

General Conference

GC(63)/OR.2

Issued: June 2020

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixty-third regular session

Plenary

Record of the Second Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 16 September 2019, at 3.05 p.m.

President: Ms BUENROSTRO MASSIEU (Mexico)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹	Paragraphs
7	General debate and Annual Report for 2018 (<i>continued</i>)
	1–193
	Statements by the delegates of:
	Uzbekistan
	1–7
	Ghana
	8–15
	France
	16–27
	United Kingdom
	28–38
	Sweden
	39–49
	Slovakia
	50–57
	Holy See
	58–64
	Hungary
	65–69
	Jordan
	70–77
	Armenia
	78–84
	Peru
	85–92
	Bangladesh
	93–101
	Congo
	102–108
	Kazakhstan
	109–116
	Angola
	117–123

¹ GC(63)/22.

Contents (continued)

	Paragraphs
Honduras	124–131
Cameroon	132–138
Poland	139–145
Cyprus	146–153
Republic of Korea	154–162
Nigeria	163–174
Belarus	175–184
Islamic Republic of Iran (right of reply)	185–189
Japan (right of reply)	190–192
Republic of Korea (right of reply)	193

Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ALPS	Advanced Liquid Processing System
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
ARTEMIS	Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation
CEA	(French) Atomic Energy Commission
CPF	Country Programme Framework
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EPREV	Emergency Preparedness Review
EU	European Union
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G7	Group of Seven
HEU	high enriched uranium
ICERR	IAEA-designated International Centre based on Research Reactor
ICONS	International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
ISSAS	IAEA State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material Advisory Service
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
LEU	low enriched uranium
MW	megawatt
NPP	nuclear power plant

Abbreviations used in this record (continued)

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
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
ORPAS	Occupational Radiation Protection Appraisal Service
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
RASIMS	Radiation Safety Information Management System
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
SALTO	Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SESAME	Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East
SIT	sterile insect technique
SQP	small quantities protocol
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
WANO	World Association of Nuclear Operators
WHO	World Health Organization
WMDs	weapons of mass destruction

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2018 (continued) (GC(63)/5 and additional information)

1. Mr SULTANOV (Uzbekistan) said that since its establishment, the Agency had become the leading international organization for ensuring the safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and the effective monitoring of international nuclear non-proliferation obligations. Together with its Member States and many partners worldwide, the Agency supported the safe, risk-free and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Uzbekistan had cooperated extensively with the Agency for the preceding 25 years on enhancing both national and regional nuclear and radiation safety.
2. His country had worked with the Agency and the US Department of Energy on projects related to the repatriation of spent HEU fuel to its country of origin and the remediation of the entire FOTON research reactor complex with a view to its reclassification as a greenfield site.
3. Four national Agency TC projects were currently being implemented in his country and four further project concepts had been drawn up for the 2020–2021 cycle. Through technical cooperation, Uzbekistan received substantial support in many areas where nuclear know-how and technology could be applied. The Secretariat should maintain its competent, professional and results-based approach to preparing and implementing such projects.
4. The Agency's assistance to countries interested in embarking on nuclear power programmes contributed significantly to establishing the foundations for the safety of nuclear power facilities. Having conducted an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of the future of its energy sector with a view to ensuring sustainable economic growth, the Uzbek Government had taken the decision to introduce nuclear power. In doing so, it had taken into consideration the need to ensure security of energy supply and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the increased confidence in the safe operation of NPPs and the economic viability and competitiveness of nuclear power. Having taken the historic decision to construct its first NPP, Uzbekistan had signed a cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation in September 2018. Work was under way to establish the necessary nuclear infrastructure, and a law on the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes had been adopted in September 2019; national legislation on atomic energy was also being updated accordingly. Uzbekistan was currently preparing to adhere to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.
5. Uzbekistan was also focusing on human resource development. A chapter of the National Research Nuclear University MEPhI had recently opened in Tashkent and had already accepted its first 100 students for the current academic year.
6. In the interests of transparency about the status of its nuclear power programme, Uzbekistan had formally requested an INIR mission in 2020. His country appreciated the Agency's swift response to Member States' growing expectations related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In particular, it welcomed the publication of several documents on the establishment of national nuclear infrastructure. As a country constructing its first NPP, Uzbekistan attached high priority to nuclear safety. It was particularly interested in international cooperation on the safe and reliable operation of nuclear facilities and the management of radioactive sources, spent fuel and waste.
7. Uzbekistan was firmly committed to nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and scrupulously met its obligations under the NPT and its safeguards agreement with the Agency. It was important to strengthen the safeguards system. In signing an additional protocol

in 1998, his country had reaffirmed its commitment to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of the Agency's authority in that regard.

8. Mr FRIMPONG-BOATENG (Ghana) offered his country's condolences on the death of Mr Amano, who had made an immense contribution to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for development, especially through his advocacy for nuclear non-proliferation.

9. Ghana appreciated its collaboration with the Agency on human resource development, including the training of nuclear scientists and engineers from Ghana and other African countries through the country's School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences, for which Practical Arrangements with the Agency had been renewed in 2018 for a three-year period. Those arrangements focused on supporting education, training and outreach in the nuclear sector, including e-learning capabilities and outreach programmes in secondary schools.

10. In the area of nuclear applications for health and nutrition, Ghana had commissioned two laboratories for research into nutrition and infectious agents of disease earlier that year. With Agency support, it had also secured funds in 2010 for the expansion of its radiotherapy centres in Accra and Kumasi. The linear accelerator in Accra had now been commissioned and was in full operation and the linear accelerator in Kumasi was currently undergoing commissioning.

11. The Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, in collaboration with the University of Cape Coast, had developed two mutant cassava varieties recommended for release by the National Variety Release Committee of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The Institute had also developed putative mutants of cassava and yam which were currently undergoing trials in multiple locations before being released in 2020. In addition, it had developed efficient protocols for in vitro mutation induction of taro with a view to developing mutants resistant to fungal disease. The in vitro plantlets had been sent to the Seibersdorf laboratories for irradiation so that the optimal dose for mutant induction could be determined.

12. The Government of Ghana had provided financial support to the Ghana Nuclear Power Programme Organization to enable it to complete its work on Phase 1 of developing nuclear power infrastructure. The organization planned to submit a comprehensive report to the Government on the Phase 1 programme by the end of November 2019, after an INIR follow-up mission scheduled for October 2019. In preparation for Phase 2, the Government had established the nuclear utility company Nuclear Power Ghana.

13. The proposed site for the borehole disposal system of disused sealed sources had been fully characterized to demonstrate its suitability. The draft safety case, post-closure safety assessment and borehole disposal system engineering design document had been reviewed by Agency consultants who had identified safety-related areas for improvement. Feedback was currently being incorporated into the draft safety case. Ghana was currently preparing its application for the construction licence and expected construction to be completed by the end of 2019.

14. Ghana's Nuclear Regulatory Authority was building the competency of its workforce through workshops, fellowships and on-the-job training with Agency support, and through bilateral partnerships with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. The latter had recently awarded the Nuclear Regulatory Authority with a technical support contract worth €1.2 million for strengthening its regulatory oversight infrastructure in readiness for Phase 2.

15. As part of its human resource development plan, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority was collaborating with members of the Ghana Nuclear Power Programme Organization to recruit well-qualified staff to enhance its regulatory activities.

16. Mr JACQ (France) expressed his country's great sadness at the passing of Mr Amano and paid homage to his commitment to the Agency and all that he had achieved over more than a decade at its helm.

