



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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## TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION: 21–28 SEPTEMBER 1976

### RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Conference Centre, Hotel Nacional-Rio, Rio de Janeiro,  
on Tuesday, 28 September 1976, at 10.50 a. m.

President: Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil)

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\* A provisional version of this document was issued on 22 October 1976.

\*\* GC(XX)/573.

## THE RECORD

### GENERAL DEBATE AND REPORT FOR 1975 (GC(XX)/565) (continued)[1]

1. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire) said he would limit his remarks to a brief outline of his country's position on certain questions arising in regard to the availability of cheap sources of energy, a matter of concern both to the Agency and to the world at large.
2. The 1973 energy crisis had illustrated the importance of nuclear energy as an alternative to oil in most countries of the world and had led, during the past three years, to an intensification of national nuclear programmes and to associated problems in relation to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. As a result, the Agency had been the scene of concerted action in favour of improvement and expansion of the safeguards system. In his Government's view, the safeguards programme suffered from two major defects: it was not really effective, and it was being developed at the expense of programmes for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
4. There was therefore an increasing risk that the Agency would satisfy neither the supporters of an effective safeguards system nor the advocates of intensified promotional activities in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. It was for that reason that, during the June meetings of the Board of Governors, his Government had suggested the establishment of two separate organizations corresponding, respectively, to the Agency's regulatory and promotional activities and financed by separate budgets. The present situation was such that it almost seemed necessary to amend Article II of the Statute defining the Agency's objectives to read:  

"The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge its control over programmes for the development of atomic energy throughout the world in order to prevent their use for military purposes. It shall ensure, so far as it is able with its limited means, that assistance be provided either by itself, or at its request, or under its supervision or control, for developing the peaceful uses of atomic energy."
5. That did not mean that his delegation was opposed to a further strengthening of the Agency's control programme. Quite the contrary, in view of the thinly veiled threats of nuclear blackmail from the Prime Minister of the minority, racist Government of South Africa.
6. Firm action was necessary on the part of the Agency to ensure that South Africa did not use for military purposes the increasing assistance it was

receiving from several nuclear advanced countries. It was therefore gratifying to learn that South Africa intended to put its uranium enrichment plants under Agency safeguards, but that country should go still further and sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[2].

7. However, the Agency should stop giving an air of respectability to the policy of apartheid by granting the Vorster Government the status of a permanent Member of the Board of Governors for the African region, since that oppressive Government could not speak for the negroes of South Africa and a fortiori not for the entire continent of Africa.
8. His Government therefore supported the draft resolution requesting the Board of Governors to reconsider the question of representation of the African region by South Africa on the Board of Governors and to report accordingly to the twenty-first regular session of the General Conference[3].
9. Mr. ESTRADA-LEIGH (Chile) said that his delegation was most grateful to the Government and people of Brazil for their fine hospitality and for the excellent facilities placed at the disposal of the Conference.
10. In Chile the National Radioactive Resources Plan was one of several priority programmes defined under the country's National Policy for the Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes. An area of 24 000 square kilometres containing significant anomalies was to be explored systematically for uranium deposits. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was making an important contribution to that work, through the Agency, in the form of experts' assistance, equipment and fellowships. The strongest stimulus behind the programme was perhaps the so-called Uranium Law promulgated as recently as 16 September, which, among other things established the terms of recompense in order to attract the interest of investors, both foreign and Chilean, in exploration and exploitation of the deposits.
11. Chile's nuclear power project envisaged the entry into service of the country's first nuclear power plant in 1988. The plan of action at present being developed focused attention on the training of personnel who would be engaged in the project during its different phases. The Agency had been most helpful in that connection, granting fellowships in Argentina and Spain, and also at Argonne, Karlsruhe and Saclay.
12. He took pleasure in announcing that at the end of 1976 Chile hoped to see the Lo Aguirre reactor, built with Spanish assistance, reach criticality for the first time. In May 1977 a pilot multipurpose irradiation plant with a 100 000 Ci source was to go into operation.

[1] GC(XX)/OR.190, paras 1-98.

[2] Reproduced in document INF/CIRC/140.

[3] See document GC(XX)/RES/336.

13. Chile was receiving collaboration and assistance from many quarters, but he wished to make special mention of the valuable help provided by the Agency and to record the gratitude of his Government for that help.

