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President: Mr. GRÖNBERG (Finland)
Later: Mr. BORCHARD (Germany)

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Abbreviations used in this record

ABACC	Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
APC	Assessed programme cost
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
Assistance Convention	Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
BSS	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CPF	Country Programme Framework
C/S	Containment and surveillance
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
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FMCT	fissile material cut-off treaty
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
LDC	Least developed country
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
MESA	Middle East and South Asia
NDT	Non-destructive testing
NGO	non-governmental organization
Notification Convention	Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
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
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OPANAL	Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
Quadripartite Agreement	Agreement between the Republic of Argentina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)

Abbreviations used in this record
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SEAP	South East Asia and the Pacific
SIT	Sterile insect technique
TCDC	Technical co-operation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
Trilateral Initiative	Trilateral Initiative launched by the Minister of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy, the Secretary of Energy of the United States and the Agency's Director General on 17 September 1996 to consider practical measures for the application of IAEA verification to fissile material originating from nuclear weapons
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WHO	World Health Organization
World Bank	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

GENERAL DEBATE AND THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2000 (continued)
(GC(45)/4)

1. Mr. ALEXANDRIS (Greece) said that his delegation's thoughts were with the innocent victims of the horrendous attacks of 11 September on the United States of America and expressed his country's solidarity with the American nation. The holding of the Agency's General Conference was a sign of the international community's will to move forward despite the blind forces of regression and hatred.

2. Greece, always actively interested in nuclear safety, had recently joined the Incident Reporting System for Research Reactors and had already ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It would welcome a study initiated by the Agency of the overall structure of its safety standards that would cover the whole spectrum of fuel cycle facilities. In that context, he noted with satisfaction the Director General's interest in decommissioning planning as part of the back end of the fuel cycle and encouraged him to increase the Agency's efforts in that regard.

3. His delegation also appreciated the Director General's efforts to develop a comprehensive approach to assessing the safety of individual States' nuclear programmes, taking both their legal infrastructure and overall safety culture into account, and welcomed the action plan for the safety and security of radioactive sources.

4. In the field of radiation protection, Greece was pleased to announce that it had adopted revised regulations in harmony with European and international standards and had organized seminars on their application.

5. With regard to the environmental impact of radioactive residues, his delegation appreciated the Agency's endeavours to bring about an international consensus on radiological release criteria to ensure internationally acceptable levels of radioactive residues in traded commodities. Greece was particularly interested in the Agency's studies evaluating the health consequences of depleted uranium applications in view of its proximity to Kosovo and Bosnia and the deployment of Greek peacekeeping troops there. A special mission of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission had collected and evaluated environmental samples from the areas where Greek troops were operating, with findings similar to those reported by the European Union countries and WHO missions. His delegation would like to see the Agency play a more active role in such missions.

6. He reiterated his country's strong commitment to and support of the Agency's verification role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. His delegation was pleased to note that, in 2000, the Agency had gone further than ever before in achieving its inspection goals despite the fact that available funds had not increased for a long time.

7. Greece welcomed the progress made in the area of integrated safeguards, and hoped the conceptual framework for their implementation would be completed by the end of the year. The Agency's role in that area should be further strengthened so that it could meet Member States' expectations unfettered by political, technical or financial constraints. Although the

Agency's safeguards system had experienced some hitches over the years, it was the only system the international community had to monitor its non-proliferation commitments, and the precious experience gained in 40 years of operating that system must not be lost.

8. Universal application of the safeguards system was one of the three basic elements of international nuclear security, the other two being accelerated disarmament and an international system for physical protection and the prevention of illicit trafficking. Greece looked forward to amendment of the scope of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in line with the conclusions reached by the expert meeting on the possible need to revise that Convention in May 2001. Greece had reported several incidents of illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material and was grateful to the Agency for the prompt expert assistance it had provided with the most important incident, which had involved plutonium plates. The Greek Atomic Energy Commission was making arrangements to collect and export sealed sources no longer in use, and Greece was also voluntarily participating in the Agency's illicit trafficking data system.

9. As both a donor and a recipient of Agency technical assistance, Greece fully appreciated its contribution to world development, in particular through technology transfer and information programmes. His delegation welcomed the recent shift in strategy from technology-driven programmes to those based on the priorities and specific needs of Member States and looked forward to continued improvements. More co-operation was needed not only with Member States but also with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the private sector. Greece would continue to assist the Agency by offering training at its laboratories and the services of its experts.

10. Greece had ratified the amendments to Articles VI and XIV.A of the Statute adopted by the General Conference at its 43rd session and the instrument of acceptance had been deposited on 25 June 2001. On management and personnel matters, his delegation shared concerns about the declining interest in nuclear studies resulting in continuous skill reduction and ageing of the Agency's qualified personnel. The rotation principle, which should not be regarded as sacrosanct, exacerbated the problem. The personal intervention of the Director General was needed to find a solution. Ready to assist the Director General in such efforts, Greece felt that much could be done by, for example, ensuring that senior officers of the Agency did not feel discriminated against and respecting the national personnel quota allocated to the Member States.

11. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's support for the Director General's vision of the organization's future.

12. Mr. MÁRQUEZ MARÍN (Venezuela) expressed his country's condolences and sorrow at the tragedy of the terrorist attacks on the United States of America. Stressing that peace and justice should prevail over a violent response, he said that the role of the United Nations as the guarantor and promoter of peace was acquiring ever greater relevance. The Agency should redouble its efforts to ensure that nuclear energy was used only for peaceful purposes.