17. He said that, in the context of the current heightened tensions, the Agency's safeguards system provided a solid foundation for the non-proliferation regime established by the NPT. The 2020 NPT Review Conference would therefore be of major importance for consolidating the multilateral framework for the promotion and development of peaceful nuclear applications. The international community had a collective responsibility to ensure that the Agency maintained its capacity to fulfil its mission in that regard. He noted that the verification standard was a comprehensive safeguards agreement together with an additional protocol.

18. For over 35 years, France had provided expertise and financial assistance to the Agency through the French Safeguards Support Programme. It had pledged to contribute €1 million for the period 2020–2022 in order to replace the mass spectrometer at the Seibersdorf laboratory, used for environmental sample analysis.

19. The DPRK's pursuit of nuclear and ballistic programmes was in contravention of international law and posed a threat to international security. A concrete process must be undertaken to ensure that country's complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, in which the Agency should play a key role. The international community should unite and continue to rigorously apply the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

20. Regarding Iran's nuclear programme, the JCPOA was an essential tool for ensuring non-proliferation and security. France was determined to preserve the plan of action and urged the Agency to continue monitoring its implementation. Iran must return to strict and transparent compliance with all its nuclear obligations, without exception, and cooperate fully with the Agency. France had worked in close cooperation with the UK and Germany to create the necessary conditions to de-escalate tensions. All JCPOA participants agreed that Iran must not acquire nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

21. The strengthening of nuclear safety and security was crucial for ensuring the responsible development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes worldwide. France had received several peer review missions in that connection. It had also hosted some of the Agency's nuclear security training activities, including on security at major public events.

22. Research and high-level expertise related to nuclear safety and security should be promoted, to support the work of regulators and public authorities. Significant progress had been made in 2019 through a forum of technical safety organizations and the creation of Agency tools to help build relevant capacity. France was also showing its commitment to nuclear safety and security matters through its current presidency of the G7.

23. The global application of the highest standards of non-proliferation, safety and security had made it possible for countries wishing to do so, to pursue the responsible development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. For that reason, France had signed 25 intergovernmental agreements on civil nuclear cooperation.

24. With the second largest nuclear power plant fleet in the world, France was committed to sustainable energy. Noting his country's support for the Paris Agreement, he said that it had also undertaken to diversify its energy mix, reducing the contribution made by nuclear power, based on a renewed and competitive industrial sector.

25. In 2019, progress had been made in the construction of the Jules Horowitz reactor, which would be operated under an international consortium. The reactor and other facilities at CEA Cadarache would

serve as essential tools for international collaboration in nuclear fusion and fission, equipment qualification and the production of medical isotopes. The reactor would also benefit other Member States, in particular through the ICERR programme.

26. France also supported the development of small modular reactors and had organized a side event on the margins of the General Conference to present its views on that topic.

27. His country would continue to support the Agency's high-quality work in the areas of non-proliferation, nuclear safety and security and the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in particular in relation to health and the environment.

28. Mr ZAHAWI (United Kingdom) expressed his country's sadness at the passing of Mr Amano, a committed public servant who had led the Agency through significant challenges and left a positive legacy that would promote global peace, security and development.

29. The UK was committed to tackling the global challenge of climate change, having recently become the first major economy to set a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Nuclear energy would play a key role in achieving that goal. To that end, his country had signed a landmark nuclear sector deal, which would facilitate industrial and governmental cooperation to ensure the prosperity of its nuclear sector. In the light of progress on its new Hinkley Point C NPP, his country had been developing innovative financing models for new-build projects, researching ways to reduce decommissioning costs and exploring the potential of advanced small modular reactors. Moreover, the country's equality, diversity and inclusion strategy was aimed at developing new talent and ensuring a diverse workforce.

30. Mindful of its responsibilities to future generations, the UK had launched consent-based processes to identify a location for a geological disposal facility for its higher activity radioactive waste.

31. The 50th anniversary of the NPT in 2020 would present an important opportunity to emphasize the importance of its three pillars and celebrate the Agency's support for the peaceful uses of atomic energy and nuclear non-proliferation.

32. As one of the biggest supporters of the Agency's TC programme, the UK was proud to pledge €3.8 million to the TCF for 2020. His country urged other Member States to pledge and pay their shares in full.

33. While expanding the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology was important, Member States had a responsibility to protect people and ensure public acceptance of nuclear energy. Should anything go wrong, whether it was accidental or deliberate, all States had an obligation to be open and transparent with their neighbours.

34. The UK strongly supported the Agency's work to help Member States implement robust nuclear safety and security measures. To ensure its own regulations met the highest standards, his country would host an IRRS mission in October 2019. He encouraged others to make use of the Agency's advisory services in that regard.

35. The application of Agency safeguards was indispensable for global peace and security. All States should ratify an additional protocol, which was the gold standard for safeguards agreements. The UK's new safeguards arrangements had now been prepared, in order to ensure that the country continued to meet its obligations once the Euratom arrangements no longer applied to it.

36. Noting that some States continued to challenge the global non-proliferation system, his country called on Iran to reverse its suspension of stockpile and enrichment limits and to comply with its

obligations under the JCPOA. The UK welcomed the Agency's monitoring of Iran's compliance with the plan and remained committed to its full implementation.

37. The recent missile launches by the DPRK and its violations of UN resolutions were of great concern. Sanctions must remain in place until the DPRK took concrete steps toward denuclearization.

38. Noting that Syria had not met its safeguards obligations since 2011, he urged the Secretariat to retain the issue on the Board's agenda until Syria returned to full compliance.

39. Ms LINDE (Sweden) paid tribute to Mr Amano, the late Director General, who had served the Agency and its Member States with great determination, commitment and dignity.

40. Noting that her country was about to serve as Chair of the Board of Governors for the first time, she said that it was a great honour and responsibility, and a continuation of Sweden's long history of political and technical support for the Agency. The Agency's work was crucial to promoting nuclear non-proliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the shared responsibility of peace and security.

41. The Agency's safeguards system was a fundamental component of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime as it ensured that NPT States Parties were meeting their obligations. In particular, the additional protocol, which enabled the Agency to draw the broader conclusion that all nuclear material in a State remained in peaceful activities, was an indispensable tool. The universalization of the additional protocol must therefore remain the highest priority. In that context, Sweden welcomed the recent entry into force of additional protocols in Serbia and Liberia.

42. The issue of safeguards application in the DPRK remained deeply concerning. In that regard, Sweden welcomed the diplomatic developments made since early 2018 and noted the importance of maintaining the momentum of diplomatic cooperation at all levels. A policy of upholding unity in the UN Security Council should be combined with a readiness to support diplomatic efforts. Her country urged the DPRK to formalize its commitments towards the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, to promptly resume cooperation with the Agency and to implement its safeguards obligations. The Agency, for its part, must play a key role in any future verification effort in the DPRK.

43. Sweden had full confidence in the Agency's impartial and professional work to verify Iran's nuclear programme and had made an additional extrabudgetary contribution of 3 million Swedish kronor to support those efforts. It urged Iran to cooperate with the Agency fully and in a timely manner on the implementation of its NPT safeguards agreement.

44. Her country remained a steadfast supporter of the JCPOA. Should that plan of action disintegrate, it would be seriously damaging for the global non-proliferation regime. Sweden, along with the EU, therefore deeply regretted the withdrawal of the USA from the JCPOA and its reimposition of sanctions on Iran. Sharing the EU's grave concerns over recent breaches of the JCPOA by Iran, her country noted Iran's stated intention to remain within the plan and urged it to reverse its recent steps and return to full compliance without delay.

