

# General Conference

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## Sixty-third regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Sixth Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at 3 p.m.*

**President:** Ms BUENROSTRO MASSIEU (Mexico)

**Later:** Mr GHARIB ABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

**Later:** Ms WOLCOTT (United States of America)

**Later:** Mr SOLANO ORTIZ (Costa Rica)

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## Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
AFRA-NEST	AFRA Network for Education in Science and Technology
ANSN	Asian Nuclear Safety Network
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEANTOM	ASEAN Network of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy
Assistance Convention	Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
CNS	Convention on Nuclear Safety
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CSA	comprehensive safeguards agreement
CSC	Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Early Notification Convention	Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
EU	European Union
EVD	Ebola virus disease
FORO	Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

**Abbreviations used in this record (continued)**

Joint Division	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Joint Protocol	Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention
LDCs	least developed countries
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NPP	nuclear power plant
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
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
Paris Convention	Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
RASIMS	Radiation Safety Information Management System
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEANWFZ Treaty	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
SIDS	small island developing States
SIT	sterile insect technique
SMR	small and medium sized or modular reactor
SPECT	single photon emission computed tomography
SPECT–CT	single photon emission computed tomography–computed tomography
SQP	small quantities protocol
SSDL	secondary standards dosimetry laboratory
TC	technical cooperation

**Abbreviations used in this record (continued)**

TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
USA	United States of America
VETLAB	Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
WMDs	weapons of mass destruction



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

1. Mr CRNADAK (Bosnia and Herzegovina) paid tribute to the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, expressing deep appreciation of his work.
2. Emphasizing the importance of cooperation and transparency in planning and constructing nuclear facilities, he recalled that Bosnia and Herzegovina had previously expressed concerns about Croatia's plan to establish a storage and disposal facility for low and intermediate level waste from Krško NPP and other Croatian industries. Close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina and the beautiful Una River, the site was only three kilometres from Novi Grad, where thousands of his compatriots lived and unanimously opposed the facility. His country hoped Croatia could find a solution that would not endanger the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina or jeopardize relations between the two States.
3. Having adopted the most important international instruments related to the Agency's work, Bosnia and Herzegovina fully supported its promotion of nuclear safeguards, verification, safety and security; it would be receiving an IRRS mission in 2022 for an independent review of its capabilities. Current challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation regime rendered all the more imperative attainment of the highest standards in nuclear security and non-proliferation. Committed to the universalization and effective implementation of the NPT, his country recognized that the Agency safeguards system was the only mechanism that could verify the non-diversion of nuclear activities to military purposes and compliance by States Parties to the NPT with their non-proliferation obligations. As part of its own obligations, Bosnia and Herzegovina had received safeguards inspectors in September 2019.
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina laid particular emphasis on the TC programme as one of the principal instruments for transferring nuclear science and technology to Member States, in furtherance of their overall development. Over the years it had benefited from a number of projects and, with the Agency's assistance, had been constantly upgrading its infrastructure and capabilities in the use of nuclear technologies, in radiation protection and in compliance with the Agency's nuclear safety and security standards. Valuable support had been provided in the form of equipment urgently requested by the country to upgrade its capabilities in all fields where radiation processing technologies were employed, notably health protection, safety infrastructure and, more recently, veterinary and food safety control.
5. One highlight of his country's cooperation with the Agency had been a visit by the Director of the Department of Technical Cooperation's Division for Europe in October 2018. For its part, his country was strongly committed to continued cooperation with the Department in building its capabilities in the use of nuclear technology in medicine, industry, agriculture and veterinary science, and in radiation protection and nuclear safety and security.
6. As a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention, at every meeting Bosnia and Herzegovina reiterated its concern over the latest activities being carried out by Croatia and their impact on the environment and on his country.
7. In conclusion, he commended the Acting Director General and Agency staff on their hard work and professionalism over the preceding months.
8. Ms NAFUNA MULONI (Uganda) offered her country's condolences to the Agency and the family and friends of Mr Amano. The late Director General was remembered for his pivotal role in enhancing technical cooperation between Uganda and the Agency.

9. Uganda commended the Agency for facilitating international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, which helped to solve numerous challenges in health, agriculture, water resources management, environmental restoration and energy. Such efforts led to important progress towards achieving the SDGs.

10. Reaffirming its commitment to the TC programme, Uganda pledged to continue honouring its financial obligations in a timely manner. During the current session, her country would be signing a new CPF focusing on food and agriculture, human health, water, energy, industry, research, nuclear security and radiation protection. The previous CPF had resulted in many achievements, most notably the restoration of radiotherapy services in 2017, enhanced radiation safety and improved food contaminant monitoring.

11. Non-communicable diseases, in particular cancer, continued to pose a challenge in Uganda and the rest of the world. To address the problem, her country was implementing a comprehensive national cancer control programme with emphasis on prevention through early detection. Nuclear applications such as radiotherapy and nuclear medicine contributed to the programme. In view of the benefits of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy, Uganda appreciated the topic of the 2019 Scientific Forum: A Decade of Action on Cancer Control and the Way Forward.

12. Through AFRA, the Agency had assisted Uganda with human resource training and the establishment of an interim storage facility for disused low activity radioactive sources. The Agency had also played an important role in enhancing Uganda's nuclear security capabilities, including through training critical personnel on response to nuclear security events.

13. In its effort to continually assess energy resources and their sustainable use, Uganda, with technical support from the Agency, had conducted pre-feasibility studies for a nuclear power programme. Her Government was working to create a suitable environment for nuclear power development in Uganda, including establishing a nuclear energy policy and comprehensive nuclear legislation. Applauding the Agency's assistance in nuclear infrastructure development, Uganda had invited the Agency to conduct an INIR mission in the country in 2020. Uganda reaffirmed its support for the Agency's application of safeguards and promotion of international cooperation.

14. Mr BETANCOURT RUALES (Ecuador) expressed his country's pride that the President was the first woman from Latin America to be elected to the position.

15. Mr Amano had left an enduring legacy highlighting his commitment to using nuclear energy for peace and development and had improved the lives of countless individuals. His visit to Ecuador following the destructive earthquake in 2016 had enabled the Agency to better respond to the country's needs and help it develop its non-destructive testing capabilities. Mr Amano had also understood that the case of the Galapagos Islands demonstrated how nuclear technology could contribute to species preservation.

16. The Agency needed to strengthen the TC programme and ensure that it had sufficient resources to support developing countries' priorities, with a view to achieving the SDGs. TC projects in Ecuador had helped build human capacities in nuclear safety and security and in the application of nuclear techniques in the fields of health, agriculture, environmental protection and industry. The participation of the national regulator had helped improve the regulatory aspects and expedite the ratification process for various international instruments. During the current session of the General Conference, Ecuador had deposited its instruments of ratification for the Early Notification Convention and Assistance Convention.

17. Over 50 years after the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty and the creation of the first NWFZ, the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons remained their complete

elimination and prohibition. There was an urgent need to fully implement all three pillars of the NPT, in particular following the recent setbacks in the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations. A firm supporter of all actions to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation regime, Ecuador had participated in the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, for which it would deposit its instrument of ratification at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. The Treaty did not conflict with the NPT in any way but supported it, by providing an international legally binding instrument that clearly prohibited nuclear weapons. The Treaty also supported the Agency's safeguards system, as it not only stipulated that all States Parties with Agency safeguards in force must maintain them, but it also encouraged those States to further increase their safeguards commitments.

18. International law provided a code of conduct that prohibited unilateral action of a destabilizing nature. Ecuador therefore deplored attempts to cast doubt on the multilateral system and condemned unilateral actions that undermined the compromises that had been reached, such as the international security regime. Specifically, it criticized the US withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reimposition of sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as Iran's decision to delay its implementation of the agreement. Ecuador urged both parties to avoid taking any action that would not contribute to a solution. His country supported the essential and independent role that the Agency played in verifying safeguards implementation. The experience and preparedness of the Agency's staff would ensure that all safeguards agreements were upheld.

