



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXI)/GEN/OR. 27

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TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION: 26–30 SEPTEMBER 1977

GENERAL COMMITTEE

RECORD OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Tuesday, 27 September 1977, at 12.40 p. m.

Item of the provisional agenda**	Subject	Paragraphs
-	Adoption of the agenda for the meeting	1
5	Arrangements for the Conference	2 - 24
	(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion	2 - 19
	(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session	20 - 24

* A provisional version of this document was issued on 3 October 1977.

** GC(XXI)/577.

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING*

Chairman

Mr. ETEMAD (Iran), President of the General Conference

Members

Mr. HOFFMANN, representing Mr. HAUNSCHILD (Federal Republic of Germany), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. RATHORE, representing Mr. SETHNA (India), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. SASTRADIDJAJA, representing Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. KATORI (Japan), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. BARREDA DELGADO (Peru), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. EROFEEV, representing Mr. MOROKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. STONE, representing Mr. FRI (United States of America), Vice-President of the General Conference

Mr. RÖHNSCH (German Democratic Republic), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. CARTER (Canada), Additional Member

Mr. VALDES-MARTINEZ (Chile), Additional Member

Mr. SIRRY, representing Mr. EL-GUEBEILY (Egypt), Additional Member

Mr. LOUET, representing Mr. GOLDSCHMIDT (France), Additional Member

Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary), Additional Member

Mr. HABASHI (Sudan), Additional Member

Mr. WILMSHURST, representing Sir John HILL (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Additional Member

Secretariat

Mr. HALL, Deputy Director General, Department of Administration

Mr. GARRETT, Secretary of the Committee

* The composition of the General Committee at the twenty-first regular session will be found in document GC(XXI)/INF/170/Rev. 2.

THE RECORD

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING (GC(XXI)/GEN/50)

- 1. The agenda proposed for the meeting (GC(XXI)/GEN/50) was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE

(a) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION (GC(XXI)/577 and 587)

2. The CHAIRMAN said that since there were no applications for membership of the Agency before the General Conference, item 4 - Applications for membership of the Agency - should be deleted from the provisional agenda (GC(XXI)/577). He also drew attention to document GC(XXI)/587 in which the Board of Governors proposed to the General Conference that two additional items, "The Agency's budget for 1977" and "Appointment of the External Auditor", should be included in the agenda.

3. Mr. EROFEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed doubts concerning the wisdom of including in the agenda of the General Conference the question of amending Article VI, A, 2 of the Statute, which was listed as item 11 of the provisional agenda. The question was a very important one and although the Board had considered the matter in detail it had not been able to formulate recommendations owing to the rather serious differences of opinion which had emerged during the discussions. It was therefore not very likely that the General Conference itself would be able to find a solution, and it would perhaps be preferable if the co-sponsors of the relevant draft amendment[1] re-considered their position with a view to requesting the deletion of that item from the agenda.

4. Mr. ADENIJI (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of his delegation and those of the countries which had co-sponsored the draft amendment, said there could be no question of withdrawing the proposal for amendment, which had been submitted in conformity with all the requirements of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. The Statute did not require that the Board should have formulated recommendations on a given matter before the General Conference could discuss it. It was enough for the Board to present its observations, which in the present case were represented by the summary records of the meetings at which the item had been discussed. Since the requirements regarding procedure had been complied with, it was up to the Committee of the Whole to decide on the substance of the question.

5. Mr. STONE (United States of America) said it was true that legally there could be no objections

to the inclusion of that item in the agenda. On the other hand, he thought it unlikely that the proposal for amendment would obtain the two-thirds majority needed for its adoption by the General Conference. Since the agenda for the present session was already very full, he wondered if the co-sponsors might not prefer to withdraw the item.