45. Mindful of the ongoing threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism, Sweden strongly supported the Agency's assistance to Member States in their efforts to upgrade capabilities to prevent, detect and respond to such incidents.

46. With regard to the construction of a repository for spent nuclear fuel, the Land and Environment Court and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority had recently submitted to the Government statements of their findings regarding licence applications made by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company.

47. Her country attached great importance to the field of individual–technology–organization interaction, especially with regard to safety culture. In 2018, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, together with Swedish licensees, had explored the impact of Swedish customs and social behaviour on safety culture with great success. Sweden was pleased that other countries had been inspired to follow that example.

48. Nuclear science and technology had a significant role to play in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the Agency’s TC programme contributing to areas such as human health, food security and water management. Over the preceding year, Sweden had provided 5 million Swedish kronor in voluntary contributions to the PUI for projects to address water resource management in the Sahel, ocean acidification, marine plastic pollution and cervical cancer. Women’s perspectives must be included if such projects were to be realized in a sustainable and effective way.

49. Sweden attached great importance to gender equality in the Secretariat and to gender mainstreaming in the Agency’s programmes and activities. The full and equal participation of men and women, including at the highest levels, remained essential and would benefit the Agency and its Member States. In that regard, her country hoped that the Agency continued to pursue the goal of achieving gender parity among senior officials by 2021.

50. Ms ŽIAKOVÁ (Slovakia) paid tribute to the late Director General, and offered her sincerest condolences to his family as well as to the Agency. Mr Amano’s work and many accomplishments during his tenure as Director General represented a valuable contribution to the global development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

51. Her country strongly supported peaceful nuclear cooperation, including the use of nuclear energy and nuclear technologies as one of the key enablers to achieve socio-economic growth, both at the national and international level.

52. Nuclear power represented one of the main pillars of her country’s energy portfolio and continued to hold an important and stable position in the national energy mix. The construction of Units 3 and 4 of the Mochovce NPP was well into its final stages. Throughout the construction process, her Government had reaffirmed its commitment to an open and transparent information-sharing process, hosting several WANO safety and technical support missions and scheduling a pre-OSART mission for late 2019.

53. Slovakia was fully committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the EU’s 2030 climate and energy framework as well as the Paris Agreement. Her country also supported the Agency’s activities aimed at contributing to the attainment of the SDGs in line with its ‘Atoms for Peace and Development’ mandate.

54. The Agency played an indispensable role in promoting the highest safety standards and a global safety and security culture. Slovakia was constantly seeking to improve and strengthen its robust nuclear safety framework and supported the Agency’s efforts to globalize nuclear safety through networking, the integration of safety-related activities, assistance to Member States in the implementation of safety standards, and promotion of adherence to the relevant international nuclear safety-related conventions — in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Her country had recently strengthened its legal infrastructure through the adoption of a new law on the National Nuclear Fund, which provided enhanced methodology for decommissioning and the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

55. Noting that the TC programme promoted socio-economic progress and addressed Member States’ key development priorities, Slovakia considered that assistance under the programme should be needs

based and developed in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. Her country had benefited from technical cooperation in many areas. At the Slovak Medical University, for example, electron beams had been used to reduce the polychlorinated biphenyl concentration of sediments. That technology would reduce the environmental burden of those toxic and potentially carcinogenic compounds in eastern Slovakia.

56. Slovakia was a steadfast and firm supporter of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, with the NPT as its cornerstone. The Agency's safeguards and verification activities were a fundamental part of that regime. Her country continued to support the JCPOA, which remained a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. In light of recent tensions, the preservation of the plan would be essential to regional stability and security. Her country was deeply concerned about recent decisions by Iran to exceed some of the limits set out in the JCPOA. She urged Iran to reverse that step and to refrain from further measures that undermined the plan.

57. In order to promote the efficient and effective management of the Agency's activities, further action should be taken to improve the gender balance of the Secretariat, including at the highest level. In that regard, Slovakia welcomed the efforts of the late Director General to increase the representation of women and his aim to achieve gender parity in senior management by 2021.

58. Archbishop GALLAGHER (Holy See) conveyed to all General Conference participants the best wishes of His Holiness Pope Francis.

59. He expressed the Holy See's deep sadness at the passing of the late Director General and extended its condolences to Mr Amano's family and friends and the Agency staff. His tireless commitment to the Agency's noble goal of 'Atoms for Peace and Development' would be sorely missed.

60. The Holy See commended and supported the Agency's many activities that had strengthened international cooperation and contributed significantly to the prevention of nuclear proliferation and to the promotion of nuclear disarmament. Such activities also helped to foster integral human development, by promoting technical cooperation in the nuclear sciences and their applications, and by advancing the peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Efforts to ensure nuclear safety and security and foster a safety culture had been greatly enhanced by the Agency's strategies of strengthening global, regional and national networks and forums, and building capacities in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety and emergency preparedness and response. The broader goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies each depended upon those crucial strategies.

61. The role of science and technology within the framework of the SDGs could be supported by various nuclear technologies. Furthermore, their applications could promote integral development. TC projects in the fields of human health, water and the environment, climate change, food security and smart agriculture had contributed significantly to the alleviation of poverty and the ability of countries to meet their development goals in a sustainable way. Pope Francis had stated that the scientific community, through interdisciplinary dialogue, had been able to research and demonstrate the planet's crisis. That same community was called to offer leadership that provided general and specific solutions. All positive consequences of nuclear technology must, however, be accompanied by the recognition that efforts towards social advancement should be based on a desire to ensure the integral development of every human being. The Holy See was convinced that the use of nuclear power as part of basic energy supply had to be decided upon by every State according to its needs and possibilities, while taking into account global considerations. As Pope Francis had stated, immense technological and scientific advances and development had not always been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience.

62. The Holy See recognized the important contribution of the Agency to creating a world free of nuclear weapons. That role was characterized by the effective combination of comprehensive safeguards

agreements and additional protocols. The Holy See had signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons with the aim of moving beyond nuclear deterrence to a world entirely free of nuclear weapons, which were arms of mass environmental destruction.

63. The Agency's participation in verifying and monitoring Iran's commitments under the JCPOA were noted, as were the continued and patient efforts of the international community to revive negotiations on the DPRK's nuclear programme. The application of Agency safeguards would help to build a climate of confidence there, rather than one of mutual recriminations. Safeguards constituted an important tool in moving towards the goal of denuclearization.

64. The Holy See thanked the Agency for developing PACT strategies, for establishing and enhancing radiotherapy programmes, for helping low- and middle-income Member States improve the effectiveness of their radiation medicine services as part of a comprehensive cancer control strategy, for supporting the training of health professionals and for engaging in fundraising to boost cancer control programmes and activities.

65. Mr SZIJJÁRTÓ (Hungary) said that his country associated itself with all of the words of tribute being paid to Mr Amano.

66. Hungary was of the view that each country had the right to establish the most appropriate energy mix for its needs and capacities. Nuclear energy was a forward-looking, low-carbon, safe and stable source of power generation, which could constitute a key component of a cost-effective and climate-friendly energy mix by diminishing fossil fuel dependence. Hungary was increasing the share of nuclear power in its energy mix by constructing two additional NPP units, each with a capacity of 1200 MW. The modern technology being used met all international standards and requirements. His country was opposed to negative discourse about nuclear power, especially in view of the current trend of setting ambitious goals on reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Given the potential of nuclear power to contribute to such emissions reduction, it was hypocritical to oppose its use while advocating for environmental protection.