19. Ms BATTUNGALAG (Mongolia), having offered her country's sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Yukiya Amano, the late Director General, said that her country was fully committed to nuclear non-proliferation; the NPT and the Agency's safeguards were cornerstones of international peace and security and the sustainable development of nuclear energy. The international conference on nuclear security to be held in Vienna in February 2020 was of particular importance.

20. In view of the important role of nuclear and radiation safety control systems, Mongolia had been improving its national infrastructure to comply with international safety standards. It was also improving its legislative framework and introducing comprehensive standards and regulations for radiation safety and protection and for the safe management of radioactive sources in accordance with Agency guidance. In June 2019, Mongolia's Nuclear Energy Commission had adopted the regulation on safe transport of radioactive materials in line with the Agency's Specific Safety Requirement No. 6.

21. Mongolia valued the crucial contribution of the TC programme to its development efforts. Technical assistance from the Agency had boosted scientific research development, including the establishment of laboratories for nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes.

22. Mongolia recognized the work of the Joint Division in diagnosing and helping to control outbreaks of animal and zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza and EVD. In agriculture, improved research and diagnostic capabilities based on nuclear techniques had helped to contain transboundary animal diseases. In 2019, Mongolia and Agency experts had diagnosed swine fever and introduced rapid control measures to prevent outbreaks.

23. Mongolia had successfully been implementing national projects in the areas of health, food and agriculture, energy, industry, science, geology and mining. The country's current CPF had contributed to its socioeconomic development: for example, linear accelerators had been installed in its National Cancer Centre in 2019. Mongolia would soon begin outlining a new CPF for 2021–2026, maintaining its emphasis on topics such as human health, agriculture, environmental protection and water management.

24. The RCA had effectively promoted research, development and training in peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in the region. Mongolia reaffirmed its commitment to regional

cooperation. The country's Nuclear Energy Commission had recently signed an MOU with the Russian Federation's State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" on implementing a project on establishing a centre for nuclear science and technology in Mongolia.

25. In response to recent interest in its uranium deposits, Mongolia was collaborating with the Agency to align legislation concerning radioactive minerals with international best practices. Her country requested that the Agency send a Uranium Production Site Appraisal Team review mission to help it improve its production facilities.

26. In 2018, Mongolia had received a Knowledge Management Assist Visit from the Agency to assess various practices. The visit, conducted in Ulaanbaatar, had involved 16 other organizations, including universities, hospitals, research organizations, national laboratories, the nuclear regulatory body and other government entities. The increased use of such inclusive approaches should be encouraged.

27. Mr APOSTOL (Republic of Moldova) extended his country's deepest condolences on the death of the Director General, a distinguished leader and diplomat who had served the Agency with dedication and commitment.

28. A fundamental tool for international security, the Agency's safeguards system played an essential role in fulfilling the goals of the NPT. Moldova also strongly supported the Agency's key verification role with regard to the JCPOA.

29. Mindful of the continuing global risk of nuclear terrorism, and having become a partner nation of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in 2019, Moldova encouraged all States to become parties to the relevant international instruments and create a strong nuclear security regime.

30. Moldova had worked with the Division of Nuclear Security to implement a national technical assistance project on enhancing the secure use, storage and transport of radioactive material. The project aimed to secure vulnerable high-activity sources in facilities currently lacking physical protection measures and to develop human resources.

31. The US National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Radiological Security and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority were assisting Moldova in implementing the highest standards of security and sustainability at sites of Category 1 radioactive sources, in line with Agency guidelines and other relevant international practices and policies. With the assistance of the OSCE and the Swedish Authority, Moldova had also succeeded in regaining regulatory control over more than 200 sources from abandoned facilities, most of them located in the territory of Transnistria. Under the action plan to implement its national strategy on radioactive waste management for 2017–2026 and supported by the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Swedish Authority, Moldova was decommissioning its RADON-type disposal facility, which contained legacy radioactive waste.

32. Moldova recognized the importance of the Agency's safety standards and the value of safety peer review missions, such as the IRRS mission it had received in December 2018, and was currently implementing the mission's recommendations and suggestions as part of its regular reviews of its regulatory framework.

33. The Department of Technical Cooperation had supported Moldova in strengthening the capacity of its national health institutions to implement new technologies in nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and radiodiagnosis, and to reduce the impact of radon on human health.

34. Mr BHATIA (Singapore) expressed his country's deep sorrow at the passing of South Africa's Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Ms Hlongwa, and of the Director General, Yukiya Amano. Mr Amano's legacy, including overseeing the implementation of the JCPOA, would serve as a foundation to be built on for years to come.

35. Against a backdrop of heightening geopolitical tensions, the international community was facing tough questions surrounding nuclear non-proliferation compliance issues. The USA's withdrawal from the JCPOA in May 2018 had compelled the remaining parties to seek ways to sustain the agreement. Singapore welcomed that ongoing dialogue and encouraged signatories to the JCPOA to intensify their efforts to reach a practical solution, as the full implementation of the agreement was critical to its efficacy.

36. Singapore was concerned by Iran's decision to cease implementing some of its commitments under the JCPOA in July 2019 and its announcement in September 2019 that it would further scale back its commitments. Singapore called on Iran to uphold its obligations under the JCPOA and the provisional application of the additional protocol and to cooperate fully with relevant international partners. The JCPOA and the wider international non-proliferation regime were at stake.

37. With regard to the Korean Peninsula, Singapore welcomed the positive engagements made in 2018, such as the meeting between President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un and the inter-Korean summits. While his country supported constructive dialogue aimed at resolving differences and promoting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, it remained concerned about recent developments. It urged the DPRK to take steps to fulfil its commitments, avoid escalating tensions in the region and abide by its international obligations. Singapore implemented its own obligations consistently and rigorously, including by prosecuting violators of its domestic laws.

38. New nuclear technologies were being developed at a breakneck pace and could bring great benefits, but regulations and guidelines for their use were necessary to harness their potential. Singapore called on the Agency to ensure that its nuclear safety guidance documents remained up to date in accordance with the latest nuclear technologies, such as SMRs and transportable NPPs.

39. Nuclear incidents could have transboundary effects and, through its representation on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee, Singapore was privileged to support the Committee's important work in helping Member States to build emergency preparedness and response capacities

40. Singapore had consistently underscored the importance of strengthening nuclear security, as any loss or theft of nuclear or radioactive material could lead to catastrophe, including nuclear and radioactive terror attacks. Therefore, it supported the Agency's central role in providing nuclear security guidance through its various instruments, expert missions and guidance documents.

41. Singapore also commended the Agency's campaign to promote the universalization of the CPPNM and its Amendment. His country looked forward to assisting the Agency in organizing the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the CPPNM.

42. On technical cooperation, Singapore appreciated the Agency's critical role in helping developing Member States, in particular LDCs and SIDS, to achieve their development goals, in addition to the Agency's contributions towards attaining the SDGs. As the main vehicle through which such assistance was provided to Member States, it was imperative for the TC programme to have sufficient resources for the Agency to effectively fulfil its mandate.

43. For its part, his country was pleased with the progress of the Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme. Singapore had conducted several regional workshops on topics such as emergency preparedness and response and food safety, and it would continue to actively support the Agency's work.

44. Singapore welcomed the planned signing of the ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements, which would deepen institutional links between ASEAN and the Agency.

45. All Member States looked to the Agency to support them in tackling new, evolving challenges while maintaining its impartiality, integrity and professionalism. Singapore encouraged them to adopt a

spirit of trust, forbearance and fellowship so the Agency could focus on spreading the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

46. Mr MOLEKANE (South Africa) thanked everyone for their words of comfort following the untimely passing of his country's Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Ms Hlongwa, and offered condolences for the passing of Mr Amano, who as Director General had served humanity with dedication and professionalism.

47. Despite the upcoming 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT and 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and the recent 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty declaring Africa an NWFZ, a world free of nuclear weapons remained elusive. Efforts towards that goal needed to be redoubled.

