

---

**Sixty-third regular session**

## Committee of the Whole

### Record of the Second Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Tuesday, 17 September 2019, at 10.20 a.m.*

**Chair:** Ms RAYOS NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

---

### Contents

Item of the agenda <sup>1</sup>		Paragraphs
16	Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities	1–8
17	Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications ( <i>resumed</i> )	9–19
22	Promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA decision making process	20–25
23	Amendment to Article VI of the Statute	26–27
24	Personnel	28–35
	(a) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat	
	(b) Women in the Secretariat	

---

<sup>1</sup> GC(63)/22.

**Abbreviations used in this record**

G-77

Group of Seventy-Seven

## **16. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities** (GC(63)/INF/4 and Supplement; GC(63)/COM.5/L.9 and Add.1 to 3 and L.10 and Add.1 to 3)

1. The CHAIR explained that the draft resolution on strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities consisted of two parts that would be clustered. Part A was set out in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.9. Part B, on the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, was set out in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.10.
2. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the G-77 and China, said that Part A of the text was the result of a number of consultation meetings at which several proposals had been discussed in a transparent and inclusive manner. He welcomed the constructive and positive atmosphere that had prevailed, which had made it possible to formulate wording acceptable to all, even on challenging issues.
3. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that his country wished to be added as a sponsor of Part A of the draft resolution.
4. The CHAIR took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt Part A of the draft resolution, set out in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.9.
5. It was so decided.
6. The representative of the PHILIPPINES introduced Part B of the draft resolution. Having pointed out a minor editorial amendment needed in paragraph (i), she said that the text had been the subject of extensive consultation among Member States and provided technical and factual updates to the relevant section of resolution GC(61)/RES/10. The global burden of cancer and its economic and human impact were worrying, and she hoped that the draft resolution, which reflected the common understanding of Member States, would help to strengthen the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy and enable the Agency to contribute to the global fight against that noncommunicable disease.
7. Noting that there were no comments, the CHAIR took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt Part B of the draft resolution, set out in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.10, as amended.
8. It was so decided.

## **17. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)** (GC(63)/3; GC(63)/INF/2 and Corr.1; GC(63)/COM.5/L.11 and Add.1 and 2 and L.6 and Add.1 to 3)

9. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, speaking on behalf of the G-77 and China, said that the delegations of India and Malaysia had coordinated work on the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.11 ("A. Non power nuclear applications. 1. General").

10. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution, said that the text was based on that of resolution GC(62)/RES/9, revised through a series of informal consultations to include technical updates and highlight the current work of the Agency, and thanked Member States for their constructive participation. As the success of the 2018 IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology had shown, there was great demand for, and interest in, the use of nuclear applications in such areas as agriculture, the environment and medicine, including for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, the CHAIR said that she took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.11.

12. It was so decided.

13. The representative of FRANCE, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.6 (“B. Nuclear power applications”), said that it had been submitted by the Friends of Nuclear Energy — Canada, China, France, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America — along with Chile, Turkey and Slovakia. The draft resolution had subsequently been sponsored by several more Member States, and she hoped that others would follow suit.

14. Efforts had been made to shorten and harmonize the draft resolution and make the text more coherent by comparison with resolution GC(62)/RES/9. Four consultation meetings open to all Member States had been held and comments received by email had also been taken into account. The draft resolution had been restructured to reflect as much as possible the structure and implementation of Major Programme 1 (Nuclear Power, Fuel Cycle and Nuclear Science), and new elements had been added relating to climate change, the energy mix, small and medium sized or modular reactors and the publication process for material relating to nuclear energy.

15. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, having thanked those involved in the drafting process, said that although the draft resolution was shorter than in previous years, it remained of high quality. Reducing the length of the text might make a small contribution to preserving the environment.

16. The representative of NIGERIA requested that his country be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

17. The representative of AUSTRIA said that his country, whose position on nuclear power applications was well known, did not consider nuclear power a viable option to combat climate change issues. However, it was pleased to have been invited to participate in the consultations on the draft resolution, together with other like-minded countries, in order to seek a text acceptable to all. The language, although challenging, had been formulated in such a way as to enable Austria to go along with the consensus.