67. The first periodic safety review of the four operational units of the Paks NPP to cover a further 20 years had been completed in 2018 following the renewal of their licences. The Agency had also acknowledged the significant improvements to Hungary's regulatory framework. His country attached particular importance to research and development with a special focus on innovation in the field of the safe operation of NPPs, Generation IV technology and solutions for the management and disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The Paks NPP was the only Russian-designed plant of its kind in the world operating with a 15-month fuel cycle.

68. Hungary attached great importance to TC activities in connection with nuclear applications. As the experience of countries with an advanced nuclear and radiological infrastructure was indispensable, his country had placed its national facilities and expertise in several fields at the Agency's disposal.

69. Unfortunately, increased migration worldwide had also given rise to a greater threat of nuclear terrorism. The Agency had a crucial role to play in combating that threat. In recognition of the importance it attached to the issue, Hungary had undertaken to serve as a convener of the Nuclear Security Contact Group for another year, in close collaboration with Jordan, which had previously led the group. His country would also host the plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism to be held in 2021. As the threat of nuclear terrorism worldwide was still not given serious consideration in the international arena, he urged the Agency to make that threat clear to the international audience. The Agency could count on his country's full support in that regard.

70. Mr TOUQAN (Jordan) offered his country's condolences to the Agency for the loss of Mr Amano, who would continue to be a guiding light in attaining the SDGs.

71. He said that his country was continuing to develop its nuclear energy programme through the construction of an NPP and research reactors, uranium exploration and mining, and human resource development.

72. Jordan had built on the successful operation of its research reactor as a centre for scientific research and training. Efforts were being made to optimize the capacities of the reactor, which was a cornerstone of nuclear science and technology research, development and learning in support of the medical and industrial fields.

73. Specialist national teams had been able to produce radiopharmaceuticals containing iodine-131 and provide them to Jordanian hospitals and medical centres for diagnostic testing and treatment. An average of 6 Ci of iodine-131 per month had been provided to 13 treatment centres, as a step towards addressing local needs. Discussions were under way with other countries in the region concerning the initiation of medical cooperation to provide the radiopharmaceuticals to those countries. Jordan was also working to expand the scope of iodine-131 production and increase production capacity to include other medical and industrial isotopes, in particular iridium-192, in compliance with the requirements of ISO standard 9001.

74. Jordan was developing the use of small modular reactors, which were currently at the assessment stage, including consideration of the design, safety, cost, operation, and possible strategic partnerships. Small modular reactors could contribute to meeting the growing national energy demand by 2028. A number of agreements had been signed to study the economic feasibility of such reactors with the leading technology providers.

75. With regard to the uranium extraction project in central Jordan, the design for a pilot plant had been completed and construction had begun. The plant was expected to be in service by the end of 2019, and the engineering data would be used to complete economic feasibility studies and detailed design for the commercial uranium plant by the end of 2020.

76. SESAME, the international centre based in Jordan, was contributing to scientific and technological success in the Middle East and surrounding countries through enabling global scientific research in various fields including medicine, pharmacology and natural and materials sciences. SESAME also helped to spread a culture of peace through international scientific cooperation. Using the two main radiation beamlines in operation at the Centre — X-ray and infrared — 23 scientific experiments had been conducted in 2018, and 104 research papers had been written in 2019. By the end of the year, SESAME's high-energy beamline for X-ray diffraction would be operational for research in materials science. Two additional beamlines — soft X-ray and tomography — were also expected to be operational by 2022. The first solar power plant had also opened at the centre, making it the first regional science centre to function using exclusively solar power. Jordan would be organizing a side event at the General Conference entitled 'Light, the Way Forward: Advanced Light Sources for Peace and Development', which would include a special discussion on SESAME.

77. Jordan had joined the NPT and submitted all its nuclear facilities to comprehensive Agency safeguards, thereby demonstrating its commitment to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and to the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of the peoples of the world. Jordan would continue to take active part in efforts towards nuclear disarmament and in all multilateral meetings on that issue, particularly in relation to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMDs in the Middle East.

78. Mr PAPIKYAN (Armenia) said that his country wished to offer its sincere condolences upon the untimely death of Mr Amano, the late Director General, whose passing was a huge loss to the Agency family. The Agency's 'Atoms for Peace and Development' motto, as developed under the leadership of Mr Amano, had broadened the remit of the Agency to encompass almost all areas of human life. His

country hoped that the subsequent Director General would continue to lead the Agency with the same high level of professionalism and continue to strengthen its role as an authoritative and non-political expert body in its efforts to enhance nuclear safety and security and ensure the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

79. His country highly valued its expanding cooperation with the Agency, which included the areas of nuclear energy, nuclear medicine and the environment. As a country with an operating NPP, Armenia had adopted a transparent and open policy that prioritized the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology. It would continue to pursue such a policy by taking all necessary steps to maintain and enhance nuclear and radiation safety. It greatly appreciated the support it had always received from the Agency in fulfilling its commitments in line with the most stringent safety standards at the Armenian NPP.

80. In April 2019, the late Director General had visited Armenia and been party to governmental discussions on the safety and security of the Armenian NPP and amendments to national nuclear energy legislation to bring it in line with the Agency's safety standards. He had also been informed of the results and conclusions of expert missions to Armenia, including a SALTO mission in December 2018. Armenia fully endorsed the proposals and recommendations resulting from the review mission and was committed to strengthening safety and physical protection measures at the Armenian NPP.

81. Enhancing safety at Armenia's only NPP, as well as extending the lifetime of its second unit, were regularly discussed at the meetings of the Presidential Council for Nuclear Energy Safety, which included leading foreign experts.

82. Armenia highly valued the Agency's TC programme, which supported the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and socio-economic development under the SDGs. His country had implemented around 40 national TC projects, 7 of which were currently under way. It was also participating in around 20 more projects related to, inter alia, nuclear and radiation safety, radioactive waste management, physical protection of nuclear facilities, preparedness and response, nuclear medicine and food security.

83. The Agency played a central role in strengthening the international nuclear security regime by supporting the drafting and implementation of relevant international regulatory documents, broadening international cooperation and helping individual States build nuclear security capacities. Armenia offered its support to the Agency in fulfilling its mandate in that area, in particular in relation to UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), and thanked it for its professional and independent work. In that connection, his country called on all parties to make every effort to preserve the JCPOA.

84. Finally, he underlined the Agency's important role in human resources development through the exchange of experience and information, along with the numerous training seminars and capacity-building events.

85. Ms TOMÁS (Peru) offered her sincerest condolences on the passing of Mr Amano, who had been an extraordinary Director General and had brought the motto of 'Atoms for Peace and Development' to life in numerous countries.

86. Her country thanked the Agency for its support through the TC programme in the area of health, particularly the X-ray equipment donated to hospitals affected by El Niño in 2017. National projects were under way to strengthen cell and tissue production, improve cancer diagnosis and treatment, and increase the production of radioisotopes for medical use, and Peru had made significant advances in those areas. Multidisciplinary teams comprising radiation oncologists, physicians and radiotherapy specialists had been trained by the Agency and were developing strategies to fight cancer. Peru was also taking part in an interregional project to strengthen capacity for cervical cancer control, which affected tens of thousands of women in Peru.

