



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXI)/OR.199
June 1978*

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH

TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION: 26–30 SEPTEMBER 1977

RECORD OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Neue Hofburg, Vienna, on Friday, 30 September 1977, at 10.15 a. m.

President: Mr. ETEMAD (Iran)

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* A provisional version of this document was issued on 18 October 1977.

** GC(XXI)/591.

THE RECORD

EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS (GC(XXI)/593)

1. The PRESIDENT drew the General Conference's attention to document GC(XXI)/593, which contained the report of the General Committee on examination of delegates' credentials. It was stated in the first paragraph that, at its twenty-eighth meeting on 28 September the General Committee had examined the credentials of delegates to the session, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference. In subsequent paragraphs it was noted that credentials satisfying the requirements of Rule 27 of the Rules of Procedure had been submitted to the Director General for the delegates of 73 Members. The report likewise indicated the General Committee's approach to its task, as also opinions that had been expressed. The last paragraph contained a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Conference.

● 2. The draft resolution contained in document GC(XXI)/593 was adopted.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1976 (GC(XXI)/580) (continued[1])

3. Mr. ZANGGER (Switzerland) congratulated the President of the Conference on behalf of his Government and the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein. He also extended congratulations to Mr. Sigvard Eklund on the renewal of the General Conference's trust in him and, lastly, thanked the Austrian authorities for the hospitality accorded to the Agency and its various bodies.

4. In the field of nuclear energy research and development, his country had continued to give priority to high-temperature reactors. The joint study of that reactor type, carried out over some 20 years in conjunction with the Federal Republic of Germany, had brought positive results in that recently the full competitiveness of the high-temperature reactor with high-power gas turbine operating in direct cycle had been established. For some ten years past his country had likewise interested itself in the development of gas-cooled fast-breeder reactors under a programme being implemented by General Atomic. It was therefore with interest that his Government had followed the course of negotiations between the Ministry of Research and Technology of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States Energy Research and Development Administration, and the French Atomic Energy Commission, and had decided to participate in a co-operation agreement on high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, which was due to be signed that same day at Bonn.

5. As for Switzerland's collaboration in the activities of the Agency, his Government was par-

ticularly interested in studies on nuclear safety, nuclear information, and irradiation of foodstuffs. In the field of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it was to be noted that his country had ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)[2] on 9 March 1977, following lengthy discussion in Parliament. It was hoped that other States would do their share toward making NPT truly universal in character, thereby enabling an advance to be made toward uniform non-proliferation conditions for the world as a whole.

6. Since it lacked substantial fossil fuel resources, Switzerland, although an exporter of nuclear equipment, was basically a fuel importer and a customer for fuel cycle services furnished abroad. Its contribution to combating proliferation stemmed from a principle which it regarded as fundamental, i. e. that no action undertaken to that end should violate a State's freedom to utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes once it had agreed to furnish the basic guarantees as laid down in NPT. In his Government's view, no measures taken or to be taken should be aimed at restricting that freedom or even at introducing discriminatory rules; on the contrary, they should be directed toward the freer use of nuclear energy by all States without discrimination.

7. That principle was likewise the basic idea underlying the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. There was therefore a need to reinforce measures to combat proliferation on the following four fronts: (1) international safeguards, which should continue to be a pillar of the non-proliferation system; (2) control of exports of nuclear materials, equipment and know-how. In that regard it was to be noted that work was in progress on strengthening the regime governing the institution of safeguards; (3) physical protection of nuclear installations, materials and transport operations. Responsibility there lay with Governments, and provision should be made for the exchange of reciprocal guarantees under an international agreement; and (4) access to nuclear fuel cycle services, such services being provided through machinery designed to minimize the risk of proliferation. In order to achieve that objective, there might be need to regroup various sensitive operations of the cycle in a single centre, and also to concentrate those operations in a very small number of multinational centres.

8. By that dual technological and geo-political regroupment, the aims of non-proliferation, environmental protection, economies of scale, and safe access to fuel cycle services would be promoted, and the system of political security given greater strength through increased interdependence among States. It was for that reason that his country intended to participate in the nuclear fuel cycle evaluation proposed by the Government of the United States of America. It hoped that through that evaluation it would be possible to make

[1] GC(XXI)/OR. 198

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

a systematic study of ways and means of combating proliferation; and, further, that the exercise would provide answers to the questions posed and lead to a consensus on an international civil nuclear energy policy.

