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President: Mr. KASEMSARN (Thailand)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(39)/INF/21/Rev.2.

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Abbreviations used in this record

ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
Joint Protocol	Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention
MERCOSUR	South American Common Market
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
RADWASS	Radioactive Waste Safety Standards
Rarotonga Treaty	South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty
SAGSI	Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Co-operation
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
TLD	Thermoluminescence dosimetry

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994 (GC(39)/3, 26 and Add.1-2)
(continued)

1. Mr. AL-GHAIS (Kuwait) said that his country attached great importance to the Agency's role, which was basically to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to develop the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries in order to establish the basis for a safer and more stable world.

2. There was an urgent need to solve the problem of potable water shortages, which, if not tackled, could cause a number of conflicts. Many countries, including Kuwait, suffered from a shortage of water. Although Kuwait had overcome that natural disadvantage through the desalination of sea water using fossil fuels and had even become a pioneer in that area, it supported the Agency's activities related to the economic production of potable water. Welcoming document GC(39)/12 describing the feasibility studies carried out by the Agency in certain countries and the progress made in identifying scientific options for the economic production of potable water, he called on the Secretariat to continue its activities and consultations in that field.

3. As global disarmament was a matter of priority, Kuwait fully supported the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and hoped that the Agency would continue to play a role in that area. It urged all States in the region to accede to the NPT; to refrain from producing, procuring and stockpiling nuclear weapons; and to accept international inspections of all their nuclear facilities in accordance with the principles of the NPT and the resolution recently adopted by the NPT Review and Extension Conference. Kuwait looked forward to an agreement on the elimination in the Middle East of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological and ballistic weapons. It welcomed the progress achieved in concluding a treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and hoped that that treaty would soon enter into force. It also looked forward to the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty in 1996.

4. Kuwait was particularly aware of the importance of the Agency's verification activities under the safeguards system, since grave violations to that system had been committed by one of its immediate neighbours. The cases of Iraq and the DPRK

provided the best demonstration of the system's importance. All countries benefited from that system in the form of international security, without which no kind of development or progress could be achieved in the nuclear or any other field. Kuwait therefore believed that all Member States of the Agency without exception were collectively responsible for the financing of safeguards, the burden of which should be shared in a logical and equitable manner. Having already expressed its views on that subject on several occasions, his delegation wished merely to reiterate that it was ready to pay its share of that budget. It also looked forward to the adoption of Programme 93+2, which would contribute to the strengthening of the safeguards system.

5. The events that had taken place in Iraq in August were so serious as to warrant the international community's greatest concern. The authorities in Baghdad had found that they had to disclose a huge volume of information relating to Iraq's former nuclear programme which they had previously withheld from the Agency. The most alarming information concerned the crash programme to produce nuclear weapons by extracting and enriching highly enriched uranium at the safeguarded Tuwaitha reactor. The Iraqi authorities claimed that General Hussein Kamel, who had defected, had had sole responsibility for planning and hiding that programme. That claim could only be regarded as a naïve joke or a lie. A number of conclusions could be drawn from those developments: that the Iraqi régime had lost all credibility and lying and cheating were its main characteristics; that the crash Iraqi programme that had been recently uncovered was one of the most serious violations by Iraq of its safeguards agreement and of Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715; that the Iraqi régime would not miss any opportunity in the future to reconstruct its programme of weapons of mass destruction; that the régime was still, and would always be, a source of danger to its neighbours and to international peace and security; that although it was impossible to determine the technical importance of the documents, since the Agency had not finished its examination of them, which would take some time in view of the large number, they had obvious and enormous political importance; and that the Agency could not be sure that it had received or found all the documents relating to the Iraqi

nuclear weapons programme, thereby making it impossible to close the case. The possibility could not be excluded that new developments, such as the defection of General Hussein Kamel, might force the Iraqi régime to reveal other information and disclose other documents or that the Iraqi authorities might have other surprises in store. His delegation called upon the Agency, which the Iraqi authorities had deceived by claiming that they had disclosed all the relevant information, to intensify its monitoring of Iraq, by using not only the facilities of the Baghdad monitoring and verification centre, but also by sending special inspection teams whenever necessary. In view of Iraq's record in the field of biological and nuclear weapons production and its refusal to implement the provisions of Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715, it was impossible to agree to that country's call for a partial lifting of the economic sanctions imposed upon it since its invasion and occupation of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. The Security Council had moreover renewed those sanctions.

6. In conclusion, he thanked and commended the Director General and the Secretariat for their untiring efforts and efficiency and assured them of his country's full support and total confidence.

