



International Atomic Energy Agency

# General Conference

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SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

## OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE SIXTY-THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Tuesday, 18 September 1962, at 10 50 a m

Temporary President: Mr. QUIHILLALT (Argentina)

President: Mr. BAFFOUR (Ghana)

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\* GC(VI)/190.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document  
(GC(VI)/INF/56/Rev.2.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the sixth regular session of the General Conference.
2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure he invited the Conference to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.
3. All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.
4. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates of Member States, the observers from other States, and the representatives of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. He thanked the Federal Chancellor of Austria, the members of the Austrian Government and senior Austrian officials who were graciously attending the meeting. He also welcomed the representatives of the Press and other information media.
5. He reminded the Conference that in his closing speech at the conclusion of the lively discussions at the fifth regular session he had said that  
"If agreement could not be reached in a technical body like the Agency, there was obviously little hope of achieving common accord in the political sphere. Yet failure was a luxury that mankind could not afford, since survival itself was at stake."  
"Man's achievements through the centuries were a matter of pride for every human being, irrespective of race or creed, and the opening-up of space offered magnificent prospects for the generations to come."  
He had therefore urged  
"Member States most earnestly to avoid opening a breach in one of the the existing means of communication that had been found between the opposing camps in the world, namely the Agency itself, with all the possibilities it presented for the eventual achievement of mutual understanding."  
He added that  
"In the future, details should be relegated to the secondary place they merited and endeavours should be focused on seeking ways and means of bringing about that greatly desired end."<sup>1/</sup>
6. He was glad to note that during the past year the atmosphere in which the Agency worked had changed appreciably, thanks to the efforts all Member States had made to facilitate the task of the Secretariat. He hoped in particular that the atmosphere of goodwill and co-operation which had prevailed in the

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<sup>1/</sup> GC(V)/OR.62, paras. 75 and 76.

Board would extend to the meetings of the General Conference. He therefore renewed his appeal to the delegates of Member States, for he was convinced of their keen desire to serve the common cause.

#### ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

7. Sir Roger MAKINS (United Kingdom) proposed Mr. Baffour (Ghana) for the office of President of the Conference. Mr. Baffour was an engineer and a Doctor of Science who had occupied important posts in the Government of his country; he was also Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi and was eminent in scientific and university circles in Ghana. His administrative experience, university training and scientific background thus made him an ideal candidate for the office of President. Mr. Baffour, who would be the first delegate of an African country to occupy that office, would certainly do so with competence and dignity.

8. Mr. NAKIČENOVIC (Yugoslavia) warmly supported the proposal made by the delegate of the United Kingdom. He found additional satisfaction in the fact that Mr. Baffour represented a country that was firmly attached to the cause of "non-alignment" and wanted to reinforce and develop the Agency's activities.

9. Mr. Baffour (Ghana) was elected, by acclamation, President of the General Conference for its sixth regular session.

10. Mr. Baffour (Ghana) took the Chair.

11. The PRESIDENT thanked delegates for the honour they had done to his country and to him, and paid a tribute to the qualities shown by his predecessor. Much had already been said of the important part which the Agency could play in promoting the development and increasing the well-being of humanity as a whole. It had often been said, too, that international organizations did not perhaps devote all the necessary energy to that task, and in that connection he would like to recount a short fable illustrating the responsibility which the Agency had assumed.

12. A farmer had a large estate that he wished to farm. In order to prevent destructive birds from devouring his crops, he placed scarecrows about the land. Carried away by enthusiasm, he strained his ingenuity to make them look terrifying and succeeded so well that in the end he was afraid of them himself and no longer dared to go into his fields.

13. Throughout the world people were looking with hope to the Agency, believing it would find effective ways of disseminating scientific knowledge and the results of research on atomic energy and that all Member States would co-operate and proceed with confidence and speed.

14. He accepted with gratitude the high responsibility entrusted to him and would do his utmost to serve the best interests of the Agency and of mankind.

#### CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES TO THE SIXTH REGULAR SESSION

##### (a) APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

15. The PRESIDENT proposed that a Credentials Committee should be appointed in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, and should consist of representatives of the following States: Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, El Salvador, Iraq, Lebanon, Philippines, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America. •

16. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.30 a.m.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

17. The PRESIDENT invited nominations for the eight Vice-Presidents.

18. Mr. BOONWAAT (Burma) nominated the delegates of the following States: Austria, Canada, Chile, India, Japan, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

19. Mr. MELLER-CONRAD (Poland) seconded those nominations.

20. The delegates nominated were declared elected to the eight Vice-Presidencies.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

21. The PRESIDENT pointed out that under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference was required to elect four additional members to the General Committee. He invited delegates to submit nominations.

22. Mr. WALDHEIM (Austria) nominated the following States: France, Mexico, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

23. Mr. USMANI (Pakistan) seconded those nominations.

24. The States nominated were declared elected to the General Committee and the Committee itself duly appointed in compliance with the provisions of Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

25. The DIRECTOR GENERAL congratulated the President on his election and expressed the conviction that under his able leadership the work of the sixth regular session would be carried out in a most satisfactory manner.
26. In presenting his first report to the General Conference he wished to start by drawing the attention of delegates to the rapid development of science and technology, particularly during the last 12 months. On 2 December, it would be 20 years since the first reactor was put into operation; now there were about 300 reactors in the world. He also recalled the remarkable results obtained with the very large particle accelerators, in particular the discovery of new elementary particles. The achievement of an understanding of the very complex problems of high energy physics would probably become a milestone in the history of physics. Low energy physics had also progressed in its attempts to explore the nucleus by using particles with very precisely defined energies. Such studies contributed to man's understanding of the physical phenomena behind fission, fusion and the formation of new elements in the stars.
27. Solid state physics, which had made rapid progress too, was finding important applications in the development of fuel elements for nuclear reactors; it also pointed towards the possibilities of new methods for the direct conversion of heat into electricity, not to mention its role in the development of the optical maser.
28. In life sciences, the discoveries relating to the macromolecules which carry hereditary characteristics were opening up new vistas, while the study of life processes in living organisms by means of radioactive substances was already in an advanced state.
29. Achievements in the field of automatic computers were striking and in a civilization becoming increasingly complex those machines would play a part of growing importance in the near future.
30. Finally, recent progress in the exploration of space was most impressive, particularly the Vostok III and IV flights and the Mariner II flight to distant celestial bodies.
31. To look more specifically at the field of atomic energy, it would be noticed that during the last year cautious optimism had emerged about the future

role of nuclear power as compared with conventional power. There were indications that the burn-up obtained in nuclear power stations and their load factor and lifetime might be greater than previously anticipated, so that nuclear power might become competitive sooner than had been expected. On the other hand it was now known for certain that conventional fossil-fuel reserves were much larger than had been believed, which gave a certain leeway until the time came when the use of those valuable resources would have to be restricted to purposes other than mere burning. Conventional power stations had also shown remarkable technical development which promised to reduce capital and operating costs.

32. Thus the target for competitive nuclear power was mobile, which was no doubt to the advantage of the consumer, but also complicated long-term planning in the atomic energy field.

33. The delay in atomic energy programmes almost everywhere might be said to be the fundamental reason for the lack of interest in using the Agency as a broker for nuclear fuel. There was also another very important factor: the safeguards system designed to prevent diversion to military uses. Nuclear power stations, which were becoming more and more widespread, would have a total power of about 9000 megawatts (electrical) by 1965, 15 000 megawatts (electrical) by 1970, and so on. By the end of the current decade considerable quantities of fissionable material would thus be produced outside the countries which were at present leading in the development and use of nuclear power. If, he repeated, if Member States wished to have a safeguards system applied to reactors serving peaceful purposes, that system must be developed and applied to nuclear installations from the present time on, when the number of installations was still small and the growth rate slow. The authors of the Agency's Statute had intended the safeguards system to be international in character. The disquieting factor was that existing bilateral agreements bypassed that important function of the Agency. Delegates were presumably aware of that situation and of its consequences for the Agency.