14. The delegate of the German Democratic Republic had expressed the opinion that Chile should not be granted technical assistance by the Agency. That observation was entirely out of order. Chile was a Member of the Agency in good standing and was fully entitled to exercise all the rights and enjoy all the benefits conferred upon Members. That being so, the provision of technical assistance was contingent only upon the technical soundness of the projects submitted, and Chile's projects had been found to be sound. If asked for the reasons for his statement, the delegate of the German Democratic Republic would have to confess them to be purely political, and accordingly quite out of place in an organization whose mission was technical in nature. The delegation of Chile therefore wished to record a vigorous protest against the unwarranted observations of the German Democratic Republic delegation.

15. The PRESIDENT, noting that no more delegates wished to speak in the general debate, suggested that the Conference pass on to consider item 11 of the agenda.

#### EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XX)/575, 576 and Add. 1)

16. The PRESIDENT drew attention to document GC(XX)/575, which contained the report of the General Committee on its examination of delegates' credentials, and informed the Conference that, since the General Committee had met, Iran, Italy and Paraguay had submitted credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure.

17. Certain corrections needed to be made in the General Committee's report. In paragraph 4(b) the words "by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole (Zaire) and . . . ." should be added after the words ". . . was supported . . .", and paragraph 5 should precede paragraph 4. In that connection it was also to be noted that the delegate of Thailand had pointed out in the general debate that, if he had been able to attend the last meeting of the General Committee, he would have made a statement supporting the view that the credentials of the delegate of South Africa should not be recognized as valid. [4]

18. It was clear that a majority of the Members of the General Committee condemned the apartheid policy of the Government of South Africa. He was sure that the Conference would agree with him that the condemnation of apartheid reflected in the report of the General Committee was shared by the

overwhelming majority of the delegates in the Conference and constituted a serious censure of the policy applied by the Government of South Africa. He understood however that as a result of extensive consultations, which were reflected in the statement he had just made, the General Conference, taking into account that statement, would now be prepared to adopt the draft resolution recommended by the General Committee in document GC(XX)/575.

● 19. The draft resolution in document GC(XX)/575 was adopted.

20. The PRESIDENT next drew the Conference's attention to document GC(XX)/576 and Add. 1, which contained a draft resolution sponsored by 24 Member States concerning the designation of South Africa as a Member of the Board of Governors. He felt that there was no need to put that matter to the vote. He understood that there had been extensive consultations and that, while some Members had reservations, the Conference was of the opinion that the question of South Africa's designation should be referred to the Board of Governors for its consideration, and that a report on the subject should be submitted to the General Conference at its twenty-first regular session.

● 21. The draft resolution in document GC(XX)/576 was adopted.

#### THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

22. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, reported on his Committee's consideration of the agenda items that had been referred to it: item 8 - the Agency's accounts for 1975, item 9 - the Agency's programme for 1977-82 and budget for 1977 and item 10 - Assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget.

#### THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1975 (GC(XX)/566)

● 23. The draft resolution in document GC(XX)/566 on the Agency's accounts for 1975 was adopted.

#### THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME FOR 1977-82 AND BUDGET FOR 1977 (GC(XX)/567)

● 24. Draft resolution A (Regular Budget appropriations for 1977), draft resolution B (Operational Budget allocations for 1977) and draft resolution C (The Working Capital Fund in 1977) set forth in document GC(XX)/567, Annex VII, were adopted.

#### ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE AGENCY'S REGULAR BUDGET (GC(XX)/569 and 570)

● 25. The draft resolution in document GC(XX)/569 on revised principles for the assess-

[4] GC(XX)/OR.188, para. 76.

ment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget and the draft resolution in document GC(XX)/570 on the scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1977 were adopted.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

26. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Agency's Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by the Conference. Since the previous session the Conference had been represented by Mr. Beláček (Czechoslovakia) and Mr. von Schenck (Switzerland) as members, with Mr. Adén (Argentina) and Mr. Jenkins (United Kingdom) as alternates. As Mr. Beláček and Mr. von Schenck were no longer able to serve on the Committee, he suggested that Mr. Modransky of Hungary and Mr. Jenkins of the United Kingdom be elected to serve as members, and that Mr. O'Neill of Australia be elected as an alternate member in place of Mr. Jenkins.