48. With the aim of ensuring energy security and mitigating carbon emissions, nuclear energy remained an integral part of South Africa's energy mix. His Government had committed to an attainable nuclear new build programme, and efforts to extend the original lifespan of his country's nuclear power station by 20 years were in the advanced stages. Applications of nuclear technology had benefited the areas of health, agriculture, environmental management, water and sanitation, among others. Such accomplishments, achieved through the TC programme, evidenced the Agency's contributions to South Africa's 2030 National Development Plan, African Union Agenda 2063 and achievement of the SDGs.

49. As AFRA entered its 30th year, the continent of Africa was committed to strengthening the partnerships provided by that agreement. In July 2019, South Africa had hosted the AFRA Technical Working Group Meeting, in which 40 African Member States had participated. South Africa looked forward to chairing AFRA.

50. South Africa had launched the Nuclear Medicine Research Infrastructure project, which aimed to establish a distribution network of medical imaging facilities dedicated to drug development and clinical research, and the project was expected to be fully operational by 2021. Progress was being made to ensure that NTP Radioisotopes would soon return to full production of medical isotopes. His country remained committed to providing high-quality service and a sustainable supply of life-saving medicines. To further increase the global supply of radioisotopes, his Government had established a task team for a new multipurpose reactor, which was intended to replace the ageing South Africa Fundamental Atomic Research Installation by 2030.

51. It was vital to strengthen veterinary laboratories to improve early detection of zoonotic diseases. Research by the VETLAB Network continued to improve food security by ensuring the competitiveness of the livestock industry and its access to foreign markets.

52. South Africa had demonstrated safe operation of its nuclear facilities for over 50 years, and continued to adopt international best practices. It looked forward to hosting an expert mission in late 2019 to review its National Nuclear Regulator Safety Culture Improvement Plan. Moreover, South Africa welcomed the Agency's promotion of wider adherence to the Joint Convention.

53. The National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute was working to establish a centralized interim storage facility for long term storage of spent nuclear fuel. The borehole disposal concept had been developed under contract with the Agency to provide safe, secure disposal technology for disused sealed radioactive sources.

54. His country continued to work closely with the Agency to implement its safeguards obligations under the integrated safeguards approach. In the belief that the Agency's critical safeguards work should be supported, South Africa commended the Agency on its verification and monitoring activities in the Iran in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). His country urged all participants in the JCPOA to work to preserve it.

55. In closing, South Africa recognized the progress made in improving the balance of gender and regional representation in Agency staff, but such efforts needed to be multiplied.

56. Mr LE (Viet Nam) paid his country's respects to the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, acknowledging his dedication to the peaceful use of nuclear technology for the benefit of people around the world. Over the previous decade, Viet Nam had pursued its strategy for peaceful uses of atomic energy, promoting research and the application of radiation technology for socioeconomic development.

57. Under its CPF for 2016–2021, Viet Nam continued to receive Agency assistance through TC projects. With the experience and knowledge gained through years of Agency support, Viet Nam had cooperated with the Agency, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia to establish Practical Arrangements for triangular cooperation to enhance TCDC and strengthen South–South cooperation.

58. Viet Nam registered some 190 000 new cancer cases, including 42 000 deaths, each year, and, with Agency cooperation and support, nuclear energy was being harnessed to control the disease. More than 90 linear accelerators, CyberKnife, Gamma Knife and high dose rate brachytherapy systems had been used for radiotherapy. Six cyclotrons and the Dalat Nuclear Research Reactor were producing radiopharmaceuticals, meeting 40% of domestic demand. Viet Nam's first academic medical physics programme had been approved.

59. In the agriculture sector, in which about 40% of Viet Nam's population worked, SIT was being used to prevent insect damage to dragon fruit. In addition, food irradiation helped to keep produce and seafood fresh for exportation.

60. The IAEA Collaborating Centre for Water and Environment, established under the Viet Nam Atomic Energy Institute, had been inaugurated in early 2019. It would promote the use of nuclear techniques for holistic water and environment assessment, monitoring and management in South East Asia. Viet Nam was also cooperating with the Russian Federation to set up a nuclear science and technology centre with a new research reactor.

61. In nuclear safety and security, ASEAN, with external support from the Agency and the European Commission, was organizing its regional collaboration mechanism for emergency preparedness for radioactive dispersion risks from outside the region. With Agency backing, Viet Nam had collected and conditioned about 800 disused radioactive sources in a centralized facility. It had enhanced its detection capability and updated its INSSP through a follow-up mission in 2018; the installation of radiation detection portals at Noi Bai International Airport would be completed in 2019. The Agency had also assisted Viet Nam in devising its plan for human resource development in the area of nuclear security detection, which would improve his country's control of transboundary movement of radioactive materials.

62. Viet Nam hoped that the Agency would continue to extend its valuable cooperation and assistance to help developing Member States achieve their goals relating to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy in support of their socioeconomic development.

63. Ms NINČIĆ (Serbia) paid tribute to the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, whose outstanding professionalism and commitment inspired all to further strengthen the Agency's reputation.

64. Serbia reaffirmed its commitment to the safe and secure application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Her country would continue to support Agency efforts to implement safeguards more efficiently, in compliance with the NPT. In 2018, Serbia had submitted an initial declaration for an additional protocol, thereby fulfilling all its obligations with regard to the NPT and confirming its commitment to combating the threat of nuclear terrorism. With emphasis on the importance of nuclear safety and security, Serbia would continue contributing to global efforts to reinforce efficient

mechanisms against illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radiation sources by improving physical protection and controlling orphan sources.

65. Serbia was strongly committed to strengthening its legal and regulatory framework related to nuclear and radiation safety and security in line with international standards and EU regulations. Its Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Act had entered into force in December 2018, providing the public with improved protection from harmful ionizing radiation and ensuring safe and secure practices in activities related to nuclear energy, radiation protection and the handling of radioactive material. The Act had also provided for the establishment of the Serbian Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Security Directorate as an independent regulatory body. It would be the first body to encompass all regulatory duties in the remit of radiation and nuclear safety and security. Serbia was particularly grateful for the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs in preparing the legislation.

66. Serbia had ratified all relevant international conventions and fulfilled all related duties, and it would continue to apply the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

67. The TC programme was essential for attaining a higher level of nuclear safety and security, for meeting the Agency's standards and for sustainable development: her country had received support for safe nuclear waste management and public health. Moreover, Serbia was active in a number of regional, national and international projects. Though the TC programme was primarily focused on providing assistance for human resource development and capacity building through procuring equipment, an increasing number of Serbian experts were participating in missions to other countries, and Serbian institutions were receiving foreign study and expert visits. In addition, Serbia was hosting a growing number of the Agency's international TC meetings.

**Ms Wolcott (United States of America), Vice-President, took the Chair.**

68. Mr JUMA (Kenya) paid tribute to the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, acknowledging his great contribution to the Agency's work, in particular the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. Kenya attached great importance to the Agency's role in promoting practical applications of nuclear science and technology, which was integral to achieving national priorities and the SDGs.

69. Kenya continued to cooperate with the Agency through regional and national TC projects as identified in its CPF for 2017–2022. Among Kenya's four priority areas of development, energy was key to implementing the country's development plan. In March 2019, the country's Energy Act had been signed, establishing nuclear energy as an affordable, reliable and clean source for meeting future electricity demands. Kenya was seriously considering adding nuclear energy to its energy mix because the accompanying low carbon emissions could help to mitigate climate change and achieve the SDGs.

70. Kenya welcomed the Agency's support in planning for the establishment of a nuclear power programme and in implementing the recommendations of the INIR mission through the Integrated Work Plan, which was essential for developing a safe, secure and sustainable nuclear power programme.

71. To strengthen its nuclear safety and security regime, Kenya had taken significant steps to improve the existing legal and regulatory framework for the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. To that end, the Nuclear Regulatory Bill was undergoing the final legislative processes for enactment. Kenya also recognized the importance of joining the relevant international agreements on nuclear safety and security, including expressing support for the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

72. Around 80% of patients diagnosed with cancer in Kenya needed radiotherapy services. To improve access to such services, Kenya had endeavoured to establish five new cancer centres and had set up local training programmes for health professionals to build adequate human resources for the

centres. Kenya was grateful for the Agency's ongoing support in the expansion of radiotherapy services and it welcomed the topic of the 2019 Scientific Forum.

