

# General Conference

**GC(52)/COM.5/OR.3**

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## Fifty-second regular session

# Committee of the Whole

## Record of the Third Meeting

*Held at the Austria Center, Vienna on Wednesday, 1 October 2008, at 10.30 a.m.*

**Chairman:** Mr. NIEWODNICZAŃSKI (Poland)

**Later:** Mr. STEINMANN (Switzerland)

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<sup>1</sup> GC(52)/COM.5/1.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
INDAG	International Nuclear Desalination Advisory Group

## **16. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)** (GC(52)/COM.5/L. 3/Rev.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up consideration of the draft resolutions contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.3/Rev.1.
2. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM referring to the draft resolution entitled "General", suggested that the word "developing" before "Member States" in paragraph 6 be deleted as the needs and requirements of all Member States should be addressed.
3. The representative of MALAYSIA urged that the word "developing" be retained.
4. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that if the word "developing" was retained, Member States not regarded as developing countries might be precluded from seeking Agency assistance in the important areas of nuclear science, technology and application.
5. The representative of MALAYSIA said that her delegation would go along with the deletion of "developing" for the sake of consensus.
6. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, supported by the representatives of the UNITED KINGDOM, the NETHERLANDS and CANADA, proposed replacing the phrase "the retention and strengthening of the Joint FAO/IAEA Agriculture Programme" in paragraph 9 with "the Secretariat to explore ways to cooperate effectively with FAO".
7. The representative of BRAZIL, supported by the representatives of AFGHANISTAN, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA, the PHILIPPINES and CHINA, said that there was no need to explore ways to cooperate effectively with FAO as institutionalized channels for cooperation already existed. The reference to the Joint FAO/IAEA Agricultural Programme should be retained.
8. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM suggested deferring further discussion of paragraph 9 pending consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture" in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.5.
9. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to revert to paragraph 9 following consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.5.
10. It was so agreed.
11. The representative of JAPAN, referring to paragraph 4 of to the draft resolution entitled "Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes", said that "legal and administrative mechanisms for receiving and disbursing funds from extrabudgetary funding sources" already existed. That paragraph was therefore superfluous and should be deleted.
12. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA pointed out that paragraph 6 of that resolution was identical with paragraph 10 of the resolution entitled "General" and said that it should be deleted.

13. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend adoption of the draft resolution entitled “Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-transmitting mosquitoes” with paragraphs 4 and 6 deleted.

14. It was so agreed.

15. The representative of ZIMBABWE, introducing the draft resolution entitled “Support to the African Union’s Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)”, drew particular attention to paragraph 5, which had not featured in resolution GC(51)/RES/14.A.3 adopted in 2007.

16. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, supported by the representatives of the UNITED KINGDOM and the NETHERLANDS, proposed that the reference to the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme in paragraph 4 be deleted and the phrase between dashes be amended to read “through the Regular Budget, the Technical Cooperation Fund and other partnerships”.

17. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommended adoption of the draft resolution entitled “Support to the African Union’s Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)” with the proposed change in paragraph 4.

18. It was so agreed.

19. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution entitled “Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors”, said that the ninth meeting of INDAG had taken place in January 2008, not 2007, and that paragraph (i) should be amended accordingly.

20. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend adoption of the draft resolution entitled “Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors” with “2007” replaced by “2008” in paragraph (i).

21. It was so agreed.

### **13. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management** (resumed) (GC(52)/COM.5/L.4 and Add.5)

22. The representative of NEW ZEALAND, introducing the draft resolution on transport safety contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.4, said that it reflected the fact that the Agency's work in the area of transport safety applied to all modes of transport, although the text retained the emphasis on certain maritime and air transport issues.

23. Drawing attention to paragraph 10, he said that the acronym INES now stood for “International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale”.

24. The delegation of South Africa had proposed an amendment to paragraph 14 that was acceptable to his delegation — the addition of the phrase “and the laws and regulations of the State” at the end of the paragraph.