34. In principle, it was difficult to understand why a recipient country should consider safeguards applied under bilateral agreement less onerous and more acceptable than those of a multilateral nature applied by an international organization of which it was a Member State.

35. The transfer to the Agency of responsibility for administering the United States-Belgium bilateral agreement regarding fuel for the reactor in the Congo<sup>2/</sup> and the possible application of Agency safeguards to South African sales of source material to Japan were a most welcome departure in that respect.

36. In selecting the topics for his statement he had tried to take the criticism and remarks made at the last session of the General Conference into account. So as not again to let a year go by before replying to the comments made by delegates, he would address them again at the end of the present debate.

37. He stressed the importance of the long-term planning already under way, which would require a considerable effort by the Secretariat and generous assistance from Member States if the General Conference were to be able to consider the new five-year plan at its seventh session. It was his firm belief that the Agency would profit so much from early implementation of that plan that no effort should be spared in order to reach that objective.

38. Moreover, the five-year plan might provide a sound basis for organizational changes in the Secretariat.

39. The new plan should be related to the aims and plan approved by the United Nations for the Development Decade. It was in that context that the Agency's role in the development of power could reach its full significance. The supply of electric power was a matter of the utmost importance for States in process of industrialization and it was essential for their economies to avoid waste, particularly in the initial stage of development. In making a power survey it was necessary for all aspects of energy, both conventional and nuclear, to be considered simultaneously. It was with that in mind that he had included an expert on conventional power as well as one on nuclear power in the preliminary assistance mission sent to African countries in May of the current year. He believed that that practice should be followed wherever the question of power was under consideration.

40. Certain changes had been made during the past year in an attempt to improve and speed up implementation of the technical assistance and fellowship programmes which were at present one of the Agency's major activities. Applications for fellowships could now be made all the year round, and in some cases long-term

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<sup>2/</sup> See document INFCIRC/37.

fellowships of Type I could be awarded. New procedures had been worked out to speed up the implementation of projects, including the delivery of equipment. The difficulties in finding experts were considerable; however, and might still cause delays. In the Secretariat, an interdepartmental committee had been set up to handle technical assistance questions in the same way as research contracts were being handled by a research contracts committee which had proved very useful.

41. Other simplifications, in addition to those mentioned, were possible without prejudging the results of the long-term planning operation.

42. A special effort had been made in the award and placing of research contracts and it was expected that by the end of the year more than 50% of the total funds available would have been spent on research contracts in less industrialized Member States, as compared with 25% in 1959.

43. It had been stimulating to observe the interest in establishing regional centres in different parts of the world. He was a believer in the usefulness of such centres, but thought that they should be organized on a temporary basis from the very beginning and that the need for them, and the scientific scope of their programmes, should be reviewed after, say, five years. The participating Member States might, in those years, have made such progress that they could henceforth themselves organize such activities as the centre had undertaken. The regional effort could then be aimed at more advanced and more expensive projects which could only be launched by joint efforts.

44. The establishment of a centre for theoretical physics under the Agency's auspices was under discussion. The Agency had recently taken part in two courses, one on high-energy physics in Italy and the other on low-energy physics in Czechoslovakia, and valuable experience had been gained from them. It would be desirable to have the Conference's guidance with regard to the Agency's further activities in the field of theoretical physics.

45. There was reason for satisfaction at the Agency's selection as Executing Agency for the Special Fund agricultural project in Yugoslavia.

46. The regional approach to training problems seemed to be a promising one. Delegations were doubtless aware of what the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations was doing to further education and vocational training, in



particular with the co-operation of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations. The Agency should integrate its own with the other regional programmes so that full use would be made of existing facilities in various areas, e.g. a programme of training African students could no doubt be undertaken at the Triga reactor in Lovanium with the co-operation of all the bodies concerned, including the Economic Commission for Africa.

