



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXV)/977/Add.1

16 September 1991

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth regular session
Item 19 of the provisional agenda
(GC(XXXV)/952)

REVISION OF ARTICLE VI OF THE STATUTE AS A WHOLE

The summary record of the discussion in the Board of Governors on 13 September 1991 under the item "Revision of Article VI of the Statute as a whole" is reproduced in the Attachment.

EXCERPT FROM THE RECORD OF THE BOARD'S 765TH MEETING

REVISION OF ARTICLE VI OF THE STATUTE AS A WHOLE (GC(XXXIV)/RES/543, GOV/2542)

Mr. GLEISSNER (Austria), reporting on the efforts made by the informal working group that he had headed, said the progress described in the note by the Secretariat (GOV/2542) was not spectacular, but he believed the working group had nevertheless had a useful exchange of views. The consultations he had held with all members of the Board and interested delegations had revealed the complexity of the issue of revision of Article VI as a whole. There was growing awareness that, if Article VI were to be drafted today, it would be formulated very differently. The tremendous changes now taking place in the international arena would in due course lead to changes in the language of Article VI. It was impossible to say at present when the time would come for such action: in the meantime, reflection on the topic should continue.

Mr. LAVIÑA (Philippines) said he shared the reservations expressed in paragraph 7 of the appendix to document GOV/2542 concerning the "Italian proposal". He would urge that a document prepared by the United States, which enumerated some factors and criteria relevant to equitable representation under the Agency's Statute, be circulated prior to the working group's next meeting.

The results of previous discussions had led to the conclusion that Article VI, as worded at present, was restrictive, undemocratic and anachronistic. Revision of Article VI, with a view to enlarging the membership of the Board, was nevertheless opposed on the grounds that it would be detrimental to the Agency's efficiency. If that reasoning was followed to its logical conclusion, the membership of the Board should actually be reduced. There was clearly a political imbalance in favour of a certain group of States within the Board. Yet the political will to resolve that situation was clearly lacking. Indeed, he greatly feared that Article VI would have a longer lifespan than many members of the Board.

Mr. Zelazny (Poland) took the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that the Governor from Austria would be available to chair the future meetings of the working group. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Board wished to submit the report set out in the appendix to document GOV/2542 to the Conference, together with a recommendation that the Conference establish a successor working group with the mandate set out in Conference resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/543, and that the summary record of the Board's discussion on the item should also be submitted to the Conference.

It was so decided.