73. Turning to agriculture, he noted the serious problems posed by drought and by animal and plant pests. To tackle those challenges, his Government was expanding the use of irrigation, improving soil productivity and ensuring efficient water use, with due consideration for potential environmental impacts. In animal production, efforts were focused on breeding new varieties of fodder to address challenges in feed quality and sufficiency in beef and milk production chains. Using nuclear techniques to evaluate and improve the impact of animal feeds had led to increased milk production.

74. Through its TC projects, Kenya continued to benefit from the funding of training and procurement of equipment at its Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology and hoped to continue receiving such support. It also requested that consideration be given to making the institute a designated centre for training in nuclear science and technology.

75. With Agency support, his country's Bureau of Standards was expanding its scope to cover calibration in diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy, which would ensure the accuracy and traceability of ionizing radiation equipment for medical and industrial applications. With regard to the precious resource of water, Kenya thanked the Agency for providing technical training and conducting water resource assessments. In conjunction with the Agency, his Government had established and equipped the National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory in Kenya, and it requested the Agency to maintain its support for that project.

76. As climate change was one of the most important issues facing the world, Kenya applauded the Agency's ongoing preparatory work for the upcoming International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power. Nuclear power could reduce greenhouse gas emissions while meeting increasing energy demands and supporting global sustainable development.

77. Ms RAYOS NATIVIDAD (Philippines) said that her country mourned the loss of the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, and offered its sympathies to his loved ones.

78. The Philippines commended the Agency on its independent safeguards verification and monitoring activities in Iran under the JCPOA and called for its preservation and full and effective implementation.

79. The Agency had an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear activities. Continuous dialogue was the only path to lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula through complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization.

80. Emphasizing the benefit for the developing world of the Agency's TC programme, she said that her country's CPF guided its technology transfer and technical cooperation with the Agency in support of its national development goals. Her country had received an INIR mission in December 2018.

81. With regard to agriculture, the Philippines was working towards the commercial adoption of the carrageenan plant growth promoter, which increased rice and corn yield by an average of 20%. The growth promoter was the result of food irradiation research at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. Commercial gamma irradiation facilities were also being expanded to accommodate the agricultural sector's increasing need for such services.

82. As the Philippines was vulnerable both to drought and to groundwater contamination due to typhoons, its water managers had already integrated isotope hydrology into the country's water resource programmes.

83. Cooperating relentlessly with the Agency to facilitate access to nuclear medicine for indigent cancer patients, the Philippines had begun to develop a research agenda for nuclear medicine. Her country's Nuclear Research Institute was working to establish its first cyclotron facility.

84. The Philippines supported regional Agency projects that contributed to Member States' sustainable activities. In 2018, it had hosted seven of the Agency's regional meetings and workshops, in addition to hosting 53 fellows and scientific visitors. The Philippines was the proud venue of a Collaborating Centre for harmful algal bloom studies, which worked to improve seafood safety in developing island nations. Her country also participated actively in the RCA, the ANSN and the Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology.

85. Noting the growing demand for the Agency's technical assistance, the Philippines called for the provision of sufficient and predictable resources to the TCF and for a better balance in the allocation of resources to the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

86. Congratulating co-chairs Costa Rica and Japan, the Member States and the Secretariat on the success of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges held in Vienna in November 2018, she expressed her country's hope that a follow-up conference would be held in 2023.

87. The Philippines welcomed the theme of the 2019 Scientific Forum. In that connection, improvement in nuclear medicine should be harnessed to address the alarming rise of global cancer incidence, which was a burden felt most by low- and middle-income countries. Facilitating access to cancer control for the poor should a priority, and the PACT needed to be strengthened to meet the needs of Member States.

88. Dengue, another public health concern requiring innovative solutions, was among the world's most common mosquito-borne diseases, with about half of the world population at risk. The Philippines called on the Agency to strengthen its efforts to refine and validate the use of SIT for the eradication of dengue-transmitting mosquitos.

89. As it supported gender equality and balance, the Philippines welcomed Agency initiatives to promote gender mainstreaming in its activities and achieve gender parity in the Secretariat, in particular in leadership positions. Her country also supported the promotion of equitable geographical representation in the Secretariat.

90. The Agency's work was more relevant than ever before. Member States should continue to cooperate and ensure that the Agency fulfilled its mandate.

91. Ms SUXO ITURRY (Plurinational State of Bolivia) expressed her country's deep regret at the loss of Yukiya Amano, who as Director General had provided invaluable support to the Bolivian nuclear programme.

92. Bolivia was experiencing unprecedented sustained growth, reflected in its scientific and technological development. Its nuclear programme played a chief role in the country's 2025 development agenda. To meet its goals, Bolivia had signed a CPF with the Agency for 2018–2023, which provided a framework for meeting the highest international standards.

93. Bolivia had been making great advances in nuclear technology, investing in the construction of the Center for Research and Development in Nuclear Technology in El Alto. The centre was equipped with unique scientific and technological facilities, including a cyclotron for preclinical radiopharmaceutical research, a multipurpose irradiation plant, a research reactor and a nuclear research laboratory. The centre's first two facilities were scheduled to enter into operation within months and would benefit the health and agro-industry sectors.

94. Her country was also building a network of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy centres in La Paz, Santa Cruz and El Alto. It would use the latest equipment for diagnosis and early treatment of oncological, neurological and cardiac diseases, making high-quality health services more accessible. The first cancer patients were expected to receive care in October 2019. To provide a responsible legal framework for such projects, the Plurinational Legislative Assembly had passed a law on peaceful applications of nuclear technology, establishing principles and requirements for radiological safety and protection.

95. Bolivia had deposited its instruments of accession to the CNS and the Joint Convention, and an additional protocol between Bolivia and the Agency was expected to be signed during the current session.

96. As nuclear technology was a new field of knowledge in Bolivia, the country was implementing a broad human resource training programme. Thanks to a scholarship programme, numerous students were being trained abroad in nuclear medicine, thermophysics and nuclear technology for ecological and agricultural applications. The programme would provide her country with highly qualified professionals who, upon their return to Bolivia, would not only put their knowledge into practice but would also train following generations of professionals.

97. Technical cooperation was of utmost importance for the Bolivian nuclear programme. Access to nuclear power was improving through technical training, assistance in the removal of highly radioactive disused sources, expert missions on protection against external risks and support for its research reactor project. Her Government sincerely hoped that the relationship between Bolivia and the Agency would continue to grow.

98. The forest fires that had been occurring worldwide, in particular those in the Amazon region affecting Bolivia, highlighted the urgent need to demonstrate the environmental benefits of nuclear technology. To that end, with Agency assistance her country would contribute to efforts to recover affected ecosystems and evaluate the next steps.

99. Her country was fully committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and it promoted the right to peace as well regional and global cooperation. As a signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Bolivia reaffirmed its aspiration for attaining disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

100. Mr BARNES (Jamaica) extended his country's sincere condolences to Agency staff, Member States and the family of Yukiya Amano, who as Director General had significantly contributed to international peace and security and capacity building in the use of nuclear technology for development.

101. Jamaica welcomed Saint Lucia, a fellow Caribbean Community State, to the Agency, noting that small developing countries could particularly benefit from the Agency's technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge transfer. In that regard, Jamaica encouraged all Member States to continue contributing to the TCF to ensure it had the resources to meet growing demand.

102. Jamaica reaffirmed its support for the Agency's objectives, in view of the importance of the promotion of safeguards applications. The welcome fact that the Agency was implementing safeguards in over 180 countries reflected its crucial role in promoting cooperation and the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

103. The Agency's contributions to achievement of the SDGs were appreciated, and, as 2030 approached, collective efforts should be directed towards ensuring the goals were met, in particular those related to health, water, sanitation and sustainable energy. As the first English-speaking Caribbean State to join the Agency, in 1965, three years after achieving independence, Jamaica had worked closely with the Agency to harness nuclear energy for sustainable development. It deeply appreciated their ever-

growing partnership and welcomed the continued strong focus on capacity building through technical cooperation.

