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RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 30 September 1993, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. AL-ATHEL (Saudi Arabia)
Later: Mr. WALKER (Canada)

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[*] GC(XXXVII)/1085.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/328/Rev.2.

93-03811 (IV)

Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America
ASSET	Analysis of Safety Significant Events Team
Basic Safety Standards	Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CWC	Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction)
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ECU	European currency unit
EIB	European Investment Bank
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G-24	Group of Twenty-Four
INES	International Nuclear Event Scale
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD)
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
RAPAT	Radiation Protection Advisory Team
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
START	Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms
TACF	Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WAMAP	Waste Management Advisory Programme

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1992 (GC(XXXVII)/1060) (continued)

1. Mr. JAMAL (Qatar) said that his country was convinced of the importance of the non-proliferation regime and the need to ensure universal accession to the NPT, especially among the States of the Middle East. All Member States should support the Director General's efforts to intensify consultations with the States of that region, and particularly the States with nuclear activities, with a view to achieving the application of Agency safeguards to all nuclear facilities there. A nuclear-weapon-free Middle East was an important prerequisite for building confidence in the region, finding a just and equitable solution to regional problems, and consolidating international peace and security.

2. The difficult financial position of the Agency was causing great concern, and could lead to a decrease in technical co-operation. His delegation hoped the main donor States would meet their commitments in full.

3. The Arab States in the Middle East were receiving a rather modest fraction of the Agency's technical assistance resources despite their increasing needs. More resources should be made available, and the co-operation among the Arab States in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy should be strengthened.

4. Qatar supported the Agency's efforts relating to nuclear safety, but it was clear that a great deal of work remained to be done in order to finalize a convention on nuclear safety.

5. He welcomed the progress being made in the field of nuclear safety and also the Agency's training programmes in that field as described in some of the documents before the Conference.

6. The question of nuclear safety was closely linked to that of nuclear waste management and disposal. A number of States with major nuclear activities were attempting to get rid of their nuclear wastes by exporting them to developing countries or dumping them at sea, where the wastes were becoming a danger to human health and the environment. He commended the co-operation taking place in that connection between the Agency, certain other international organizations and a number of Member States.

7. The Agency could play a major role in enabling developing countries to benefit more from the utilization of nuclear energy - by helping, for example, to find suitable underground sites for radioactive waste disposal and to set up low-cost nuclear desalination programmes.

8. The Agency required the support of all Member States, acting in a spirit of international understanding and mutual trust, in order to achieve the noble objectives for which it was established and to help create a world where peace and justice prevailed. Qatar reiterated its support for the Agency's efforts and wished it every success in its future work.

9. Mr. AL-GHAIS (Kuwait) said that the objectives set out in the Agency's Statute, particularly the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, were noble ones which deserved all possible support. The Agency had proved its worth and justified the belief that a safer and more stable world could be created.

10. In the present difficult circumstances, it was important that all Member States, and particularly the major contributors, should try to meet their financial commitments to the Agency, which needed their support if it was to achieve its objectives.

11. Water availability was a fundamental problem whose solution could make a significant contribution to international peace and security. Kuwait relied heavily on the desalination of seawater using fossil fuels and was one of the most advanced countries in that field. It therefore supported all efforts to develop more effective technologies - including nuclear technologies - for seawater desalination, and he hoped that the Agency would step up its activities in that area.

12. He welcomed the accession of South Africa to the NPT and its commitment to destroying its nuclear weapons. That would help transform Africa into a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

13. The Agency's safeguards system was of vital importance for peace and security in the world, and especially in the Middle East. In the new political climate, every effort should be made to turn that region into a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Kuwait, which was a party to the NPT and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), hoped that all States of the Middle East would place their nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

14. Iraq and the DPRK should honour their commitments arising from safeguards agreements with the Agency. Also, Iraq should reveal the names of the suppliers who had provided equipment and materials for its nuclear weapons programme. In addition, it should co-operate with the Agency in the implementation of the plans for the long-term monitoring of all nuclear facilities in Iraq.

15. At the beginning of September, the Ministerial Council of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf had urged the international community to continue putting pressure on the Iraqi régime in order to compel it to fulfil all its obligations under the terms of the Gulf War ceasefire and pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

16. On 20 September 1993, the Security Council had decided to continue with sanctions against the Iraqi régime, which was refusing to honour its commitments vis-à-vis the Agency and other international organizations, refusing to recognize the rights of Kuwait, and refusing to accept the resolutions adopted on the question of Iraq's border with Kuwait.

17. Iraq was still holding 627 Kuwaiti and third-country nationals, and it had not co-operated properly with the United Nations regarding the return of property and the payment of compensation to Kuwait. Also, it had not complied with Security Council resolutions 706 and 712, which would permit Iraqi oil to be sold and the proceeds to be used in feeding the Iraqi population and paying compensation.

