecting nuclear security and safety. Kuwait had signed and ratified the CPPNM, and the competent authorities were working on completing the amendment ratification process.

214. All Member States already operating nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel cycle facilities, or those that planned to do so in the near future, should accede to all relevant conventions. They should also offer to host diverse Agency nuclear safety missions, and allow the results to be published.

215. Kuwait highlighted the importance of cooperation with the Agency in developing and applying all safety regulations as an essential means of promoting transparency, credibility and confidence in the safety of nuclear power plants and of all national, regional and international nuclear facilities. Such action would encourage Member States to expand the use of nuclear power plants for electricity generation in order to address the rapid increase in electricity consumption to meet development needs, especially in developing countries with energy shortages.

216. Kuwait attached great importance to the implementation of the Agency's safeguards agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran. While Kuwait affirmed the right of all States to produce, develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the NPT, it urged Iran to cooperate more closely and transparently with the Agency, to respond to the latter's queries in order to dispel any fears or doubts regarding the nature of its nuclear programme, and to address all outstanding issues. It further called on all parties involved to step up diplomatic efforts and to seize the present opportunity to achieve the desired objective by 24 November 2014, thereby promoting security and stability in the region and the world as a whole. Kuwait welcomed the information in the Director General's report set out in document GOV/2014/43 concerning the steps taken by Iran to implement a number of practical measures under the Framework for Cooperation, and hoped that Iran would intensify its efforts to reach an agreement with the Agency on further practical measures. Kuwait also hoped that Iran would swiftly take the steps and provide the clarifications requested by the Agency, including implementation of the additional protocol, with a view to confirming the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. Iran should further accede to all conventions and agreements concerning nuclear safety in order to reassure the States and peoples of the region.

217. Kuwait attached great importance to the application of the Agency safeguards regime to all nuclear activities in the Middle East. It was regrettable that, although all other States in the region had ratified the NPT, applied comprehensive safeguards agreements and endeavoured to implement all measures and regulations relating to the Treaty, Israel continued to refuse to sign the NPT and place its installations under Agency safeguards although it possessed advanced nuclear reactors that posed a threat to the region. Israel's attitude thwarted all efforts to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and undermined regional and, therefore, international security and stability.

218. The Arab States had made a number of proposals. For instance, they had set a date for the convening of the Helsinki conference, which had been postponed without any clear justification. As there had been no effective response to the proposals, the Arab States called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities, to rapidly specify a date for the conference and to take all necessary steps to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

219. Kuwait called on all Member States to support, and adopt by consensus, the resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities, which had been tabled because of the disappointment of States in the Middle East at the failure to hold the 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Kuwait also encouraged the depositary States to assist the Agency in achieving the universality of the NPT and freeing the Middle East of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. It was important for the Agency to preserve its credibility in that regard.

220. Kuwait attached great importance to the establishment of an Agency LEU bank for the supply of low enriched uranium. It had contributed US \$10 million to the project and hoped that vigorous action would be taken to promote the establishment of such a bank in the near future.

221. Kuwait continued to support the Agency's pioneering role and contribution to sustainable development in order to address the economic, financial and food crises faced by many countries as well as climate change, and in achieving safety, security, peace and prosperity for all.

Mr Hasans (Latvia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

222. Mr SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago) welcomed the steady increase in Agency membership among Caribbean countries, which reflected the importance of the Agency to large and small States alike.

223. The Agency's work on nuclear safety and oversight was of particular interest for the small and vulnerable islands of the Caribbean, including his own. His country shared the concerns of other members of the Caribbean Community regarding the transportation of nuclear material through the Caribbean Sea, and appealed to transporting States to refrain from such shipments.

224. His country had noted with interest the report by the Director General on progress in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety (GC(58)/INF/7) and the report on implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2010–2013 (GC(58)/INF/8). It welcomed the steps taken to learn lessons and ensure the transparency of knowledge sharing and experience. Trinidad and Tobago had participated in the Agency's information-sharing outreach meeting for the Caribbean and Central America sub-region on the Nuclear Security Information Management System held in August 2014 in Costa Rica, and had learnt about useful tools for identifying its own nuclear security needs and developing its national nuclear security regime.

225. Trinidad and Tobago remained committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and attached great importance to the conventions underpinning nuclear safety. His country was keen to prevent and counteract the illicit trafficking of nuclear material both domestically and internationally, and the Government was considering the possibility of signing an additional protocol and the modified small quantities protocol.

226. Noting that Trinidad and Tobago's relationship with the Agency in the area of public health had begun even before it had formally joined the Agency in 2012, he said that the Agency had been able to offer emergency assistance to his country on humanitarian grounds when a private health facility had reported a radiation overexposure accident in 2010. The positive outcome of that intervention had made his country aware of the benefits of Agency membership, particularly in connection with technical assistance programmes in health and health-related areas.

227. His country's engagement with the Agency was deepening and he thanked the Department of Technical Cooperation for encouraging Trinidad and Tobago to participate in training activities, technical meetings and conferences. It was grateful to the Director and staff of the Division for Latin America for conducting fact-finding missions to Port of Spain to provide assistance in assessing national needs, priorities, and the status of radiation safety within the country, and in formulating national and regional projects. A National Liaison Officer and four National Liaison Assistants were currently working on finalizing the country's RSA and CPF. Attention would then be focused on finalizing the technical assistance agenda for health, particularly with respect to the legislative framework for radiation oncology and nuclear medicine practice, the National Oncology Centre and the cyclotron and PET/CT centre.

228. Trinidad and Tobago was also looking forward to participating actively in regional technical assistance projects, in particular the proposed project on strengthening cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources in the Caribbean region, and was closely studying the potential benefit of complementing its national cooperation programme with the regional opportunities offered by ARCAL.

229. Ms FERTEKLIGIL (Turkey) said that the Agency had made great strides in global nuclear cooperation since its establishment in 1957. It had greatly contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as towards social, economic and environmental development through nuclear applications.

230. At a time when the world was facing diverse challenges regarding the future of disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the Agency's role in maximizing the contribution of nuclear technology to human well-being while minimizing the risks of proliferation was more significant than ever. Turkey was confident the Agency would continue to be guided by professionalism, impartiality and objectivity in its work.