7. Mr. GREGORIČ (Slovenia), having welcomed the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia as new members of the Agency, noted that the past year had been marked by several events which demonstrated that further progress could be made in the field of non-proliferation. The results of the NPT Review and Extension Conference were of the utmost importance for mankind, since they supported efforts made in different parts of the world to create nuclear-weapon-free zones and could serve as a framework for peaceful international co-operation in the nuclear field. His delegation was firmly convinced that the extension of that fundamental international legal instrument could also contribute to nuclear disarmament, especially to the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty and a "cut-off" treaty banning the production of fissile material for the manufacture of explosive devices, and believed that the Agency would be the most suitable organization to verify the application of both instruments. Moreover, the NPT Review and Extension Conference had recognized that the Agency was the competent

authority for verifying and ensuring compliance with safeguards agreements and for supporting the "atoms for peace" approach. Furthermore, it had explicitly underlined the Agency's role in the areas of nuclear safety, waste disposal, transfer of nuclear technology and technical assistance.

8. Slovenia strongly supported the Agency's programme to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards. As experience had shown, it was essential that the Agency's capability to detect undeclared nuclear material and activities be strengthened. While much work remained to be done, re-examination of the safeguards regime by SAGSI and the measures proposed under Programme 93+2 could represent a solid basis for future work in that area. His delegation called on all Member States to participate in that Programme and asked the Agency to prepare, as soon as possible, proposals for implementation of the measures included in Part 2 of the Programme and to prepare an appropriate legal instrument.

9. Since becoming a member of the Agency in 1992, Slovenia had been paying in full its contributions to the safeguards budget as an "unshielded" State and would continue to do so in the future. It thus confirmed its firm commitment to the safeguards regime. A new agreement between Slovenia and the Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the NPT was expected to be signed at the end of the month.

10. With regard to non-proliferation, illicit trafficking in nuclear material was a matter for concern. His delegation urged Member States to take all the necessary measures to prevent such trafficking, to apply the relevant legal instruments and the Agency's standards for physical protection, and to seek assistance if their national legal framework was inadequate. It also encouraged the Agency to intensify its efforts to support Member States in that regard.

11. The Convention on Nuclear Safety had been opened for signature on 20 September 1994 in conjunction with the thirty-eighth regular session of the Agency's General Conference. Fifty-nine States, including Slovenia, had signed it. The next step was to put it into force. Slovenia, for its part, had started the internal

process of ratification and expected to deposit its instrument of ratification by the end of the year.

12. Drafting of the convention on the safety of radioactive waste management was the logical follow-up to the Agency's efforts in the field of nuclear safety. In that connection, it was worth mentioning the development of the safety fundamentals documents on nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and radiation protection. The Agency's work on nuclear safety was of crucial importance and Slovenia expected that those documents, together with the new Basic Safety Standards and the documents recently developed under the RADWASS programme, would be helpful in preparing up-to-date legislation in the nuclear field.

13. Technical co-operation, rightly one of the Agency's main objectives, was of considerable importance to Slovenia. It therefore welcomed the Director General's proposal to the Board to establish a Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Co-operation (SAGTAC), which would enable the Agency to find and maintain a proper balance between its various activities. In Slovenia's view, the new Model Project concept was a move in the right direction. His country supported all measures aimed at further improving the programme and making the Agency's assistance even more relevant to the needs of Member States.

14. The work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage was important and should be completed as soon as possible. As drafting of the amendments to the Vienna Convention was already at an advanced stage and efforts were continuing with a view to reaching a compromise on a supplementary funding system, his delegation strongly supported the idea of organizing a diplomatic conference the following year. In that connection, he noted that Slovenia had become a party to the Joint Protocol at the end of the previous year.

15. Financing of the Agency's activities had long been an outstanding issue. In common with other countries, Slovenia believed that nuclear safety was the responsibility of all and should not continue to be dependent upon the payment by a few Member States of extrabudgetary contributions in certain key areas. For its part,

his Government promptly fulfilled its financial obligations to the Agency's Regular Budget as well as to the Technical Co-operation Fund and had pledged a voluntary contribution to the TCF for 1996 in the amount corresponding to its share of the target.

16. Amendment of Article VI of the Statute was of particular importance to Slovenia. Although it had become a full Member of the Agency in 1992 after gaining independence, no decision had been reached on the group to which it should belong and it was therefore being deprived of the rights enjoyed by other Member States. Since Slovenia had always been part of the Western world, it should - on the basis of geographical, historical, cultural and political factors - be included in the Western European group. Proposals to amend Article VI had long been under discussion, but it was time to make some progress in the near future in order to enable the Agency and its Member States to take account of the tremendous changes which had taken place in the nuclear world.

17. In conclusion, he thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their dedication and declared his country's willingness to provide active support for the Agency's activities and to help it fulfil its noble task.

18. Mr. GAMARRA ELÍAS (Peru) extended a welcome to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, which had just been approved for membership of the Agency. The year 1995, which coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the setting up of the United Nations, had been marked by an important event in the field of the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, namely the decision taken in May by the NPT Review and Extension Conference to extend the NPT for an indefinite period. Concurrently, a commitment had been entered into by the international community and, in particular, by the nuclear-weapon States to sign a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty in 1996, which represented a decisive step towards nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The year 1995 was also the year in which the atomic epilogue of the Second World War had been commemorated. Such a tragedy should never be allowed to recur.