104. Jamaica currently had nine active national projects, four of which had commenced in January 2018 under the 2018–2019 project cycle. They covered a range of issues, such as agricultural production, medicine, water quality control and infrastructure development. Approval had been granted to fund new projects for the 2020–2021 cycle targeting coastal and marine pollution, for example. In the field of medicine, Jamaica looked forward to further updates on the proposal to create a one-house approach to cancer control as part of the ongoing review of PACT.

105. Jamaica had hosted a number of regional capacity building workshops in 2019: they included a training activity on the application of stable isotope techniques in environmental enteric dysfunction assessment and understanding its impact on child growth, in January, and a regional training course on radiation protection in medical imaging, in July. It was also set to host an interregional training course on water resources assessment using isotope hydrology, in October 2019, and a regional workshop on threat assessment and design basis threat, in November. Jamaica would continue to assist in the Agency's future capacity-building efforts.

106. ARCAL was absolutely crucial at the regional level as a TC mechanism. Jamaica had been the first Caribbean State to deposit its instrument of accession to the ARCAL Extension Agreement, in 2017.

107. Reiterating its commitment to the NPT he expressed Jamaica's hope that, with the upcoming third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference, the international community would likewise fully commit to the obligations of the Treaty. The non-proliferation regime had also been bolstered by the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which Jamaica had signed in December 2017. It would work with others to advance its objectives and encouraged States who had not yet signed the Treaty to do so.

108. Through the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology and the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences, his Government had been working closely with the Agency to strengthen the region's regulatory infrastructure to provide for effective cradle-to-grave control of radioactive sources. The Scientific Research Council was also collaborating with the Agency to improve crop quality through experimental mutagenesis and diagnostic technologies to produce 'clean' ginger and sweet yam seedlings, two crops of high economic value for Jamaica.

109. In keeping with Jamaica's commitment to using nuclear energy for scientific and peaceful purposes, in 2015 the country's Parliament had passed the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act, establishing the Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority. The Agency was helping to build the Authority's capacity through training to regulate and establish facilities for ionizing radiation and nuclear technology; regulations for the use of such technologies had been promulgated in 2019. Such efforts were aimed at protecting people, property and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation.

110. Having benefitted tremendously from the Agency, Jamaica would continue to cooperate with it to achieve the objectives of the Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan. It reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the Agency's fulfilment of its mandate.

111. Mr ROLDÁN BARILLAS (Guatemala) said that his country wished to pay its tribute to Yukiya Amano and his legacy, as Director General, which would continue to benefit humanity.

112. Guatemala appreciated the Agency's development of SIT in collaboration with Member States, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the support of ARCAL, which promoted continued participation in regional projects. Both the Agency and developing countries benefited from cooperation and regional projects in which both sides were enriched through the sharing of knowledge, techniques, experience and resources, with a direct positive impact on communities. Guatemala's

MOSCAMED programme was an example of how an idea could be institutionalized through collaboration with objectives and resources. It provided knowledge, good practices and sterile insects to control and eradicate fruit flies.

113. Guatemala's increased use of ionizing radiation technology in the area of medicine was directly linked to the provision of fundamental health services. Ensuring the safe administration of services using nuclear technology, through training in radiation protection and safety, was one of his country's top priorities. Goals for effective health care needed to be met in accordance with the national development plan, K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032.

114. According to the late Director General's report on Agency-Wide Support to Cancer Control contained in document GOV/INF/2019/2, control-related activities would form the basis for a unified approach at the Agency for fighting cancer and meeting the growing expectations of accessible cancer care.

115. The 2018 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology had been a resounding success and such meetings should be convened every four years. Efforts to promote peaceful applications of nuclear energy must be intensified to educate the public about the tangible, sustainable benefits of applications of nuclear science and technology.

116. Proud to belong to a region free of nuclear weapons and WMDs, Guatemala was firmly committed to non-proliferation and international instruments that contributed to creating a safer, peaceful world for present and future generations. Regular, voluntary contributions to the Agency were of paramount importance for it to achieve its objectives and continue its efforts towards the development of nuclear technology, safety and security along with safeguards and verification, where the TC programme was of particular importance.

117. The only effective method for preserving peace was the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Reaffirming Guatemala's commitment to disarmament and the NPT, he reiterated the important role Agency safeguards played in preventing the proliferation of nuclear arms and weapons technology. Working to promote the universalization of the NPT and the application of its provisions, his country called for tangible progress to be made to mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force. Guatemala had also signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and promoted its prompt entry into force to achieve a world free of WMDs.

118. Mr SALL (Senegal), extending his country's condolences on the passing of Yukiya Amano, expressed appreciation for the support it had received with TC activities. In December 2018, the Director for the Division for Africa had paid a visit to participate in the ceremony held for the political declaration on tsetse fly eradication in the Niayes region.

119. The Director of the Division of Nuclear Security had visited Senegal in April 2019 to raise awareness among the deputies of the National Assembly and the heads of the General Delegation for National Intelligence of the challenges linked to nuclear security. During the visit, the authorities had requested an International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission along with support to strengthen physical protection measures on temporary storage sites for spent radioactive sources. Senegal remained committed to the transparent, sound and sustainable use of peaceful nuclear energy applications. The Government had ratified most international conventions and agreements on nuclear safety and security and fully endorsed the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

120. His Government welcomed the establishment of AFRA-NEST, the aim of which was to foster collaboration at the national and regional levels in sustainable nuclear education. Senegal would be

contributing to the AFRA-NEST working group on information and communications technology, which it coordinated, via the open digital spaces of the Virtual University of Senegal.

121. Consideration was being given in Senegal to acquiring a nuclear research reactor, with the Agency's support, for use in areas such as health, agriculture, research and development, and for education and training in nuclear activities. In that connection, various training sessions had been held in 2018 and 2019, with the Agency's help. A business plan and feasibility study would be devised to set out the overall programme for the research reactor and define the technical options possible. The second phase of the project was expected to continue in 2020 and 2021. Partnership activities with other countries had also been established in support of the project, including the signing of a partnership framework agreement with France's National Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology on the margins of the sixty-second regular session of the General Conference. The Agency had been requested to provide support under a tripartite agreement with Senegal and the institute to establish an African centre of excellence in nuclear science and technology in Senegal for French-speaking countries.

122. His Government was committed to strengthening cancer control by putting in place three linear particle accelerators for radiotherapy and a SPECT-CT gamma camera and building a new oncology centre in Diamniadio. In addition, two years previously a request had been made to recognize the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, which offered two degree programmes in nuclear medicine and in radiotherapy, as a designated IAEA reference centre in nuclear medicine and radiotherapy. The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation was working to create the Institute of Advanced Science and Technology, which included a dedicated nuclear science and technology platform.

123. Senegal would spare no effort to further its excellent cooperation with the Agency through a voluntary policy under the banner of 'Atoms for Peace and Development'. Tsetse fly elimination in the Niayes region using SIT was a perfect example of that cooperation. The Government was grateful for the Agency's support to extend the project to the tsetse-infested region of Sine-Saloum, with the establishment of an insectarium for the in situ production of sterile male flies.

124. Mr ALI (Sudan) offered his country's condolences to the Agency, Member States and Japan for the loss of Yukiya Amano.

125. Having entered a new era of democracy, justice and peace, the Sudan supported more than ever before the Agency's contributions to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the attainment of the SDGs. His country affirmed its commitment to its obligations under the conventions and treaties it had ratified.

126. In collaboration with the Agency, the Sudan had established a network of reference laboratories for food security with a view to measuring the residue of antibiotics, fertilizers, pesticides and aflatoxins. The project aligned Sudanese standards with international ones, improved human, animal and plant health, increased exports and raised living standards. The Sudan was also working with the Department of Technical Cooperation on mutation breeding to improve crops such as corn and peanuts and distribution to farmers, increasing production and the national income.

