



Sixth regular session

Item 17 of the provisional agenda
(GC(VI)/190)

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Joint report by the Board of Governors and the Director General

INTRODUCTION

1. In its Resolution GC(V)/RES/105, on a long-term programme for the activities of the Agency, the General Conference requested the Board of Governors and the Director General to report at its sixth regular session on the steps taken to initiate, in consultation where appropriate with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the preparation of a long-term programme for the Agency's activities.
2. In February 1962 the Board first discussed the matter on the basis of a statement by the Director General. In the light of that discussion and subsequent consultations with SAC in June 1962, the Director General formulated proposals which were examined by the Board at meetings in June and September 1962. The present document is a report outlining the plan of action which has resulted from these consultations, and giving some of the general considerations that have emerged from the discussions.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

3. The activities of the Agency have developed during the last four years along lines that are in many respects different from those originally foreseen in the Statute or in the first programme elaborated by the Preparatory Commission. The purpose of a long-term programme for the period 1964-69 is therefore to re-assess the Agency's tasks on the basis of a critical analysis and appraisal of programmes originally envisaged by the Preparatory Commission, those actually implemented and others that in the light of the experience gained would appear to merit being undertaken in the next five years. If this task is to be meaningful and serve an effective purpose, it should be related to an assessment of the present situation in regard to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the changes that may result on a world-wide scale

from probable advances in nuclear science and technology. It is also considered essential that an assessment of the relative claims be made to establish an order of priority for these programmes.

4. Secondly, the long-term programme should provide useful guidance for the Board and the Director General in the preparation of the more detailed and definitive annual or biennial programmes and the annual budget estimates, which for obvious reasons it cannot and should not replace. It may be possible that a programme so conceived can be completed and approved during 1963, and this would also seem to be the desirable course. On the other hand, work of this type must be envisaged as a continuing process, and consequently the long-term programme would be suitably refined and modified from time to time to take account of new developments.

5. Finally, it is expected that the work on the long-term programme may have a bearing on the question of the organizational structure of the Secretariat; the Director General will therefore, at an appropriate time, report to the Board on that subject.

6. During the discussions in the Board and in the consultations with SAC certain views of a preliminary character have been expressed to help the Director General in the preparation of the initial studies. A summary of these views is given in the Annex hereto.

PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROGRAMME

Initial studies

7. The initial step in developing the programme is the preparation of separate working papers by the Secretariat setting forth proposals for the next five years (1964-69) in respect of each of the main activities to be undertaken, such as:

- (a) Nuclear power;
- (b) Applications of isotopes;
- (c) Regulatory activities (in health, safety and safeguards);
- (d) The disposal of radioactive waste;
- (e) Exchange of scientific information;
- (f) Training of scientists;

- (g) Provision of experts and equipment;
- (h) Co-ordination of research and of the use of research reactors; and
- (i) The work of the Agency's Laboratory.

The above list should be considered only as illustrative and not indicative of an order of priority as between the subjects listed. Furthermore, initial studies on other subjects, particularly new activities which it may be considered desirable for the Agency to undertake, may have to be prepared by the Secretariat. The final grouping of activities that will comprise the long-range programme to be submitted to the General Conference will therefore depend on the conclusions that emerge from the various stages in its preparation.

Consultations with groups of experts, SAC and Member States

8. The Board and the Director General envisage the setting up of several groups of experts consisting of scientists or administrators having special knowledge and experience of the problems to be examined, who would be appointed directly by Governments invited to do so, and would advise on individual sectors of the plan in the light of the initial studies prepared by the Secretariat. However, the proposed programmes for the training of scientists and for the provision of experts and equipment will be referred first to Member States for their views.

9. The first such group was convened at the end of August to define, in the light of present developments, the part which the Agency may play in furthering the practical applications of nuclear power. Experts appointed by the Governments of the following Member States were invited to participate in the work of the above group:

Brazil	Pakistan
Canada	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	United Arab Republic
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
India	United States of America
Japan	Yugoslavia

It is hoped that the initial study by the Secretariat and the views of the expert group will be submitted to SAC in October 1962 for its consideration and advice.

10. Two further groups of experts are being planned at present, one on the applications of isotopes and radiation and the other on waste management.

11. It is contemplated that the process of consultation with groups of experts in relation to various sectors of the plan will be completed by the end of 1962 and reports on individual sectors reflecting the results of these consultations are to be submitted, where appropriate, to SAC at the beginning of 1963 to obtain its advice on the scientific aspects, including those which might affect the order of priority to be accorded to the various activities.

12. At the end of this phase it is expected that the Director General will be able to prepare a first draft of the programme which will contain recommendations as to the main activities of the Agency during the period concerned, and on the nature and scope of the tasks to be undertaken in relation to each sector and the means best suited to achieve the goals set by the long-term programme.