6. Mr. SIRRY (Egypt) said that what the co-sponsors of the draft amendment wanted above all was a dialogue, which had not been possible in the Board, partly because the delegations of the United States of America and the Soviet Union had not formulated a counterproposal. For that reason he supported the delegate of Nigeria in urging the General Committee not to delete from the agenda an item which had been included in full compliance with the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference.

7. Mr. HABASHI (Sudan) agreed with the delegates of Nigeria and Egypt in requesting that the subject should be included on the agenda since its discussion by the General Conference was long overdue.

8. Mr. HOFFMANN (Federal Republic of Germany), like the delegates of the Soviet Union and the United States of America, also thought that, since the Board had discussed the question in detail without having been able to arrive at a consensus, it would be illogical to bring it before the General Conference, which would not have the time necessary for detailed consideration. He hoped that the co-sponsors of the draft amendment, animated by the spirit of Vienna, would agree to withdraw it.

9. Mr. SASTRADIDJAJA (Indonesia) associated himself unreservedly with the statements of the delegates of Nigeria, Egypt and Sudan.

10. Mr. OSZTROVSZKI (Hungary) expressed misgivings that the dialogue sought by the co-sponsors of the draft amendment might actually take the form of a lively debate which was very likely to end in an impasse. He thought it would be more sensible not to discuss the question at the present session of the General Conference.

11. Mr. EROFEEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he deemed it appropriate to make his position clear in order to avoid any misunderstandings. He had not wanted to cast any doubt on the legality of including the matter in the agenda. It was actually in the interests of the co-sponsors of the draft amendment that he was suggesting that it should not be considered during the present session, which already had a very full programme. It went without saying, however, that the delegation of the Soviet Union was willing to take an active part in discussions on the amendment of Article VI, A, 2 of the Statute.

12. The CHAIRMAN took it that the General Committee was willing to recommend to the General Conference that the agenda of the session should comprise all the items listed in the pro-

[1] See document GC(XXI)/584.

visional agenda (GC(XXI)/577), with the exception of item 4 - Applications for membership of the Agency, together with the two items whose inclusion had been proposed by the Board of Governors in document GC(XXI)/587.

● 13. It was so decided.

14. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the first new item - "The Agency's budget for 1977" - should be discussed first in the Committee of the Whole and the second - "Appointment of the External Auditor" - be discussed first in plenary.

● 15. It was so decided.

16. With respect to the order in which the items should be considered, the CHAIRMAN pointed out that in the past the General Committee had left it to the President of the General Conference to determine that order, in consultation with the Secretariat, in order to comply with the wishes of as many delegates as possible.

● 17. The Committee decided to recommend the General Conference to approve the allocation of agenda items for initial discussion suggested in document GC(XXI)/577.

● 18. The Committee decided to recommend the General Conference to decide, in conformity with the procedure laid down in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure, that the two new items on the agenda could be discussed before expiry of the seven-day period specified in that rule.

● 19. The Committee authorized the Chairman to make an oral report in its name to the General Conference.

(b) CLOSING DATE OF THE SESSION AND
OPENING DATE OF THE NEXT SESSION

20. The CHAIRMAN said that in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure the General Conference had to make a recommendation on the closing date of the session. The general debate would probably continue until Friday, 30 September. Thus, the session might be closed during the afternoon of that day if the Committee of the Whole had completed its work by the morning of that day.

21. He took it that the Committee would be willing to authorize him to recommend in its name to the General Conference that it fix Friday, 30 September as the closing date of the session on the understanding that, if necessary, the question could be taken up again at the next meeting of the General Committee.

● 22. It was so decided.

23. The CHAIRMAN recalled that it was customary for the President to present to the General Conference a recommendation by the General Committee concerning the opening date of the next regular session. He understood that the general view was that it would be preferable for the following regular session to open again on a Monday, and he therefore suggested to the General Committee that it recommend to the General Conference to fix Monday, 18 September 1978 as the opening date of the twenty-second regular session.

● 24. It was so decided.

● The meeting rose at 1.30 p. m.