87. ARCAL, through which hundreds of projects had been implemented in key areas such as human health, the environment, radiation technology, energy and agriculture, was celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2019. Of particular note was the progress that had been made in the use of SIT to control the spread of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito as a result of global warming. Peru had recently become Vice-President of the ARCAL Steering Committee, thus reaffirming its commitment to nuclear technology development to improve the well-being of people in the region, helping to make 'Atoms for Peace and Development' a reality and sharing with the Agency its expertise in crop improvement through new, highly nutritious Andean grain varieties.

88. Her country had recently hosted the Pan American and Parapan American Games — the largest in history, bringing together thousands of athletes and tens of thousands of spectators. Appreciative of the support provided by the Agency and the USA on ensuring security at such a major event, Peru was willing to share its experience with other countries, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean.

89. With Agency support, Peru had made significant progress in the use of nuclear technology for studying hydrology and Andean glaciers affected by climate change. It had also drawn up essential legislation for the safe and environmentally friendly mining of major uranium resources.

90. Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening the NPT, Peru valued the JCPOA for its role in preserving the non-proliferation regime and promoting international peace and security. It noted the verification and monitoring role played by the Agency and called on the JCPOA participants to uphold their commitment to fully implement the plan.

91. Peru welcomed the meetings between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK. Both countries should move the diplomatic process forward as a means of generating trust and reducing tensions, thereby facilitating the full denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and lasting peace in the region.

92. In its capacity as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and a member of OPANAL, Peru would continue to advocate the complete elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons and the universalization of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes.

93. Mr OSMAN (Bangladesh) paid tribute to the visionary leadership of the late Director General, Mr Amano, who had succeeded in turning 'Atoms for Peace and Development' into reality. His country hoped that Mr Amano's unwavering spirit of leadership would be upheld in the future.

94. He said that Agency support for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology would contribute to accelerating his country's socio-economic development, thus helping it to achieve not only the SDGs by 2030, but also its goal of becoming a higher middle-income country by 2021 and a front-ranking developed country by 2041.

95. Considering nuclear energy to be a safe, environmentally friendly and economically viable source of electricity generation, Bangladesh had begun construction of the country's first NPP in Rooppur. The first concrete had been cast for both Units 1 and 2 and construction work was in full swing and on schedule; Rooppur NPP was expected to generate 1200 MW electricity from each unit by 2023 and another 1200 MW by 2024. His country was working closely with the Agency to implement an integrated work plan for national infrastructure development and initiate the recruitment and training of the necessary personnel.

96. Bangladesh's nuclear power generation programme was anchored in its firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; it had been among the first countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017. He urged the global community to strengthen and effectively implement the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

97. In the area of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, Bangladesh's development of new varieties of 12 different crops using radioactive elements and biological reproduction techniques, would help to ensure food security in the face of the adverse impacts of climate change.

98. He thanked the Agency for its support in sending a joint IAEA–FAO–WHO expert team to assess the issues in controlling the *Aedes* mosquito population, which was causing Dengue fever, by applying SIT. Bangladesh was now working to tackle the issue in the long term.

99. He also thanked the Agency for its continued support through its TC programme, which included human resource development and capacity building for the introduction of nuclear techniques across various sectors. In the 2018–2019 biennium, his country had implemented national projects related to NPP infrastructure and support systems, a structured licensing programme for effective regulatory oversight, cancer management, food safety, design and development of spent fuel storage and reactor safety testing, and the tandem accelerator facility.

100. The Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology was a powerful tool for promoting the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which Bangladesh was confident would continue to promote regional capabilities and expertise across various thematic areas. His country was happy to be hosting a regional Agency training course on assessing greenhouse gas emissions using nuclear techniques in October 2019. Bangladesh had also recently hosted the Regional Meeting on the Measurement and Assessment of Integrated Management Systems within Regulatory Bodies for the Asian Nuclear Safety Network.

101. Bangladesh welcomed the increase in the percentage of women in the professional and higher categories of the Secretariat, and hoped to see continued efforts with regard to both gender equality and equitable geographical representation at all levels within the Agency.

102. Mr COUSSOUD-MAVOUNGOU (Congo) offered his condolences to the Agency upon the death of Mr Amano, late Director General, as well as to South Africa upon the death of its Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy.

103. Over the preceding year, the Congo had participated in a number of events, including the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology held in November 2018 and various meetings and training workshops for the contact points and coordinators of projects such as AFRA and RASIMS.

104. His country was committed to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, in line with Agency standards on safeguards, security, and nuclear and radiation safety. Since the end of 2018, it had been working to establish a comprehensive and reliable national inventory of ionizing radiation sources and radioactive waste.

105. The Congo was firmly committed to establishing a national nuclear and radiation safety authority, which would help to combat illicit trafficking in radioactive sources and nuclear material, and protect workers, the public and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

106. In 2019, the Agency had provided assistance to the Congo through technical training awareness-raising activities, in particular for parliamentarians and leaders of the private sector, on the concept of 'atoms for peace'.

107. During the 2020–2021 TC cycle, the Congo had planned projects on the monitoring of pollution, surveillance of neglected tropical diseases and cancer treatment. His country was also committed to completing those projects that were already under way and following up on them in subsequent TC cycles.

108. The Congo had also been collaborating with organizations in other Member States regarding nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission had provided technical and financial support for staff training on the Agency's safeguards system, use of the Advanced Reactors Information System and management of national radioactive source inventories. In May 2019, the Congo had signed an agreement with the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" on technical cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

109. Mr BOZUMBAYEV (Kazakhstan) expressed his country's sincere condolences on the death of the late Director General, which was a great loss to the international community. He said that the President of Kazakhstan had awarded Mr Amano's family with the Nazarbayev Prize for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World and Global Security in August 2019.

110. Kazakhstan fully implemented the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and was working to strengthen its system to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material. As chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and a member of the Zangger Committee, Kazakhstan took all the measures it could to ensure strict control of nuclear exports.

111. His country continued to implement projects related to the conversion of research reactors to LEU fuel and the disposal of HEU. It had begun preparatory work to dilute the unirradiated HEU fuel from its pulsed graphite research reactor with the support of the US Department of Energy; that work was scheduled for completion in December 2020. The Agency's LEU bank, which had been established in Kazakhstan, would become operational by the end of 2019 once all the LEU had been loaded.

112. In 2019, Kazakhstan had adopted the amendments to Articles VI and XIV.A of the Agency's Statute. It hoped that they would enter into force as early as possible.

113. Although his country was an active and responsible member of the Agency, it was regrettably deprived of the opportunity to participate in its elected bodies since it was not a member of a regional group. That constituted a serious obstacle to Kazakhstan's effective work with the Agency and a violation of its legitimate rights. It was therefore conducting consultations with other Member States in order to resolve the issue.

114. Kazakhstan had made concerted efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia and hoped that its experience would be useful to other regions of the world.

115. An NPT State Party and proponent of disarmament, his country had eliminated the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world. The principles of peace and good neighbourliness, without the threat of the use of force, had helped to shape the country's foreign policy. Furthermore, Kazakhstan fully supported the final draft of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and had participated actively in the related working sessions.

116. Kazakhstan fully supported the Agency's activities to promote the transfer and development of technology and knowledge related to peaceful nuclear applications and intended to further develop its technical cooperation with the Agency. In that connection, he highlighted his country's work with the Agency to assess the radioactive contamination of the Semipalatinsk test site with a view to returning it to economic use, and joint projects in the field of nuclear medicine.

117. Mr BORGES (Angola), offering condolences to the family of Mr Amano, the late Director General, and to the Secretariat, said that his passing left a void in the Agency, multilateral diplomacy and the international scientific community.