13. Venezuela had consistently supported the Agency and its three fundamental activities: technology transfer, safety and verification. One of those pillars, the technical co-operation programme, was important for developing countries like Venezuela because it raised the standard of living and promoted socio-economic development. Thus, his country had co-sponsored the draft resolution on the drought in Central America; appropriate management of water resources using nuclear techniques could have prevented that problem. His delegation was grateful for the Secretariat's assistance in ensuring that future co-operation programmes were in line with national development goals, were sustainable and that the available human resources were adequate.

14. Venezuela's national priorities were to develop the health sector, improve agriculture and cattle-breeding, and make the industrial sector more competitive while at the same time protecting the environment. Given that medium- and long-term development depended on a balanced government strategy, co-operation should also aim to develop domestic technology capabilities and train human resources.

15. Venezuela's current national co-operation projects with the Agency focused on: sustainable animal production, which had a high socio-economic potential; upgrading nuclear medicine practices; quality control of technetium-99 based on radiopharmaceuticals; and nuclear techniques in the aluminium and oil industries and for dam safety. Under regional projects, it was receiving advisory assistance on radioactive waste management and radiation safety. It hoped to expand its technical co-operation activities, perhaps with a project on SIT eradication of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

16. Turning to the Agency's verification role, he said that Venezuela endorsed international disarmament principles and had a pacifist tradition that was enshrined in its constitution. In view of that, and as a party to the NPT and the Tlatelolco Treaty, Venezuela emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral disarmament treaties to reinforce recent progress in disarmament and nuclear arms control and to prevent the development of a new nuclear arms race.

17. Venezuela was concerned about the increasing costs of safeguards owing to the greater number of activities and installations to be inspected. Incorporation of the integrated safeguards system would have a further cost impact to be borne by Member States and the gradual elimination of the shielding system would aggravate the situation for the developing countries. Paradoxically, there seemed to be a tendency for a net transfer of resources from the developing to the developed countries. Admittedly, while a few countries contributed over 70% of the Agency's budget, the contributions paid by Venezuela - and other countries - seemed disproportionate given that its nuclear capacity was limited and it had never possessed nuclear weapons, nor did it have any intention to procure them. That could lead to increasing arrears and less participation in decision-making in the future. His delegation would approve the 2001 budget, whose balance had been achieved with recourse to previous budgetary surpluses, but it was difficult to know where additional resources might come from in future. Venezuela felt that consideration should be given to allocating budgetary increases in proportion to the increase in safeguards in countries with the most nuclear activities.

18. Mr. SAIDOV (Uzbekistan) expressed his delegation's deep sympathy to the people of the United States of America for the terrorist attacks which had taken place and its solidarity with them in the fight against terrorism.

19. For centuries Uzbekistan had stood at the crossroads of trade between the East and the West. Unfortunately, the busy routes across Uzbekistan were now being used for the transit of drugs and weapons. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan had chosen the path of peaceful coexistence with all countries and had proposed initiatives aimed at strengthening peace and stability in Central Asia. One of them was the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Central Asian region.

20. Matters relating to nuclear and radioactive material accountancy and control, and its export and import, were being addressed in co-operation with international NGOs. In 1994, Uzbekistan and the Agency had signed an agreement on the application of safeguards pursuant to the NPT and subsequently his Government had signed an additional protocol thereto. The laws and regulatory documents in Uzbekistan conformed with such international conventions as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Early Notification Convention, and the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. Furthermore, work to strengthen the physical protection of the nuclear facilities subject to Agency safeguards was being undertaken with the help of the United States of America.

21. Uzbekistan's regulatory authority was the Agency for Industrial Safety and Mining Inspection of the Republic of Uzbekistan (the "Sanoatkontekhnazorat" Agency). It was also the body responsible for establishing a State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material and for supervising the transport of dangerous goods by rail. With Agency support, appropriate personnel were receiving training. While national specialists had a high level of expertise, they had been unable to work to international standards because of a lack of equipment and financing.

22. The uranium industry in Uzbekistan was in the hands of the Navoi Mining and Metallurgical Concern and four mining companies. Uranium was generally extracted by underground leaching and was exported abroad. Physical protection was ensured on-site by security guards.

23. The disposal of spent nuclear waste and the recultivation of disused uranium mines were topical issues. Uncontrolled settlement and cattle grazing would lead to severe environmental and health problems. Strict compliance with the nuclear safety rules and regulations and with the relevant laws would prevent unforeseen accidents, ensure safe working conditions and preserve the environment for future generations.

24. Uzbekistan had two nuclear reactors in operation: a 15 kilowatt pulsed neutron source and the 10 megawatt WWR-CM research reactor. All the installations and nuclear material in Uzbekistan were subject to Agency safeguards. Also, a database of all the radiation sources in Uzbekistan had been set up at the "Sanoatkontekhnazorat" Agency.

25. After Uzbekistan had signed the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Agency had held a meeting of donor countries in Vienna early in 1996 to provide assistance to Uzbekistan in setting up a system for the physical protection of nuclear material at the WWR-CM reactor. Finland and Sweden had offered help to Uzbekistan in setting up a legislative basis for the use of atomic energy, the United States of America and the United Kingdom help with the physical protection of nuclear material, and the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office help in creating a nuclear material accountancy and control system.