Consideration by the Board and its Committees

13. As regards the programmes for the training of scientists and for the provision of experts and equipment, the views of Member States should be available by the end of 1962. A special session of the Board's Technical Assistance Committee is being planned for March/April to make final recommendations in the light of the initial studies prepared by the Secretariat and the views expressed by Member States. This is considered most desirable since the Committee's membership provides a reasonable balance between the States making contributions in support of such programmes and those receiving the assistance.

14. It is thus planned that the Director General should be able to circulate to Members of the Board by the third week in April 1963 a draft of the long-term programme. The Administrative and Budgetary Committee could then meet in May to examine the proposals in detail and in particular to make recommendations to the Board in regard to the order of priority to be accorded to the various activities and the financial implications of the programme.

Submission of the programme to the General Conference

15. It will thus be seen that the Board and the Director General in consultation have already progressed far towards initiating the preparation of

a long-term programme for the Agency's activities, but further consultation between them is still necessary. It is at present hoped that the draft document on the long-term programme might be available for the Board's consideration at its meetings in June 1963. Should this prove possible in the event, the draft could be approved for submission to the General Conference at its seventh regular session.

A N N E X

Summary of views expressed in the Board and SAC

A. VIEWS OF SAC

Nuclear power

1. It was generally considered that in 1955 the world had an over-optimistic picture of the imminence of beneficial nuclear power. In 1958 it had perhaps been pessimistic and with the further developments since then, it was now appropriate to formulate a balanced picture and plan the future role of the Agency for the increasing practical use of nuclear power. It is the view of SAC that the Agency would not be in a position to direct programmes of power development, but should be able to help Member States to obtain expert advice, including advice on financing, and arrange for authoritative reviews of the technological and economic prospects of nuclear power, through the medium of panels, conferences, etc.

Order of priority

2. During the preliminary consultations with SAC in June 1962, which the Board had asked the Director General to undertake, SAC, in attempting to give some order of priority, has suggested the following as between the activities listed below:

- (a) Training of scientists, in particular:
 - (i) Fellowships for attendance at institutes of higher learning and participation in research;
 - (ii) Summer schools; and
 - (iii) Use of the Agency's Laboratory for specialist training;
- (b) Technical assistance to developing countries;
- (c) Collaboration in research, including the organization of common scientific research to strengthen international links;
- (d) Formulation of health and safety standards in operations with radioactive materials and nuclear plants, and in waste disposal; and
- (e) Exchange of scientific information through conferences and other activities.

B. VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE BOARD

Scope of activities and order of priority

3. The Board has recognized the importance of establishing priorities although, at the same time, it is conscious of the difficulties inherent in this task. It was considered that it would be useful if the groups of experts to be appointed could suggest alternative orders of priority as between the various activities which would then enable the Board to make a choice.

4. The view was expressed that in considering the scope of the Agency's future activities, nuclear energy should be regarded not as a subject in itself, but as a catalyst which could be used to promote general scientific education and research, and progress in the less-developed countries. For this purpose it would be essential liberally to interpret the term "atomic energy". This would not imply any enlargement of the Agency's scope of activities but would only indicate a desire to take a broader view of the long-range potential of the Agency.

Main studies

5. Some Members of the Board considered it desirable that the Agency should formulate a broad programme of research on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the three important fields of study being:

- (a) The production of energy from fission processes, and the disposal of radioactive waste;
- (b) The use of radioactive sources in industry to make new products and to simplify and to improve technological processes; and
- (c) The application of radioisotopes in agriculture, industry, medicine and scientific research.

6. The results of studies which are already being undertaken in Member States could be made available to the Agency without cost. The Agency could also request these States to undertake free of charge such studies as were not, but could be, carried out under national programmes. It would only be necessary then to consider the best way in which research that is deemed essential to the Agency's work, but which for various reasons cannot be carried out in national laboratories, could be financed. The Agency's role should be mainly that of an intermediary, fostering collaboration and a co-operative effort in research of interest to its Member States.

Training and technical assistance

7. The Agency's training programme was recognized to be one of its principal concerns. A number of Board Members were of the opinion that proposals in respect of training and technical assistance should be based on a careful analysis of the material already available in order to find out the real needs of Member States. Broad categories of requirements could thus be determined to accord with the different stages in the utilization of nuclear energy which these countries are likely to reach in the period covered by the programme. In order to complete the picture it would be of importance to obtain as much information as possible on all types of technical assistance that were at present being provided in support of scientific activities.

8. As an aid in the analysis of individual needs, it would be useful to divide the countries receiving aid into three broad categories, namely:

- (a) Countries which would be operating nuclear power reactors in the next ten years or so;
- (b) Countries which were, or would be likely to be, operating small experimental or research reactors; and
- (c) Countries which would be concentrating on the development of isotopic techniques. By fitting the requesting countries into some such categories, the Agency would be better able to decide what type of assistance in the form of experts' services, equipment and training it would be most useful to offer in order to arrive at a balanced programme.