19. His delegation greatly appreciated the information presented in the Annual Report. In particular, it welcomed the new ideas for renewing and strengthening the Agency's role, as well as efforts to increase the effectiveness of international co-operation in the field of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. As a sign of its solidarity with the Agency, Peru had acceded in the course of the past year to three international instruments coming within the Agency's sphere of competence: the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Peru's commitment to its international treaty obligations was demonstrated by its long-standing safeguards agreement with the Agency, which provided complete assurance that its national programme for the development and application of nuclear energy was of an entirely peaceful nature.

20. The Peruvian Government was following with great interest the negotiations aimed at strengthening the Agency's role in the quest for a more secure world no longer overshadowed by the threat of nuclear confrontation. To that end, it supported new initiatives like Programme 93+2, which, as long as a special effort, abundant goodwill and genuine political commitment were forthcoming, should provide the transparency and credibility necessary to guarantee that nuclear energy was used exclusively for peaceful purposes. It was imperative that Member States provide the Agency with the new tools envisaged.

21. However, such encouraging signs had been clouded by the decision of certain governments to carry out nuclear tests. At a time when international relations and, consequently, human activity had indisputably assumed global dimensions, one could not remain impassive in the face of acts liable to jeopardize mankind's common habitat, the Earth, and the whole of humanity itself. The decision to carry out nuclear tests blatantly contradicted the precautionary principle adopted by the international community at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and threatened current and future negotiations aimed at concluding a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The Peruvian Government deplored the resumption and continuation of the tests despite the call by the

international community for their cessation, and urged the countries concerned to reconsider their position. It had firmly supported the multilateral declarations adopted on the subject by various international bodies, including the Rio Group at its summit meeting, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Permanent South Pacific Commission.

22. The Agency was to be congratulated on its efforts during the past year, which had undoubtedly contributed greatly to the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. In order to derive the greatest benefit from Agency technical assistance, the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute, the organization responsible for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy in Peru, was giving priority to projects with a real socio-economic impact, in other words, projects through which the most disadvantaged sectors of the Peruvian population would benefit directly from the use of nuclear techniques. The programme currently being carried out in Peru included for the first time a Model Project, the basic objective of which was to transfer to Peru nuclear techniques for improving child nutrition, as well as developing a range of nuclear techniques in that area which could be transferred to other countries.

23. As to the general development of nuclear energy, he noted that the training of new specialists was being undertaken with co-operation from the Agency. A new master's degree course in medical physics was being established with a view to training 20 Peruvian specialists and 55 students from all over the country were currently taking the relevant preparatory course.

24. As far as nuclear power generation was concerned, he said that his country intended to pursue its power planning studies and noted that, in addition to Agency assistance, it was receiving support from the United States Government through the Argonne National Laboratory.

25. The production of radioisotopes was continuing even though their marketing abroad was presenting some difficulties. In that connection, he was happy to announce that by the end of October 1995 Peru would have completed construction of an iridium-192 production plant, which would enable it not only to meet the domestic demand, but also to enter the international arena.

26. With regard to nuclear applications in agriculture, the National Agricultural University had succeeded, after many years of effort, in producing two improved varieties of barley which had been made available to Peruvian producers and also - with the Agency's assistance - to the international community.

27. In the field of food irradiation and sterilization of medical products, he was pleased to announce that his country had acquired a multi-purpose irradiation facility which would be commissioned during the final quarter of the year. That facility, which formed part of a national marketing centre, would directly benefit the Peruvian people, strengthen activities in the health and industrial sectors and greatly facilitate the international marketing of products. Peru was also endeavouring, with Agency assistance, to set up a biological tissue bank, which would be used principally for the treatment of children suffering from burns, fractures or degenerative diseases.

28. Isotope hydrology was another field which had benefited greatly from Agency technical assistance. Hydrological work being pursued at the national level would serve to boost activities having a socio-economic impact in the disadvantaged regions of the country.

29. In the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection, the Agency had also provided considerable assistance through several technical co-operation projects involving the training of high-level technicians and the acquisition of equipment essential for meeting any emergency situation or nuclear accident. In that connection, he invited Member States of the Agency to participate in the third Regional Congress on Radiological and Nuclear Safety to be held in Cuzco from 23 to 27 October 1995.

30. The activities undertaken under the ARCAL programme were a useful complement to the efforts of Latin American countries to apply nuclear techniques in the service of development, and his country, which had participated in ARCAL since its inauguration, would continue to lend its full support to that programme.