231. The NPT, based on its three mutually reinforcing pillars, was the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and essential for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Turkey advocated global disarmament and supported international efforts in the field of international security through arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. It was party to all international non-proliferation instruments and export control regimes, whose effective implementation it fully supported, and valued the work of its partners in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

232. The Agency's international safeguards system was an essential part of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, and the universal adoption and implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols constituted a prerequisite for an effective and credible system. Turkey was pleased that the number of States with additional protocols in force had increased to 124 and called upon those States that had not yet done so, to sign, ratify and implement a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol without delay.

233. Turkey also called on non-NPT States with nuclear weapons programmes to sign the NPT and eliminate their military nuclear capabilities and programmes as soon as possible.

234. Turkey agreed that States that fully complied with their obligations under the NPT had the right to enjoy all the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. However, every effort must be made to ensure that there would be no increased risk of proliferation associated with its expansion.

235. Turkey attached great importance to the effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system and appreciated the careful manner in which the Secretariat conducted its verification activities. It noted with satisfaction that the Agency continued to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran and welcomed the Framework for Cooperation between the Agency and Iran and the Joint Plan of Action between the P5+1 and Iran as positive steps towards the resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue. Turkey took note of developments and challenges in the implementation of both of those tracks. It also acknowledged that finding a comprehensive solution and resolving all outstanding issues might take time. Her country called on all parties concerned to continue addressing the issue in a constructive and transparent way, with the ultimate aim of reaching a positive conclusion. It remained willing to contribute to the resolution of the issue, through peaceful and diplomatic means.

236. Turning to the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syria, Turkey trusted that continued engagement with Syria would help the Agency to eliminate ambiguities and eventually close the file.

237. The DPRK's nuclear programme remained a serious concern. The missile launches, nuclear weapon tests and public statements favouring more tests undermined trust, security and stability in the region and beyond. Turkey joined many other States in calling on the DPRK to return to the Six-Party Talks, with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

238. Turkey highly valued the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, wherever feasible. The signature by five nuclear-weapon States of the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in May 2014 was a positive development in global non-proliferation efforts.

239. Her country was disappointed at the postponement of the conference on a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East that was due to have taken place in 2012, and hoped that it would be held as soon as possible. The holding of the conference might not only be an important confidence-building measure but also a significant stimulus to the NPT review process, and Turkey would continue to support the efforts of the facilitator and his team.

240. Nuclear terrorism had emerged as a serious new challenge to non-proliferation efforts and Turkey strongly supported all appropriate measures to prevent the acquisition of radioactive material and facilities by terrorists. Although the responsibility for nuclear security lay with the individual State, national efforts should be accompanied by effective international cooperation. For that reason, Turkey had joined the nuclear security summit process from the very beginning. Turkey welcomed the Agency's evolving work in the field of nuclear security and appreciated the tools made available to interested Member States to support efforts to improve and strengthen their nuclear security structures.

241. Turkey remained committed to ensuring the safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear science and technology. It supported the Agency's efforts to promote and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide and encouraged the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its efforts relating to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

242. The Fukushima Daiichi accident had once more brought the significance of nuclear safety to the world's attention. Turkey appreciated the Agency's work in sharing the valuable experience gained from that accident and looked forward to the final report, due to be released in 2015.

243. Turkey which, as an embarking country was aiming for the highest levels of nuclear safety, looked forward to the diplomatic conference in February 2015 to consider a proposal to amend the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which it hoped would lead to more robust safety measures for new and existing nuclear power plants.

244. The safety of aged nuclear power plants remained a serious concern for Turkey, which considered that all necessary measures needed be taken to eliminate the associated risks. It welcomed the Agency's cooperation in that regard.

245. Turkey strongly supported the Agency's technical cooperation programme. The Agency's work to facilitate the sharing of nuclear knowledge and expertise concerning the application of nuclear techniques in such areas as human health, industry, environment and hydrology was beneficial, particularly for those Member States without nuclear power reactors.

246. Turkey's plans for nuclear power were a key aspect of its aspirations for economic growth. In recent years, Turkey had seen the fastest growth in energy demand in the OECD, and was expected to double its energy use over the next decade; electricity demand was expected to increase even more rapidly. Around 26% of the total energy demand was currently being met by domestic resources, while the rest was being provided from a diversified portfolio of imports. In line with its efforts to diversify its energy sources, Turkey aimed to reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels and support economic development by gradually introducing nuclear power into its energy mix through the construction of three nuclear power plants.

247. Turkey and the Russian Federation had signed an agreement in 2010 paving the way for the construction and operation of the first nuclear power plant under the build-own-operate model at the Akkuyu site. The first of four units, with a total capacity of 4800 MW(e), was scheduled to be

commissioned in 2021. A second nuclear power plant would be built at the Sinop site and the third project was still under discussion.

248. State-of-the-art technologies and methods would be used for Turkey's nuclear power plant projects in order to ensure the highest levels of nuclear safety. In support of its nuclear power programme, Turkey was in the process of enhancing its human resources and nuclear knowledge capacity and updating its existing nuclear legislation taking into consideration the latest Agency standards.

249. Turkey highly valued its cooperation with the Agency in achieving the safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in accordance with international norms and standards. At Turkey's request, an INIR mission had been conducted in late 2013 and the outcomes of the mission would help Turkey to develop the nuclear infrastructure needed for the successful implementation of its nuclear power programme.

250. Turkey noted with satisfaction that those countries that were moving forward with plans for nuclear power were a priority for the Agency. As one such country, Turkey encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts towards providing guidance, support and assistance in establishing and maintaining adequate safety regulations and infrastructure, with particular regard to the needs of Member States considering developing nuclear power as part of their national energy strategy.

251. Mr BUDIMAN (Indonesia) said that his Government was committed to optimizing the use of new and renewable energy sources, including the future possible use of nuclear energy to secure the energy supply needed for sustaining its economic growth. Various activities had been conducted with the Agency's support prior to a final decision on the use of nuclear power.

252. In August 2014, Indonesia had published its Nuclear Energy Outlook, which would become a national reference for determining Indonesia's energy policy. Based on that study, Indonesia should utilize nuclear power plants, including small and medium-sized reactors, to support its economic growth and competitiveness.

253. The comprehensive feasibility study, including a site study, for the development of a nuclear power plant on Bangka Island, which had recently been completed, constituted an important milestone in Indonesia's nuclear energy development and in strengthening the national energy infrastructure.

254. In order to increase public acceptance and build a strong basis for a future commercial nuclear power plant, Indonesia intended to build a non-commercial mini-scale power reactor. That reactor should demonstrate to the public the viability of nuclear power, facilitate the development of technologies related to process heat applications, and serve as a demonstration plant for the development of qualified human resources, thus enhancing public confidence in nuclear technology.

