



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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## SEVENTEENTH REGULAR SESSION: 18–24 SEPTEMBER 1973

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Tuesday, 18 September 1973, at 10.45 a. m.

Temporary President: Mr. FLORES DE LA PENA (Mexico)

President: Mr. BOSWELL (Australia)

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\* A provisional version of this document was issued on 21 September 1973.

\*\* GC(XVII)/497.

THE RECORD

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the seventeenth regular session of the General Conference open.

2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, he invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation, particularly on the important matters which were commanding the attention of mankind: progress in the use of nuclear techniques for the general good; the drafting of a charter of the rights and obligations of nations designed to eliminate the gulf which separated the strong and the weak; renunciation of the use of brute force for the overthrow of governments which were the result of free expression of the will of the people.

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

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT welcomed those present, particularly Mr. Kreisky, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, and Mr. Kirchschräger, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who were honouring the opening meeting of the session with their presence.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

4. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.

5. Mr. ANAK AGUNG (Indonesia) nominated Mr. R. W. Boswell, the delegate of Australia. He recalled the work done by Mr. Boswell in the physical sciences, particularly in radiophysics and electronics. He also mentioned Mr. Boswell's numerous activities as director of Government laboratories and his appointment as Permanent Head of the Australian Department for National Development in 1965. Mr. Boswell was a member of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission (AAEC) and Chairman of the Council of the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Authority. In 1972 he had been appointed Chairman of the AAEC and Governor from Australia on the Agency's Board of Governors.

6. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada) and Mr. FUJIYAMA (Japan) supported the nomination.

● 7. Mr. Boswell (Australia) was elected President of the General Conference for its seventeenth regular session by acclamation.

● Mr. Boswell (Australia) took the chair.

8. The PRESIDENT thanked all delegations for their support in electing him President of the Conference, in particular the delegates of Indonesia, Canada and Japan.

9. He wished to pay a tribute to his predecessor, Mr. Flores de la Peña, the delegate of Mexico, for the able manner in which he had opened the session. Although it was only the second time he himself had attended a session of the General Conference, he hoped that he would be able to direct the discussions of the seventeenth session successfully. He also expressed the hope that the session would enable all the Members of the Agency represented to co-operate fruitfully in nuclear energy activities.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

10. The PRESIDENT proposed, in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure, that a Credentials Committee should be appointed consisting of the following nine Members: Australia, Colombia, Greece, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

● 11. The proposal was accepted.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

12. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference was required to elect its Vice-Presidents after the election of the Chairmen of the two Main Committees. He therefore proposed to suspend the plenary meeting for a short time to enable the two Committees to elect their Chairmen.

● The meeting was suspended at 11. 25 a. m. and resumed at 11. 35 a. m.

13. The PRESIDENT invited nominations for the eight posts of Vice-President of the Conference.

14. Mr. LAURILA (Finland) nominated the delegates of Japan, Madagascar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Uruguay.

15. Mr. SCHMILL ORDOÑEZ (Mexico) seconded those nominations.

● 16. The delegates of the Members nominated were elected to the eight Vice-Presidencies.

APPOINTMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

17. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure, the Conference was required to elect four additional members to the General Committee. He invited nominations.

18. Mr. ANDRZEJEWSKI (Poland) nominated the delegates of Canada, France, Morocco and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

19. Mr. GOHAR (Arab Republic of Egypt) seconded those nominations.

● 20. The delegates of the Members nominated were elected to the General Committee, which was thus duly appointed in compliance with the provisions of Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGENCY (GC(XVII)/498, 509)

21. Mr. ORTIZ-LOPEZ (Costa Rica) said that he wished to sponsor the application of the German Democratic Republic for membership of the Agency which was the subject of document GC(XVII)/498. He recalled that the Board of Governors had considered the application and had recommended that the Conference approve the German Democratic Republic for membership; such approval would, he was sure, strengthen peaceful co-existence and contribute to technical progress in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy.

22. Mr. KETTAB (Algeria) said he fully supported the Board's recommendation and believed that the German Democratic Republic would make a useful contribution to the work of the Agency.

23. Mr. ALI (Bangladesh) said he also supported the German Democratic Republic's application for membership of the Agency.

24. The PRESIDENT took it that the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(XVII)/498.

● 25. It was so decided.

26. The PRESIDENT took it that the Conference also wished to adopt the draft resolution concerning the application for membership by the Mongolian People's Republic contained in document GC(XVII)/509.

● 27. It was so decided.

28. Mr. ANINOIU (Romania) congratulated the observers of the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic on the admission of their States to the Agency. He was sure that the participation of the two States in the Agency's future activities would improve and strengthen international co-operation.

29. Mr. MOROKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was very satisfied at the admission of the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic to the Agency. The Soviet Union had consistently stood up for recognition of the legitimate rights of the German Democratic Republic, whose admission to the Agency confirmed the existence of a socialist German State, which had been one of the first States to become party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) [1].