26. During the current year, national representatives had participated in various training courses, seminars, conferences and scientific visits organized by the Agency. The plan for the development of the radiation safety infrastructure in Uzbekistan, elaborated in conjunction with the Agency, included further educational activities to be carried out with Agency support in such areas as accountancy and control of radioactive and nuclear material, and radiation safety in relation to the use, storage and disposal of ionizing radiation sources. Seminars on current safety topics enabled experts from Uzbekistan to keep up to date with the latest developments in radioactive material and waste management, and with current international requirements. A seminar on the notification, registration and licensing of ionizing radiation sources had been held for the regulatory bodies. In addition, the plan provided for training abroad, and the supply of modern equipment for Uzbekistan's radiation safety services. Most importantly, the plan provided for the establishment of a legislative basis in the country, as a precondition for the safe use of ionizing radiation sources. Uzbekistan's national projects with the Agency dealt with, inter alia, improving the environment, increasing crop yields and more accurate disease diagnosis. The Agency also involved interested States in regional projects. All in all, the Agency had granted over US $1.5 million in assistance to Uzbekistan.

27. Mr. TORRES ZAPATA (Ecuador) expressed solidarity with the delegation of the United States of America for the terrible terrorist attacks which had taken place several days previously in Washington and New York.

28. He reiterated Ecuador's commitment to the Agency's work and objectives, particularly in the field of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy aimed at promoting development.

29. He informed the General Conference that Ecuador's President, Gustavo Noboa, had recently signed decrees ratifying both the additional protocol to its safeguards agreement under the Tlatelolco Treaty and ARCAL, and that the ratification instruments for the above international agreements would be deposited in the near future.

30. Concerning radiation safety, Ecuador had passed a law to regulate and supervise the fabrication, use, transfer and transport of radiation equipment and sources. According to this law, the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission was the responsible regulatory body and it carried out its functions through regional radiation safety offices located in Quito, Guayaquil, and Cuenca. In 1978, the Government had issued the Radiation Safety Regulations which were fully in force in Ecuador and mandatory for users.

31. The Commission provided regular radiation protection training for radiation workers. The course, which was compulsory for those wishing to apply for or renew their licence, covered general aspects of ionizing radiation, physical dosimetry, the biological impact of radiation, protection measures, and the regulations in force. The Commission also carried out regular inspections to ensure compliance by ionizing radiation users with all the legal requirements including the checking of licences, authorizations for the import and export of radioactive material, personal physical dosimetry, radiation protection measures, source registration, incident recording, and calibration certificates. Sanctions for non-compliance were imposed by the Special Judge for Radiation Safety who was at the same time the Executive Director of the Ecuadorian Atomic Energy Commission, and that work was given the necessary priority. To improve national regulatory control and infrastructure, the Commission had asked the Agency to include Ecuador in the relevant regional Model Project (RLA/9/041).

32. In the field of the physical protection of radiation sources Ecuador was, through its annual planned inspections, monitoring such aspects as: the inventory of radiation sources, the physical security of facilities (storage and operational), practical and written procedures for work with ionizing radiation, the keeping of radiological records, and radiation monitoring of operational and storage facilities. Provided all the requirements were met, the Commission issued operating licences for work with radiation sources.

33. Ecuador's current regulations made no specific provisions for the safe transport of radioactive material. However, the Commission was applying the Agency's recommendations as contained in its Safety Standards Series No. ST-I. The Commission granted users authorizations for the long-distance transport of radiation sources and provided its own technicians for radiation surveillance as required.

34. His Government was grateful to the Agency for its indispensable technical assistance. The Commission was carrying out several technical co-operation projects dealing with nuclear medicine, pesticide monitoring, and was receiving assistance in the training of human resources. It was also participating in an important binational project (RLA/6/047) aimed at strengthening the nuclear medicine services in the border region of Ecuador and Peru and it was an active participant in multinational projects under ARCAL.

35. Mr. NEVES FERREIRA (Portugal), stressing the importance of the 2000 NPT Review Conference with regard to nuclear disarmament, strengthening the verification regime and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, said he hoped that the disturbing events in the United States of America on 11 September 2001 would not jeopardize the international community's progress towards a safe international security system.

36. The Agency was the only competent authority responsible for verifying and assuring compliance by its members of their non-proliferation commitments under Article III of the NPT. The importance of the Agency's safeguards system had been underlined in the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Portugal fully supported the Agency's endeavours to strengthen that system, including implementation of the additional protocol, which was a basic step towards establishing a credible integrated safeguards system. The gaps

in that system which had prompted unfavourable and sometimes unfair criticism in the past needed to be filled. Portugal had already ratified an additional protocol and urged other Member States to prove their genuine commitment to non-proliferation by doing the same. In addition, that instrument would bring administrative, financial and technical benefits to the Agency.

37. Although Portugal had rejected the option of nuclear power generation in the 1980s for political and economic reasons, it was open to debate on the future of nuclear power and other alternative forms of energy. In that regard, it welcomed the European Commission's Green Paper on the European strategy for the security of energy supply. Technological innovation aimed at new proliferation-resistant and economically competitive reactor types and fuel cycle designs would be a focal point in such discussions and there was a clear case for considering nuclear energy both as an environmentally clean and also the cheapest alternative for mitigating the greenhouse effect. Neither the developing nor the industrialized countries could rule out nuclear power despite public disapproval.