25. The representative of CANADA, supported by the representatives of IRELAND, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FRANCE and the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, considered that the proposed addition to paragraph 14 would change the focus, which should be on the Agency's Transport Regulations. He would prefer it if the phrase in question were not added.
26. The representative of ARGENTINA said that in his opinion it was not a good idea to have a separate draft resolution on transport safety under the agenda item now being considered. In future years there should be a single draft resolution on safety as a whole.
27. Although his country was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, he did not think that "changing global weather patterns" — referred to in paragraph 11 — were relevant to the issue of transport safety.
28. Argentina was both a shipping State and a coastal State, and in his view the distinction between the two categories of State was irrelevant and should not be made in future draft resolutions on safety.
29. The representative of the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC agreed with the observation of the representative of Argentina regarding the distinction between shipping States and coastal States.
30. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA agreed with the representative of Argentina that in future years there should be a single draft resolution on safety as a whole.
31. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that he could see the merits of having a single draft resolution on safety as a whole.
32. Regarding the proposed addition to operative paragraph 14, it would weaken the focus on the Agency's Transport Regulations, but there might be Member States whose transport regulations were even more rigorous than them.
33. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that, in the light of comments made and in the interest of consensus, his delegation would withdraw its proposal regarding paragraph 14.
34. The representative of PANAMA said that his delegation also did not consider "changing global weather patterns" to be relevant to the issue of transport safety, but it had agreed to go along with the wording of paragraph 11 in the interest of achieving consensus.
35. The representative of BRAZIL expressed support for recommending adoption of the draft resolution as it stood.
36. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.4 with addition of "and Radiological" between "International Nuclear" and "Event Scale" in paragraph 10.
37. It was so agreed.

## **16. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)** (GC(52)/COM.5/L.5 and Add.4)

38. The representative of CHINA, introducing the draft resolution on "Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture" contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.5, said that the

global food security crisis had resulted in major social and economic upheavals. It was estimated that a 20% increase in food prices meant a further 100 million poor in the world.

39. A number of organizations had already responded positively to the crisis, and the Agency should follow suit as the application of nuclear techniques could help significantly to raise food output.

40. Over the past 20 years, the Agency's cooperation to that end with other organizations, particularly FAO, had been extremely useful, as was emphasized in the draft resolution.

41. The representatives of BOTSWANA, YEMEN, BRAZIL and the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN expressed strong support for the draft resolution.

42. The representative of CANADA said that his delegation, while welcoming any effort to address the global food security crisis, needed more time in which to consider the draft resolution — and particularly the references to the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. Among other things, in the interest of avoiding duplication of effort it wished to consult with the Canadian permanent mission to FAO in Rome.

43. The representative of FRANCE, having expressed support for the draft resolution, suggested that in paragraph 2 the words "Urges" and "expand" be changed to "Encourages" and "redouble" respectively.

44. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that, although the draft resolution related to an extremely important issue, she assumed that the agreed text would be incorporated into the "Non-power nuclear applications" part of the document containing the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee under the agenda item "Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications".

45. Regarding paragraph (i), her delegation would like to see it replaced simply by a reference to the relevant resolutions adopted in 2007 in the "General" draft resolution introducing the "Non-power nuclear applications" part of the aforementioned document.

46. With regard to paragraph 4, she suggested replacing "significant support provided by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture" with "the work undertaken through the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme".

47. She called for the deletion of paragraph 5, since it was inappropriate in such a text to single out specific laboratories.

48. The representative of JAPAN said that his delegation was grateful to China for the draft resolution, which addressed an acute crisis. At the same time, it would welcome clarification regarding the manner in which the agreed text would be submitted to the General Conference for adoption.

49. The representative of BRAZIL said that he had made the same assumption as the representative of the United Kingdom with regard to that matter.

50. The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that the text could easily be incorporated into the "Non-power nuclear applications" part of the aforementioned document.

51. The representative of CHINA, responding to the suggestion made by the representative of France regarding paragraph 3, said that his delegation would prefer "Requests" to "Encourages" and would like "expand" to be retained.

52. Regarding the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom, his delegation would like paragraphs (i) and 5 to be retained. On the other hand, it could accept the suggestion that she had made for amending paragraph 4.
53. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN suggested that, in a spirit of compromise, paragraphs (h) and (i) might be combined.
54. The representative of CHINA agreed to that suggestion.
55. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee revert to the draft resolution at a later meeting.
56. It was so agreed.

**The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.**