The Mongolian People's Republic had also ratified NPT and had signed a safeguards agreement with the Agency. The admission of the two States to the Agency would undoubtedly strengthen the principle of universality of the Agency and improve international co-operation in the nuclear field.

30. Mr. ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) warmly congratulated the German Democratic Republic and the Mongolian People's Republic on their admission to the Agency.

31. He noted with sorrow the absence of the Chilean delegation, whose elected democratic Government had just been overthrown by a military coup d'état, and invited the delegates of the socialist Members, the Members in Latin America and all Members which believed in justice and equality to observe a minute of silence in homage to the memory of President Allende, the heroic defender of his people's liberty.

32. Mr. HILBERT (Observer, German Democratic Republic) expressed his gratitude to all those delegates who, in accordance with the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the noble objectives of the Agency's Statute, had supported the admission of the German Democratic Republic to the Agency; he was particularly grateful to those who, for many years, had striven to secure for the German Democratic Republic the same treatment within the Agency as that enjoyed by other States.

33. The Conference's decision coincided in time with very positive trends, at the international level, towards a détente and greater security. The German Democratic Republic, now to become a Member of the Agency, would do all it could to promote international co-operation in the exclusively peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

34. The German Democratic Republic had for many years displayed its keen interest in the Agency's activities and had given proof of its intentions by acceding to all multilateral agreements designed to limit armaments and strengthen international confidence; it had ratified NPT and strictly complied with the provisions of the safeguards agreement which it had concluded with the Agency on 6 March 1972. [2]

35. The German Democratic Republic, with its scientific and technological potential, was able and willing to make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Agency's working programme for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

36. Mr. DASH (Observer, Mongolia) thanked those Members that had supported the application for membership submitted by his Government. Mongolia intended to carry out its obligations under the Statute and to participate as fully as possible in the Agency's activities in a spirit of co-operation with all States, regardless of their economic and social systems.

[1] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/140.

[2] Reproduced in document INFCIRC/181.

## STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

37. Mr. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva) recalled that the Agency and the United Nations had common responsibilities in many fields of activity. He emphasized in particular the impact on the United Nations' activities of the work undertaken by the Agency to further peaceful applications of nuclear energy pursuant to resolutions adopted by the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, held in 1968 under the auspices of the United Nations. [3] In addition, the safeguards agreements concluded in connection with NPT had direct repercussions in the political sphere, and account would undoubtedly be taken of that fact in the conferences on disarmament and European security. Lastly, the market survey for nuclear power carried out by the Agency [4] demonstrated that the Agency was continuing to collaborate closely with those United Nations bodies which had the task of helping to reduce the glaring differences between the living standards of different peoples. The United Nations was proud to be thus associated with the Agency's work and to be co-operating with it in the interests of all.

38. He then read the following message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kurt Waldheim, to the Conference:

(1) "On the occasion of the seventeenth session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, I wish to convey to it sincere and warm wishes for success in its efforts to consolidate the Agency's achievements and plan new advances in all its major fields of action.

(2) "It is gratifying to know that the Agency has continued to make steady progress in the negotiation and conclusion of safeguards agreements required for the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and that many such agreements have now entered into force. I welcome, in particular, the safeguards agreement with EURATOM and the non-nuclear-weapon EURATOM States signed in Brussels last April. These advances represent very significant contributions to nuclear non-proliferation and to peace and security. It is my earnest hope, therefore, that every possible effort will be made to further strengthen and accelerate this positive trend.

(3) "Of course, questions related to safeguards are not the only ones of interest to

the United Nations. The recent, well-documented report of the Agency [5] clearly shows how close the working relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency is and how numerous their points of contact are.

(4) "In this connection, I wish to refer to the Agency's technical co-operation activities aimed at promoting the further development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, especially in the developing countries. I note that in 1973 the Agency outlays for technical co-operation are to increase as compared with the previous year and that they will be almost twenty-five per cent higher than in 1971, thus helping to overcome monetary difficulties and offset inflationary trends. During the same period, furthermore, the UNDP component in the Agency's programme of technical assistance has increased considerably.

(5) "In view of the importance and urgency of effective programmes relating to the protection of the world environment, I find it encouraging that the Agency has intensified its own programme in this field, particularly as regards the safe management of nuclear waste, and that the Director General has been authorized to enter into arrangements with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the carrying-out of activities or the implementation of projects relating to the impact of nuclear energy on the environment. As regards the use of nuclear techniques in environmental studies, I understand that concrete projects have already been submitted by the Agency to UNEP and that each of them relates to recommendations of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

(6) "I am confident that the present session of the Agency's General Conference will make significant progress in the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. I should like also to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr. Eklund, for his ability and dedication to the advancement of the ideals and goals of the Agency.

(7) "To you all, my cordial wishes of success in our common endeavour."

● The meeting rose at 12.35 p. m.

[3] See United Nations document A/7277.

[4] For details, see document GC(XVII)/506.

[5] GC(XVII)/500.