38. Turning to nuclear safety, he emphasized the importance his country attached to the transport of radioactive materials and waste safety. Portugal, which had one research reactor and made every effort to abide by the relevant international safety standards, welcomed the Agency's efforts to strengthen the safety arrangements for research reactors. As the Chernobyl accident had shown, nuclear accidents knew no boundaries. The international community was placing increasing value on nuclear safety and international co-operation in the field of nuclear radiation protection. Enhanced safety was essential to eradicate fears about nuclear power. Portugal therefore welcomed all the Agency's endeavours to create a world safety regime by means of international conventions, international safety standards and measures to help Member States implement them.

39. Portugal was grateful for the benefits it derived from the Agency's technical co-operation programme. Compared with previous years, the programme was more efficient and there had been improvements in project selection and evaluation.

40. In conclusion, he said that the quality of the Agency's work was the best assurance for support from Member States in facing the challenges that lay ahead.

Mr. Borchard (Germany) took the Chair.

41. Mr. BIMO (Albania) considered the barbaric terrorist attacks on the United States of America an attack on everyone and expressed his condolences to the United States Government and the victims' families.

42. Albania had been participating in national and regional projects under the Agency's technical co-operation programme for several years, benefiting from the provision of training, technical expertise and equipment in such fields as public health, water resources, radiation safety and new technologies. Examples of assistance were the establishment of a pharmaceuticals laboratory, the national project on the use of artificial tracers to study the hydrogeological region of Mali me Gropa, and the regional project being implemented by

Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece to study the Prespa Lake using nuclear and related techniques. Albania welcomed opportunities to co-operate in the framework of TCDC, one of the Agency's most recent initiatives. Together with Agency experts, Albania had prepared a CPF the previous year.

43. With a view to further adherence to conventions and agreements under Agency auspices, the Albanian authorities had prepared a legal package to be adopted soon which included the Notification Convention, the Assistance Convention and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and intended to sign an additional protocol to its comprehensive safeguards agreement.

44. In the field of radiation safety, Albania's regulatory authority, the Radiation Protection Commission, had been making significant progress towards setting up radiation protection structures pursuant to the law on ionizing radiation protection, which was in line with the BSS. It was clear, however, that the Commission needed greater independence. Two national training courses in radiology and radiotherapy had been organized in recent years in co-operation with the Agency and it was hoped to hold a regional training course in the future. A radioactive waste management laboratory, due to be equipped within the framework of a future project with the Agency, had been constructed at the Institute of Nuclear Physics.

45. Albania was co-operating with the Agency in setting up a radioactivity monitoring network and emergency centre to strengthen regional preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergencies. The use of depleted uranium bombs in the Kosovo conflict had raised concerns in the region. However, air, soil and plant measurements conducted by Albanian experts had shown radiation to be below the permissible levels.

46. Turning to the physical protection of nuclear material, he said that while Albania had already created monitoring units at some customs points, a national monitoring network needed to be set up in co-operation with neighbouring countries to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials successfully.

47. Albania's transition to a democracy and a market economy was taking place in a complex environment and even the institutions co-operating directly with the Agency were subject to continual reform. None the less, it was the will of the Albanian authorities to ensure continued successful co-operation and thus, despite budgetary constraints, Albania had paid all of its Regular Budget arrears and its contribution for 2000. It was also considering participating in the voluntary contributions to the TCF as soon as conditions permitted.

48. Mr. EGLAJS (Latvia) denounced the 11 September attacks on the United States of America and expressed heartfelt condolences to the American people and to the families of the victims.

49. Latvia had made significant progress in nuclear safety over the year, passing a new framework law aimed at improving its regulatory infrastructure and defining all the obligations for users of atomic energy. It had established a new independent regulatory

authority, the Radiation Safety Centre, in July with the help of neighbouring countries, especially Sweden and Denmark.

50. In the field of technical co-operation, Latvia had finalized its CPF during the Agency's mission in July 2001. Its main purpose was to identify and agree on the priority areas for technical co-operation. In line with the agreed CPF, Latvia's medium-term focus was on developing and enhancing the safety of the medical applications of radiation sources. One example was the use of positron emission tomography for the timely detection of cancer. In view of the project's complexity and scale, Latvia would welcome both financial assistance and expert advice from other countries. As in the past, Latvia had pledged in full its contribution to the TCF target and was interested in investigating the possibilities of cost sharing and additional voluntary contributions.

51. Latvia welcomed the Russian Federation's decision to manage spent fuel in a way similar to the United States by taking back strategic material from research establishments, particularly as work was well under way to decommission its research reactor.

52. Latvia, which attached a high priority to non-proliferation, supported the resolutions of the International Conference on the Security of Material hosted by Sweden in May 2001. Combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material was an important area for co-operation as it affected both developing and developed countries. Latvia was grateful for the assistance it had received in strengthening its border control system, particularly from Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the United States. In that and other nuclear-related areas, Latvia was willing to do what it could to support international co-operation through bilateral and multilateral activities.

53. Ms. SUVD (Mongolia) expressed her deep sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the United States of America following the tragic event that had cost thousands of innocent lives.