127. His Government was working extensively to improve cancer control services. The Sudan had just acquired a SPECT-CT scanner and a computed tomography simulator and, through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, it had obtained its first digital mammography unit, a linear accelerator, a radiotherapy treatment planning system and a record, verify and archive system. A number of training sessions had been held through TC projects. Moreover, the Sudan had established a production plant for cold kits used for radiopharmaceuticals; the subsequent increase in cold kit production helped in tumour diagnosis and treatment.

128. The Deputy Director General of the Department of Nuclear Energy had visited the Sudan in January 2019 to deliver the final report from the INIR mission (Phase 1) to the Government. The report

reflected the Sudan's commitment to developing the elements of infrastructure required by Phase 1 and to taking on board information provided by site studies. It noted opportunities for improvement on the basis of expert recommendations, which had led the Sudan to create an integrated work plan, adopting national and TC programmes for 2020–2023. His country also continued to cooperate with China and the Russian Federation in training for its nuclear programme.

129. As the Sudan was preparing to accede to agreements related to nuclear programmes and other peaceful uses, its Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority had adopted a policy and regulations for the security of radioactive sources, preparedness and response for nuclear and radiological emergencies, site evaluation for nuclear installations and nuclear waste management. The Authority had also signed MOUs with internal and regional bodies to ensure coordination at those levels, in conformity with the international MOUs, such as those with China and the Russian Federation, which the Sudan hoped would be signed in the near future. Under the leadership of the Authority and with the participation of all stakeholders, a nuclear security support centre had been established together with a regional centre of excellence for nuclear security studies, to offer scientific degrees and disseminate the culture of nuclear security among decision makers in Africa. It was hoped that the centre of excellence, the first of its kind in the region, would receive the necessary support from the Agency and the international community to attain its objectives.

130. The Sudan welcomed the Agency's cooperation in capacity building, improving national frameworks and other priorities areas of the country's CPF for 2015–2020. The national priorities for 2020–2021 included cancer detection and treatment, food security, nuclear energy, using radioisotopes for groundwater management, and radiation safety.

131. Committed to enforcing the Agency's programmes in fields such as the peaceful, safe use of nuclear energy and capacity building, the Sudan had hosted a number of national and regional events in 2019. The Sudan remained willing to host more Agency activities and participate in training courses, workshops and regional and international conferences, including the International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power to be held in Vienna in October 2019.

**Ms Buenrostro Massieu (Mexico), President, took the Chair.**

132. Mr PALACIOS HERNÁNDEZ (Mexico) expressed his country's regret at the death of Mr Yukiya Amano, Director General, and joined in the conference's tribute to his notable contribution to strengthening the Agency's initiatives. Mexico recognized the Agency's significant past and present international importance as a promoter of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. It supported the Agency's safeguards and verification activities and the constant strengthening of nuclear safety and security to ensure peace and the integrity of human health and the environment.

133. Mexico particularly appreciated the Agency's TC activities contributing to attainment of the SDGs: zero hunger, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, and affordable and clean energy. His country emphasized the Agency's contributions in the fight against climate change through the International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power to be held in October 2019. Mexico was committed to collaborating on the implementation, diffusion and continuous search for peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology.

134. Turning to the topic of the 2019 Scientific Forum, he noted that cancer cases and related deaths were on the rise, and the majority of those deaths occurred in medium- and low-income States. The Agency had played a valuable role in Mexico's fight against cancer by improving diagnosis, prevention, treatment and palliative care and, above all, increasing the attention paid to sectors with limited resources. For example, new radiotherapy services had been established through the acquisition of new technology, human resource training, standardization of radiological safety and protection measures,

and quality control systems. As a frame of reference, the National Cancer Institute was currently providing radiotherapy to 5000 patients.

135. Mexico appreciated the Agency's support in creating the National Laboratory on Research and Development of Radiopharmaceuticals at the National Institute for Nuclear Research, which was currently distributing 28 radiopharmaceutical precursors with certified good manufacturing practices to 106 nuclear medicine centres in Mexico, South Africa, Central America and the Middle East. The institute had been collaborating with the National Cancer Institute to prioritize translational research for theranostic radiopharmaceutical development.

136. During Mexico's 2017–2019 ARCAL presidency, the ARCAL Technical Co-ordination Board programme and the revision of all ARCAL projects for 2020–2021 had been completed. The National Institute for Nuclear Research had also signed a cooperation agreement with Peru's Institute of Nuclear Energy and an MOU with Costa Rica's Atomic Energy Commission. Thankful for the support and confidence it had received during its ARCAL presidency, Mexico wished Cuba the greatest success in its presidency.

137. In cooperation with the Agency, Mexico was currently participating in 20 ARCAL projects and would participate in 10 more during the 2020–2021 cycle. In addition, it was taking part in 12 national and 12 regional non-ARCAL projects. Since October 2018, Mexico and the Agency had jointly organized six regional courses on the preparation of radiotracers with radionuclides for aqueous, gas and organic phases; biofertilizer management and nitrogen-15 use for improved nutrients and productivity in above-ground crops; advanced emerging technologies for industrial applications; and security and tools for irradiation facility management.

138. Mexico highlighted FORO's contributions to maintaining the high level of nuclear and radiation safety and security in Member States. FORO's evaluation of NPP resistors in the Ibero-American region had been recognized in the declaration of the 22nd Ibero-American Summit and in the extraordinary meetings of the CNS. With regard to the culture of security, FORO had created a project that examined how people and organizations develop and maintain behaviours and attitudes towards radiation safety and security while working with radiation sources. In synergy with the Agency's Safety in Radiation Oncology system, FORO had supported the project for the application of the risk matrix method and the System to Evaluate the Risk in Radiotherapy to new radiotherapy techniques. Affirming its own backing for FORO's activities, Mexico emphasized the importance of the Agency's support.

139. After nearly one year with a new Government, Mexico had strengthened its commitment to making the benefits of clean energy accessible to all inhabitants, in particular those who need nuclear energy, such as those using radiotherapy and radiopharmaceuticals to fight cancer. As those benefits reached more Mexicans, his country was contributing to efforts to extend the socioeconomic benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear energy to all Member States.

140. Mr DZHUSUPOV (Kyrgyzstan) paid tribute to the late Director General, who had made a significant contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

141. Over 5000 cases of malignant tumours were recorded in Kyrgyzstan every year. Breast cancer and cervical cancer were the most common forms among women; among men, stomach cancer and lung cancer were the most common. On average, 77% of patients required specialized treatment, of whom 7% had a contraindication against radical treatment and 8% refused treatment. Radiotherapy was one of the principal forms of treatment for 80% of cancer patients, yet the National Centre of Oncology and Haematology in Bishkek was the country's only cancer treatment institution and radiation oncology in Kyrgyzstan did not meet modern standards. A lack of qualified engineers and funding had made technical maintenance of radiation equipment at the centre difficult. The centre had 2 nuclear medicine

specialists, 1 radiopharmacist, 16 radiation oncologists, 10 radiotherapy technicians, 20 radiation oncology nurses, 4 medical physicists and 2 engineers.

142. Kyrgyzstan had become a member of the Agency in 2003 and its project for the modernization of nuclear medicine had started in 2007. Under a project to establish Kyrgyzstan's only nuclear medicine department, at the National Centre of Oncology and Haematology, a teletherapy device using a cobalt-60 source — TERABALT, manufactured in the Czech Republic — been installed at the centre in 2008. As part of the same project, the Agency had installed a SPECT device in 2013 for the early detection of precancerous and cancerous illness, in order to improve the treatment of oncological, cardiological and endocrine diseases.

143. In the fourth quarter of 2019, the nuclear medicine department would acquire technical shielding, consumables and molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generators with lyophilisates for producing radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic purposes. There were plans for Agency experts to provide additional workplace training for specialists from the department with a view to launching the department's work. The molybdenum-99/technetium-99m generators would be used to acquire an eluate for skeletal scintigraphy, diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction, myocardial and lung perfusion, examination of the genito-urinary system and renal scintigraphy.

