



International Atomic Energy Agency

# General Conference

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## OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION (21-28 SEPTEMBER 1966)

### OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna,  
on Wednesday, 28 September 1966, at 10.40 a.m.

President: Mr. SARASIN (Thailand)

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\* GC(X)/343.

#### STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the discussions at the General Conference had strikingly illustrated the tremendous progress made in the development of the atomic energy programmes of States Members of the Agency.

2. As in the past, the Secretariat would study carefully and in detail the text of all the statements made with a view to incorporating delegations' proposals in the Agency's programmes to the maximum possible extent. The programme for 1968 was tentative and could be adjusted to meet the most urgent needs. Inevitably, conflicting views had been expressed on certain points; in such cases the views expressed would have to be reconciled as far as possible.

3. The debates had shown that Member States in general approved the Agency's programme and that the Agency must continue to play a significant and increasing role in the development of nuclear power, particularly in the developing countries. The proposed establishment of nuclear research complexes centred around reactors and the suggestion that the more advanced countries should carry out research work with experimental reactors constructed by them in the developing countries were among the ideas that merited serious study. The Agency would continue to provide basic services, such as power surveys, site evaluations, reactor safety evaluations etc. It hoped that those and related activities would make it easier for Member States to obtain funds from international sources.

4. Once again, the great potential of dual-purpose

plants for generating electricity and producing fresh water had been emphasized, and he welcomed the generous offers made by the more advanced countries to assist the Agency in its desalting programme. It had been rightly stressed that, at the present stage of technological development, the only economic application of nuclear desalting was in large dual-purpose plants operating in countries with an integrated power system and large-scale power consumption. However, that should merely encourage research with a view to reducing costs and making smaller plants commercially available. The late Dr. Homi Bhabha had rightly stated that "there is no power as expensive as no power". For the arid areas of the world it could be said with equal truth that "there is no water as expensive as no water", since in many cases water was the crucial factor for human survival. In that connection, he welcomed the favourable references to the Agency's hydrology programme and the suggestions made for expanding it. The main purpose of the hydrological studies was to assist developing countries, and the time might now have come to intensify such work.

5. He was also gratified by the support expressed for the Agency's nuclear data and scientific information services and by the offers which Member States had made to act as hosts to scientific meetings; those offers would be accepted wherever possible.

6. The value of regional projects had clearly been recognized and a plea had been made for their continuation and expansion, but in that connection he wished to sound a note of warning. Those projects and other activities could not be expanded with the funds at present available, and it should be recognized that the price for any desired expansion might be an increase in the budget, particularly if new projects were to be undertaken.

7. Many of the statements made had expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste and the important part it was playing in the scientific field and the field of training, as well as its potential role in the development of fundamental science. The same measure of agreement had not been reached with regard to the Agency's responsibility for continuing its support of the Centre and expanding its work, bearing in mind the priorities to be accorded to other activities covered by the Agency's budget. He intended to consult the Scientific Council of the Centre, asking it to report on the work done during the Centre's first two years and make recommendations for the future. That report, together with the record of the discussions in the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, would be useful when the Board of Governors came to consider the proposals he would submit to it.

8. The Agency's activities in developing international standards and regulatory services had received general commendation. He believed safeguards might be more widely accepted if the practice of introducing into regional activities elements of control which were essentially of an international character were avoided.

9. The provision of basic data by all Member States would make it possible to extend the continuous study of world resources of uranium and thorium.

10. It had been almost unanimously recognized that it would be desirable for the Agency to continue its technical assistance activities. The main adverse comment had related to the volume of assistance, which was determined by the voluntary contributions received. He was therefore very pleased that, at the present session, voluntary contributions had shown an increase over previous years, and the Agency welcomed the pledges made by countries which had previously made no contributions or which were resuming monetary contributions. The Agency would continue to press for the maximum financial support from the United Nations Development Programme. The number of Special Fund projects whose execution was entrusted to the Agency was expected to increase, but it was for Member States to take the initiative in relation to such projects. The Agency would continue to place as many research contracts as possible in developing countries.

