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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Fifth Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, at 5.35 p.m.

Chair: Mr STALDER (Switzerland)

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¹ GC(61)/25.

17. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (continued)

(GC(61)/INF/7 and Supplement; GC(61)/COM.5/L.11)

1. The representative of BRAZIL said that informal discussions on the draft resolution contained in document GC(61)/COM.5/L.11 had resulted in a number of amendments being proposed. Some already enjoyed a wide degree of support, while others were more contentious and required further discussion. Some of the text had yet to be considered.
2. The CHAIR proposed that discussion on outstanding paragraphs could continue within the Committee, rather than in informal consultations.
3. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that, while he did not object to that proposal, his delegation was not convinced that further progress could be made on the parts of the draft resolution that were still pending. In order to move forward, he suggested that the Committee should limit itself to discussing technical amendments and should use the wording of the previous year's resolution in those paragraphs on which consensus had not yet been reached.
4. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that, while she would consider the suggestion made by the representative of the Russian Federation, she would prefer to return to informal consultations in order to continue discussions on the paragraphs still pending.
5. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, noting the progress achieved in informal consultations, said that he was optimistic that further progress would be made.
6. The representative of SPAIN said that the work carried out in informal consultations had been valuable and constructive. Those consultations should, therefore, continue until the entire text had been covered. The Committee would then be in a position to consider using wording from the previous year's resolution, if necessary.
7. The representative of CANADA said that her delegation likewise saw value in resuming informal consultations, as progress was being made.
8. The representative of FRANCE agreed that the informal consultations had been fruitful and said that more time was needed to discuss the text in its entirety. It would be premature to conclude the discussions until section A.4, paragraph 6, which dealt with a particularly sensitive subject, had been covered. While it might be possible to use the wording of the previous year's resolution in certain places in the text, the Committee would not be able to reach a decision in that regard until it had considered that particular paragraph.
9. The representative of SLOVAKIA, noting that delegations appeared close to reaching consensus on the draft resolution, said that it would be wise to continue with informal consultations until the whole text had been discussed.
10. The CHAIR invited the Committee to continue discussing the text of the draft resolution in informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.