- 27. Mr. Modransky (Hungary) and Mr. Jenkins (United Kingdom) were elected as members and Mr. O'Neill (Australia) as an alternate member of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR 1977 (GC(XX)/571/Rev. 4)

28. The PRESIDENT referred the Conference to document GC(XX)/571/Rev. 4, which showed that by 6 p. m. on 24 September pledges of voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1977 had been made by 48 Members of the Agency in an amount equivalent to \$3 211 406. In the meantime pledges had been received from four more Members: Turkey had undertaken to contribute \$18 000, Niger \$1200, Qatar \$1200 and Liechtenstein \$1200. Fifty-two Members of the Agency were therefore pledged to contribute a total amount of \$3 233 006 to the General Fund, which was of course far short of the target of \$6 million for voluntary contributions which the Conference had earlier set itself. He felt that it was the duty of every Member State to do something to help remedy that unsatisfactory situation. Clearly the Secretariat could not effectively plan, less still implement, a \$6 million programme when pledges by Member States came to only half that amount. However, several Members which had contributed generously in the past were not yet able to make known their contributions for 1977, so there were grounds for hoping that the amount pledged might be significantly increased. He asked all delegates to bring the matter to the attention of the competent authorities of their countries, urging them to make further contributions to the General Fund appropriate to their means, so that the Agency would have enough funds at its disposal in 1977 to meet all reasonable requests it received for technical assistance from its developing Member States. Delegates would do well to bear in mind how often the importance of technical assistance had been stressed in the course of the present session.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XX)/564 and 574)

29. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his memorandum in document GC(XX)/574 on the election of Members to the Board, in paragraph 2 of which he notified the Conference that 11 Members had to be elected to the Board, specifying the geographical areas in respect of which elections were required and the number of Members to be elected from each area.

- 30. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Finnish delegation and a member of the delegation of the Holy See acted as tellers.
- 31. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 11 Members to the Board.

32. The PRESIDENT informed the General Conference of the results of the voting.

- 33. The result of the election of three Members from the area of Latin America was as follows:

Invalid votes:	1
Abstentions:	3
Valid votes:	209
Required majority:	35
Votes obtained:	
Argentina	70
Panama	70
Mexico	69

- 34. Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Panama and Mexico were elected to the Board.

- 35. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Western Europe was as follows:

Invalid votes:	4
Abstentions:	3
Valid votes:	135
Required majority:	34
Votes obtained:	
Portugal	68
Belgium	67

- 36. Having obtained the required majority, Portugal and Belgium were elected to the Board.

- 37. The result of the election of a Member from the area of Eastern Europe was as follows:

Abstentions:	3
Valid votes:	68
Required majority:	35
Votes obtained:	
Czechoslovakia	68

- 38. Having obtained the required majority, Czechoslovakia was elected to the Board.

- 39. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Africa was as follows:

Abstentions:	3
Valid votes:	139
Required majority:	35
Votes obtained:	
Niger	69
Nigeria	68
Gabon	1
Ivory Coast	1

- 40. Having obtained the required majority, Niger and Nigeria were elected to the Board.

- 41. The result of the election of a Member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia was as follows:

Abstentions:	4
Valid votes:	67
Required majority:	34
Votes obtained:	
Pakistan	39
Iraq	26
Egypt	2

- 42. Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan was elected to the Board.

- 43. The result of the election of a Member from the area of South East Asia and the Pacific was as follows:

Abstentions:	1
Valid votes:	70
Required majority:	36
Votes obtained:	
Malaysia	70

- 44. Having obtained the required majority, Malaysia was elected to the Board.

- 45. The result of the election of a Member from the area of Africa, or the Middle East and South Asia, or South East Asia and the Pacific was as follows:

Abstentions:	2
Valid votes:	69
Required majority:	35
Votes obtained:	
Egypt	67
Pakistan	2

- 46. Having obtained the required majority, Egypt was elected to the Board.

47. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the 11 Members so elected, recalled that under Article VI, D of the Statute they would hold office from the end of the current session until the end of the second regular session of the Conference thereafter, in other words for a period of two years.

48. He thanked the delegations of Finland and the Holy See, which had provided tellers, the two tellers themselves and their Secretariat assistants.

## CLOSING OF THE SESSION

49. Mr. SIRRY (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the African Member States, requested the President of the Conference to convey to the Government and people of Brazil and to the authorities of Rio de Janeiro the Conference's gratitude for the welcome accorded to delegates and the excellent facilities which had been put at its disposal. Delegates had been impressed not only by the beauty and dynamism of Brazil but also by the equality, harmony and happiness in which the many races constituting the Brazilian population lived.

50. The countries of the African group greatly appreciated the President's courteous and efficient conduct of the deliberations of the Conference, the success of which was due in large measure to his wisdom.

51. Lastly, he thanked the Director General and his staff for providing the usual high standard of service so far from the Agency's Headquarters.