54. Regarding the Annual Report for 2000, her delegation appreciated the work being done by Agency and its Secretariat to enhance global nuclear safety and radiation protection, to verify compliance with the NPT, and to assist Member States in improving their capabilities in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

55. As a State Party to the NPT and having declared its territory as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, Mongolia attached great importance to all international instruments aimed at nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and believed that those issues should retain their high priority on the international agenda. Also, practical steps should be taken to implement the commitments undertaken at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Additional protocols to Agency safeguards agreements were a welcome means of strengthening the verification regime. Her country was about to sign and ratify such a protocol. The joint statement made by the five nuclear-weapon States in 2000 providing Mongolia with assurances in connection with its nuclear-weapon-free status was an important step towards institutionalizing that status at the international level.

56. In July 2001, the Mongolian parliament had adopted a law on radiation protection and safety as part of its efforts to upgrade the relevant national infrastructure with a view to meeting the BSS requirements. It looked forward to further co-operation in that regard with the Agency.

57. As a developing country, Mongolia was pleased that the Agency had improved the efficiency of its technical co-operation programme paying closer attention to the socio-economic needs of the recipient country. Her delegation appreciated the end-user oriented approach in designing, selecting and implementing projects within both the CPF and regional co-operation programmes. Mongolia supported extension of the 1987 RCA for another five years and considered that the establishment of an RCA regional office would facilitate co-ordination and improve the quality of vital regional and sub-regional projects. It was in favour of an increasing TCDC role for the Agency and supported its efforts to forge closer partnerships with other international and regional organizations and donor countries to enhance the impact of its projects. Aware of the need for all Member States to fulfil their commitments under the Statute for the Agency to function successfully, Mongolia would make every effort to pay its amount of the TCF target for voluntary contributions in full.

58. Finally, she said that Mongolia supported the creation of a comprehensive and legally binding safety regime and was considering the possibility of acceding to some relevant conventions.

59. Mr. HOGBE NLEND (Cameroon) offered condolences to the United States delegation on the terrible loss of human life following the 11 September terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

60. The Annual Report for 2000 highlighted the Agency's active role as a promoter of development through nuclear applications in domains ranging from agriculture to the environment. Cameroon welcomed the Agency's technical co-operation activities and was satisfied with the Secretariat's efforts to improve that programme in the interests of Member States.

61. He reaffirmed Cameroon's full commitment to the Agency's objectives and said it would make every effort to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology and to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. Cameroon welcomed the international community's growing interest in peace, security, development, eradication of poverty and environmental protection. The Agency should play an increasingly important role in those fields, which had been given high priority in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

62. Cameroon was pleased with the agreement concluded with the OAU to carry out joint activities to eradicate the tsetse fly by means of the SIT. At the 36th and 37th OAU summits, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed the priority of that goal, a major factor in reducing poverty and improving socio-economic development in Africa.

63. Likewise, his Government was satisfied with the initiatives taken by the Secretariat pursuant to resolution GC(44)/RES/24 entitled "Servicing immediate human needs",

particularly the introduction of a regional technical co-operation programme aimed at developing and assessing the SIT as a means of eradicating mosquitoes which carried malaria. He appealed to all States to provide support.

64. His country had benefited from technical co-operation in the fields of human health, animal productivity and health, NDT, nuclear science and applications, and radiation protection, radiation and waste safety. He drew particular attention to the Agency's considerable contribution to national development by transferring nuclear NDT technology enabling Cameroon to acquire expertise in quality control and inspection of the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline. Numerous fellowships had been granted for training within the framework of national and regional technical co-operation projects and a recent mission had assessed how that increased knowledge and expertise could be used to improve development in Cameroon. Also, Cameroon was firmly committed to establishing a legal and regulatory framework for radiation protection and safety as soon as possible.

65. Like many other African countries, Cameroon was suffering from a severe deficit of renewable water resources in some regions. According to the World Bank, per capita renewable water resources would be halved by 2025. The situation was being exacerbated by pollution and desertification and, before long, Cameroon would be facing drinking water shortages. In addition, Lake Chad was drying out, jeopardizing all the socio-economic activities of the region. For that reason, Cameroon attached great importance to the Agency's water resources management activities.

66. He welcomed the new regional programme on combating desertification (RAF/5/048) and hoped that it could be extended to include many other countries, including Cameroon, and that it would receive ample human and material resources.

67. Cameroon had made the necessary arrangements to contribute to the TCF for 2002 and to pay off all of its APC arrears.

68. In future, the Agency should increase its efforts to prevent the risk of radiation damage to the environment and to rehabilitate contaminated sites. His delegation hoped that the Agency would help find solutions to seismic risk management that could be applied to existing problems at Mount Cameroon and Lake Nyos. Also, the Agency should consider how isotope techniques could help combat the AIDS virus. Finally, the Agency should ensure that its technical assistance had the greatest impact by careful selection of projects and directing resources to priority national development programmes.

Mr. Grönberg (Finland) resumed the Chair.

69. Mr. HÖGBERG (Sweden) expressed his delegation's sincere sympathy to the families of the victims of the recent horrific terrorist attacks on the United States of America. Those cowardly and deplorable attacks emphasized the great importance of the Agency's continued efforts to prevent the terrorist abuse of nuclear technology.

70. Among the positive outcomes of the 2000 NPT Review Conference, his Government welcomed the acknowledgement of the need to apply increased transparency and irreversibility to all nuclear disarmament measures and to develop new verification capabilities for a nuclear-weapon-free world. The challenges facing the Agency in its verification tasks would require tremendous efforts by the Secretariat and also sufficient resources. With a view to making resources available, an analysis must be made of existing programmes to assess their viability, relevance and expected impact. Moreover, a more long-term view of where the Agency should be heading would need to be taken. As effective verification measures remained a chief concern for the Swedish Government, it would continue to support the development of more powerful tools for such treaties as the NPT, CTBT and FMCT, as well as Agency work in that field.