9. To be sure, any coherent system for combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons had to embrace technical objectives (safeguards, physical protection, organization of the fuel cycle), but it should also encompass a political objective (renouncement of nuclear weapons). The international system of technical and legal safeguards could ensure a very high degree of confidence in non-proliferation. It should, however, be recognized that non-proliferation could never be absolutely guaranteed for obvious reasons associated with matters of technology and cost. The gap would therefore have to be filled by the political will to renounce nuclear weapons. That responsibility in the first instance was the concern of the nuclear-weapon States; they should reduce the temptations in the way of other States by exhibiting a real desire for nuclear disarmament.

10. In conclusion, he extended warm wishes on behalf of his country's authorities and of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agency on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary and expressed the hope that the spirit of co-operation hitherto reigning within the Agency would continue to prevail in the future.

11. Mr. BARREDA DELGADO (Peru), on behalf of his delegation, congratulated the President on his election, which was due both to his personal ability and to his Government's efforts to use atomic energy for peaceful development purposes. He also congratulated the Director General on his reappointment to a post in which he had already shown far from ordinary capabilities. The astonishingly rapid expansion of the Agency's activities could not be measured better than by the universality of the participation, during the twenty-first session of the General Conference, in the consideration of questions which just a short time previously had been on the secret list.

12. Peru, like other Member States, had received valuable assistance from the Agency thanks to which it had been able to embark upon the implementation of a plan aimed at creating the conditions for an effective use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes at the cost of a reasonable national effort. Peru had to learn how to use nuclear techniques while establishing the infrastructure that would enable it to solve important socio-economic problems, such as increasing agricultural productivity, improving standards of public health, and so on.

13. Peru intended also to investigate its uranium reserves, and for that purpose proposed to organize a team of qualified specialists. With the help of that team it would study the possibility of participating in the world uranium market. Moreover, a thorough study was being made of the utilization of nuclear energy for electricity generation, which would also make it possible to assess the country's

nuclear fuel requirements. It was imperative for Peru to undertake such activities within its economic means, without neglecting more urgent needs, and taking care to apply all the safety measures that were required.

14. Such a plan could not be implemented without outside help, which Peru hoped to obtain either from the Agency and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or under bilateral agreements. Negotiations were already being held with Argentina to that end. Peru fully agreed with the comments made by the Director General at the opening meeting regarding the necessity of only submitting requests for assistance in respect of specific well-planned programmes. It was currently witnessing an example of fruitful planned co-operation, the success of which was due mainly to exchanges of technology.

15. He wished to stress that before even undertaking the least activity in the nuclear field Peru had signed all the international treaties and agreements on safeguards and non-proliferation. In that connection it appeared that certain countries wanted to apply sanctions as a preventive measure, and it was precisely those countries which had transgressed and continued to transgress. Would it not be simpler to preach by example? His delegation wondered if it would not be better to give NPT the title: "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation and Reduction of Nuclear Weapons".

16. The world was currently aiming at a levelling of standards of living. Energy could, without any doubt, contribute considerably to such an end, and the limitation of access to the relevant techniques could only lead to neo-colonialism. By exploring the microcosm, science and technology had put energy and the instruments needed to learn about the macrocosm at the disposal of mankind, but, in fact, little progress had been made on the path of direct communication between men, which was the best way of eliminating differences and of finding the road to truth, peace and the common good. The Conference could show the way, and that was why "the spirit of Vienna" had been spoken of.

17. He hoped that that spirit would be preserved and would make it possible to find common solutions to common problems.

18. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire) congratulated the President on his election and Mr. Eklund on his reappointment as Director General.

19. As he was participating for the fifteenth consecutive year in the discussions and debates of the General Conference, he thought he was in a position to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Agency. In the first place, the nuclear experience, which had been lived through with much intensity, had nevertheless taken place too much in isolation, so that the year 1977 seemed to be the year of questioning everything at all levels. As Ralph Bunche had stressed, the Agency could not hope to live and grow in a political ivory tower. It had to take into account the

legitimate preoccupations: (a) of a world that saw its vital resources such as water and air dwindling; (b) of a Third World that felt itself crushed by an economic order that it considered to be increasingly unjust; and (c) of the countries "without nuclear rank" which felt themselves more and more forgotten in the face of the preoccupations of the Great Powers with regard to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

20. To take account of all those preoccupations, a sound policy should be developed without either haste or procrastination. Such a policy had already been embarked upon with NPT; it was continuing in the restrictions on international trade involving the nuclear "thing" - too late as far as South Africa was concerned - but was inadequately reflected in the rules and directives governing the Agency.