47. The Agency had also an important role to play in connection with the training of young people, especially from developing countries, in the national scientific establishments or institutes of its Member States. The Secretariat had studied the possibility of using the Agency's Laboratory and the Austrian establishment at Seibersdorf for training purposes. The Austrian authorities had been most co-operative and it seemed likely that a number of Agency fellows might be received at the Austrian establishment while a number of more junior students might be accepted for the kind of extensive training, lasting several years, at both establishments which experience had shown to be especially useful. Agency staff might be assigned for the purpose to the Austrian establishment as instructors, which should have a stimulating effect on them as well.

48. As for the important question of employment after return home, reports from fellows indicated that they had not in all cases been given positions in which they could use their specialized training in the best interests of their own countries. Specific suggestions in that regard would be very welcome.

49. Special attention was drawn to radioisotope research at the Laboratory on fertilizer uptake by rice - a supplementary investigation, on a laboratory scale, to the large-scale rice project being carried out in eight different countries. It was hoped to obtain data that would permit improved fertilizer utilization in rice-growing - an obviously profitable development.

50. Reference must also be made to the laboratory set up in Monaco under an agreement between the Agency, the Government of the Principality and the Oceanographic Institute, which at present covered the years 1961-63. The main object was to study the movement of water and marine organisms, and the distribution and redistribution of radioactive materials in marine organisms from phytoplankton to fish. The scientific work had started and the laboratory would have access to unique facilities such as a manned high-sea buoy; its

work would enrich existing knowledge of marine biology, throw light on the problem of waste disposal into the sea and make it possible to establish practices which would meet future needs.

51. The programmes of scientific meetings and publications were by now well established, and would be adapted to the present and future needs of Member States. Welcome progress had been made in speeding up the publication of the proceedings of the scientific meetings held by the Agency.

52. He would next turn to a question which he knew was of interest to all delegations, namely that of staffing. In that respect there was an obvious contradiction: while the Secretariat was under continuous pressure from Member States to fill every vacancy it was simultaneously under instructions to practise the strictest economy. At present not enough funds were being voted to cover all the posts authorized. Certain reductions would be made in 1963 in the General Service staff engaged on administrative work, but that would not affect the technical work. Further economies in the Professional category might also be possible, and he would present his proposals in that respect in the budget for 1964.

53. Member States must naturally be prepared to scale down accordingly their expectations concerning the appointment of their nationals to the Secretariat.

54. There was some difficulty in applying the clause in the Statute about securing "employees of the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence and integrity" and at the same time following the recommendation that "due regard should be paid to the contributions of Members of the Agency" and to "geographical distribution. Wide geographical distribution was the surest guarantee of the international character of the Secretariat, but the principle could not be properly applied unless all Member States, advanced and less advanced, were prepared to place at the disposal of the Agency candidates of the highest available calibre. That was particularly important just now when directorships were open in Divisions having very highly qualified senior scientists. Delegates would agree that the appointment as Director of a man not equal to subordinates in matters of competence could not fail to have a detrimental effect on the work of the unit concerned.

55. There was also the question of correct proportions as between short-term and long-term appointments.

56. The present trend whereby every vacancy in the senior ranks was filled by someone of the same nationality was bound to be detrimental to the true interests of the Agency and must be corrected.

57. There must also be greater respect for the concept of an international civil service. The affairs of the Agency could be conducted properly only if all members of the staff were conscious of their responsibilities as truly international civil servants.

58. There was a contrast between the rapid and relentless advance of science and technology and the cumbersome and slow operation of the Agency. It was encouraging, however, to find that many Member States were interested in finding ways and means of transforming the Agency into a more efficient organization. The Agency was a technical organization, but it was also evident that even technical matters dealt with on a world-wide scale could not be isolated from political considerations. He hoped, however, that such considerations, though unavoidable, would not be allowed to obstruct or impede the work of the Agency.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