11. He was glad that many delegations had stressed the importance of Agency safeguards and their potential role in ensuring the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The application of safeguards was the result of nine years of patient effort by the Agency, and it was gratifying that the safeguards system was generally accepted and that its field of application had considerably expanded. It had rightly been pointed out that the administration of safeguards and the inspection procedures needed to be kept constantly under review, so as to ensure that the operations subject to safeguards were not impeded. It should be noted that the managers of facilities placed under safeguards had expressed satisfaction with the manner in which inspections had been conducted. The goodwill of the Member States concerned was most encouraging, and he hoped that other countries would be prompted to follow their example.

12. He sympathized with the proposal to simplify the legal provisions governing the transfer of the administration of safeguards in relation to bilateral arrangements. The matter would be further studied by the Secretariat.

13. With regard to control and non-proliferation, it had been frequently stated that the Agency was

willing to play its part when called upon to do so. Continuous improvement of the safeguards system was the best contribution the Agency could make towards ensuring that atomic energy was not used for destructive purposes.

14. Many comments had been made regarding the re-organization of the structure and administration of the Agency. Indeed, the continuing efficiency of the organization was his constant concern. He would continue to propose readjustments within the Secretariat, but Member States must support him by showing their willingness to relinquish posts when it was necessary to abolish them in the interests of economy and efficiency.

15. The desire of developing countries for wider representation in the Secretariat was quite legitimate, but it should be remembered that Article VII.D of the Statute laid down the criteria governing recruitment. He was doing all in his power to widen the representation of Member States on the staff and had tried to remove any possibility of discrimination or special pleading by establishing a system whereby they were notified of vacant Professional posts and invited to submit candidates within a period of three months. He strongly urged Member States which considered they were inadequately represented on the staff to submit candidates with the qualifications mentioned in the notifications of vacancies. All applications would be impartially considered with a view to ensuring as equitable a representation as was possible in conformity with the provisions of the Statute.

16. Many Member States had shown interest in the Secretariat's study of the possibility of holding General Conferences every second year, and the Secretariat would continue to study that problem and its implications. It had been suggested that speakers in the general debate should, before the session, provide written statements on achievements in their respective countries in order to reduce the time devoted to that item. Such statements could then be made available at the Conference in the form of a booklet providing information on the current situation in Member States in regard to atomic energy.

17. The interest shown by Member States in the Agency's efficient co-operation and co-ordination of activities with other United Nations organizations would encourage him to make further efforts in that direction in future. Governments must, however, help him by giving their delegations to such organizations similar instructions.

18. He was grateful for the support and understanding he had received from Member States during the five years in which he had served as Director General and hoped he would continue to have the

benefit of that support in carrying out his task and solving the increasingly difficult problems which lay ahead.

#### **THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (a) BUDGET FOR 1966 [GC(X)/348]**

19. Mr. FERRO (Hungary), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, introduced the Committee's report under item 13(a) of the agenda: The Agency's budget for 1966 [GC(X)/348]. At the end of the report was a draft resolution which the Committee recommended for adoption.

20. *The draft resolution in document GC(X)/348 (Supplementary budgetary appropriation for 1966) was adopted.*

#### **(b) PROGRAMME FOR 1967-68 AND BUDGET FOR 1967 [GC(X)/350, 351, 352]**

21. Mr. FERRO (Hungary), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, introduced the Committee's first, second and third reports under item 13(b) of the agenda: Programme for 1967-68 and budget for 1967 [GC(X)/350, 351 and 352]. Annexed to those reports were four, three and one draft resolutions respectively which the Committee recommended for adoption.