21. On that point he was, he knew, in profound disagreement with many delegations which saw in political preoccupations a danger of rupturing the "delicate balance" that had been established in the Agency, particularly in the Board of Governors. However, the delicate balance of yesterday was no longer that of today. Yesterday the balance had had to be established between East and West; today it was between the advanced and the developing countries, namely between North and South. All that was necessary was to apply that golden rule of the United Nations under which all sovereign States were equal in law.

22. Representation on the Board of Governors should therefore take into account, in an equitable manner, the numerical strength of the "Africa" and the "Middle East and South Asia" areas. It was for that reason that his delegation supported the draft resolution for amending Article VI. A. 2 of the Statute and welcomed the replacement of South Africa by Egypt on the Board of Governors.

23. Another delicate balance was implicitly provided for in Article II of the Statute, namely the balance to be maintained between the Agency's two main objectives: on the one hand to enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, and on the other hand to ensure that the assistance provided was not used in such a way as to further military purposes.

24. All the Members of the Agency had agreed to follow that noble objective, in particular by means of an adequate and equitable budgetary policy. However, for some years past the budgetary policy of the Agency appeared to show that the regulatory activities, or safeguards, were being favoured at the expense of promotion, or technical assistance. That belief was confirmed by the fact: (a) that the promotional activities were financed by voluntary contributions, while safeguards activities were totally financed from the Regular Budget; (b) that, because of monetary erosion and the multiplication of those requesting assistance, the technical assistance capacity of the Agency seemed to be stagnating or even diminishing; and (c) that the administration of technical assistance seemed to be relatively

inefficient, as the report of the "Five Wise Men" had shown. With regard to the latter point it would be worth reviewing and supplementing that report; more emphasis should be put on the "equipment" and "fellowships" components than on the "experts" component.

25. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the climate of confrontation that had sometimes characterized the Agency's work would give way to a new climate based on confidence.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

26. The PRESIDENT said that the Government of India intended to invite the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency to hold its twenty-third regular session in India in 1979. The invitation would be officially extended at the twenty-second regular session of the Conference.

27. He wished to thank the delegate of India for that information.

28. Mr. KATORI (Japan) recalled that his country had had the honour of hosting the General Conference in Tokyo in 1965. During recent years his country had been steadfastly devoted to the cause of peaceful utilization of atomic energy. It warmly welcomed the invitation of the Indian Government to hold the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference in India in 1979, as that would further the progress of international collaboration.

29. Mr. GARCÍA-LÓPEZ SANTAOLALLA (Mexico) also welcomed the offer of the Indian Government to hold the twenty-third regular session of the General Conference in India. He was certain that that country's achievements in regard to the standardization of improved nuclear techniques would guarantee the success of the Conference.

30. Mr. de CARVALHO (Brazil) pointed out how important it was to hold sessions of the Agency's General Conference away from Vienna. The Agency's accomplishments were in fact not always well known in the outside world and it was necessary for other countries to gain a better understanding of the importance of those activities. That had been the case with Brazil, which had been able to acquaint delegates with its aims in regard to nuclear technology. Holding sessions of the General Conference in countries other than Austria made it possible to establish durable relations, which was very important. It would also be very interesting for delegates to be able to form an idea of the problems with which India was confronted.

31. He recalled that the spirit of Rio de Janeiro had been the spirit of understanding and reciprocity and he was sure that that could result only in the furtherance of peace and enhanced co-operation in all areas, including science and technology.

32. Finally, he quoted a passage from the Koran: "One can perform a miracle on earth if the miracle exists in the heart of men."

33. Mr. CASTRO-MADERO (Argentina) said he wished to express his gratitude to the Government of India for inviting the Agency's General Conference to hold its twenty-third regular session in India. His delegation welcomed the invitation and was sure that it would enable all delegates to gain a better understanding of that country, to witness the progress made in the nuclear sector, and to promote a process of co-operation which would help in consolidating world peace.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXI)/592)

34. The PRESIDENT drew attention to his memorandum in document GC(XXI)/592 on the election of Members to the Board; in paragraph 2 of that document he notified the Conference that 12 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.

● 35. At the invitation of the President, a member of the Egyptian delegation and a member of the Irish delegation acted as tellers.

● 36. A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect 12 Members to the Board of Governors.