31. Finally, the Peruvian Government wished to reiterate its thanks to the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom for their extrabudgetary

contributions which had made it possible to finance important technical assistance projects in Peru in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

32. Mr. ABU-GHAZALEH (Jordan) said that nuclear energy had made a significant contribution to the growth of sectors such as medicine, agriculture, industry, geology and hydrology in a large number of developing countries, and had improved the living standards of their populations. For them, nuclear energy had become synonymous with progress and development. That showed the fundamental importance of the assistance provided by the Agency to the least developed countries and of its dissemination of information on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

33. Unfortunately, nuclear energy was also synonymous with mass destruction and still posed a threat to mankind. It was therefore necessary to step up radiation protection and safeguards activities with a view to preventing the occurrence of disasters caused by the irresponsible use of nuclear energy. In order to achieve that worthy aim, it was necessary to take a number of decisions which Jordan had always called for.

34. Firstly, the Agency should play a greater role in its development initiatives and should receive sufficient resources to do so, so that the TCF could be funded from the Regular Budget. To that end, each country should contribute in accordance with the means at its disposal. Countries able to make sizeable extrabudgetary contributions should provide financial support for the others. Secondly, the safeguards regime should be strengthened. However, the provision of the latest technology was not sufficient - it needed to be complemented by the creation of a climate of confidence, so that no one felt threatened. Thirdly, in order to create confidence, enhance security and strengthen the Agency's role, the developing countries should be better represented in its policy-making organs. His delegation therefore hoped that Article VI of the Agency's Statute would be amended to take account of the changes which had occurred, and that the number of staff from developing countries in the Secretariat would be increased, particularly those in managerial and decision-making posts.

35. In the light of the threats made by certain countries to use nuclear energy for non-peaceful purposes, his delegation supported all attempts to promote vertical and horizontal non-proliferation, in particular those aimed at establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones and putting an end to nuclear testing once and for all. It reiterated its call for all nuclear facilities in the Middle East to be placed under safeguards and for all the States of the region to accede to the NPT, which had been extended indefinitely in May. It also supported the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and endorsed the measures taken by the Agency to strengthen national radiation protection infrastructures in order to improve nuclear safety. For its part, Jordan had signed the Convention on Nuclear Safety that had been adopted in June 1994. His delegation also supported the efforts to abolish nuclear testing worldwide and to reduce the production of nuclear weapons.

36. In recent years, the Agency had provided Jordan with assistance in various forms and had strengthened the infrastructure needed for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in the areas of medicine, agriculture, industry, hydrology and radiation protection. It had helped Jordan acquire the necessary means to deal with nuclear accidents. The project on radioactivity monitoring, which covered all of the Middle East and Africa, had benefited from increased Agency assistance. Jordan supported the efforts of the Arab Atomic Energy Agency to extend the monitoring network. That extension was all the more desirable as a number of reactors were nearing the end of their scheduled lifetimes. His delegation hoped that, with increased assistance, the network would become an instrument genuinely able to cope with any possible nuclear accident.

37. Another project started in Jordan with the help of private donations was intended to establish a nuclear medicine centre, which would be the first of its type in the region and would provide low-cost services for the entire country. Jordan hoped, through that project, to acquire a scientific research and training complex which would contribute to the development of the whole region through seminars and courses.

38. His delegation could approve the Agency's budget for 1996, the accounts for 1994 and the technical co-operation programme, in particular, the project on the desalination of sea water using nuclear energy and the projects on isotope hydrology. Lastly, he announced that Jordan intended to pay its contribution to the Regular Budget and to the TCF for 1996.

39. Mr. PEYRAT (Paraguay) welcomed Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose membership of the Agency would strengthen its universality.

40. His Government was very pleased with the extension of the NPT and the progress made in negotiations to establish a comprehensive nuclear test ban, to bring about the total elimination of nuclear weapons and to halt the production of weapons-grade fissile material. It appreciated the Agency's efforts to strengthen the safeguards system through Programme 93+2, and was following with interest its programme on radiation protection and nuclear safety, the preparations for the convention on the safety of radioactive waste management and the work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage.

41. His country was willing to collaborate in the overall development of the region with the States concerned, on a basis of reciprocity and transparency. Convinced that technical assistance and co-operation in connection with nuclear energy applications were fundamental elements of sustainable development, Paraguay was particularly grateful to the donor countries which were supporting the Agency's activities in that field, and called on Member States to honour their pledges to the TCF so that the technical co-operation programmes could be implemented.

42. Over the past year, Paraguay's National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) had been involved in six technical co-operation projects in the fields of nuclear medicine, radiopharmacy, hydrology, stockbreeding, nuclear analytical techniques and radioactive waste management. Under the project entitled "Safety services for radiation sources", steps had been taken to dispose of low-level waste while paying due regard to the need to ensure the protection of the public and the environment. The CNEA's Department of Radiation Protection had succeeded in increasing the number of TLD

users, and now had new and more efficient equipment to enable it to meet the requirements of the increasing numbers of users.

43. With regard to training, the CNEA had held various national and international courses and seminars, mainly under the ARCAL programme, on subjects such as radiation protection, nuclear instrumentation, radioimmunoassay, nuclear analytical techniques and radioactive waste processing. In 1994, 17 specialists had received training abroad and some 50 had attended national courses in connection with technical co-operation projects.