255. Indonesia appreciated the Agency's expert mission carried out the previous year to review national progress in designing a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor. He thanked the Deputy Director General for Nuclear Energy for his fruitful visit to Indonesia in August to provide further technical assistance for that initiative.

256. Indonesia also appreciated the technical assistance provided by the Agency concerning the use of INPRO methodology, which had helped the country take the required action to establish a sustainable nuclear energy system.

257. Technical cooperation was the main vehicle through which the Agency could fulfil its statutory mandate of promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Indonesia considered that resources for technical cooperation activities should be enhanced. It welcomed the consensus achieved by the

Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities that would serve as a basis for determining the budget figures for future technical cooperation cycles.

258. Indonesia had conducted a self-assessment of nuclear security culture at its three nuclear research reactors from October 2012 to March 2013 in a pilot project on the implementation of the Agency's technical guidance in that regard. As a follow-up, Indonesia was planning to establish a centre for security culture and assessment that was expected to become a training hub at the national and international level. The inauguration of the centre would take place during a conference on promoting security culture in South East Asia, to be held in Jakarta on 29 and 30 September 2014.

259. In 2014, Indonesia had also established a centre of excellence on nuclear security and emergency preparedness, which would serve as a platform for developing and sustaining national capabilities in nuclear security and emergency preparedness through human resources development and technical support provision. His Government hoped that the centre would become a forum for capacity building and knowledge sharing among professionals and academics at the regional, national and international levels, and thanked the Agency, in particular the Division of Nuclear Security and the IEC, for its unwavering support and assistance in the development of the centre.

260. Indonesia, which continued to engage in strengthening the global nuclear security framework, had completed the national process for the ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Its instrument of acceptance would be submitted to the depositary, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the 2014 Treaty Event in New York. Indonesia had also developed a model national legislation implementation kit on nuclear security, which had been presented to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague. It hoped that the kit could be used as a source of practical information to help countries further strengthen their national nuclear security legislation.

261. Indonesia was also continuing its efforts to build a robust nuclear safety infrastructure. It was currently preparing to receive an IRRS mission, which would help in assessing Indonesia's regulatory infrastructure for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste and transport safety as well as the security of radioactive sources.

262. Indonesia had established a new licensing regulation for nuclear installations and materials, which integrated safety, security and safeguards aspects in accordance with Agency and other international standards, and would further enhance the safety and security requirements of nuclear installations, including nuclear power plants.

263. Turning to nuclear applications, he said that Indonesia continued to expand its R&D in mutation breeding to produce high-yield food crops that adapted well to climate change and were more resistant to pests. The twenty mutant rice varieties released had not only helped farmers to boost their productivity but had also created a significant number of small and medium businesses in rice seed production.

264. Indonesia had also developed capacity in the area of food radiation technology in order to improve post-harvest activities as well as food quality and preservation. Irradiated food products had helped communities living in areas affected by natural disasters, where there was a great need for food supplies that could be maintained in good condition for a longer time.

265. Indonesia was happy to share its experience with interested Member States. It had supported several technical cooperation projects in such fields as radiotracer technologies, plant mutation breeding, agricultural water management and waste management, which were aimed at supporting capacity building in a number of developing Member States. It regularly received trainees from fellow Member States to participate in its research and development activities, and hosted scientific visits. It

also dispatched experts to interested Member States to provide assistance in developing their R&D activities. To further extend its international engagement, Indonesia had signed an MOU with the FAO in December 2013 on the utilization of nuclear science and technology in food and agriculture. As part of the implementation of that MOU, Indonesia would provide a cost-free expert to join and support the activities of the Joint Division from the beginning of October 2014.

266. Indonesia continued to contribute to the PUI in support of the Agency's TCDC programme. In 2014, it was planning to provide a contribution to support the ReNuAL project.

267. With regard to disarmament, Indonesia welcomed the celebration of the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September 2014, which it considered would contribute significantly to raising public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

268. Indonesia was determined to preserve South East Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons, the threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It looked forward to the signing of the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and its related documents as early as possible.

269. Indonesia looked forward to the convening of the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East at the earliest opportunity, attended by all States of the region, as provided for in the 2010 NPT action plan.

270. In closing, Indonesia reiterated the importance of the Agency's role in fostering international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, technology, nuclear safety and security, and hoped that its cooperation with the Agency could be further expanded.

271. Mr NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that current times presented many opportunities and challenges, and it was incumbent upon the international community to make the correct decisions, for example in the areas of nuclear energy development, safety and security, and in striking a delicate balance between growth and environmental sustainability.

272. Despite the difficulties it faced in terms of economics and infrastructure, his Government was providing the resources necessary to achieve the objectives of its strategy for peaceful utilization of atomic energy that had been implemented for almost nine years.

273. Non-power applications had made an effective contribution to the socioeconomic development of the country. Thirty-one R&D projects and two pilot production projects had been carried out in such fields as non-destructive testing and industrial irradiation during the period 2010–2013. Many new varieties had been created by mutation breeding techniques, and nuclear analytical techniques and radiation measurement techniques had been broadly applied for the exploration and evaluation of mineral potential. Health care was the area in which nuclear technology had been most extensively applied, and by 2020, Viet Nam was expected to have 65 radiotherapy units, 39 nuclear medicine departments, 67 radiology units, as well as a central radiation medicine hospital.

274. Viet Nam was continuing its nuclear power programme with a view to meeting sustainable development targets. Site approval dossiers and feasibility studies for the first two nuclear power plants, Ninh Thuan 1 and 2, were currently being finalized. The preparatory work for the power plant projects was being supported by the Government and the relevant organizations responsible for ensuring the highest standards of safety and emergency preparedness and response in accordance with the Agency's guidance and international experience.

275. In order to promote nuclear energy applications and ensure safety and security, the Government of Viet Nam had recently strengthened its organizational and managerial system, improved the

legislative framework and strengthened the capacities of national regulatory bodies, including through the elaboration of mechanisms and policies supporting the development of human resources and national infrastructure. In addition to the establishment of the National Nuclear Safety Council in April 2010 and the National Atomic Energy Council in May 2013, five sub-committees had been set up with a view to identifying the strategies, policies, priorities and measures for the development and use of nuclear energy, in particular regarding the implementation of the Ninh Thuan nuclear power project.

