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President: Mr GHISI (Italy)

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¹ GC(52)/21.

Abbreviations used in this record:

DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone

19. Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (resumed) (GC(52)/L.4)

1. Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE (Canada), introducing draft resolution GC(52)/L.4 on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), said that approximately 50 Member States had now sponsored it. The text was a balanced one: the achievements of the Six-Party process and the efforts of the parties to meet their commitments were welcomed, but the importance of early resumption of disablement work at Yongbyon was stressed. The Agency and its Director General were commended for their efforts to resolve the DPRK nuclear issue and the action taken by the Board of Governors was endorsed. The draft resolution was supported by all five of the six parties to the Six-Party Talks that were members of the Agency. She hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.
2. Mr SHIM Yoon-joe (Republic of Korea) said that there had been some progress in the situation in the DPRK during the past year. The DPRK had submitted a declaration on its nuclear programmes, and in July 2008 the Six-Party Talks heads of delegation had reached a consensus on full and balanced implementation of second-phase action and agreed to establish a verification and monitoring mechanism within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.
3. Regrettably, however, the DPRK had suspended disablement activities at Yongbyon and taken steps to restart the nuclear facilities there. The Agency's seals and surveillance equipment had been removed from the reprocessing plant and the DPRK Government had informed Agency inspectors of its intention to reintroduce nuclear material into the reprocessing plant without allowing them access to it.
4. The DPRK should refrain from such action, which would have a serious impact on the Six-Party Talks, and resume disablement activities.
5. The Six-Party Talks were the most effective way of resolving the DPRK nuclear issue, and, if they were to move forward, all parties must fulfil their commitments and complete the second-phase actions, including the adoption of a verification protocol, in a timely manner. Also, the Agency should continue its monitoring and verification activities at DPRK nuclear facilities.
6. The draft resolution now before the Conference, of which his country was a sponsor, emphasized the need for the DPRK to comply fully with the NPT and cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of comprehensive safeguards. His country would work closely with the Agency, the other parties to the Six-Party Talks and the international community at large to resolve the DPRK nuclear issue in a peaceful and expeditious manner, with the continuing valuable support of the Agency.
7. Mr AMANO (Japan) said that his country appreciated the Agency's monitoring and verification activities at the Yongbyon nuclear facilities and the significant contributions of the Agency to the Six-Party process.

8. Japan, while acknowledging the submission by the DPRK of its nuclear programmes to Agency verification in June 2008, noted that the DPRK had not agreed to a detailed verification framework and had taken steps to reverse the disablement of the Yongbyon facilities.

9. His delegation had listened with serious concern to the statement on the situation in the DPRK made by the Agency's Deputy Director General of Safeguards to the Board of Governors the week before. In its view, the DPRK must agree to a detailed verification framework, and also complete the disablement of the Yongbyon facilities by October, as agreed at the meeting of Six-Party Talks heads of delegation in July.

10. Further work was needed within the framework of the Six-Party process in order to complete implementation of the second-phase actions. The DPRK must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, as stated in the Joint Statement issued in September 2005. Japan would continue to cooperate with the other partners for full implementation of the Joint Statement.

11. The DPRK must also comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) and with its obligations under the NPT and its safeguards agreement. In addition, it must take transparency measures, including the provision of such access to individuals, documentation, equipment and facilities as deemed necessary by the Agency.

12. The Agency had an essential role to play in the process of abandonment by the DPRK of its nuclear programmes, including monitoring and verification at the Yongbyon facilities, and a possible role in relation to the declaration by the DPRK on its nuclear programmes. His country, with partners, would continue to strongly support the Agency.

13. Mr TANG Guoqiang (China) said that there were four points regarding which the international community had a common understanding. Firstly, there was a need to promote the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the normalization of relations between States in order to restore peace and stability in the region in the interests of all. Secondly, the Six-Party Talks were a pragmatic way of resolving the issue of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and important for an increase in understanding and trust. Thirdly, it was important to preserve the hard-won achievements of the Six-Party process so far, which had been made possible by the political will, wisdom, flexibility and patience displayed by the parties. Finally, all parties should redouble their efforts to expedite the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They must continue their dialogue, whatever the circumstances, in order to increase mutual trust and cooperation. If all the parties fulfilled their commitments and were prepared to compromise, the present difficulties could be overcome. China, which was currently chairing the Six-Party Talks, would continue to work with the other parties and the international community at large to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

14. Mr DANIELI (Israel) said that the reckless actions of the DPRK had caused his Government grave concern. The DPRK was a source of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles. At least half a dozen countries in the Middle East had received DPRK weapons through black-market or other covert channels, and there was mounting evidence that Middle East countries were copying the DPRK's unlawful and dangerous practices. He called upon the international community to take note of those dangerous developments and their likely consequences.

15. Mr BERDENNIKOV (Russian Federation) said that the Agency should play a central role in efforts to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, since no other organization was in such a good position to do so. He hoped that the draft resolution before the Conference would be adopted by consensus.

16. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/L.4 without a vote.

17. It was so decided.

– **Oral report by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole** (GC(52)/L.5)

18. Mr NIEWODNICZAŃSKI (Chairman of the Committee of the Whole) presented the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda item 16, "Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications". The draft resolutions recommended by the Committee had been clustered along the lines of the main areas of the Agency's work in order to make the results of its deliberations more transparent and readable and to provide clearer guidance for the Secretariat.

19. The Committee recommended to the General Conference the adoption of draft resolutions A ("Non-power nuclear applications"), B ("Nuclear power applications") and C ("Nuclear knowledge") in document GC(52)/L.5.

20. As recommended by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolutions contained in document GC(52)/COM.5/L.5 were adopted.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 1 p.m.

20. Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (resumed) (GC(52)/L.1/Mod.2, GC(52)/L.8)

21. Mr ZNIBER (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the proposal contained in document GC(52)/L.8, said that one of the amendments proposed in document GC(52)/L.6 had created a link of conditionality between the Middle East peace process and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Arab Group considered that establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was an issue of fundamental importance and that it was vital not to confuse matters by linking it to another issue. Adoption of the proposal made by the Arab Group would restore the balance of the original draft resolution (contained in document GC(52)/L.1) and show that the General Conference was committed to the preservation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the troubled region of the Middle East.

22. Mr DANIELI (Israel), recalling that paragraphs 3 and 9 of the draft resolution had been proposed by his country and accepted by the General Conference, said that his delegation would like a roll-call vote to be held on the amendment proposed by the Arab Group in document GC(52)/L.8.

23. Ms FEROUKHI (Algeria) suggested that the new paragraph proposed in document GC(52)/L.8 be amended to read: "Considers, in this context, that establishing an NWFZ in the Middle East would contribute to peace and stability in the region".

24. Mr ZNIBER (Morocco), responding to a question put by the PRESIDENT, said that, if the Arab Group's proposal was adopted by consensus, the Group as a whole would no doubt accept the wording suggested by the representative of Algeria.

25. If a vote was going to be held on the proposal, the members of the Arab Group would need time to consult before voting started.

26. Mr DANIELI (Israel) said that both the proposal made in document GC(52)/L.8 and the amended version just suggested by the representative of Algeria ran counter to the spirit of paragraph 9 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/L.1/Mod.2, which had been proposed by Israel. His delegation would vote against the proposal whether it was amended or not.

27. If the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(52)/L.1/Mod.2 by consensus, his delegation would join the consensus, but it would express a reservation regarding paragraph 2, which called upon all States in the Middle East region to accede to the NPT.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.