44. The CNEA's Nuclear Documentation Centre had helped to enrich Paraguay's collection of documents on nuclear energy by making approaches to the Agency in order to obtain all the INIS documents relating to Paraguay. The Centre also offered advisory services on library automation to various universities. As part of its effort to provide information on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, the CNEA had held its second open day on nuclear analytical techniques and nuclear documentation, for the benefit of students, scientists and other interested persons.

45. Technical co-operation with the countries of Latin America had proved extremely valuable, making it possible to train regional specialists, to strengthen information resources, and to expand regional co-operation in order to facilitate the implementation of ARCAL projects, which Paraguay continued to support actively, particularly those involving medical applications of nuclear energy.

46. Paraguay was due to host the thirteenth planning and technical co-ordination meeting of ARCAL in 1996, the year in which the centenary of the discovery of radioactivity would be celebrated. The CNEA was preparing a number of activities to commemorate that event. Paraguay was also working to ensure that the countries which formed MERCOSUR and those interested in joining it derived real benefit, in accordance with their level of development, from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

47. Reiterating Paraguay's opposition to any kind of nuclear proliferation, he emphasized the absolute necessity of full accession to the relevant treaties and of the suspension of all nuclear testing. Paraguay supported the decision of the Council of

OPANAL to ban nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and to seek agreement at the United Nations General Assembly on an immediate moratorium on all nuclear tests.

48. His delegation was in favour of a thorough revision of the provisions of Article VI of the Statute governing the designation of members of the Board of Governors and believed that the Board should become more democratic by having more members, particularly from developing countries.

49. In conclusion, Paraguay reaffirmed its confidence in the Agency's ability to fulfil the increasing responsibilities entrusted to it by Member States.

50. Mr. JUÁREZ TOLEDO (Guatemala) welcomed Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as new members of the Agency.

51. Guatemala, which was proud to have been the first country to deposit its instrument of ratification of the Agency's Statute, had made constant use of the Agency's assistance in the application of nuclear techniques to promote its social, medical, agricultural and industrial development. Projects on the radiation protection of workers, the environment and the general public were continuing and progress had been achieved in the application of laws and regulations in that area. A secondary standard dosimetry laboratory recognized by the Agency was already available for Central America and the Caribbean.

52. His Government endorsed OPANAL's opposition to nuclear tests in view of the threat that such tests constituted for the environment and human health and the negative effects that they might have on the negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty being carried out in Geneva at the Conference on Disarmament.

53. His Government made every effort to honour its commitments as a counterpart within the framework of its technical co-operation projects, particularly with regard to the establishment of infrastructures and the implementation of parallel development projects in the health, agricultural, industrial and environmental sectors.

54. Guatemala participated actively in the ARCAL programme and was keen to strengthen its support for that programme by continuing to host various courses and by welcoming visiting scientists to share with them experience, thereby contributing to the development of Guatemala and of the whole region.

55. His delegation once again urged the Agency to continue to provide the maximum possible support to the countries that were most in need and thanked those States which had supported projects in Guatemala and Central America, as well as the Director General and all the Agency's technical and administrative staff, who had always shown themselves ready to assist Guatemala with its activities in the nuclear field.

56. Mr. ARGÜELLO HURTADO (Nicaragua), having welcomed the new members of the Agency, thanked the Director General for his efforts as head of the Agency and, in particular, his willingness despite difficult international conditions to provide technical assistance to small countries with relatively low levels of development. Expressing support for the statement made on behalf of GRULAC, he stressed that his country believed firmly in the benefits of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

57. The technical co-operation programme between Nicaragua and the Agency covered radiation protection, medicine and agriculture. The activities carried out in those areas, which were supported by the various ministries concerned, had a beneficial effect on the country's development and were directed towards end-users. Nicaragua had also requested the assistance of Agency inspectors to solve the problem of radioactive waste. Regional co-operation under the ARCAL programme had enabled it to benefit from the assistance of Argentine experts on personnel dosimetry and Brazilian experts on radiodiagnostic quality control.

58. Nicaragua supported the formulation of Model Projects, which would enable the Agency's Department of Technical Co-operation to promote further the application of nuclear techniques in Member States. Having been disappointed by the reception which donor countries had initially given the proposal on the financing of technical co-

operation which the Group of 77 had submitted to the Board of Governors, his delegation welcomed the more optimistic statements made by some of those countries during the current session.

59. His delegation was pleased to note that the international community, which had vigorously condemned nuclear testing, was also demonstrating solidarity by paying voluntary contributions to activities such as the Agency's technical co-operation programme in order to combat the poverty that was likewise threatening the planet's survival.

60. Nicaragua supported the continuation of consultations on the amendment of Article VI of the Statute with a view to changing the composition of the Board of Governors so as to take into account the spectacular economic and technological development of certain countries, particularly in Asia.