144. A working group had been created at the Ministry of Health to develop standard operating procedures and clinical protocols to govern work practices in relation to ionizing radiation in the area of nuclear medicine. Meetings took place every year with technical experts and project managers in order to successfully implement projects.

145. The National Centre of Oncology and Haematology possessed the only brachytherapy equipment for Kyrgyzstan's population of six million. When faults arose with the brachytherapy equipment, patients had to wait for repairs, cancer treatment became irregular, prognoses deteriorated, relapses and metastasis quickly occurred. Standby brachytherapy equipment was necessary to treat patients uninterruptedly and successfully. Given its cost, a project proposal had been made to the Agency for technical assistance to acquire such equipment. In that connection, a new design project for 2020–2023, aimed at strengthening brachytherapy, teletherapy and nuclear medicine services, envisaged the provision of modern brachytherapy equipment and specialist training. Under Agency projects, doctors, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine specialists, radiotherapy technicians, medical physicists and engineers had been trained in leading European centres of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine.

146. Ms MILAČIĆ-RADULOVIĆ (Montenegro) said that the Agency's contributions to global peace, security and development and the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology were of the utmost importance. In that regard, her country commended the leadership and efforts of the late Director General, Yukiya Amano, whose passing was a great loss to the international community.

147. Albeit a non-nuclear State, Montenegro strongly supported the peaceful use of nuclear energy and nuclear safety and security. Comprehensive technical assistance projects in cooperation with the Agency had built her country's capacities in several fields identified in its CPF. Montenegro especially valued its close collaboration with the Agency for helping it to fulfil requirements of the EU accession process.

148. Her country was grateful for all TC support, including financial assistance and the introduction of new modern technologies and procedures in the fields of human health, the environment and biotechnology in Montenegro. The Agency had supported the establishment of the South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies, which, with Agency support, would prevent brain drain, strengthen research, and contribute to innovation and economic prosperity in all States in south-eastern Europe.

149. Montenegro reaffirmed its strong support for implementation and universalization of the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, with emphasis on the role of the Agency and its safeguards system.

150. Montenegro was party to all major Agency conventions and other relevant international instruments. It had recently deposited the instrument of ratification and become a State Party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. In its efforts to meet the highest international standards of nuclear safety and security, Montenegro had begun developing a comprehensive national regulatory and legislative framework for nuclear safety and security in line with Agency standards.

151. Montenegro had invested significant efforts into radioactive waste management and protection against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. It was constantly upgrading its capacities in those domains to prevent any illegal use or mismanagement of radioactive materials or related knowledge and technologies. The Ionizing Radiation Protection and Radiation Safety Act, currently in its final stages of preparation, was the first law in her country to address issues of both nuclear safety and security.

152. By becoming a Contracting Party to the CSC, Montenegro had demonstrated that even small States without nuclear programmes could support international instruments addressing issues that could affect everyone directly or indirectly. It had also ratified the Joint Protocol and the Paris Convention in December 2018, which reaffirmed its commitment to establishing a global regime of liability to supplement and enhance such measures.

153. Mr DONDUA (Georgia) expressed his condolences to Agency staff and the family of Director General Yukiya Amano for his passing.

154. Georgia highly valued the Agency's core responsibilities in the areas of non-proliferation, technical cooperation and nuclear energy, safety and security, and in particular safeguards in the implementation of the NPT. Georgia called for the immediate universalization of CSAs and additional protocols, the current standard for verification.

155. The proliferation of nuclear and radioactive materials remained a matter of serious concern for Georgia. In recent years, several attempts to smuggle nuclear and radioactive materials had been recorded in areas of Georgian territory occupied by the Russian Federation, further amplifying the sense of danger. Fortunately, Georgian law enforcement agencies had been able to prevent those activities. In the absence of an international presence in Georgia's occupied territories, however, it had become virtually impossible to conduct any type of verification activities on the ground.

156. In 2018, Georgia had joined the Assistance Convention, under which a Georgian victim of a radiological accident had received life-saving innovative medical treatment in France with Agency support.

157. As Georgia continued to further development in the field of nuclear and radiation safety and security, his Government was contributing increasingly to the improvement of Georgia's regulatory system by strengthening regulatory infrastructure and the radioactive waste management system. In addition, recent legislation had addressed many previously unregulated safety and security issues. The report from the IRRS mission to Georgia in February 2018 welcomed such changes, recording significant progress in Georgia's regulatory framework. Expert recommendations from the mission would contribute to the framework's effectiveness.

158. The TC programme had provided Georgia with cementing equipment for a radioactive waste disposal facility and had helped to strengthen Georgia's national regulatory infrastructure through national and regional projects. Such projects were core tools for development and knowledge preservation.

159. He highlighted the valuable support from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission in enabling Georgia to implement recommendations and achieve profound reforms, and that of the US Department of Energy in upgrading security systems for radioactive waste disposal and storage facilities in Georgia. His country also valued the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority's support and cooperation in the field of nuclear and radiation safety. The Authority had conducted an operation to identify orphan sources at the contaminated Anaseuli site, and the discovery of several orphan sources had prevented potential damage. In collaboration with the Authority and the EU, Georgia planned to upgrade its radioactive waste storage capabilities by establishing a unified repository for radioactive waste to ensure such materials were handled safely and in accordance with best international practices and standards.

160. Mr SAN LWIN (Myanmar) expressed his country's deep sorrow at the loss of Director General Amano, who would always be remembered for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

161. The TC programme was an important and effective tool for helping developing States to attain the SDGs through nuclear science and technology. Myanmar had received TC assistance in the fields of health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water and environment, industrial applications, radiation safety and nuclear knowledge development and management. The Agency had also provided his country with human resource development training through fellowships and scientific visits and was supporting its use of isotope hydrology in water resources management and the establishment of an SSDL, a gamma irradiation facility and a marine environmental radiation monitoring laboratory.

162. In the following TC cycle, Myanmar would continue collaborating with the Agency and the Asian Development Bank to establish new radiotherapy centres and strengthen infrastructure. It was also participating in CRPs and receiving assistance for atomic energy research, development and applications. In support of TC activities, Myanmar had fully contributed to the Working Capital Fund, the Regular Budget and the TCF.

163. Myanmar supported the Agency's continued efforts to strengthen the safety and emergency preparedness capabilities of Member States. In that regard, Myanmar was an active member of both the Early Notification Convention and the CNS. Myanmar also supported the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and it was making substantial progress in strengthening its regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety. The Agency had recently provided Myanmar with technical support for operating the RASIMS tool and a train the trainers course for radiation protection officers. In collaboration with the Agency, Myanmar would be hosting the midterm review meeting of RASIMS coordinators in November 2019.

164. His country appreciated the Agency's efforts to achieve nuclear security through comprehensive guidance and capacity building. The Agency had assisted Myanmar in establishing and maintaining effective, sustainable nuclear security regimes. A party to the CPPNM and its Amendment, Myanmar had received an INSSP review mission in August 2019. His country valued the Agency's verification and monitoring of nuclear material, safeguards implementation, surveillance system upgrading and assistance to Member States in building capacity to implement their safeguards obligations.

165. Myanmar had signed the NPT, a safeguards agreement, an SQP and an additional protocol, and had ratified the CTBT. As a member of ASEAN and ASEANTOM, Myanmar reaffirmed its strong commitment to implementing the SEANWFZ Treaty. Myanmar was willing to host training courses for implementing control systems for nuclear material and for developing the safeguards workforce.

**Mr Solano Ortiz (Costa Rica), Vice-President, took the Chair.**

166. Mr DA CONCEIÇÃO (Mozambique) expressed his country's heartfelt sympathies for the passing of Director General Yukiya Amano and of Ms Hlongwa, South African Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy.

167. The topic of the 2019 Scientific Forum underlined the need to apply the benefits of nuclear medicine to treating cancer, a fast growing global pandemic. Addressing the illness, which could affect anyone indiscriminately, was necessary for attaining SDG 3. In Mozambique, the public health problem of cancer was being compounded by the population's increased life expectancy. In response, his Government had prepared the National Cancer Control Plan 2019–2029, which would guide the health care system in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, registration and information systems.