71. When implemented, the additional protocol to the Agency's safeguards agreement would have a very positive effect on international non-proliferation, helping to build the confidence that all States were complying with their commitments. Sweden had ratified the relevant protocol, which would enter into force once the few remaining EU countries followed suit. He called on all States to conclude additional protocols with the Agency, all States Party to the NPT to conclude their mandatory safeguards agreements immediately and all States that had not yet done so to accede to the NPT.

72. Regrettably, many of the non-proliferation regime's problems from the previous year were still present. Until the DPRK complied fully with its non-proliferation commitments, there would be no real progress towards lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Iraq's continuing refusal to implement the relevant UNSC resolutions was unacceptable and prevented progress towards the shared goal of a Middle East free of nuclear and other weapons of mass-destruction and their delivery vehicles. Although nuclear testing should be a thing of the past, the CTBT was still far from entering into force. His Government hoped that the forthcoming entry-into-force conference would yield much needed positive results.

73. The irreversible disposal of material usable for weapons was another challenge the world community would have to address in the near future and one where the Agency would undoubtedly play a vital role, inter alia, under the Trilateral Initiative. Also, the ratification of a treaty banning the production of nuclear weapons material would hopefully soon be negotiated.

74. Sweden strongly supported the Agency's role in the fight against illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radioactive sources. The International Conference on the Security of Material held in Stockholm in May had offered an opportunity for experts in all the relevant fields to get together and consider ways ahead. Sweden endorsed the action plan developed by the Secretariat following that conference and looked forward to its timely implementation.

75. Effective national systems for the physical protection of nuclear material were essential to prevent its diversion. Sweden welcomed the Board's endorsement of the new "Security Fundamentals" document entitled "Physical Protection Objectives and Fundamental Principles". It also looked forward to further work on possible strengthening of the

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and called on all States which had not already done so to accede to that Convention.

76. His country was looking forward to the first review meeting under the Joint Convention and welcomed the report on the safety of radioactive waste management contained in document GC(45)/14. It attached particular importance to Action 3 therein, namely the development of internationally endorsed quality criteria for the geological disposal of spent fuel and high-level waste, and to Action 7, the development of a programme to foster international information exchange on the most effective ways of interacting with stakeholders as an essential part of the decision-making process in radioactive waste management. Sweden's own experience clearly showed that societal aspects were as important as technical capability when planning, siting, licensing and building waste disposal facilities.

77. His delegation hoped that the second review meeting under the Convention on Nuclear Safety in April 2002 would provide further evidence of that Convention's effectiveness in promoting a high level of safety worldwide. It urged all Member States to accede to that - and to the Joint Convention - as soon as possible and to join Sweden in applying the Nuclear Safety Convention voluntarily to their research reactors. The Agency's safety standards programme and the review services it provided were crucial contributions to the safety regime.

78. The Swedish Government was among those that did not include nuclear fission technology as an eligible option for a long-term, sustainable energy supply. In view of the decision to exclude nuclear power from the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol, some of the Agency's Major Programme 1 activities and related technical co-operation projects should be carefully reviewed to ensure that the Agency's approach to the use of nuclear power technology in the context of long-term sustainable development was well-balanced.

79. Finally, he announced that Sweden had pledged its full amount of the share of the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF for 2002 and urged all States to pledge and pay their assessed shares in full and on time.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(GC(45)/6 and 29)

80. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the General Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot would be held; balloting would only take place for those areas where no candidate had been agreed upon. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the General Conference's time. Accordingly, he proposed that Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, be suspended in respect of those areas for which there was agreement.

81. He was happy to report that agreement had been reached in all area groups on their candidates for the vacancies to be filled.

82. Drawing attention to document GC(45)/6, containing a list of the Agency Member States which the Board of Governors had designated to serve on the Board from the end of the Conference's present session until the end of the 46th (2002) regular session, he recalled that, under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, he had to inform the General Conference of the elective places on the Board which had to be filled. To that end, document GC(45)/29 had been prepared; it indicated that the Conference had to elect eleven Members to the Board from the seven categories listed.

83. He took it that the General Conference wished to elect Chile and Colombia to the two vacant seats for Latin America.

84. Chile and Colombia were duly elected.

85. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Spain and Turkey to the two vacant seats for Western Europe.

86. Spain and Turkey were duly elected.

87. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Bulgaria and Romania to the two vacant seats for Eastern Europe.

88. Bulgaria and Romania were duly elected.

89. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Burkino Faso and Morocco to the two vacant seats for Africa.

90. Burkino Faso and Morocco were duly elected.

91. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the Islamic Republic of Iran to the vacant seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

92. The Islamic Republic of Iran was duly elected.

93. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect the Philippines to the vacant seat for the Far East.

94. The Philippines was duly elected.

95. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Kuwait to the floating seat for MESA/SEAP/Far East, which it was the turn of a member from MESA to fill.

96. Kuwait was duly elected.

GENERAL DEBATE AND THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2000 (resumed)
(GC(45)/4)

97. Mr. FIGUEREIDO (Angola) expressed solidarity with and offered condolences to the people and Government of the United States of America over the tragedy which had taken place on 11 September.

