

General Conference

GC(64)/OR.13

Issued: November 2020

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixty-fourth regular session

Plenary

Record of the Thirteenth Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Friday, 25 September 2020, at 4 p.m.¹

President: Mr FARHANE (Morocco)

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¹ In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference decided that delegations so wishing could attend in a virtual manner using the Interprefy IT platform or make their statements by means of a pre-recorded video.

² GC(64)/19.

Abbreviations used in this record

COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
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
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America

19. Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GC(64)/18; GC(64)/L.3 and Add.1 and 2)

1. Ms HULAN (Canada), introducing the draft resolution set out in document GC(64)/L.3 and Add. 1 and 2, said that, in accordance with long-standing practice, it had been negotiated by a group of countries in consultation with China and the Russian Federation and was being presented on behalf of 71 Member States.
2. Since 2018, the DPRK had taken the first steps towards addressing the international community's concerns about its illegitimate nuclear activities by suspending nuclear tests and announcing the destruction of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site. In early 2020, the DPRK had announced its intention no longer to be bound to its commitment to halt its nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests, and shut down the nuclear test site. The report contained in document GC(64)/18 outlined once again that the ongoing nuclear activities in the DPRK remained a cause for serious concern.
3. The draft resolution, which built upon resolution GC(63)/RES/12, continued to support diplomatic engagement — including dialogues between the USA and the DPRK, and the Republic of Korea and the DPRK — while encouraging the parties to fully implement their commitments, including the DPRK's commitment to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and of diplomatic and peaceful solutions in support of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, along with the need for the DPRK to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and immediately cease all related activities, in line with its obligations under UN Security Council resolutions.
4. Consistent with the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the relevant Security Council resolutions, it reaffirmed that the DPRK could not have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT and called upon the DPRK to enter into full compliance with the NPT. In response to the Director General's report, the draft resolution reiterated support for the Agency's efforts to monitor the DPRK's nuclear activities and its intensified efforts to enhance its readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme.
5. It was important that the international community continued to send out a united message that the DPRK could not have the status of a nuclear-weapon State and that it must end, once and for all, its illicit nuclear programme. She thanked those who had contributed to the preparation of the draft resolution. Given the broad support it had garnered, she believed that the draft resolution was ready to be adopted by consensus.
6. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(64)/L.3.
7. It was so decided.
8. Mr SHIN Chae-hyun (Republic of Korea), welcoming the adoption of the resolution, said that the consensus represented the international community's strong and unified support for achieving complete denuclearization of the DPRK and establishing permanent peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
9. The series of historic milestones reached in the commitments made by the leaders of the Republic of Korea, the DPRK and the USA was still fresh in his country's memory. The Republic of Korea, with

the full support of the international community, had been patiently, yet actively, promoting the Korean Peninsula peace process. The task ahead was to continue the relentless efforts to translate those commitments into real actions by encouraging the DPRK to resume dialogue and to sustain its commitment to denuclearization. Sincere appreciation was given in that regard to the international community for its unwavering support for the peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula issues.

10. While 2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, peace on the Korean Peninsula was yet to be established. To end the war for good, a declaration must follow, as President Moon Jae-In had underscored in his speech to the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. Such a declaration would open the door to complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The international community was therefore encouraged to continue supporting his country in its endeavour to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.

11. In closing, he expressed the Republic of Korea's appreciation to the co-sponsors of the resolution and all Member States who had contributed to reaching a consensus in the 'Vienna spirit'.

12. Ms WOLCOTT (United States of America) said that her country welcomed the unanimous adoption of the resolution, which condemned the DPRK's continued development of its nuclear programme, as outlined in the Director General's report. The USA expressed its solidarity in urging the DPRK to halt all such activities and comply with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. The resolution once again called upon the DPRK to return to the NPT and Agency safeguards, echoing the Director General's assessment that the DPRK's nuclear activities remained a cause for serious concern.

13. With the resolution expressing strong support for the Agency's intensified preparation for a resumption of activities in the DPRK, her country commended the Agency's sustained attention to the DPRK's nuclear programme and believed that the Agency would have an essential role to play in the monitoring and verification of any denuclearization arrangement with the DPRK.

14. It was important that all UN member States immediately and comprehensively fulfil their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. Her country remained ready to resume negotiations with the DPRK and to make progress towards realizing the commitments made by President Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un in Singapore, which included the complete denuclearization of the DPRK, in order to build lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula and a brighter future for the Korean people.

15. Mr HIKIHARA (Japan) said that, in supporting the resolution, Member States had sent out a unified message from the international community on the issue.

16. In its general debate statement, Japan had stressed its strong commitment and the importance it attached to international cooperation based on UN Security Council resolutions. Verification was indispensable in achieving the denuclearization of the DPRK. As use of the Agency's expertise, knowledge and experience was of the utmost importance, Japan appreciated the Agency's work in maintaining and enhancing its readiness for its mission.

25. Report on contributions pledged to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2021 (GC(64)/17/Rev.1)

17. The PRESIDENT said that GC(64)/17/Rev.1 contained details of TCF contributions for 2021 which governments had made to the Director General by 5 p.m. on 24 September 2020.

18. Since that document had been sent for printing, four more Member States had communicated pledges: Kyrgyzstan (€1791), Malaysia (€293 750), Tunisia (€21 494) and Uruguay (€75 229). That brought the total amount pledged by the end of the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Conference to €30 064 211, representing pledges from 83 Member States and accounting for 33.6% of the TCF target for 2021. The 83 Member States that had pledged represented 48% of Member States.