37. The PRESIDENT informed the General Conference of the result of the voting.

● 38. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Latin America was as follows:

Invalid votes:	2
Abstentions:	1
Valid votes:	163
Required majority:	41
Votes obtained:	
Peru	82
Ecuador	81

● 39. Having obtained the required majority, Peru and Ecuador were elected to the Board.

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

Invalid votes:	2
Abstentions:	1
Valid votes:	163
Required majority:	41
Votes obtained:	
Norway	82
Austria	81

● 41. Having obtained the required majority, Norway and Austria were elected to the Board.

● 42. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Eastern Europe was as follows:

Abstentions:	7
Valid votes:	159
Required majority:	40
Votes obtained:	
Romania	80
Bulgaria	79

● 43. Having obtained the required majority, Romania and Bulgaria were elected to the Board.

● 44. The result of the election of two Members from the area of Africa was as follows:

Invalid votes:	3
Abstentions:	6
Valid votes:	157
Required majority:	40
Votes obtained:	
Ghana	78
Tunisia	78

● 45. Having obtained the required majority, Ghana and Tunisia were elected to the Board.

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

Invalid votes:	1
Abstentions:	3
Valid votes:	79
Required majority:	40
Votes obtained:	
Kuwait	79

● 47. Having obtained the required majority, Kuwait was elected to the Board.

● 48. The result of the election of a Member from the area of the Far East was as follows:

Invalid votes:	6
Abstentions:	16
Valid votes:	61
Required majority:	31
Votes obtained:	
Republic of Korea	61

● 49. Having obtained the required majority, the Republic of Korea was elected to the Board.

● 50. The result of the election of a Member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia, or South East Asia and the Pacific, or the Far East was as follows:

Abstentions:	2
Valid votes:	81
Required majority:	41
Votes obtained:	
Iran	80
Indonesia	1

● 51. Having obtained the required majority, Iran was elected to the Board.

● 52. 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:	7
Valid votes:	76
Required majority:	39
Votes obtained:	
Senegal	75
Sudan	1

● 53. Having obtained the required majority, Senegal was elected to the Board.

54. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the 12 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 twenty-third regular session of the General Conference, in other words for a period of two years, except in the case of Senegal, which had been elected to the seat made vacant following Egypt's designation to serve on the Board. The representative of Senegal had authorized him to inform the General Conference, on behalf of his Government, that Senegal would serve on the Board for one year only. In that way, the General Conference could maintain the equitable and regular rotation on the Board of the Members in the various areas mentioned in Article VI of the Statute; on behalf of the General Conference, he thanked Senegal for its co-operation.

55. He also thanked the delegations of Egypt and Ireland, which had provided tellers, the two tellers themselves, and their Secretariat assistants.

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

56. Mr. RÖHNSCH (German Democratic Republic), 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 1976, item 16 - The Agency's budget for 1977, item 9 - The Agency's budget for 1978, item 10 - Scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1978 and item 11 - Amendment of Article VI. A. 2 of the Statute.

THE AGENCY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 1976 (GC(XXI)/581)

● 57. The draft resolution in document GC(XXI)/581 on the Agency's accounts for 1976 was adopted.

THE AGENCY'S BUDGET FOR 1977 (GC(XXI)/588)

● 58. The draft resolution in document GC(XXI)/588 on the Agency's budget for 1977 was adopted.

THE AGENCY'S BUDGET FOR 1978 (GC(XXI)/582, 582/Mod. 1 and 590/Rev. 1)

● 59. Draft resolution A (Regular Budget appropriations for 1978) set forth in document GC(XXI)/582/Mod. 1, Annex VI, draft resolution B (Operational Budget allocations for 1978) and draft resolution C (The Working Capital Fund in 1978) set forth in document GC(XXI)/582, Annex VI, and the draft resolution on the physical protection of nuclear facilities, materials and transports set forth in document GC(XXI)/590/Rev. 1, were adopted.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1978 (GC(XXI)/586, 583 and 583/Mod. 1)

● 60. The draft resolution in document GC(XXI)/586 on the revised guiding principles for the assessment of Members' contributions towards the Agency's Regular Budget and the draft resolution on the scale of assessment of Members' contributions for 1978 set forth in document GC(XXI)/583, the Annex thereto being set forth in document GC(XXI)/583/Mod. 1, were adopted.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI. A. 2 OF THE STATUTE (GC(XXI)/594)

● 61. The draft resolution in document GC(XXI)/594 on the amendment of Article VI. A. 2 of the Statute was adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

62. The PRESIDENT recalled that the General Conference had appointed the Auditor General of the Netherlands to audit the Agency's accounts for 1976 and 1977; it would therefore have to make an appointment for auditing the accounts for 1978 and 1979. As the present External Auditor was prepared to accept a renewal of his term of office, he proposed that he be appointed to audit the Agency's accounts for 1978 and 1979.