276. He noted with satisfaction that, under its CPF for the period 2011–2015, Viet Nam had received valuable assistance concerning research, development and application of nuclear energy in such fields as agriculture, industry, health care, the environment and nuclear power, with an emphasis on improving the legal framework, human resources development, safeguards, and nuclear safety and security. It was also implementing an Integrated Work Plan, an INSSP and participating in a variety of initiatives. The recommendations and suggestions of INIS and IRRS missions were highly beneficial for the development of the national nuclear power infrastructure in Viet Nam.

277. Viet Nam had also participated in an Agency–EU joint action project, under which eight radiation portal monitors had been installed and put into operation at Noi Bai International Airport since early 2013, thereby contributing to international efforts to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

278. Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and the Agency had started discussions on the actual implementation of the pilot project on the establishment of the Radioactive Source Location Tracking system in Viet Nam, which would contribute to the security of radioactive sources used for NDT.

279. Viet Nam had fulfilled its obligations and commitments to the Agency, including the provision of necessary resources for technical cooperation projects, payment of its NPCs and its contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF for 2014. In collaboration with the Agency, Viet Nam had successfully hosted a number of IAEA/RCA workshops and training courses.

280. In addition to its multilateral cooperation, Viet Nam's continuing bilateral cooperation was providing it with more opportunities for capacity building and drawing on lessons learned for the development of a sustainable nuclear energy programme.

281. Viet Nam, which was convinced that adherence to international legal instruments contributed to the enhancement of international cooperation in the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and non-proliferation, had acceded to the Joint Convention in October 2013, bringing the number of international legal instruments relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation to which it was party to 13. It had joined the Proliferation Security Initiative in May 2014 and also participated in other international initiatives, particularly the nuclear security summits, most recently in The Hague in March 2014.

282. As Chair of the Board of Governors over the previous year, Viet Nam had actively contributed to the work of that important body, promoting a spirit of cooperation, collegiality and friendship among Board members. Viet Nam thanked all Board members and Member States for their support and cooperation.

283. In conclusion, Viet Nam commended and thanked the Agency for its cooperation and valuable assistance, and reaffirmed its full support of the Agency's activities to enhance and promote the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.

284. Mr BOZHKO (Ukraine) said that his country was a non-nuclear-weapon State that used nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It fully recognized the Agency's mission and principles outlined in the Statute, followed basic safety fundamentals and complied fully with its obligations under the CNS,

the Joint Convention, the CPPNM and its 2005 amendment, as well as the provisions of its comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol. Ukraine also fully respected and strictly followed the principles and norms of international law, and fully implemented its obligations under the other bilateral and multilateral treaties to which it was party.

285. For the previous several months, Ukraine had been experiencing unprecedented times in modern history. Events taking place in Ukraine had brought to light new, urgent challenges for regional and universal safety and security and called into question the existing norms of international law. Threats to Ukraine's political independence and territorial integrity had become evident to the international community, which had expressed its support and adopted General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine on 27 March 2014.

286. The Agency's safeguards system was a fundamental component of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The measures contained in the additional protocol formed an integral part of that system, and a comprehensive safeguards agreement together with an additional protocol constituted the best verification standard. Ukraine continued to call on States that had not yet done so to bring into force a protocol additional to their safeguards agreement, as universal adherence to both instruments was key to strengthening the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

287. Ukraine supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of its safeguards system. It had taken note of the Supplementary Document to the Report on the Conceptualization and Development of Safeguards Implementation at the State Level contained in document GOV/2014/41 and commended the Agency's work with a view to further supporting the application of safeguards and providing opportunities to perform new tasks related to the development of nuclear technologies.

288. Ukraine was committed to the Agency's consistent approach towards the application of safeguards for all nuclear facilities and materials in Ukraine in accordance with international law and the Agency's Statute, proceeding from the understanding that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol remained an integral part of Ukraine. It called upon the Agency and Member States to counter possible attempts by the Russian Federation towards a unilateral change in the national status of the nuclear facilities and nuclear materials located in Crimea, which was an inalienable part of the territory of Ukraine.

289. Ukraine was convinced that the universally recognized principles and norms of international law should remain inviolable.

290. Ukraine strongly supported the Agency's key role of promoting nuclear safety worldwide, which was one of the fundamental objectives of the NPT — a unique and irreplaceable framework for maintaining and strengthening international peace, security and stability. The role of the 2015 NPT Review Conference in reinforcing the NPT regime could not be underestimated, and Ukraine hoped that the conference would clarify many sensitive issues and find solutions to strengthen current international developments.

291. Noting that the NPT also contained very important obligations for nuclear-weapon States, he said that the world would be safe and secure only through joint efforts of the nuclear and non-nuclear States. Nuclear weapons should not be used to threaten or blackmail in order to achieve the political goals of a particular country.

292. Ukraine commended the Agency for its nuclear security activities to assist States in preventing and combating nuclear terrorism. It emphasized the Agency's central role in fostering international cooperation in nuclear security, establishing a comprehensive set of nuclear security guidelines and assisting Member States in enhancing nuclear security, at their request. Responsibility for nuclear

security rested with each individual State; all States should establish appropriate systems and take necessary measures to prevent, detect and respond to malicious acts involving nuclear material.

293. The current situation in and around Ukraine should be of deep concern for the international community. There was no guarantee that any Member State of the Agency would not encounter such circumstances, and Ukraine therefore appealed to the Agency and its Member States to intensify dialogue and cooperation.

294. Ukraine, which welcomed the success of the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit and the considerable progress made in strengthening nuclear security worldwide, agreed that continuing efforts were required to achieve its goals. It called upon all States that had not yet done so to adhere to the CPPNM, ratify its 2005 amendment as soon as possible and, pending its entry into force, to act in accordance with its object and purpose.

295. Ukraine strongly supported the Agency's activities aimed at improving nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety worldwide, and was convinced that achieving the highest nuclear safety culture should become an integral part of the global strategies for sustainable development of the international community.

296. Ukraine reiterated its strong support for the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which served as a powerful tool for the exchange of nuclear knowledge and capacity-building in Member States, particularly in such areas as human health, waste management, and the strengthening of nuclear and radiation safety. National and regional technical cooperation projects had significantly contributed to nuclear safety and improved the overall effectiveness of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Ukraine.

297. The Chernobyl accident and the Fukushima Daiichi accident had resulted in a review of international nuclear safety standards to ensure the highest level of nuclear, waste and radiation safety worldwide and the relevant emergency preparedness and response system. Ukraine, which had one of the largest nuclear power programmes in Europe with 15 nuclear power units in operation, believed that nuclear energy should be used and further developed in strict compliance with safety regulations and norms. The elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the social and economic rehabilitation of contaminated territories was a priority for the Government of Ukraine. Construction of a New Safe Confinement for the destroyed reactor was expected to be completed in 2015, enabling Ukraine to transform the Shelter into an environmentally and ecologically safe system. Ukraine reiterated its appreciation to the States and international organizations that had provided support and assistance in overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and counted on further support from the Agency and other partners.