168. Under the country's Atomic Energy Act of 2017 and with assistance from the TC programme, the Ministry of Health had launched Mozambique's first radiotherapy service in 2019, to benefit citizens countrywide and contribute to the promotion of health and well-being. Mozambique was grateful for its collaboration with the Agency through TC projects, the outcomes of which had been encouraging in the areas of human and animal health and agriculture and the strengthening of its regulatory body. Reaffirming his country's commitment to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology through the TC programme, he said it had signed its second CPF for 2019–2023. The CPF proposal had been drafted in accordance with national priorities, the main guiding instruments for socioeconomic development in Mozambique and the UNDAF.

169. As a sign of its commitment to reactivating the safeguards process, Mozambique had signed the initial declaration. It also aimed to improve and implement the INSSP, and would continue to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons. He expressed Mozambique's thanks for the Agency's support, in particular in technician training and the provision of nuclear security assistance for major public events.

170. Mr CHITNHOTHINH (Lao People's Democratic Republic) extended his country's condolences for the passing of Director General Yukiya Amano.

171. The increasing use of nuclear technology posed challenges for the Agency to effectively perform its mandate. Member State cooperation was the key to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensuring safety and security.

172. Since joining the Agency in 2011, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had successfully implemented its first CPF for 2014–2018, under which 12 TC projects had been executed. His country had benefited greatly from the CPF, in particular through the provision of necessary laboratory equipment and human resource development. Radiotherapy had recently been introduced into the Lao health sector. During the span of the first CPF, more than 200 people from the Lao People's Democratic Republic had participated in workshops, trainings, seminars and scientific visits organized by the Agency. The new CPF for 2019–2024, being finalized, would enhance scientific cooperation with the Agency.

173. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had benefited significantly from the expertise of the Agency while drafting its Radiation Protection and Safety Act, in effect since early 2019. The Act laid a solid foundation for the safe management of nuclear science and technology applications in the country. A national regulatory authority on radiation and nuclear safety and security was being established.

174. Regional cooperation significantly complemented the Agency's successful progress towards common objectives. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had signed the Practical Arrangements between the Agency and ASEAN for the areas of nuclear science, technology and applications. Practical Arrangements had also been signed between the Agency, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam for triangular cooperation to enhance TCDC and strengthen South-South cooperation,

focusing on educational scientific research, development and training for radiation applications in food and agriculture, radiation and nuclear safety, regulatory infrastructure and radiation medicine.

175. The Lao People's Democratic Republic supported and benefited from the RCA and would continue its active participation. As a strong supporter of a nuclear-weapon-free world, his country firmly believed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons was the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. His country had therefore signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in September 2017 and planned to ratify it at the UN Treaty Event later in 2019.

176. Mr SHARAN (Afghanistan) expressed his country's deepest condolences to Agency staff, the people and Government of Japan and the family and friends of Director General Yukiya Amano.

177. Afghanistan commended the Agency's key role in promoting world peace, security, development and prosperity through the use of nuclear science and technology. Nuclear science and technology could help to reduce poverty and hunger, manage water resources, generate electricity, treat disease and respond to climate change, but only if nuclear safety and security measures were observed by all Member States. As the world drifted towards increasing insecurity and violence, the Agency faced a tremendously challenging situation in fully monitoring and controlling nuclear energy and ensuring that it was not misused. Global consensus and cooperation between Member States and the Agency were essential for ensuring the safe, secure use of nuclear energy for sustainable development.

178. As a State party to the NPT and having signed a CSA, Afghanistan strongly supported the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East, which would be a positive and complementary step towards achieving the nuclear-weapons-free objectives of the United Nations.

179. Although Afghanistan was one of the Agency's founding members, there had been no cooperation with the Agency for nearly three decades owing to war and conflict in the country. In recent years, however, Afghanistan had re-established its interaction with the Agency and had benefited from the TC programme in priority areas such as health, agriculture, human resource development in nuclear physics and the establishment of a national regulatory framework.

180. Afghanistan's CPF for 2019–2023 had been signed, having been jointly prepared by the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission. A direct, cost-effective contribution would be made to national priorities in line with the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework. It would serve as a key instrument for strengthening technical cooperation between his Government and the Agency in radiation safety infrastructure, food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, and human capital development. With Agency assistance, the Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission and other national agencies would be fully committed to implementing cooperation in those four priority areas.

181. The Nuclear Energy Act, drafted by the Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission with Agency support, had received parliamentary approval in 2017 and had established the national Nuclear Regulatory Authority for protecting public health and safety in the use of nuclear science and technology. The authority had made extensive efforts to license nuclear activities, monitor ionizing radiation use and draft regulations. Thanks to such efforts, Afghanistan's radiation protection regulation had been approved by the Cabinet and signed by the President, and the first annual national report on radiation facilities in Afghanistan had recently been published.

182. In the area of health, Afghanistan had hoped to establish centres for radiodiagnosis and radiotherapy, but there had been no notable progress in that area. Afghanistan still did not have any nuclear medicine centres, causing thousands of people to travel abroad for cancer treatment. It was hoped that, with Agency support and the effective collaboration of all stakeholders in Afghanistan, the first nuclear medicine centre would soon be set up at the Ali Abad Hospital.

183. Afghanistan was seriously concerned about the illegal transport of nuclear material by insurgent groups, which controlled large areas of its territory, and by the terrorist groups active nationwide. In view of the obvious risk to thousands of lives, Afghanistan requested other Member States to pay careful attention to the problem.

184. Afghanistan was grateful for the Agency's significant support for its scientists and national projects. It hoped that Member States, especially those in the region, would maintain their support in capacity building and training. All Member States must cooperate transparently to ensure that nuclear energy was used effectively to assist the Agency in promoting global peace and security.

185. Mr ASHJAZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), exercising his right of reply, said that the allegations made by the Israeli regime regarding his country's peaceful nuclear programme were baseless and misleading. That regime had a long history of using opportunistic policies to divert attention from its inhuman and savage behaviour in Palestine and other Middle Eastern countries and had been a unique source of crisis, instability, suffering and anger in the region's recent history. It was absurd that a regime that had ignored all disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and had developed many types of WMDs was shamelessly preaching against a State that was party to the NPT and had placed all its nuclear materials and facilities under Agency safeguards. All nuclear activities in Iran were conducted with the utmost transparency and were subject to the Agency's verification.

186. Whereas most Member States supported the JCPOA as a significant achievement of multilateral diplomacy, the Israeli regime and some other States had been orchestrating a series of subversive measures to undermine the agreement ever since its adoption. Iran hoped that such desperate measures would not divert international attention from the crimes and violations committed by the Israeli regime or its nuclear weapon programme, which posed a genuine threat to peace and security both in the region and worldwide. Iran called on Israel to abandon its nuclear weapons programme, accede to the NPT without delay or preconditions and place all its nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards.

187. Mr BULYCHEV (Russian Federation), exercising his right of reply, said that Georgia's claim in its statement that there were occupied territories in its country was incorrect. The Russian Federation recognized both Abkhazia and South Ossetia as States. Georgia's acknowledgment of smuggling of radioactive substances on its territory had been duly noted by the Russian Federation.

188. Mr ALSHAHMAN (Iraq), exercising his right of reply, said that the reference made by the Israeli delegation to the disregard shown by previous Iraqi regimes for their commitments under the safeguards regime did not relieve Israel of its obligation to accede to the NPT, as all other States in the region had already done. The clear distinction between a State and its political regime was a recognized fact. Iraq therefore rejected Israel's attempts to use the actions of previous Iraqi regimes as a pretext for disregarding the safeguards regime and its obligation to accede to the NPT without delay or preconditions and to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and verification. Iraq called on the international community to uphold its moral responsibility to implement UN Security Council resolution 487 (1981), which called on Israel to place its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

189. Mr MATIUSCHENKO (Ukraine), exercising his right of reply, said that his country fully supported the territorial integrity of Georgia. Ukraine condemned all aggressive and destructive actions taken by the Russian Federation in the region and would stand strong in defending Georgia and itself.

**The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.**