118. Acknowledging the enormous efforts of the international community to promote nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear technology, his country welcomed the Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Safety, to be held in February 2020. The conclusion of

safeguards agreements and additional protocols with Bolivia and Ethiopia bolstered the NPT regime and the protection of nuclear and radiological materials.

119. Angola had participated in TC projects in the areas of radiation protection, nuclear safety and the peaceful use of ionizing radiation, which had helped the country to improve regulatory aspects in those areas.

120. Regarding the promotion of the international legal framework, Angola encouraged the Agency to continue its awareness-raising and follow-up work with Member States. Earlier in 2019, the country had ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Amendment thereto, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

121. In the area of nuclear science and technology, his country welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the ReNuAL project, the International Conference on Climate Change to be held in October 2019 and the current Scientific Forum on cancer control.

122. Angola had recently signed a CPF for 2019–2023. Of the four national projects that had been implemented under the 2018–2019 TC cycle, three were very encouraging and two would continue into the 2020–2021 cycle. The country intended to sign cooperation agreements with Brazil and Mozambique during the General Conference.

123. With the Agency's support, Angola was developing a comprehensive cancer control programme which included the establishment of specialist training facilities.

124. Ms FLORES (Honduras) said that the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear energy helped to create a fairer, more stable and conflict-free world. Such valuable work had a direct impact on millions of lives and supported efforts to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

125. Her country appreciated the support that the Agency provided to Member States through the TC programme, thanks to which Honduras had strengthened its national capacities in the safe use of nuclear technology to improve cancer therapy, eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in the Bajo Aguán area, measure pollutants in groundwater and improve safety and radiation protection, among other things. Human capacity building had been essential in all those areas.

126. Honduras had recently approved the establishment of its National Atomic Energy Commission as a senior advisory body for activities involving the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for development purposes.

127. Her country supported the use of nuclear energy under the NPT, in particular efforts to promote 'Atoms for Peace and Development'. That motto was all the more powerful following the loss of the late Director General, who had made a valuable contribution in helping Member States use nuclear technology.

128. Honduras supported the Agency's efforts to monitor the implementation of programmes and agreements related to nuclear safety. Her country was working to strengthen nuclear safety and safeguards in line with its additional protocol and had started to conduct licensing activities, inspections and work to raise awareness of the importance of complying with safety standards.

129. ARCAL represented a useful tool to promote information exchange about nuclear technologies and strengthen strategic alliances to improve the implementation of regional projects. As the current

head of the ARCAL strategic alliances working group, Honduras would strongly support the Agency's work with other partners and international organizations in order to foster development in the region.

130. She reiterated her country's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation in accordance with the Tlatelolco Treaty. In that connection, it was most concerning that Iran had increased its activities related to the development of a nuclear weapons programme. Honduras called on Iran to implement all relevant international treaties and reconsider its actions, which threatened global peace and stability.

131. Honduras was pleased that an increasing number of States were acknowledging the usefulness of nuclear technology and applications for peaceful purposes. Commending the efforts of the late Director General in that regard, she assured the future Director General of her country's support and encouraged him or her to continue working with equal enthusiasm to build States' nuclear capacities and raise awareness of the importance of nuclear science and technology.

132. Ms TCHUINTE (Cameroon) expressed her delegation's great sadness at the passing of Mr Amano.

133. Having ratified an additional protocol in 2015 and acceded to the amended SQP in July 2019, Cameroon subscribed fully to the Agency's verification system and was committed to projects on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Agency should not let up its efforts to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols with all Member States.

134. Recognizing the key role played by the TC programme in nuclear technology transfer, capacity building in peaceful nuclear applications and regional cooperation, Cameroon noted with satisfaction that the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework for 2019–2023 included innovations in the area of human resource development. Of particular note was the introduction of doctoral programmes by the Division for Africa of the Department of Technical Cooperation. The programmes, which currently covered food and agriculture, human health, radiation protection and water resources management, were a major support for developing Member States, especially those in the Africa region, to plug the gaps in high-quality human resources in those fields. Support for the doctoral programmes should be shared between the student's country of origin and the host country.

135. Over the preceding two decades, the Agency's Postgraduate Educational Course in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources had established itself as an effective tool for training young professionals from national nuclear regulatory bodies. Her country encouraged the Agency to maintain and strengthen such regional capacity-building programmes.

136. In July 2019, Cameroon had promulgated a law providing a general framework for radiation and nuclear safety, nuclear security, civil liability and the application of safeguards. It had also recently integrated the relevant provisions of international legal instruments to which Cameroon was party into its national legislation. The country was deeply grateful for the Agency's technical assistance in that regard.

137. Cameroon supported the Agency's regional and international cooperation initiatives aiming to achieve a high level of nuclear safety and security and the application of Agency safeguards. Her country was a member of AFRA and had approved the revised Charter of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa in 2018. Cameroon welcomed the Agency's long-standing support for regional organizations, aiming to enable them to implement its programme in Africa.

138. She thanked the Agency for supporting her country's implementation of nuclear security measures during the 2016 Women's Africa Cup of Nations. Furthermore, an INSSP review mission in 2018 had taken into consideration nuclear security measures necessary for the 2020 African Nations Championship and the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations, which were to be held in Cameroon. Her country had requested the Agency's further assistance in that regard.

139. Mr NAIMSKI (Poland) expressed sorrow at the passing of Mr Amano and conveyed deepest condolences to his family and the Agency. He said that his country had appreciated the late Director General's friendly and effective cooperation on both technical and political matters. It hoped that the election process to fill the position would be swift and smooth and that the subsequent Director General would be prepared to tackle the immense challenges ahead.

140. In preparation for the transformation of its energy sector, the Polish Government had developed a road map as part of its draft energy policy plan covering the period up to 2040, the main goal of which was to provide energy security while boosting the competitiveness of the economy, ensuring energy efficiency, reducing the environmental impact of the energy sector and maximizing the use of domestic energy sources, including through the use of nuclear power. The country's first nuclear reactor was scheduled to be in operation by 2033, followed by another five reactors over the course of a decade. In choosing nuclear power, Poland hoped to diversify its energy mix at a reasonable cost and ensure that it could meet growing energy demands. The draft plan also detailed the actions taken since 2014, when the Government had adopted its nuclear power programme. An updated programme was currently being prepared.

141. Poland was working to improve its nuclear safety and security framework with a view to developing regulatory capacity to cover its future nuclear reactors. In 2018, it had launched an advanced licensing exercise project in cooperation with the Agency, the Regulatory Cooperation Forum and bilateral partners, in order to verify and refine the national regulatory process for licensing NPPs. Poland had recently completed a licensing simulation, during which the regulatory team had conducted a safety assessment of a sample application for a construction licence. The extensive findings of the exercise would be analysed and used to develop an action plan of necessary improvements.

142. His country recognized the value of the TC programme, which it supported by hosting TC meetings and fellowships, and by providing national experts for Agency events. Poland's participation in national, regional and interregional projects demonstrated its support for the development of peaceful nuclear applications in the country.

143. Integrated work plans were an important tool for helping embarking countries to develop their nuclear power programmes. Poland highly valued the Agency's cooperation in that regard.

144. Noting that the Agency was a technical body, Poland strongly supported its efforts to conduct verification activities in accordance with the JCPOA. It also commended the Agency on its sophisticated remote monitoring of the DPRK's nuclear programme using advanced surveillance and data processing technologies.