298. The Fukushima Daiichi accident in 2011 had caused widespread concern about the safety of nuclear power plants worldwide and had prompted deliberations about the feasibility of nuclear energy as an energy source. Nuclear power would remain an essential component of Ukraine's energy strategy in the mid to long-term and continue to serve as a basis for the country's sustainable development.

299. Mr TOUKAN (Jordan) said that his country had continued to pursue its strategic aims concerning the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to serve as a model to be emulated in the Middle East, and had made significant progress in practical terms in the implementation of its nuclear programme. His Government had decided to recognize nuclear energy as an option for electricity generation in the country's energy mix and agreement had been reached on the Amra site, about 70 kilometres from the capital Amman, for the construction of the first nuclear power plant. A two-year project development agreement had been concluded with the State Atomic Energy Corporation 'Rosatom' that specified the activities to be undertaken and the responsibilities to be

assumed by the Jordanian and Russian parties before investing in the project, and was to be signed during the 58th session of the General Conference. The Government had agreed to set up a company to manage the planned nuclear power plant that was to include two AES-92 1000 MW(e) pressurized water reactors and would be established in two phases. The first phase, which would involve the implementation of all the activities required prior to the investment phase, was scheduled for completion in 2016. The investment decision would be taken on completion of the first phase. It was expected that the Russian strategic investor would participate in the project and that an engineering, purchasing and construction contract would be signed with the Atomstroyexport company. Commercial operation of the plant would commence in 2023.

300. Negotiations between the Jordanian and Russian Governments on the conclusion of a Government-level agreement that focused on the support mechanisms for the construction and commissioning of the nuclear power plant were expected to be completed by the end of 2014. The agreement would then be submitted for approval to the Jordanian Chamber of Deputies.

301. The KAERI–Daweco Consortium would continue to build a 5 MW nuclear research reactor at the Jordan University of Science and Technology. The reactor would be used for training, education and research purposes and to produce radioisotopes, primarily for medical use, and was expected to be commissioned in mid-2016.

302. With regard to the Jordanian uranium exploitation project, he said that the Jordanian uranium mining company was currently engaged in uranium prospecting activities, conducted in accordance with relevant international standards, in central Jordan. From an analysis of the samples taken, the quantity of yellowcake in the area covered was estimated to be in the order of 37 000 tonnes. The reserves would be internationally documented in accordance with the standards of the Joint Ore Reserves Committee by the end of 2015 and action would be taken to establish a model unit for the production of yellowcake. The project would pave the way for the establishment of a nuclear fuel bank for the region under the Agency's auspices, guaranteeing supplies of nuclear fuel for the nuclear power plants.

303. As part of efforts to develop its nuclear programme, the Jordan Nuclear Regulatory Commission had recently been merged with regulatory and monitoring bodies in the energy and mineral sector to create the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission, which was mandated to build regulatory capacity and effectiveness. The merger, which would have no impact on the independence of the regulatory authority, would enhance the technical competence of the new commission and provide it with the human and financial resources required to fulfil its mandate competently and efficiently.

304. Jordan was fully committed to the principle of transparency and to compliance with global nuclear safety and security standards. Environmental protection was a core element to be reflected in all measures taken to implement its nuclear programme.

305. Jordan supported the action being taken to establish a global civil liability regime that would strengthen the measures set forth in the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. It had acceded to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and to the Protocol amending the Convention, and the Government was on the point of deciding to accede to the Joint Convention.

306. Jordan had always been fully aware of the importance of investing in capacity building and developing the human resources required to implement its nuclear programme, including through the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge under bilateral cooperation agreements. It recognized the need for firm commitment and continuous coordination among all partners at the national, regional and international level with a view to developing a solid infrastructure.

307. Jordan commended the Agency for the outstanding and vital support that it had extended to the country through its review missions, the findings and recommendations of which supported the successful development of the country's nuclear infrastructure and the effective and efficient implementation of its nuclear programme. It had already hosted EPREV, IRRS and INIR missions in 2014 and was preparing to host an INSSP mission in October as a further important step in the ongoing cooperation between Jordan and the Agency in the area of nuclear security.

308. Turning to technical cooperation, he highlighted a number of important projects in Jordan, including on developing the infrastructure required to build and commission a nuclear power plant, establishing a uranium extraction laboratory, building national capacities for safety assessment, ensuring effective use of the research reactor, and strengthening the infrastructure for radioactive waste management. Another important project concerned the Centre for Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), which was scheduled to begin operation in early 2016. His country looked forward to continued support from the Agency in that connection and noted that the SESAME team had succeeded in accelerating electrons to 800 MeV for the first time earlier in September.

309. Jordan looked forward to further cooperation with the Agency under the technical cooperation programme during the next three years, including in the building of capacities and skills, use of research reactors, uranium extraction, radioactive waste management, enhancement of commercial gamma irradiation and cancer control.

310. His country attached great importance to the safeguards regime, which provided vital support for international action in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and confining the use of nuclear energy to peaceful applications.

311. Jordan, which had signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency in line with its obligations under the NPT, reiterated its appeal to all countries in the Middle East, including Israel, to accede to the NPT and place all their nuclear installations under Agency safeguards, thereby ensuring the universality of the Treaty in the region and paving the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Such a step would promote international peace and security and encourage States to focus on the socioeconomic development of their peoples. Jordan emphasized the importance of convening an international conference of Middle East States to discuss that issue, given the failure to hold the conference scheduled for 2012 by the NPT Review Conference.

312. Ms ZEINABOU (Niger) said that the 58th session of the General Conference coincided with various target dates of major importance for the world in general and for Niger in particular, most notably the deadline for the MDGs and the launch of a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The Conference was also taking place against a global backdrop characterized by difficulties regarding nuclear disarmament negotiations and concerns about achieving the consensus necessary for the successful outcome of the 9th NPT Review Conference.

313. Niger's CPF for 2010–2015 was currently being implemented, and she commended the quality of the Agency's technical cooperation that touched all areas of the country's social and economic development. Niger also welcomed the Agency's activities and support concerning the implementation of the AFRA agreement, and called for the further strengthening of that agreement.

