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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Seventh Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna on Saturday, 4 October 2008, at 11.15 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. NIEWODNICZANSKI (Poland)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹		Paragraphs
15	Strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities <i>(continued)</i>	1–23

¹ GC(52)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

LDC	least developed country
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund

15. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

(continued)

(GC(52)/COM.5/L.10 and L.12)

1. The representative of BRAZIL, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reported that in informal consultations on the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.10 it had been agreed that the words “and security” should be inserted after “safety” in paragraph (cc).
2. The suggestion made by the representative of the United States of America during the previous meeting for a new paragraph along the lines of “Requests the Secretariat to ensure, through internal coordination and in accordance with its established procedures, that TC projects do not entail safety, security and non-proliferation risks” had not been accepted, as the Secretariat had explained that every technical cooperation project proposal was examined from the safety, security and non-proliferation standpoints during the pre-approval process.
3. Given the controversy about paragraph 24, it had been agreed that the paragraph should be deleted.
4. The representative of EGYPT, supported by the representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, said that, notwithstanding what the representative of Brazil had just said about paragraph (cc), his delegation was of the opinion that the phrase “, including safety aspects,” — much less the phrase “, including safety and security aspects,” — had no place in a draft resolution on technical cooperation.
5. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM, supported by the representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, welcomed the agreement on deleting paragraph 24. She reiterated her delegation's position in favour of deleting paragraph 4 also.
6. The representative of CANADA, supported by the representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, the UNITED KINGDOM and FRANCE, wondered whether the new paragraph suggested by the representative of the United States of America might not be more acceptable if it was amended to read “Commends the Secretariat for ensuring ...”.
7. The representative of MALAYSIA, responding to the comment made by the representative of Canada, proposed the insertion in paragraph 13 of the phrase “commends the Secretariat for continuously fulfilling the criteria for technical cooperation projects with regard to the application of the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267)” after the words “their management”.
8. The representative of EGYPT, calling for the retention of paragraph 4, asked whether examining possible mechanisms for protecting the resources of the TCF would constitute an additional burden for the Secretariat.
9. Regarding paragraph (cc), he asked whether the absence of the phrase “, including safety [and security] aspects,” in that paragraph would affect the work of the Secretariat.
10. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE, responding to the first question put by the representative of Egypt, said that, pursuant to a recommendation made by the External Auditor, the Secretariat was already addressing the issue of currency fluctuations and

considering different mechanisms for maintaining the purchasing power of the TCF. Meeting the request made in paragraph 4 would therefore not constitute an additional burden for it.

11. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND COORDINATION, DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, responding to the second question put by the representative of Egypt, said that the Secretariat took account of safety and security aspects as a matter of course and would continue to do so irrespective of whether “safety and security aspects” were referred to in paragraph (cc).

12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of the draft resolution be deferred pending the outcome of further informal consultations.

13. It was so agreed.

14. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution submitted by Haiti in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.12.

15. The representative of HAITI, introducing the draft resolution, entitled “Strengthening of technical assistance to least developed countries in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy”, said that it drew attention to the particular needs of LDCs and to the tremendous potential that nuclear energy had for their sustainable development. It drew on resolution 61/211 of the United Nations General Assembly, the Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

16. His delegation had consulted with the delegation of the Dominican Republic and the delegations of Ethiopia and other LDCs, and they had expressed support for the draft resolution, as had the delegation of France. However, since time did not allow for full discussion of the draft resolution at the current session of the General Conference, his Government had decided to withdraw it and submit a draft resolution on the same issue to the General Conference at its fifty-third session.

17. The representative of BRAZIL, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group stood ready to engage with the Haitian delegation in the preparation of a draft resolution on “Strengthening of technical assistance to least developed countries in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy” for submission to the General Conference at its next session.

18. The representative of CANADA commended the delegation of Haiti for placing the issue of the particular needs of LDCs before the Conference. His delegation, too, stood ready to cooperate in the preparation of a draft resolution relating to that issue.

19. The representative of FRANCE said that his Government was concerned about the particular difficulties faced by LDCs — an issue to which the Agency had thus far devoted insufficient attention.

20. He proposed that a reference to that issue be included in the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.10, so as to pave the way for a discussion of it at the next session of the General Conference.

21. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, noting that many Agency technical cooperation projects were being implemented in Africa, the continent with the greatest number of LDCs, suggested that the Group of 77 and China work with the delegation of Haiti on identifying a way to incorporate a reference to the issue into the draft resolution contained in the aforementioned document.

22. The CHAIRMAN suggested that further discussion of the draft resolution be deferred pending the outcome of informal consultations.

23. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 12 noon