18. The CHAIR took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.6.

19. It was so decided.

## **22. Promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA decision making process** (GC(63)/1/Add.2)

20. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, noting that his delegation had been requesting the inclusion of the item on the agenda of the General Conference for seven consecutive years, said that promoting the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's decision making process in a fair and balanced manner was of high importance for Member States. It was crucial for the Agency to ensure that it was in step with global realities and with the fundamental changes in international relations of recent decades, particularly within the global nuclear community engaged in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

21. Under Article IV.C of its Statute, the Agency was based on the principle of the sovereign equality of its Members, necessitating the direct engagement and participation of all Member States in taking decisions on issues fundamental to the work of the Agency, particularly those that affected the sovereign rights of Member States. Some Members appeared to be more equal than others. Regrettably, the General Conference, while consisting of representatives of all of the Agency's Members, was not the Agency's highest policy making body. Given that the General Conference represented all Member States, while membership of the Board of Governors was limited, the balance of powers between the two bodies was inappropriate: most of the issues that the General Conference was able to discuss and on which it could make recommendations were subject to prior agreement or recommendation by the Board. The efficiency of the General Conference could be improved by reconsidering the balance between the two bodies.

22. There was also a need to consider the size and composition of the Board's membership. The 1999 adoption of an amendment to Article VI of the Statute, as set out in resolution GC(43)/RES/19, had been a positive step, but, owing to various political and regional issues, the amendment appeared unlikely to enter into force. Member States needed to find a more workable, innovative solution and should consider setting up a mechanism to include those that had been unfairly deprived of Board membership for years or even decades. In addition, the composition of certain regional groups had for some considerable time restricted their own members' opportunities for Board membership. The Agency and the regional groups needed to establish a fair, logical and efficient arrangement to ensure that no Member States were unjustly deprived of the equal opportunities they should enjoy. An open-ended consultative group of Member States should be set up to discuss proposals and make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the General Conference.

23. The General Conference should consider adopting electronic voting, which was widely used in other forums, including the United Nations General Assembly, by amending Rule 72 of its Rules of Procedure. Doing so would mean less time spent on procedural matters, freeing up time for substantive issues.

24. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that his country attached great importance to promoting effectiveness and efficiency within the Agency. While the Board functioned effectively as the Agency's highest policy making body, he agreed that its composition could be widened; however, establishing an open-ended consultative group to consider the matter would undermine the Board's role. Recalling that his Government had ratified the amendment to Article VI of the Statute, he encouraged other Member States, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, to follow suit.

25. The CHAIR said that she would report to the General Conference that, under item 22 of the agenda, the importance of maintaining and promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's decision making process and strengthening the Agency and its governing bodies had been highlighted.

Expansion of the Board's membership, enhancing the role and authority of the General Conference and the Board and the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the two bodies had been underlined. The importance of the direct engagement and participation of all Member States in the decision making process on issues related to the Agency's work had been emphasized. The relevance and importance of the process currently under way for the timely ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute had been raised, and some views and suggestions had been expressed in that context. The issue of the use of electronic voting by the General Conference, following the example of the United Nations General Assembly, had also been raised by some members.

## **23. Amendment to Article VI of the Statute** (GC(63)/11; GC(63)/COM.5/L.13)

26. The CHAIR, noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, took it that the Committee agreed to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft decision contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.13.

27. It was so decided.

## **24. Personnel**

### **(a) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat**

### **(b) Women in the Secretariat**

(GC(63)/15 and 16; GC(63)/COM.5/L.5 and Add.1 and 2)

28. The CHAIR said that document GC(63)/COM.5/L.5 contained one draft resolution dealing with both sub-items 24 (a) and 24 (b). She took it that the Committee wished to consider the two sub-items together.

29. It was so agreed.

30. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, speaking on behalf of the G-77 and China, which had submitted the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.5, welcomed the constructive atmosphere that had prevailed during informal discussions on the text.

31. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, introducing the draft resolution, said that the text had been the subject of extensive consultation. It was based on the resolution adopted on the subject in 2017 (GC(61)/RES/15) and the updates it contained were primarily of a technical and factual nature.

32. The representative of MEXICO said that his country wished to be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. Adhering to the provisions of the Statute, including with respect to geographically balanced recruitment, was of great importance, in particular given that the Latin American and Caribbean region was underrepresented. Although the Secretariat had made efforts to promote gender parity, there was much more to be done by the Secretariat and by Member States themselves.

33. The CHAIR took it that the Committee agreed to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(63)/COM.5/L.5.

34. It was so decided.

35. The CHAIR, noting that the Committee's work was complete, expressed appreciation to all those who had facilitated its deliberations, in particular her Vice-Chair, and applauded the cooperative spirit shown.

**The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.**