314. Niger reiterated its thanks to the Agency and all its other partners for their support that had enabled it to build its national human and material capacities. Her country was deeply committed to developing its cooperation with the Agency so that it could take full advantage of opportunities relating to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

315. Her country encouraged the Agency to continue developing innovative nuclear techniques and training practices in the nuclear field and took note of the positive outlook for nuclear power.

316. Niger, a major producer of uranium, would do its utmost to respect its obligations concerning non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and protection of people and the environment.

317. She highlighted various actions being taken to ensure the use of nuclear techniques in the Government's priority programmes set out in the social and economic development programme 2012–2015. The Niger High Authority for Atomic Energy, which had been established by the Government with a view to increasing the visibility of its policies, was now operational, and was encouraging the promotion and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, as well as the implementation of all relevant regional and international legal instruments. Furthermore, the regulatory authority would shortly be attached to the office of the Prime Minister.

318. Like other countries in the Economic Community of West African States, Niger experienced a considerable energy deficit. It recognized the importance of electricity for sustainable development and had committed to the implementation of a nuclear power programme in order to reduce its energy dependence. She called for joint efforts to undertake the work required to develop and build adequate strategic partnerships for nuclear power to become a credible option by 2025, and highlighted the importance of support from the Agency and other partners for such a programme, including in mobilizing the necessary funds.

319. Niger was working together with PACT and other development partners, including the Islamic Development Bank and the Principality of Monaco in the area of cancer control. The National Cancer Centre that would provide cancer treatment for the sub-region would shortly become operational, as would a new dual-head CT/SPECT camera provided by the Agency.

320. Niger was grateful for the technical assistance it had received from the Agency regarding its INSSP and encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts to ensure the follow-up of such plans.

321. With exports amounting to over 400 000 tonnes per year, the onion sector came a close second to uranium in terms of export revenues, despite losses of up to 40% per cent. Niger thanked the Agency for its support in establishing a system for the use of ionizing radiation, which helped to preserve onions and would go some way to alleviating poverty by enabling both the producers and the State to increase their income.

322. The management of water resources in the Sahel region was vital for the achievement of sustainable development objectives, and Niger called on relevant partners to work together achieve a better understanding of the risks to the aquifer systems. She welcomed the project on integrated and sustainable management of the shared aquifer systems in the Sahel region, which was helping to improve water resources management in the region.

323. Niger was grateful for the support it had received from the Agency and other organizations for projects concerning the provision of access to drinking water. It welcomed the cooperation that had ensued with the Agency, between Member States themselves and between the Agency and the Sahel countries in that connection, and called on countries to provide the Agency with human and financial support.

324. Niger commended the Department of Technical Cooperation on its work. It acknowledged the invaluable contribution of the PUI, an initiative that should be extended, and thanked its donors, in particular Japan and the United States, for their support

325. While development and peace were major challenges that concerned the entire world, they were even more acute for Africa, and Niger in particular, where the eradication of poverty and food security

was at the heart of the Government's economic and social policies. Her country called on the Agency and its main partners to provide support and assistance in the use of nuclear technology, without discrimination, for the implementation of national programmes.

326. Mr MYAT (Myanmar) said that the management of radioactive waste from the use of nuclear technology in such areas as human health, agriculture and electricity generation was often seen as a problem. Myanmar welcomed the theme of the 2014 Scientific Forum, which would enable experts from all over the world to consider the challenges and solutions to that issue and explain the technology to a wider public audience.

327. He praised the assistance provided by the Agency through its technical cooperation programme and noted that the RCA, which was celebrating its 43rd anniversary, strengthened the Agency's work in spreading the benefits of nuclear technology for Asia and the Pacific. Myanmar was currently involved in 12 national projects, 25 RCA projects and 29 interregional projects in such areas as agriculture, food security, health care and nutrition, livestock production, the environment, industrial applications radiation safety, and water resources management. It also participated in regional activities concerning the safety and security of radiation sources and nuclear material.

328. Myanmar had been a party to the NPT since December 1992 and had signed a safeguards agreement and SQP in 1995. As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar had also acceded to the SEANWFZ Treaty, and had signed the CTBT in November 1996. It was currently studying important international conventions, treaties and agreements, including the CPPNM, with a view to joining, and noted with satisfaction that six countries had already ratified the amendment to that instrument.

329. Myanmar had signed an additional protocol during the 57th session of the General Conference in September 2013, and the ratification process was under way. He thanked the Secretariat and other countries for supporting Myanmar's efforts to implement the additional protocol through a series of workshops and hoped that such cooperation and support would continue in the future.

330. Myanmar had taken further steps to strengthen its national legal framework and set up a national implementation team for the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials. It had joined the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) and took an active role in the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM).

331. The Government of Myanmar was focusing on investment for developing and improving the nuclear infrastructure, including the legal and regulatory system; strengthening capacity for the nuclear regulatory body; developing technical support organizations; and enhancing international cooperation on nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Furthermore, Myanmar continued to engage in bilateral cooperation on nuclear security and safeguards, including with the United States.

332. Myanmar, which firmly believed that the Agency would continue to play a vital role in international collaboration for the development of nuclear energy and its related technologies, expressed its deep appreciation of the Agency's efforts to address many aspects of the national development programme. It strongly hoped that its close relationship with the Agency would be further strengthened in the future.

333. Ms VOJINOVIC (Montenegro) said that her country had come a long way since its first General Conference in 2007. A number of important developments had helped create the preconditions for full implementation at national level of the highest international and EU standards in the fields of nuclear safety and security and radiation protection.

334. Accession negotiations with the EU had been launched in June 2012, and an assessment had been made of the degree of alignment of Montenegro's legal framework with that of the Community acquis with a view to determining the action to be taken to achieve full harmonization. With regard to

Chapter 15 on energy, she said that Montenegro was well-prepared for participation in the next phase of negotiations in the areas of nuclear safety and security and radiation protection, which demonstrated that the country was on track to achieve and implement the highest international standards in that area.

335. Chapter 25 on science and research, which tackled the issue of nuclear sciences and applications, had been successfully opened and provisionally closed at the EU–Montenegro Intergovernmental Conference in Brussels on 18 December 2012 during which Montenegro had emphasized its positive experience and cooperation with the Agency.

336. Montenegro had adopted a new CPF for 2014–2020. That time frame would coincide with Horizon 2020, the new European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, in which Montenegro planned to participate extensively. Montenegro would strive to harmonize its future cooperation with the Agency with its accession to the EU.