19. The percentage of the TCF target pledged by the end of the sixty-fourth regular session was 0.5% lower than the previous year. He urged all delegations that had not yet done so to make their 2021 pledges and pay their contributions in full at the earliest opportunity, to enable the Secretariat to submit to the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee in November 2020 a draft TC programme and budget for 2021 based on the level of pledges received and then to implement the approved programme without hindrance or uncertainty.

— Closing of the session

20. The PRESIDENT said that the current session of the General Conference had been well attended, in person and in a virtual manner, by high-level representatives of Member States, including one Prime Minister, one Vice-President, one Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs and 47 ministers. During the general debate, 132 speakers had taken the floor. Forty-four virtual side events had also taken place.

21. Mr SADLEIR (Australia), speaking on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the President for his effective guidance of the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Conference, despite the unusual and extremely challenging circumstances. Gratitude was also extended to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and his Vice-Chairs for their effective management of proceedings. The Group hoped that at future sessions of the General Conference there would be a return to decision making by consensus in the ‘Vienna spirit’.

22. The Group expressed its deep appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat for their tireless and professional efforts in delivering a well-orchestrated and effectively run Conference, and to all delegations for the cooperative, patient and flexible manner in which they had worked to achieve strong outcomes.

23. Mr D’HOOP (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Western Europe Group and the Group of Western European and Other States, expressed his appreciation to the President for his conduct of the proceedings.

24. Ms LAZARO (Philippines) expressed her country’s appreciation to the President and his team for their efforts in facilitating the work of the General Conference. Thanks were also due to the Secretariat, under the leadership of the Director General, for its excellent preparation and logistical arrangements, despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat had heeded the call of several

delegations to make the Conference as inclusive as possible by convening meetings in a hybrid format when applicable.

25. Mr GLENDER RIVAS (Mexico) said that the work of the General Conference had been a success, despite the many challenges faced and the exceptional circumstances in which it had taken place. Upon his election, the President could not have envisaged the current situation, which might be described — and forever remembered — as a masked ball. While there had been much talk of how multilateralism was in crisis, the week's proceedings had proved that the Agency itself was not: the stakes of its mandate were too high for it to be tampered with. Member States should protect the Agency so that it could function in the most efficient and professional way possible.

26. Thanking the Secretariat for its work in the most difficult of circumstances, he voiced the hope that it would be supported in its future work without the need for so many elections. While procedural lessons had been learned, the characteristic spirit of consensus among Member States had been revived.

27. In such circumstances, nuclear science and technology provided a great opportunity in the area of human health, while joint action and empathy would ease the recovery from the global health crisis. In that regard, he commended the work of the Secretariat, together with the help of donor countries, in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak and for being at the forefront of meeting the challenges that similar pandemics could pose.

28. Lastly, he thanked the President for all his efforts and for his diplomacy.

29. Mr HAMDY (Egypt) thanked the President for his leadership and efforts in steering the work of the Conference. He also thanked the Secretariat and the interpreters for their tireless efforts.

30. The PRESIDENT, acknowledging the delegations' kind words, said that it had been an honour and privilege, for both himself and his country, to serve as President of the General Conference.

31. The sixty-fourth session of the General Conference had taken place in unusual circumstances, owing to the constraints imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks, however, to the cooperation and support shown by all Member States in addressing the issues at hand, the difficulties faced during the Conference had been overcome.

32. He recalled Plato's dialogues *Crito* and *Protagoras*, in which consensus building was described as a naturally laborious process — an accurate description as reaching consensus required effort, patience, wisdom and time. It must remain at the core of multilateral action and be the driving force behind efficient multilateral endeavours, key to successful multilateral diplomacy, as embodied in the 'Vienna spirit'. Those ideas should prompt delegations to renew and strengthen their firm commitment to upholding consensus as the guiding principle for the Agency's multilateral action, in line with its motto 'Atoms for Peace and Development'.

33. During the debates, some delegations had referred to the need for the long overdue amendment to Article VI of the Statute to promptly enter into force. Expanding the membership of the Board of Governors would enhance the democratic decision making process within the Agency and strengthen the sense of ownership and active involvement of Member States, bringing added value to the Agency's policies and priorities.

34. At the beginning of the Conference, the President had organized, in partnership with the Agency, a virtual side event entitled 'The role of nuclear technology in the fight against cervical cancer in Africa: past experiences and the way forward', in which many Member States had participated. The event had highlighted the importance of raising awareness about cervical cancer in Africa in order to learn, share best practices and create practical mechanisms to foster synergies between all stakeholders in the different regions and to continue the fight against the disease. Expressing his deep appreciation to the

panellists and Member States that had participated in the event, he hoped that such an important issue would receive the appropriate attention and be properly followed up on the Agency's agenda in the coming years.

35. Before concluding, he expressed his thanks for the support and the assistance he had received, enabling him to undertake his responsibilities successfully and efficiently. He also expressed his appreciation to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, together with his Vice-Chairs, for the skilful way in which they had guided the Committee's deliberations. He thanked the Vice-Presidents and the members of the General Committee for their valuable contribution to the work of the Conference.

36. He also thanked the Director General and the Agency's able and dedicated staff — including the interpreters, translators, précis-writers, conference officers, general services staff and the Secretariat of the Policy-Making Organs — for their valuable support in exceptional circumstances. He further thanked the Austrian authorities and the city of Vienna for their hospitality.

37. Lastly, in accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, he invited the Conference to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

38. The PRESIDENT declared the sixty-fourth regular session of the General Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.