52. Mr. OSZTROVSKI (Hungary), on behalf of the countries of Eastern Europe, thanked the President of the Conference for the way in which he had guided the Conference's deliberations. His wisdom and great experience had undoubtedly contributed to the success of the twentieth regular session.

53. He also thanked the Director General and his staff for the high quality of the documents prepared for the Conference.

54. Lastly, he expressed gratitude to the Brazilian authorities for their hospitality, the excellent facilities provided and the possibility to get to know the beautiful country of Brazil.

55. Mr. CASTRO MADERO (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the countries of Latin America, congratulated the President of the Conference on his conduct of the Conference's twentieth regular session, the success of which was particularly gratifying to the countries of Latin America as they had so strongly supported his election.

56. He went on to thank the Director General and his staff for their efforts in preparing the excellent Conference documentation.

57. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the Brazilian Government and people for their cordial hospitality, which had greatly contributed to the creation of an atmosphere of conciliation in which international co-operation had prospered.

58. Mr. BEESLEY (Canada), on behalf of the North America region, congratulated the President of the Conference on the way in which he had guided the Conference's deliberations. The "spirit of Rio" created under his able guidance would long remain an example of how difficult questions could be settled in a manner which reflected credit upon the Agency. The welcome of the Brazilian Government and people and of the authorities of

Rio de Janeiro had also contributed to the creation of the "Spirit of Rio".

59. Thanking the Director General and his staff and the supporting personnel recruited locally, he said that the quality of Agency documents was seldom equalled and never excelled elsewhere within the United Nations family.

60. Lastly, he commended the constructive spirit exhibited by delegates in dealing with some often divisive issues; it augured well for the future work of the Agency.

61. Mr. SATTAR (Pakistan), speaking for the countries of the Middle East and South Asia, expressed gratitude to the Brazilian Government and all those Brazilians who had contributed to the success of the Conference's twentieth regular session for the generous hospitality and impeccable efficiency which delegates had experienced. He also commended the Secretariat on the services which it had provided with its characteristic competence.

62. The success of the Conference's deliberations was due in large measure to the wise guidance of the President, who had earned the particular gratitude of delegates.

63. Mr. BOT (Netherlands), on behalf of the countries of Western Europe, thanked the President of the Conference for his wise guidance and congratulated him on ensuring that the time-table of the Conference's deliberations had been adhered to. He also thanked the Director General and his staff for their continued devoted service to the Agency.

64. The Government and people of Brazil were to be thanked for the excellent facilities provided and for their warm hospitality, which had more than made up for the lack of sunshine.

65. In conclusion, delegates were to be commended on the spirit of understanding which they had demonstrated and their concern to reach agreement in the interests of the Agency and all Member States.

66. Mr. SIAZON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Member States from the Pacific and the Far East, congratulated the President of the Conference on the way in which he had steered the Conference through a particularly difficult - but at the same time interesting - regular session, in which the developing Member States had for the first time successfully demonstrated their determination to play a greater part in the Agency. The success of the twentieth regular session was also due in no small part to the efforts of the Director General and his staff.

67. Thanking the Government and people of Brazil, he said that delegates were leaving Rio de Janeiro with heavy hearts but lasting memories of a beautiful country.

68. Mr. GEORGE (Australia), speaking for the countries of the South East Asia region, congratulated the President of the Conference on steering the Conference's deliberations to a happy conclusion and on his success in dealing with a number of contentious issues.

69. He thanked the Director General and his staff for their dedication and commended the spirit of compromise which delegates had displayed.

70. Participants in the Conference would leave Rio de Janeiro with pleasant memories of a beautiful city and hospitable people, and of a country with an exciting future.

71. The DIRECTOR GENERAL, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of the Secretariat, thanked the President and Government of Brazil, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the authorities of Rio de Janeiro for the facilities and accommodation made available to delegates and Agency staff.

72. Congratulating the President of the Conference on his efficient conduct of the session, he expressed admiration for his ability to reduce the problems encountered to their correct proportions.

73. The PRESIDENT, thanking delegates for their kind words, said he considered it a great privilege to have been President of a regular session which - he was sure - would prove to have been very important for the Agency.

74. He thanked delegates for their spirit of understanding, which had made it possible to reach agreement on a number of difficult questions, and the Director General, his staff and the locally recruited supporting staff for their contributions to the success of the session.

75. Brazil considered it an honour to have been host to the Conference and hoped that delegates would take away with them happy memories.

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

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

78. The PRESIDENT declared the twentieth regular session of the General Conference closed.

● The meeting rose at 1.25 p. m.