337. The first article of the country’s Constitution defined Montenegro as an “Ecological State”, which meant that all major decisions and actions must be taken with consideration for the principle of environmental sustainability. Her Government highly valued the Agency’s cooperation, which helped enhance the quality of life of its citizens, and was particularly grateful for its assistance in establishing a regulatory infrastructure framework based on international standards and principles.

338. Montenegro was involved in various national, regional and interregional Agency projects, including on strengthening cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources in the Mediterranean Region (INT/9/176). In June 2014, with Agency assistance, Montenegro had managed to prepare over 90 radioactive sources for safe and secure storage. Her country was also grateful for the Agency’s support in the field of oncology. Noting that, during the 2012–2013 cycle, the national technical cooperation programme had focused on upgrading the diagnostic radiology quality assurance/quality control system for breast screening, she said that the protection of human health was the highest priority for Montenegro, which would continue to strengthen its capacities in order to meet national needs.

339. Montenegro was committed to further strengthening its national safety and security framework by implementing international instruments, fostering cooperation in the medical sector, upgrading the regulatory framework, enhancing the level of environmental protection and radiation protection and preventing the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

340. Her country took part in numerous non-proliferation initiatives, including a programme for the establishment of a system for knowledge management in the area of the illicit trafficking of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in south-eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Montenegro, which had opened chapter 31 of the EU acquis on foreign, security and defence policy, was fully committed to implementing non-proliferation initiatives in order to contribute to global security efforts for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

341. In closing, she said that her country’s authorities and institutions would continue to contribute actively to the Agency’s work and to the implementation of the decisions of the General Conference.

Mr Scharinger (Germany), Vice-President, took the Chair.

342. Mr OUATTARA (Côte d’Ivoire) said that technical cooperation was a vital instrument that enabled the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes for the benefit of Member States. He thanked the Working Group on Financing the Agency’s Activities for its efforts and welcomed its report in document GOV/2014/49, which proposed ways to ensure that TCF resources were sufficient, assured and predictable. That represented major progress and would guarantee the sustainability of TC activities.

343. Thanks to its cooperation with the Agency, Côte d'Ivoire had been able to build and strengthen national human capacities in the areas of agriculture, human health, animal production and animal health, access to drinking water and environmental protection.

344. His Government was fully aware of its responsibility for ensuring nuclear security in the country, and in October 2013, Parliament had adopted Law No. 2013-701 on the creation of a national regulatory authority for radioprotection and nuclear safety and security (ARSN). The implementing regulations had been signed on 12 June 2014.

345. With the support of the Agency, Côte d'Ivoire had drafted its nuclear security support plan during a workshop conducted from 19 to 21 August 2014 in Abidjan. Under that plan, which would shortly be approved, his Government was committed to strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework that would result in the establishment of the ARSN. While much remained to be done, his Government would spare no effort in working with the international community to ensure the safe use of nuclear technology.

346. Noting that the Agency's cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire had included financial and technical support, visits by experts, the allocation of grants and the provision of equipment, he said that projects on the use of the SIT had helped to reduce animal mortality in rural areas. His country commended the work of the Agency and the FAO to promote the SIT as a means of eradicating mosquito-borne diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever and yellow fever, which threatened the health of millions of people around the world, particularly in Africa.

347. Since joining the Agency in 1963, Côte d'Ivoire had focused its cooperation with the Agency in such areas as human health, agriculture, animal health and the food industry. His Government had decided to emphasize treatment of cancer using nuclear techniques and applications, because cancer had become a major public health issue, especially breast, cervical, liver and prostate cancer. Priority technical cooperation projects had been launched for the construction of a reference nuclear medicine centre, which should be completed in 2014, and a radiotherapy and oncology centre, which would commence in January 2015. Under PACT, his country was receiving assistance in the training of doctors and cancer experts and the mobilization of resources from traditional and more recent donors.

348. Following an imPACT mission in 2010, Côte d'Ivoire had taken a number of steps, including resuming registration of cancer cases; scaling up cervical cancer screening; introducing human papilloma virus vaccinations for girls aged 9-13; and requesting funding from the Islamic Development Bank for the construction of the radiotherapy and oncology centre. It recognized the need to train cancer specialists in order to consolidate those achievements.

349. His Government was pleased that the PACT Programme Office had been upgraded to a division, which reflected the will of the Secretariat to coordinate and strengthen measures to fight cancer.

350. The AFRA programme played a vital role in mobilizing regional resources and expertise to address the challenges facing African countries. It was also an ideal framework for development, the exchange of experience and the strengthening of national capacities. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged efforts to consolidate technical cooperation among its members and build national and regional human capacities in the field of nuclear science and technology. It was committed to strengthening collaboration and increasing the involvement of its national institutions in the programme's implementation.

351. Mr ALI MOUATYE (Chad) said that his country, which had considerable uranium potential, was taking active steps to promote the peaceful use of nuclear techniques and strengthen the relevant international legal framework. Chad was committed to working with all Member States and the

Agency to make the world a safer place by ridding it of all weapons of mass destruction and strengthening the radiation safety and nuclear security regime.

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

353. Chad was grateful to the Secretariat and staff that had spared no effort in order to facilitate technical cooperation activities, enabling Chad to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. His country welcomed the Agency's activities relating to human health, in particular concerning cancer control; capacity building at the ministries of agriculture, the environment, public health and social affairs; sustainable development of water resources, as well as activities associated with the establishment of the Chad Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security Agency. His country looked forward to the results to be achieved.

354. Chad was planning to use isotope techniques to study the waters of the Nubian sandstone aquifer that it shared with Egypt, Libya and Sudan and waters of other aquifers in the Sahara, in particular the Lake Chad basin aquifer.

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

356. Through the Chad Radiation Protection and Nuclear Security Agency, his country had organized several national training workshops on the detection of ionizing radiation sources at its borders, the safety of transport of radioactive substances, and awareness-raising in order to establish a genuine culture of radiation safety and nuclear security.

357. The CPF signed between Chad and the Agency in 2010 had been implemented appropriately and led to the development of technical cooperation projects that were of relevance and benefit to the people of Chad.

358. He noted with satisfaction the spirit and atmosphere of the session and believed that the conclusions, recommendations and resolutions resulting from the General Conference would allow the Agency to assume an even greater role in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

359. Mr ABDEL SHAFI (Palestine) said that his country accorded particular importance to technical cooperation activities as a fundamental aspect of the Agency's work, which served to build capacities and supported cooperation between developed countries and countries aspiring to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for the benefit of their people.