145. Poland looked forward to both the ICONS 2020 and the 2020 NPT Review Conference, in which it would play a constructive role with a view to achieving consensus on the final documents. As the chair of Main Committee II of the NPT Review Conference, which would address non-proliferation matters, Poland would highlight the indispensable role that the Agency played in the non-proliferation process and the importance of including consideration of the safeguards system within the remit of that Committee.

146. Mr MALIKKIDES (Cyprus) offered his country's condolences on the passing of Mr Amano, the late Director General, under whose determined, committed and professional leadership the Agency had made concrete progress towards achieving the objectives of 'Atoms for Peace and Development' and the SDGs.

147. He said that his country paid tribute to the Agency for its achievements and contributions in the fields of non-proliferation, strengthening of the international nuclear safety and security framework and promotion of international cooperation by assisting States with capacity building and the peaceful uses

of nuclear energy. Being party to all the major international nuclear safety and security treaties and conventions, Cyprus was fully committed to their implementation.

148. Cyprus strongly supported research that would contribute to world peace and development, and had seen a surge in such research at its universities, institutes and research centres in recent years. As a result, it had become a hub for innovation and research; the Agency's support had been invaluable in that regard. His country had also benefited from various TC projects relating to knowledge transfer and acquisition of expertise.

149. When revising its legislative framework in 2018, Cyprus had taken into account the recommendations and suggestions of the Agency's 2017 IRRS peer review mission. Other Member States should also take full advantage of such missions, which provided valuable tools to assist in making national radiation safety arrangements. Cyprus had also officially requested an ARTEMIS review mission.

150. His country was currently developing a national policy on nuclear and radiation safety and protection, a national strategy for managing existing exposure situations and a strategy on the recovery, management, control and disposal of orphan sources. The Agency had provided Cyprus with experts to support its efforts related to cradle-to-grave management of sealed radioactive sources, with a particular focus on managing disused sealed radioactive sources.

151. Cyprus did not operate any nuclear facilities and its energy plans for the foreseeable future did not include nuclear power. Nonetheless, it recognized the significance of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the importance of the Agency's nuclear safety and security standards in ensuring global nuclear safety and security. His country supported all measures to strengthen national and international nuclear safety, and urged all Member States to continue to ensure the highest levels of safety and security at nuclear facilities so as to protect their own country, neighbouring countries, and the rest of the world.

152. International, and in particular regional, cooperation was imperative for nuclear safety and security, given the cross-border impact of any nuclear accident. Transparency, the provision of information to the public and consultation with neighbouring countries likely to be affected by any release of radioactivity were vital throughout the operational life of a nuclear facility, beginning at the design stage.

153. No Member State should underestimate nuclear security threats, especially in areas of the world with a high risk of a terrorist attacks or other malicious events. In that context, Cyprus called on all Member States to cooperate regionally and exchange information on such matters.

154. Ms MUN Mi Ock (Republic of Korea) extended her country's deep condolences on the death of the late Director General, Mr Amano.

155. She said that her country highly appreciated the extensive efforts made by the Agency, in accordance with Article III of its Statute and in cooperation with Japan, to manage safety following the Fukushima accident, in particular through the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety.

156. Certain concerns regarding the disposal of Fukushima-contaminated water remained unanswered, however, escalating fear and anxiety throughout the world. High-level officials of the Japanese Government had recently stated that marine discharges were inevitable as a means of dealing with such water. Once the water had been discharged into the ocean, it would cease to be a domestic issue for Japan and become a grave international issue that risked affecting the entire global marine environment.

157. Noting the active role that the Agency had played in dealing with the Fukushima accident, she said that the Republic of Korea considered the same approach necessary in managing the disposal of

Fukushima-contaminated water. On-site investigations were needed in order to ascertain — objectively and scientifically — the current status of the plant and water, as well as the impact on ecological systems. Based on the findings of such investigations, standards and methods would need to be established for the disposal of the water so that it did not burden future generations. Japan should take substantive and transparent action in the interests of health, safety and environmental protection.

158. The Republic of Korea fully supported the Agency's objective of ensuring that nuclear power was not used for any military purpose, and urged that the same principle be applied to the DPRK nuclear issue. Noting the successful meeting between the leaders of the DPRK and the USA earlier that year, she noted that her own country was also making great efforts towards complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. It urged the DPRK to demonstrate consistent efforts and the will to achieve denuclearization, and asked for the Agency's full support in its endeavours.

159. To maximize the safety of its NPPs that would be in operation for over 60 years, her country had established a comprehensive plan to strengthen nuclear safety standards and had taken the lead in implementing the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety. The Republic of Korea also promoted nuclear safety innovation projects that made use of information communication technologies such as big data, networking and artificial intelligence. In response to a rising demand for nuclear decommissioning, her country planned to acquire and develop the relevant technologies and would seek close cooperation with the Agency and other Member States in that regard.

160. The Republic of Korea's advanced power reactor APR-1400 had been certified by the European Utility Requirements and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The pre-project engineering for the country's system-integrated modular advanced reactor, carried out in partnership with Saudi Arabia, was drawing to a close. Her country was dedicated to sharing its technology related to reactor design, construction and management, and its successful experience in commercialization.

161. Her country made extrabudgetary contributions to the PUI to fund various cooperative projects, including ReNuAL Plus and PACT.

162. In 2019, the Republic of Korea's High-Flux Advanced Neutron Application Reactor had been designated as an ICERR and a new research reactor had been established for radioisotope supply.

163. Mr MALLAM (Nigeria) offered his country's condolences on the death of the late Director General, and said that Mr Amano had advanced the goal of making the Agency a unique stakeholder and global leader, reflecting the slogan of 'Atoms for Peace and Development'.

164. The theme of the 2019 Scientific Forum, 'A Decade of Action on Cancer Control and the Way Forward', was both timely and appropriate given the rise in global cancer cases, particularly in developing countries. Nigeria hoped that the opportunity for international collaboration and sharing of ideas that the Forum afforded would serve to strengthen the processes already in place for cancer management.

165. Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health had recently launched a new national cancer control plan that incorporated public outreach, cancer prevention, early diagnosis and referral, effective therapy and palliative care. It was working with the Agency and other stakeholders — including the WHO, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Clinton Health Access Initiative and American Cancer Society — towards full implementation of that plan.

166. The Nuclear Medicine Centre at the University College Hospital in Ibadan had recently become qualified to award postgraduate degrees in nuclear medicine, making it the first nuclear medicine department in a university setting in English-speaking West Africa. Nigeria appreciated the cooperation

provided by the Agency in that process and would do its best to ensure that the Centre continued to serve the Africa region.

167. The first ever ‘train the trainers’ workshop on how to establish clinical training programmes for radiotherapy medical physicists had been held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 18 to 20 December 2018. Collaboration on such training was key for effective and safe cancer care, bearing in mind the shortage of medical physicists in the region.

168. Nigeria welcomed the Agency’s International Virtual Conference on Theranostics, which had been held earlier that month and had focused on trends in theranostic approaches for managing patients with cancer and neuroendocrine tumours. He urged the Agency to introduce virtual conferences in other areas of nuclear science technology and applications, too.

169. Under Nigeria’s current CPF, five new national projects would commence in the 2020–2021 TC cycle. They were in the fields of regulatory infrastructure for nuclear and radiation safety, energy planning with a focus on the introduction of nuclear power, livestock production, radiation oncology and cancer management, and research reactor applications.

170. His country appreciated the support of the Agency and international community in strengthening its regulatory control of radiation sources through various missions, and looked forward to the ORPAS mission and the follow-up IRRS and EPREV missions which would all take place in 2020. Nigeria noted the plan to launch the new version of RASIMS containing accurate information on the radiation safety infrastructure in Member States.

