



GC

GC(XXXVI)/1017
15 September 1992

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Thirty-sixth regular session
Item 13 of the provisional agenda
GC(XXXVI)/1001

STRENGTHENING OF THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM

Report by the Director General

1. In resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/559 the General Conference requested the Director General to inform it at its thirty-sixth regular session of the measures taken to strengthen the effectiveness of the safeguards system.
2. The overall objective of efforts to strengthen the safeguards system has been stated by the Director General to be primarily to enhance the Agency's ability to detect, and have access to, any undeclared nuclear activities that should have been declared under safeguards agreements.
3. Secretariat papers on "Special inspections" and "The provision and use of design information" (see GOV/2554)¹ were discussed by the Board during its December 1991 session (the Board's discussion is summarized in GOV/OR.768, 769 - with Corr.1 and Corr.2 - and 770).
4. Following the discussion on "Special inspections" at the Board's December 1991 session and extensive consultations between and within regional groups, the Board in February 1992: urged the full exercise of all Agency rights and obligations as provided under the Statute and in all comprehensive safeguards agreements; reaffirmed the Agency's right to undertake special inspections,

¹ This and other Board documents referred to in the text will be made available on request.

when necessary and appropriate as described in comprehensive safeguards agreements and to ensure that all nuclear materials in peaceful nuclear activities are under safeguards; anticipated that special inspections should only occur on rare occasions; and reaffirmed the Agency's rights to obtain and to have access to additional information and locations in accordance with the Agency's Statute and all comprehensive safeguards agreements (the Board's discussion on "Special inspections" is summarized in GOV/OR.776 - with Mod.1).

5. Following the discussions on "The provision and use of design information" at the Board's December 1991 session, the Secretariat issued a revised paper (GOV/2554/Attachment 2/Rev.1, which was subsequently re-issued as GOV/2554/Attachment 2/Rev.2). At its February 1992 session, the Board endorsed the Secretariat recommendations that States inform the Agency of their programmes for new facilities, provide design information on such facilities as the designs develop and provide completed Design Information Questionnaires based on construction plans not later than 180 days prior to the start of construction and on "as-built" designs not later than 180 days before the first receipt of nuclear material (the Board's discussion on "The provision and use of design information" is in paragraphs 1-76 of GOV/OR.777). Adoption of these recommendations requires the amendment of the Subsidiary Arrangements of comprehensive safeguards agreements. The Secretariat has initiated consultations with Member States to this end.

6. At its February session the Board also considered Secretariat papers (GOV/2568) with proposals on the reporting and verification of the export, import and production of nuclear material and of sensitive equipment and non-nuclear material (the Board's discussion is summarized in paras 77-167 of GOV/OR.777 - with Corr.1 - and in GOV/OR.778 - with Corr.1). Following the discussion at the February Board session and consultations between the Secretariat and Member States, the Secretariat revised the proposals and issued them as papers on the "Universal reporting of exports, imports and inventories of nuclear material for peaceful purposes" (GOV/2588) and the "Universal reporting of exports and imports of certain equipment and non-nuclear material for peaceful nuclear purposes" (GOV/2589).

7. These two papers were discussed at the June 1992 session of the Board (the Board's discussion is summarized in GOV/OR.780, 781, 786 and 787). At the end of the discussion the Board instructed the Secretariat to examine and revise documents GOV/2588 and GOV/2589 in consultation with Member States and report to the Board as appropriate. It was understood that in the meantime all States willing to provide, on a voluntary basis, the information referred to in the papers would do so as they deemed appropriate. The Secretariat has circulated to all Member States forms designed to enable them to provide this information.

8. In addition to making proposals for the strengthening of safeguards, the Secretariat issued in May 1992 a document describing the measures that had been taken to streamline and rationalize the Agency's safeguards system (GOV/INF/654). In this connection, a "brainstorming" session was held on 24-26 June 1992 on measures to reduce costs and enhance the effectiveness of safeguards. Among the subjects discussed were "alternative" safeguards approaches, problems of detecting undeclared facilities, the use of new technology and the efficient use of available human resources, and the necessity to improve communication between the Secretariat and Member States. As a result of the brainstorming session the Director General decided to ask the Standing Advisory Group on Safeguards Implementation (SAGSI) to provide - as a matter of urgency - advice on a number of the subjects which had been discussed. Also, he decided, as had been suggested during the Board's discussion of document GOV/INF/654, to expand the composition of SAGSI for the purposes of its deliberations on those subjects.