61. Finally, his Government welcomed the success of the NPT Review and Extension Conference and urged the few countries which had not yet acceded to that Treaty to do so. His Government was also following closely the current negotiations to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty in 1996.

62. Mr. ASWAD (Iraq) said his country had accepted Security Council resolution 687(1991) despite the injustice done to its people and had completed all the actions contemplated in operative paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of that resolution, implementation of which had been entrusted to the Agency by the Security Council. In spite of the media turmoil engendered by the defection of Hussein Kamel, there was no evidence to suggest that Iraq had not met its obligations, since it no longer had the slightest practical possibility of producing nuclear weapons. As the Director General had said in his introductory statement to the Board of Governors on 11 September 1995, "nothing suggests that a change is warranted in the Agency's conclusion that Iraq's nuclear weapons programme has been, for all practical purposes, destroyed, removed or rendered harmless".

63. Although the Agency's ongoing monitoring and verification system had been in place for a long time, attempts were being made to sow seeds of doubt about Iraq's

activities. The *Sunday Times* of 2 April 1995 had stated that in 1993-1994 Iraq had restarted its clandestine nuclear weapons production programme and the newspaper had published documents that it had obtained on the subject. Nevertheless, after a whole series of analyses and meetings, the Agency had concluded, on the basis of the information available to it, that those documents were not authentic and that there was no convincing proof that Iraq had resumed its activities at any time whatsoever. Reference on the subject could be made to document GOV/INF/770/Add.1 dated 2 August 1995. It was thus clear that Iraq had complied with the basic essentials of its obligations pursuant to the above-mentioned Security Council resolution. Rumours which had been circulating since the end of August referred only to past events. They could not change the general picture of the Iraqi programme; Iraq was of the opinion that they had strengthened the Agency's convictions, as confirmed in the seventh half-yearly report transmitted by the Agency to the Security Council on 11 April 1995 in document S/1995/287.

64. The Agency should preserve its technical nature and not serve as a forum for all those who wanted to turn it into a political instrument to prolong the embargo imposed on Iraq. Iraq's nuclear programme had been stopped, its production capabilities had been destroyed and the inspection programme was progressing normally. In the light of paragraph 22 of Security Council resolution 687(1991), the Agency should inform the Security Council of the current situation so that the Security Council could lift the embargo on the principal Iraqi exports.

65. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, in accordance with Article VII of the NPT, went hand in hand with the application of comprehensive safeguards. Iraq continued to support the creation of such zones, particularly in the Middle East. In order to attain the objective envisaged in paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687(1991), Israeli nuclear weapons should first be removed from the Middle East. Israel should dismantle its nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards. Those were vital pre-conditions for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. If it wished to strive sincerely for that objective, the international community should engage in genuine co-

operation and refrain from linking that issue to other political problems of the region. The countries of the region should build the necessary confidence by publicly announcing their refusal to possess any nuclear weapons and their unconditional acceptance of the control, verification and inspection activities envisaged in the above-mentioned paragraph, which should be implemented under the supervision of international organizations and without any discrimination between the countries of the region. Unfortunately, at the present time, emphasis was being placed on political normalization rather than disarmament. That was a fundamental contradiction.

66. His delegation requested the Director General, who was making active efforts to strengthen the safeguards system, to find out more information on the subject by paying a visit to the area. How could the international community passively accept Israel's constant attempts - by all manner of means - to prevent any co-operation between the industrialized countries and the Arab countries in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, such as the operation of small research reactors under Agency safeguards, while that country held nuclear supremacy in the region and was thwarting the Secretariat's efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone?

67. Article II of the Agency's Statute stated that "The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". Bearing those principles in mind, Iraq thanked the Agency for having approved five technical co-operation projects with it. Those projects would help solve a number of problems in the field of health and in the agricultural sector, which had been seriously affected by the embargo. He called on the Agency and, through the Agency, its Member States, as well as other international organizations, to help his country by allowing imports of vital equipment for radiotherapy and radiodiagnostics, and for certain agricultural activities.

68. Treatment of solid and liquid radioactive waste was a crucial issue. The Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission had had a treatment facility in the past, but it had been seriously damaged in the attacks on Iraq. Within the framework of continued and constructive co-operation between the Agency and Iraq, a group of experts had visited the site to study ways of recommissioning that facility and adapting it for the treatment

all types of radioactive waste. The group had recommended the earmarking of considerable financial resources and the shipment of equipment and machines which Iraq did not have. That problem would only get worse since, according to preliminary estimations, more than 1500 tonnes of solid waste and more than 1250 m³ of liquid waste of all types was being stored without any precautions, thereby endangering the environment and the population. His delegation therefore requested the Agency, its Member States and other international organizations to give the matter all due attention and help Iraq reopen that treatment facility. There was an urgent need to deal with the matter before the entire Iraqi population had been contaminated by that radioactive waste.