360. In that context, Palestine thanked the Agency for its help in developing scientific infrastructure for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including through projects on establishing the Al-Quds national nuclear physics laboratory for training and research and on evaluating groundwater resources using environmental isotopes. Palestine hoped to strengthen that cooperation in the 2016–2017 cycle to include advanced applications provided by the Agency in the fields of cancer treatment and water and soil research.

361. His Government attached high priority to developing its human resources in the nuclear field, despite the scarcity of resources and capabilities and the obstacles imposed by the occupying authorities. It had participated in several study and training programmes provided by the Agency and was an active member of the SESAME project.

362. For almost half a century, Palestine had been living under occupation by a State whose nuclear installations had not been submitted to the comprehensive safeguards system. According to recent reports, that country possessed nuclear weapons, posing a direct threat to the peace and security of the Palestinian people, the region and the entire world.

363. At a time when Member States were moving towards strengthening the nuclear safety system, Israel was allowed to continue exposing the people of Palestine to serious consequences that could result from an accident at Israeli nuclear installations. Palestine did not have the capability to deal with the harmful effects of such an accident on its people or environment, and its fears could not be ignored, particularly in light of reports indicating the structural deterioration of several Israeli nuclear installations.

364. Those apprehensions were also heightened by the experiences of certain developed countries that had suffered nuclear accidents. The scale of challenges faced by the Japanese authorities in recent years in dealing with the repercussions of the Fukushima Daiichi accident had again highlighted the importance of the Agency's role in enhancing nuclear safety in all States without distinction.

365. The Arab Group had been exercising its right to place an item concerning Israeli nuclear capabilities on the agenda of the Agency's Policy-Making Organs. That was an additional diplomatic effort to end Israel's refusal to abide by its international nuclear non-proliferation obligations, which were fulfilled by other States in the region.

366. Palestine recalled the resolutions adopted by many previous sessions of the General Conference on the issue, which confirmed that many States shared its concern about Israeli nuclear capacities not submitted to the safeguards system and its persistent refusal to accede to the NPT.

367. Palestine expressed its deep concern about Israel's growing military nuclear capabilities, coupled with its continued refusal to join the NPT and submit its nuclear programmes and facilities to the comprehensive safeguards system, unlike the other countries in the region, which had all joined the Treaty.

368. The view held by some countries that Israel was a responsible country that was not a threat was an unacceptable one that contradicted the reality of the situation in the Middle East. The whole world had witnessed the indiscriminate, excessive and repeated military crimes of the Israelis against the Palestinian people, often committed using lethal weapons prohibited under international law, which called into question the extent of the State of Israel's responsibility in the nuclear field. The international community, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, were silent on Israeli nuclear activities at the General Conference, enabling Israel to continue to flout the principles governing nuclear proliferation to the detriment of all the efforts made to push forward the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East.

369. Palestine remained committed to that goal and believed that the international community, in particular the five nuclear-weapon States, had the responsibility of ensuring the universality of the NPT, moving towards a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It therefore regretted the failure to convene the conference on the creation of such a zone scheduled for 2012, and believed that Israel's maintenance of its position as the only State not subject to the NPT posed a threat to regional and international peace and security, and an obstacle to the achievement of peace for all the peoples of the region.

370. Mr OLIVEIRA (ABACC) said that, since the last session of the General Conference, ABACC had carried out 118 inspections under the Common System for Accounting and Control, providing assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear activities in Argentina and Brazil that were continuing to grow, including through the start-up of the Atucha II nuclear power plant and the

progress made with respect to the UF₆ plant in Brazil. The state-of-the-art equipment and technology used in that connection not only supplemented the verification efforts but also facilitated the application of more efficient and robust safeguards by ABACC and the Agency.

371. Noting the importance of cooperation in the application of safeguards, he was pleased to report that ABACC had played a leading role in promoting high-level interaction. It had also made technical proposals concerning appropriate safeguards activities and approaches for relevant nuclear fuel cycle facilities in both countries. The excellent working environment at the July 2014 meeting of the Liaison Committee of the Quadripartite Agreement had enabled significant progress to be made on important safeguards issues.

372. Highlighting the importance of technical cooperation in ensuring that ABACC was at the forefront in the application of new technologies, he said that ABACC and the Agency had agreed on procedures for the joint use of the next generation surveillance system and were working on a video surveillance system in cooperation with the national authorities in Brazil and Argentina. ABACC had decided to introduce the ABACC–Cristallini uranium hexafluoride sampling method as soon as possible; it encouraged the Agency to approve that method, which offered a number of advantages over the traditional UF₆ sampling system.

373. Argentina and Brazil had managed to establish a safeguards system that was currently unique in the world, had been strengthened over a period of almost 25 years, and had gained respect in the international nuclear community. Furthermore, those countries had confirmed their full commitment to the exclusively peaceful development and use of nuclear energy built on the foundations of confidence, cooperation and verification. Their growing bilateral cooperation in the nuclear field had resulted in concrete projects, such as the construction in both countries of multipurpose reactors for the production of radiopharmaceuticals for health care, which ABACC had supported since the beginning. That cooperation confirmed the significance and validity of the adopted model, which responded to the realities specific to those countries in a region that had been declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone over 50 years earlier. He also highlighted the role played by ABACC and its conclusions within the framework of the Tlatelolco Treaty, as well as its cooperation with OPANAL.

374. Noting that ABACC had participated as an observer in Agency Board meetings since 2011, he said that the mature relationship between ABACC and the Agency, which had developed over time, allowed both institutions to work in tune with each other and with great objectivity. The cooperation arrangements between both entities for the application of safeguards had been developed and brought into force in compliance with the basic principles of the Quadripartite Agreement, namely joint performance of inspections; coordination of activities to avoid duplication; and independence of the conclusions reached by each agency. Numerous mechanisms had been developed for joint activities involving the use of equipment, personnel and analyses for the application of safeguards, thus greatly optimizing resources. Furthermore, the strong interaction between ABACC and other international actors, including Euratom, the United States Department of Energy, and nuclear institutes in the European Community, promoted a beneficial exchange of experience and knowledge.

375. Since its creation, ABACC had provided for ongoing training of its human resources. Another key factor in its success was the support from both the Brazilian and the Argentine governments, including through the provision of the necessary budgetary resources and ensuring ABACC's institutional independence.

376. Noting the scope that existed for exploring increased cooperation, he said that ABACC was working to identify and establish cooperation agreements through which both agencies could fulfil their goals and mandates in an efficient manner.

The meeting rose at 9 p.m.