98. The peoples of the world were becoming increasingly interdependent and the survival of all species depended on maintaining global life support systems. A responsible attitude towards science was essential in meeting human needs, and efficient co-operation in the fields of natural and social sciences and engineering was desirable. Technological development and the use of new energy sources had eased man's burden and had made a broad range of industrial products and processes available. The Agency's activities in promoting and disseminating information on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology were vital for the North-South transfer of that technology and sustainable development.

99. His Government attached great importance to Agency technical co-operation, from which it had benefited since becoming a Member State in 1999. In particular, it was grateful for the Agency's continuing Model Project (RAF/9/1027) to strengthen the radiation safety infrastructure of participating countries. It had received five Agency missions under projects which aimed to establish a radiation protection infrastructure, control the regulatory system, and install a laboratory for teaching nuclear physics. Also, Angolan professionals had had the opportunity to participate in nine training courses, six seminars and two scientific visits, organized in co-operation with Member States.

100. Angola had considerable natural resources, including oil, diamonds, solar and hydropower, and radioactive minerals had been found in several locations. In that connection, he underlined his country's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and non-proliferation.

101. Despite the great difficulties it was facing, Angola had met its financial obligations vis-à-vis the Agency in full. He reiterated his country's support for AFRA in the areas of radiation protection, human health, agriculture, and industrial radiation. Finally, Angola endorsed the resolutions put forward by the African group aimed at SIT eradication of the tsetse fly and the malaria mosquito, and the diseases they transmitted in the sub-Saharan Africa.

102. Mr. NG'WANDU (United Republic of Tanzania) extended condolences to the United States of America and to the victims of the tragic terrorist attack of 11 September. Tanzania - like Kenya - had suffered similar acts of terrorism in August 1998 and fully endorsed global efforts to curb international terrorism.

103. He thanked the Agency for the urgently needed technical assistance it continued to provide to Tanzania and other LDCs, especially in Africa. Results included eradication of the tsetse fly on Zanzibar and subsequent initiatives to improve agriculture and livestock in the tsetse free areas. On Unguja Island the calf mortality rate had been reduced to less than 20%

while milk yields had increased from an average of 7 to 11.2 litre/cow/day since 1998. Tsetse eradication was continuing with great success on Mafia Island and in northern Tanzania. His country expected to take a leading role in tsetse eradication work and was making efforts to maintain the tsetse eradication infrastructure for its own and Africa's benefit.

104. Another area where assistance had brought tangible results to Tanzania was nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. The services offered by the Ocean Road Cancer Institute, which currently served more than 12 000 radiotherapy patients and 4000 nuclear medicine patients a year had been greatly improved.

105. Tanzania urged the Secretariat to examine ways of further maximizing the contribution of Agency technical assistance to sustainable development. The current focus on Model Projects, regional co-operation, including support for AFRA, and on the promotion of the transfer of technology through the TCDC was the right way forward.

106. Unfortunately, contributions to the TCF had levelled off at a time when the demand for it was growing rapidly, especially in Africa. He therefore appealed to all Member States to contribute to the TCF in a timely manner and settle their obligations.

107. The United Republic of Tanzania was following developments in the nuclear power field with interest and welcomed the recent initiatives for R&D, particularly the development of new reactor designs that would be economic, safe, proliferation-resistant and that would minimize nuclear waste production. Tanzania subscribed to the view that nuclear energy had to be part of the global energy mix. However, concerns about safety and cost competitiveness needed to be addressed.

108. Tanzania's radiation protection law was undergoing revision to ensure a healthy environment and the safe utilization of nuclear energy. Nuclear technology and, in particular the nuclear power option had a pivotal role to play in economic and social development and LDCs needed assistance to ensure the safe operation of nuclear reactors. The advanced countries seemed to be concerned that the promotion of nuclear power reactors would increase the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation. For LDCs which saw the nuclear option as their only viable alternative, maximum co-operation and transparency were required to spread the benefits of the technology and avoid serious technological mistakes.

109. Mr. ZAMBEZI (Zambia) expressed condolences to the United States over the loss of thousands of lives during the inhuman terrorist attacks of 11 September. The Zambian people had been deeply moved by the tragedy.

110. His delegation would continue to monitor with great interest the measures being taken by the Secretariat to strengthen the Agency's technical co-operation activities, which it considered very important for developing Member States.

111. Progress in the areas of radiation protection and radioactive waste management was essential for building public confidence in applications of nuclear science and technology. The Zambian authorities, drawing on Agency standards documents, were continuing to hold

workshops designed to raise the awareness of people working in industry and also the general public of radiation protection and radioactive waste management issues.

112. Zambia was continuing to make progress in the use of the infrastructure which had been set up through technical co-operation with the Agency. For example, gamma radiation-sterilized tissue grafts for the treatment of burns were being applied to patients at Zambia's University Teaching Hospital, and there were plans for carrying out clinical trials with such tissue grafts at other hospitals. Also, Zambia's plant tissue culture facility was continuing to be a major supplier of virus-resistant seed potatoes to farmers.

113. Zambia was taking stock of its research products with a view to identifying those which could be commercialized - in line with his Government's policy of encouraging publicly funded research institutions to take such steps.

114. His country was grateful to the Agency for providing equipment for monitoring occupational exposures to heavy metals and natural radionuclides in the metallurgical and mining industries. Although Zambia's mines were now in private hands, the occupational health of miners was the responsibility of the Government and it was therefore making arrangements for the start of the underground and surface measurement of industrial aerosols.