69. Since the entry into force of the embargo in August 1990, Iraq had not been able to meet its financial obligations with respect to international organizations, including the Agency. In 1993 it had asked the United Nations Secretary-General to seek a solution and remove the freeze on its assets. Unfortunately, the response had been negative. The issue had been examined over the past two years in the light of political rather than legal considerations, contrary to Article XIX of the Agency's Statute, which gave the General Conference the right to permit a member to vote if it was satisfied that the failure to pay was due to conditions beyond its control. The whole world knew that that was the case for Iraq. Nevertheless, influential elements had long been trying to deprive Iraq of its most fundamental right, the right to vote. Iraq therefore asked the General Conference to examine the issue from the legal point of view and to interpret Article XIX without bending to any pressure or political considerations.

70. Strengthening of the safeguards system should take into account the aspirations and views of countries which had opted to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but should not set artificial objectives which had the result of precluding access by some States to scientific knowledge and development in that field. The system should not be used, under the pretext of efficiency, to gather confidential information on States undermining their sovereignty, nor should it limit the transfer of technology for peaceful purposes for purely political reasons. Iraq was in favour of a strengthening

of the safeguards system and considered that safeguards should be applied to all without discrimination with a view to achieving the objectives of the NPT and its universality.

71. Some nuclear-weapon States, disregarding the final document of the NPT Review and Extension Conference, had decided to conduct nuclear tests and had thus lost all credibility. That had been a deep disappointment to the international community as a whole, which was striving to conclude a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. The General Conference should demand that those countries stop their nuclear tests forthwith and reiterate their previous commitments so as to restore their credibility and enable the international community to set a deadline for the conclusion of a test ban treaty.

72. Mr. ROMAN-MOREY (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean) said that the latest developments in the international arena and a greater willingness for political consensus in Latin America and the Caribbean had made it possible to fulfil the dream of the drafters of the Tlatelolco Treaty. With the signing by Cuba in 1995, the Treaty had now been signed by all 33 States comprising the geographical zone in question. Of those 33 States, only 2 were not yet full parties and 1 had not yet ratified the Treaty. Thus, as had been emphasized at the NPT Review and Extension Conference and in other international forums, Latin America and the Caribbean constituted the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to be established in a densely populated region. That was the result of untiring diplomatic efforts and of the clear political decisions which had been taken by the parties to the Treaty in the interests of peace and development in the region and in the world as a whole.

73. Given the fact that there were only two methods of establishing and applying an international legal system, namely by force or by consensus, the region had chosen the latter route. Consensus was a coming together of wills, which implied maintaining a balance between the parties without coercion, legal equality of States, peoples' free determination, non-intervention in their internal affairs, co-operation for

the common good and the peaceful settlement of differences and, consequently, renunciation of the use or threat of force.

74. Looking back over the progress made in nuclear disarmament worldwide during the past year, he emphasized that the many initiatives in that field - the indefinite extension of the NPT, the extension of the Tlatelolco Treaty to cover the whole of its zone of application, the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa, the bilateral nuclear disarmament mechanisms, the negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty - all contributed to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

75. As a result of the changes in the international political situation, a new form of co-operation had been established between the strong and the weak and, in the nuclear field, between the States which had nuclear weapons and those which did not. It was to facilitate that type of co-operation that an international non-proliferation regime had been established, based on a whole range of institutions and legal instruments, and only mutual strengthening of those elements would improve co-operation in that field between countries with a long history of conflict. In that context, the Tlatelolco Treaty, the basis for the establishment of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, was an example to the rest of the international community and evidence of the transparency which the whole of the region in question had managed to achieve in the nuclear field. Drawn up 30 years previously, it was a contemporary of the NPT and had served as the model for the Rarotonga Treaty, under which the denuclearized zone in the South Pacific had been set up.

76. The non-proliferation regime was also based on the effective measures taken by the Agency in the areas of safeguards, technical co-operation and nuclear safety, and also other important international initiatives such as the comprehensive test ban treaty and the cut-off treaty.

77. Respect for the different elements on which the non-proliferation regime relied was essential. The Council of OPANAL had therefore expressed its regret at the decision of certain powers to conduct nuclear tests and had urged them to reconsider

that decision, since the tests could jeopardize the negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty and put at risk the significant gains made in the area of nuclear disarmament at international level, not to mention the harmful consequences they might have for the environment and health. In the absence of an appropriate international legal system, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean considered that the Tlatelolco Treaty gave them sufficient moral authority to condemn the nuclear tests.

78. Commending the Agency's remarkable efforts in providing technical and financial assistance for over 10 years to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean under the ARCAL programme, he said that, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Tlatelolco Treaty whereby nuclear energy was to be made available to the peoples of Latin America for the purpose of advancing their economic and social development, OPANAL considered that it had a duty to ensure that nuclear activities were used for sustainable development, due regard being given to safety and environmental requirements. The willingness of certain countries to co-operate in the nuclear field was based on the international community's confidence that that form of energy would be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Consequently, it was important to continue working towards the adoption of universal undertakings to that effect based on the principle of international responsibility shared between the States which possessed nuclear weapons and those which did not.