● 63. The President's proposal was adopted.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

64. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Staff Pension Committee included two members and two alternates elected by the General Conference. The members were Mr. Modránszky (Hungary) and Mr. Jenkins (United Kingdom) and the alternates were Mr. Adén (Argentina) and Mr. O'Neill (Australia). The two last mentioned persons were no longer in a position to carry out their duties; the General Conference should therefore elect two new alternates. He proposed Mr. Sastradidjaja (Indonesia) and Mr. McCaskill (Canada).

● 65. Mr. Sastradidjaja (Indonesia) and Mr. McCaskill (Canada) were elected as alternate members of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR 1978 (GC(XXI)/589/Rev. 3)

66. The PRESIDENT referred the Conference to document GC(XXI)/589/Rev. 3 which showed that, at 6 p. m. on 29 September 1977, pledges of voluntary contributions to the General Fund for 1978 had been made by 50 Members of the Agency in an amount equivalent to approximately \$5.8 million. In the meantime, pledges had been received from six more Member States: Belgium had undertaken to contribute \$80 500, Portugal \$15 000, Romania \$21 000, Spain \$30 000, Sudan \$2500 and the United Arab Emirates \$6300. Fifty-six Member States of the Agency were therefore pledged to contribute a total amount of \$5 997 471 to the General Fund.

67. That total was the highest ever pledged during a General Conference. However, the sum represented only 86% of the target of \$7 million. He therefore urged the 54 Member States which had not already done so to make known the amount of their pledges of voluntary contributions. Furthermore, he asked all delegates to draw the attention of the competent authorities in their countries to the matter, urging them to make further contributions to the General Fund in accordance with their means, so that the Agency would have sufficient funds at its disposal to meet all the requests for technical assistance it received from its developing Member States. He reminded the Conference how often the importance of technical assistance had been stressed in the course of the present session.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

68. Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Member States of the area of South East Asia and the Pacific, congratulated the President on the efficient way in which he had guided the work of the Conference. Thanks to his competence, the Conference had been able to complete its work early, while giving thorough consideration to the many items on its agenda. He also thanked the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole for the mastery he had demonstrated in his direction of the work of the Committee. Lastly he expressed his warm thanks to the Austrian Government for its generous hospitality.

69. Mr. ERIKSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the countries of Western Europe, expressed his gratitude to the President for the way in which he had guided the work of the Conference. He wished also to thank the Director General and the Agency's

Secretariat for the excellent way they had prepared the Conference and to thank the host country for its traditional hospitality.

70. Mr. MALU wa KALENGA (Zaire), acting as spokesman for the countries of Africa, thanked the Austrian Government for the welcome it had extended to the Conference. He congratulated the President of the General Conference on the wisdom he had displayed in guiding the deliberations. He also thanked the Director General and the staff of the Agency who had contributed to the success of the session.

71. Mr. SMITH (United States of America), speaking on behalf of the countries of North America, expressed his thanks and admiration to the President for the remarkable way in which he had conducted the work of a session which had had a particularly heavy agenda.

72. Mr. KABBANI (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the countries of the area of the Middle East and South Asia congratulated the President on having made it possible, thanks to his particular competence, for the General Conference to consider rapidly and in a harmonious atmosphere the particularly heavy agenda that had been before it. Moreover, he wished the Director General great success in his new term of office.

73. Mr. BARABAS (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of the Eastern European countries, paid tribute to the President for the remarkable way in which he had conducted the proceedings; the confidence expressed in the President at the time of his election had indeed been justified. He thanked the Director General who had contributed to the success of the session and the Austrian Government which had provided exceptionally good facilities.

74. The PRESIDENT, thanking the delegates for their kind words, said he considered it a great honour to have presided over the twenty-first regular session of the General Conference, which marked the twentieth anniversary of the Agency. He expressed the thanks of the General Conference to the host country and to the City of Vienna. He thanked the delegates for their spirit of understanding, which had enabled agreement to be reached on many important questions.

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

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

77. The PRESIDENT declared the twenty-first regular session of the General Conference closed.

● The meeting rose at 1. 25 p. m.