171. Through Agency-supported training, Nigeria had made significant efforts to enhance its nuclear security architecture and raise awareness among decision-makers. Earlier that year, his country had received an INSSP review mission that had further strengthened its nuclear security framework, and an awareness-raising workshop for relevant officials had been held alongside it. In August 2019, there had been an Agency-assisted workshop on the process of establishing human resource development programmes in stakeholder organizations.

172. The conversion of Nigeria Research Reactor-1 from the use of HEU to LEU, had been completed and the HEU fuel repatriated to China. The Agency, China, Norway, the UK and the USA had all provided valuable support throughout the conversion process. Nigeria had already begun to implement the recommendations of the INSARR mission sent by the Agency following the successful conversion.

173. Having participated in the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Nigeria urged other countries to see that Treaty as complimentary to the NPT and as an important global instrument for the promotion of disarmament and the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Nigeria would support all initiatives to ensure ratification of the Treaty, so that it might come into force within the shortest time possible.

174. As the negative impact of climate change on the global environment became increasingly apparent, the low greenhouse gas emissions of nuclear power made it an important alternative energy source. In its commitment to address climate change, Nigeria was vigorously pursuing an energy mix that included nuclear power and other renewable energy sources. In that connection, his country was looking forward to the Agency’s International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power to be held in October 2019.

175. Mr MIKHADYUK (Belarus) said that his country paid tribute to Mr Amano, the late Director General, for his significant contribution to the Agency’s work, and his efforts to ensure that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy benefited all the countries and people of the world.

176. As an increasing number of States considered using nuclear technology to help ensure energy security, achieve the SDGs and fulfil the ambitious commitments made under the Paris Agreement, the Agency's role and authority needed to be strengthened even further across all of its statutory activities. International cooperation in that regard was based on a common interest in the sustainable, universal and safe application of nuclear technologies.

177. Belarus had taken the decision to pursue a national nuclear power programme which would meet one third of the country's energy needs. To that end, it had been developing the relevant sectors, industries and scientific knowledge. Work on the construction of the Belarus NPP was fully under way. The first unit had reached the pre-commissioning stage, while basic technical equipment was being installed at the second unit. Belarus was cooperating closely with its strategic partner, the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation, "Rosatom".

178. Belarus accorded utmost importance to nuclear safety and transparency in implementing its nuclear power programme, and made use of global best practice and the experience of other countries. His country was also willing to share its own experiences with others. The NPP site had received many visits from foreign delegations and specialists, including from embarking countries, as well as representatives of the media and public bodies.

179. Over the preceding year Belarus had received an EPREV mission, an ISSAS mission, and a Pre-OSART mission. The conclusions of each mission attested to the country's commitment to ensuring the highest possible level of nuclear safety. Belarus was carefully analysing the results and recommendations of each mission and planning measures for their implementation.

180. Noting that a Phase 3 INIR mission to Belarus was planned for the first quarter of 2020, he said that his country supported the Agency's efforts to provide Member States with effective instruments offering guidance and technical support across a broad range of issues related to nuclear and radiation safety. Any mission or peer review, however, should be focused on providing practical assistance and should in no way be used by Member States for populist allegations. Nuclear safety should remain technically based and apolitical. Any efforts in that regard should be unifying in nature, and international cooperation should be based on respect for the sovereign right of States to develop their own nuclear power programmes.

181. Belarus highly valued the Agency's TC programme. The projects currently under way would facilitate the use of global best practice for the sustainable development of a nuclear power programme, nuclear science and technology, and nuclear medicine in the country.

182. He thanked the Agency for its assistance in resolving matters concerning the sustainable development of the regions of Belarus affected by the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. His country welcomed the deepening of cooperation in the area of nuclear science and technology between the Agency and the Sosny Joint Institute for Power and Nuclear Research.

183. Belarus fully supported the Agency's safeguards verification work under the NPT, which was an important element of the global security system and provided the foundation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Such activities should be further strengthened. The mechanisms for applying safeguards, however, needed to remain clear, objective and technically driven. They should be based on mutual trust and concluded between parties to international agreements.

184. His country also supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear security. The global nature of nuclear security threats necessitated adequate action both by States and by the Agency, with the latter playing a coordinating role in international cooperation.

185. Mr ASHJAZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), exercising his right of reply, said that allegations made against his country by the USA and Saudi Arabia in their statements at the previous meeting were irrelevant and baseless.

186. The USA was attempting to deceive the public; the most dangerous threats to the Middle East region were actually military intervention by the USA and its large-scale sale of arms to countries which pursued a policy of escalation, including in Yemen. The USA and other countries that had offered unlimited support to the aggressor coalition in Yemen, in violation of international humanitarian legislation, were complicit in such crimes as the attack of civilian targets and blocking of humanitarian aid, which had led to widespread famine and the outbreak of disease. Such a disastrous situation would not be avoided by blaming Iran, but by the USA's acceptance of proposals by Iran, which could end the war and lead to a resumption of talks. Turning to maximum deceit would fail in the same way that the policy of maximum pressure had already failed.

187. It was unfortunate that Saudi Arabia was using war and tension to disguise foreign policy issues and domestic failures. That country's allies had demonstrated repeatedly in recent years that they were willing to invade neighbouring countries, including Yemen, and to commit war crimes in pursuit of their illegitimate goals and interests. Saudi Arabia was developing and implementing a nuclear programme which was not transparent because, under the SQP, it was exempt from hosting Agency safeguards inspections. Despite the Agency's repeated requests, Saudi Arabia had not adopted the amended SQP.

188. There had been several indications from official sources in Saudi Arabia that the country was proceeding with its canal-building project — part of which would house a nuclear waste facility — that would turn Qatar into an island. The project demonstrated Saudi Arabia's irresponsible behaviour with regard not only to its own territory and environment, but also to stability in neighbouring countries and the region as a whole. Saudi Arabia's actions were being rewarded by the current US administration under its transactional and profit-centred approach to foreign policy making. The international community had to make clear to Saudi Arabia that it would not tolerate any deviation from a peaceful nuclear programme or any transfer of radioactive material to terrorist groups.

189. The Agency should urge countries that were potential NPP vendor partners of Saudi Arabia to refrain from supplying reactors to the country until the conditions for applying appropriate Agency safeguards there had been met.

190. Mr HIKIHARA (Japan), exercising his right of reply, said that the statement made by the Republic of Korea alleging the discharge of ALPS-treated water into the sea was not based on fact and was therefore unacceptable.

191. It should be emphasized that primary responsibility for nuclear safety and security rested with the Member State having jurisdiction over the nuclear facility. Japan had requested and received various Agency review missions following the Fukushima accident, and the Agency had issued several reports positively evaluating the country's decontamination efforts. Japan would continue to cooperate with the Agency and provide explanations of its response to the accident in the interests of transparency.

192. He emphasized that the recent statement made by a former member of the Japanese cabinet had expressed a personal opinion. The Government sub-committee on ALPS-treated water had not yet come to any concrete conclusions and would continue to discuss the matter.

193. Mr UHM Jaesik (Republic of Korea), exercising his right of reply, called on the Japanese Government to share more detailed information with the international community, in particular with neighbouring countries, regarding its decision making and planning related to decontamination, in particular the disposal of ALPS-treated water. The Republic of Korea called for comprehensive plans

for inspection of the Fukushima site and looked forward to the Agency playing a more active role in that regard. What mattered most was that words were translated into substantive actions.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.