79. In that context, it was most important that the Latin American and Caribbean region, which had reached a political consensus, should continue to receive Agency support. For its part, OPANAL would give political support to the technical and scientific projects under the ARCAL programme. In his capacity as Secretary-General of OPANAL, he could reaffirm categorically that the organization did not seek to exceed the scope of its activities or intervene in the preparation of ARCAL projects, but wished, in accordance with its mandate under the Tlatelolco Treaty, to be a political partner responsible for ensuring that the region as a whole continued to benefit from the support which the Agency and the donor countries provided through the ARCAL programme.

80. In view of the reality of the process of universal nuclear disarmament and of the requirement to promote activities associated with the peaceful use of nuclear energy, OPANAL wished to suggest to the Agency and, through it, to the international community, the establishment of an effective information programme on the various peaceful applications of nuclear energy and the benefits they brought.

81. In conclusion, he emphasized the vital importance to the entire international community of ensuring that the nuclear non-proliferation regime was strengthened by linking it closely to an accelerated disarmament process, to an enhanced programme for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, to a revitalized technical co-operation system, and to safeguards and nuclear safety arrangements which were constantly reinforced. It was the responsibility of the Agency - to which OPANAL once again declared its full support - to achieve those objectives.

REMARKS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND REPLY BY JAPAN

82. Mr. LEE (Republic of Korea) said that he wished to register his Government's reservation with regard to the term "Sea of Japan" used on three occasions in the Annual Report (GC(39)/3) to denote the sea area surrounded by Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation when referring to the Agency's participation in the joint expedition by the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation to assess the environmental impact of radioactive waste dumping in that area.

83. While his Government appreciated the Agency's technical assistance to that joint expedition, it considered that it was unacceptable to refer to the sea in question as the "Sea of Japan". He reminded the General Conference that the naming of the sea was the subject of disagreement between the countries concerned. Whereas the Japanese called it the "Sea of Japan", the Koreans called it the "East Sea". Since the basic position of his Government on the issue had been explained in a General Conference document, he would merely recall briefly why it was inappropriate to use the term "Sea of Japan" in the Annual Report.

84. In launching a joint expedition to the sea in question to assess the environmental impact of radioactive waste dumping, the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Russian Federation had agreed to use a third name, namely "Far Eastern Sea". Furthermore, when the first joint expedition was completed, with the participation of an expert from the Agency's Marine Environment Laboratory, the representatives of the three countries and the Agency had adopted a report entitled "Investigation of Environmental Radioactivity in Waste Dumping Areas of the Far Eastern Sea Areas - 1994 Results from the First Korean-Japanese-Russian Joint Expedition". However, in reporting on the same joint expedition, the Agency's Annual Report used the name "Sea of Japan" and not "Far Eastern Sea", which was the name that had been agreed by the three countries. His delegation had pointed out that discrepancy to the Secretariat and had requested it to respect the special agreement between the three countries concerned and to replace the name "Sea of Japan" by "Far Eastern Sea" in the document, pending a final solution to that problem.

85. Regrettably that request had not been acted upon and he had been forced to bring the matter to the attention of the General Conference because the consultations which had been held on the subject had not led to a satisfactory solution. While some delegations might consider that it was a minor matter, his Government attached great importance to it. It therefore hoped that the Secretariat would respect the agreement on that matter reached by the Member States concerned.

86. Mr. AKAO (Japan) regretted that such an exchange of views had taken place during the General Conference, in view of the excellent relations between the two countries concerned and the effective collaboration between the two delegations. However, his Government regarded the matter differently to the Government of the Republic of Korea and had informed that country and the Secretariat of its views. The term "Sea of Japan" was used by the Secretariat in accordance with a long-established practice.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR TESTING (GC(39)/26/Rev.1)

87. Mr. ZAIDE (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, said that by adopting the draft resolution the General Conference would demonstrate its opposition to the resumption and continuation of nuclear testing and would call upon States with active testing programmes in place to desist from testing until the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. In doing so, the General Conference would meet the expectations of peoples throughout the world which had expressed their indignation and deep disappointment at the resumption of testing. As the organization responsible for developing the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, for ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and for encouraging nuclear disarmament with a view to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Agency could do no less. It could not promote nuclear safety without speaking out against nuclear tests, since such tests constituted a serious threat to life, health and the environment. The adoption of the draft resolution would help countries to recover morally from the loss of credibility suffered by the NPT as a result of the resumption of testing. His delegation therefore urged Agency Member States, some of which had already expressed their views on the matter, to give their full support to

that draft resolution, which was the result of wide-ranging consultations with a large number of Member States. As the sponsors wished it to be adopted without a vote, he suggested that consultations should continue and that a decision on the matter be postponed to the following day.

88. The PRESIDENT, noting that consultations were in progress between the sponsors of the draft resolution and other interested Member States, proposed that consideration of the matter be postponed to the following day.

89. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.