115. Currently there were 12 AFRA projects being implemented at Zambian research institutions, and Zambia intended to participate in research aimed at controlling mosquito populations through use of the SIT. A number of Zambian professionals had received training or participated in workshops and seminars organized through AFRA during 2001. His delegation would like to see all co-operating partners continuing to support AFRA.

116. Mr. FRANK (Israel) said that his delegation was still deeply shocked by the terrible loss of life caused by the 11 September terrorist attacks on the United States of America. On behalf of the people and Government of Israel, he expressed condolences and solidarity with the American people and leaders. Human tragedy of such dimensions should have a sobering effect and cause paradigm shifts at both the political and the individual level.

117. The time had come to return to basics and devote all efforts to the goals of the Agency in accordance with its Statute. The most effective way of achieving those goals was to move away from politicization and to seek better understanding and co-operation through moderation and restraint. The General Conference's tradition of trying to arrive at decisions by consensus was highly commendable; indeed, it was the only way of dealing constructively with complicated issues.

118. While regretting the fact that several delegations chose to abide by old habits and to defy the spirit of consensus despite recent events, Israel itself could not display the spirit of consensus necessary under one agenda item and at the same time submit to attempts at political harassment under another.

119. The agenda included important items relating to grave non-compliance with international undertakings. In that connection, his delegation believed that strengthening

safeguards required more resources and the fostering of a "no trust" culture. Recent events should galvanize all relevant international bodies into fighting terrorism in all its aspects, and the agenda items dealing with the physical protection of and combating illicit trafficking in nuclear materials were very important in that regard.

120. The deliberations and resolutions of the General Conference should sustain the reputation of the Agency as a technical organization with high professional credibility. In that connection, the Director General and the Secretariat were to be commended for continuing the Scientific Forum tradition and for their latest choice of theme: "Serving Human Needs: Nuclear Technology for Sustainable Development". All attempts to impair the Agency's professional competence and its impartiality should be resisted and it should be shielded from the debilitating effects of politicization. Political initiatives and energies should be channelled into further regional co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

121. Regional technical co-operation projects aimed at solving common problems contributed both to improving the quality of life in the regions concerned and to building the confidence necessary for reconciliation between nations. An excellent example was a regional project for eradicating the Mediterranean fruit fly by means of the SIT, the success of which, his delegation hoped, would lead to further useful collaboration.

122. As in the past, Israel was looking forward to working with the Director General and the Secretariat on regional and international co-operation in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, a domain where the Agency had both the necessary technical competence and an impressive track record. That was the way to move ahead - building on the Agency's strengths in order to promote co-operation, stability and prosperity in those regions which had so far not been fortunate enough to benefit from them.

123. It was his country's hope that reason and moderation would prevail in the General Conference and elsewhere and that true reconciliation, mutual security, regional co-operation and economic growth would overcome old fears, animosities and suspicions.

124. Mr. FEU ALVIM (Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials) expressed horror at the loss of innocent lives which had occurred the previous week in the United States of America. Humanity must find a way to control and, if possible, banish the threat of terrorism in the world.

125. The bilateral agreement between Brazil and Argentina for the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy was now ten years old. Thus ABACC, which had been created by that agreement and which had an impressive record of effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in both countries, would be ten years old before the General Conference's next session. Moreover, December 2001 would see the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Quadripartite Agreement, which had been in force since 1994. The elimination of each country's suspicions about the nuclear programme of the other had facilitated the establishment of MERCOSUR, in which Paraguay and Uruguay were also participating.

126. Argentina and Brazil were complying with the Quadripartite Agreement, the Tlatelolco Treaty and the NPT, and they had acceded to all agreements aimed at eliminating weapons of mass destruction. Although regional disagreements often triggered worldwide conflicts, the silent construction of peace at the regional level often went unnoticed at the international level. The remarkable achievements in the relations between Argentina and Brazil and other countries in that part of the world deserved greater international recognition and appreciation.

127. ABACC, which was part of a set of integration mechanisms that had in a few years produced a fourfold increase in trade between Argentina and Brazil, welcomed the recent creation of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Nuclear Energy Applications (ABAEN) for the purpose of increasing technical co-operation in the nuclear field between the two countries.

128. In recent years, ABACC had been applying safeguards to all 67 nuclear facilities and other locations and to all nuclear materials in Brazil and Argentina, drawing on the services of 66 inspectors, 39 technical consultants and 14 laboratories in both countries. That involved each year about 400 inspector-days in the field plus 350 inspector-days for post- and pre-inspection activities.

129. The financial support received by ABACC each year amounted to about $3 million from the two countries, despite the economic crises which they had been experiencing as developing countries. It was investing each year about $250 000 in equipment, in order to be independent as regards NDT and C/S. Its equipment was being increasingly shared with the Agency, due account being taken of the need for each organization to draw independent conclusions.

130. Besides sharing equipment, ABACC and the Agency were working together on the co-ordination of inspection activities, on the development and improvement of safeguards approaches and techniques, and on the utilization of modern communication techniques.

131. ABACC and the other parties to the Quadripartite Agreement had been participating in informal discussions with a view to the signing of an additional protocol under which its present role would be maintained.

132. ABACC was co-operating not only with the Agency, but also with EURATOM and OPANAL and with safeguards organizations in France, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America. The experience of ABACC as a regional safeguards organization had been analysed with a view to its being applied in other parts of the world.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.