22. *The draft resolution in Annex I to document GC(X)/350 (Regular Budget appropriations for 1967) was adopted.*

23. *The draft resolution in Annex II to document GC(X)/350 (Operational Budget allocations for 1967) was adopted.*

24. *The draft resolution in Annex III to document GC(X)/350 (Use of the Working Capital Fund in 1967) was adopted.*

25. *The draft resolution in Annex IV to document GC(X)/350 (Abolition of the Publications Revolving Fund) was adopted.*

26. *The draft resolution in Annex I to document GC(X)/351 (The future of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste) was adopted.*

27. *The draft resolution in Annex II to document GC(X)/351 (Education and training) was adopted.*

28. *The draft resolution in Annex III to document GC(X)/351 (Centenary commemoration of the birth of Marie Skłodowska-Curie) was adopted.*

29. *The draft resolution annexed to document GC(X)/352 (Review of the Agency's activities) was adopted.*

### SCALE OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1967 [GC(X)/353]

30. Mr. FERRO (Hungary), Rapporteur of the Programme, Technical and Budget Committee, introduced the Committee's report under item 14 of the agenda: Scale of Members' contributions for 1967 [GC(X)/353]. At the end of the report was a draft resolution which the Committee recommended for adoption.

31. *The draft resolution in document GC(X)/353 was adopted.*

### CLOSING OF THE SESSION

32. Mr. FAROLAN (Philippines) congratulated the President on his conduct of the Conference's debates. Thanks to his unfailing authority and tact the session had proceeded exceptionally smoothly. The harmonious atmosphere that had prevailed showed that all delegations wished to extend the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and so promote the cause of peace. That was a cause to which the Philippines was deeply devoted and it was in that spirit that President Marcos had convened a summit conference of countries in Asia and the Pacific to establish peace in that area and throughout the rest of the world.

33. Mr. McCORDICK (Canada), speaking on behalf of Canada and the United States of America, paid tribute to the President and expressed his thanks to the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna which had again extended generous hospitality to delegations attending the General Conference.

34. Mr. ESCHAUZIER (Netherlands) noted with satisfaction that the subjects examined by the General Conference had generated virtually no heat and that under the brilliant direction of its President the work of the tenth session had been exceptionally fruitful. He joined in the expressions of gratitude to the Austrian Government and the City of Vienna for their hospitality.

35. Mr. PRADO (Brazil), on behalf of the Latin American delegations, thanked all those who had contributed to the successful work done at the tenth session, more especially the President, the Director General and the Austrian authorities.

36. Mr. MASSANGU (Democratic Republic of the Congo), on behalf of his own delegation and those of other African countries, associated himself with previous speakers in expressing his gratitude

to the President, the Director General and the Secretariat.

37. Mr. TIMBS (Australia), on behalf of the countries of South-East Asia and the Pacific, said that the understanding established between the President and the various delegations as well as between them and the Director General had enabled the Conference to complete its work in the most favourable conditions.

38. The PRESIDENT said it seemed that there was general satisfaction with the Agency's achievements and broad agreement as to what paths it should follow in the immediate future.

39. Several delegations had pointed out that the Agency's work of placing atomic energy at the service of the developing countries was one in which there was still room for great expansion. To do that work effectively the Agency must facilitate co-operation between those countries and those in which advanced nuclear technologies were being developed.

40. His task as President had been made easier by the extent to which delegates had focused their attention chiefly upon the scientific and technical questions which fell within the Agency's purview. That way of proceeding had now become traditional in the General Conference, a development which could only enhance the Agency's effectiveness.

41. Methodically and without undue publicity the Agency had set about its task of developing techniques designed to prevent atomic energy from being used for military purposes. In his view the general and unconditional acceptance of effective international controls could only be beneficial, but that process involved problems and decisions outside the Agency's domain.

42. In conclusion, he expressed his thanks to the Director General, his staff and all delegations for their unstinted co-operation and conveyed the Conference's gratitude to the Austrian authorities and the City of Vienna for their generous hospitality during the session.

43. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, he invited delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

*All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.*

44. The PRESIDENT then declared the tenth regular session of the General Conference closed.

*The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.*