18. In conclusion, he commended the Agency's staff and the Director General for their efforts during the past year and wished the General Conference a successful session.

19. MR. BALANESCU (Romania) said that the Agency had, ever since its creation, played a crucial role in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in preventing nuclear weapons proliferation. It was successfully carrying out a range of increasingly complex tasks, and the events of the past two years had demonstrated that its link with the United Nations Security Council was an important factor in helping it to fulfil its responsibilities.

20. The picture presented in the annual report for 1992 was once again a positive one: despite unprecedented difficulties, the Agency had maintained a high level of quality in its activities. The Director General and the Secretariat were to be commended for their efforts

to overcome financial difficulties and for their success in meeting ever-increasing obligations in the safeguards area, providing technical assistance, improving nuclear safety, stimulating research and development, and promoting technology transfer.

21. Romania had continued to carry out substantial research and development work in areas such as nuclear physics, reactor physics, radiation biology and the utilization of isotopes and radiation in agriculture, medicine, industry and hydrology. High priority was being given to the country's nuclear power programme, for which Romania needed the help of foreign specialists with advanced technical skills. International co-operation, including co-operation within the framework of the Agency, was important in that connection.

22. His Government considered that the nuclear power option offered a number of advantages: it made for greater energy diversity and hence for a greater assurance of energy supplies; it allowed better use to be made of research and development facilities and industrial infrastructures; and it helped to reduce environmental pollution. Romania's first nuclear power plant, which was to go into service at the end of the following year, would be environmentally very benign and have a high level of safety.

23. Activities to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy were being pursued in the context of the Government's free-market economy policy. Restructuring was taking place with a view to greater efficiency and effectiveness, and foreign credits were being sought - especially for the nuclear power sector.

24. The nuclear sector in Romania was still controlled by the State, which was responsible for regulating it. With the help of the Agency and the advice of experts from countries advanced in the nuclear field, Romania was establishing a regulatory infrastructure for nuclear safety and radiation protection - a task which, he hoped, would be completed soon. His country was extremely grateful for the help which it had received from the Agency.

25. With regard to the Agency's budget for 1994, his Government realized that, because it was a zero-real-growth budget, some priority needs of Member States had not been accommodated. All the same, in his delegation's view, the balance achieved after extensive consultations represented an appropriate response to resolutions GC(XXXVI)/RES/587

and 596, significant technical adjustments having been made by the Secretariat in order to ensure that additional resources would be available for priority programmes.

26. The Agency's technical assistance and co-operation activities continued to be appreciated, although - owing to a shortage of funds - not all technically feasible projects could be implemented. He was encouraged by the fact that contributions by major donors to the TACF had increased during the past year, and he hoped that there would be further increases in the future. At the same time, however, the value of that part of the technical co-operation programme which was financed from non-convertible currencies had declined, as had the amount of extrabudgetary funds - including funds from UNDP - being made available to the Agency for technical co-operation activities. He urged Member States to increase their contributions to the TACF and provide more support for footnote-a/ projects.

27. Participation in the Agency's technical co-operation programme, which was a powerful tool for the transfer of nuclear know-how, had helped his country to strengthen its nuclear power and nuclear safety capabilities and to master a wide range of nuclear applications in vital sectors such as industry, agriculture, medicine, environmental protection and hydrology. His government was grateful for the contribution made by the Agency and certain of its Member States to the development of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology in Romania and had decided, despite his country's current economic difficulties, to contribute to the TACF Romania's full share of the target for 1994 - one half in United States dollars and the other half in national currency.

28. Romania, which supported measures designed to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, believed that the large number of States which had acceded to the NPT was evidence of the widespread acceptance of the principles of non-proliferation, in whose implementation the Agency was playing such an important part.

29. The response of the Agency to challenges which had confronted it during recent months in the field of safeguards reconfirmed its capacity for strong action. In particular, his delegation greatly appreciated the way in which the Agency had fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it by the Security Council with regard to Iraq.

30. The decisive and constructive attitude of the Secretariat in implementating the NPT safeguards agreement concluded with the DPRK and the measures adopted by the Board in that connection had enhanced the credibility of safeguards and the prestige of the Agency. He hoped that a resumption of the dialogue between the Agency and the DPRK would ultimately lead to resolution of the outstanding problems.

31. His country, which in the Board of Governors had fully endorsed the initiation of various measures to remedy inadequacies identified in the safeguards system, welcomed the recommendations of SAGSI relating to measures for making the system more efficient and more effective.

32. Over the past two years, significant progress had been made towards the universalization of the NPT. That was particularly important as the NPT Review and Extension Conference was due to be held in only two years' time - in 1995. His Government, which regarded the NPT as a crucial element of the international security regime, favoured its extension for an indefinite period.

33. In line with its policy on non-proliferation, his Government would comply with the latest guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group regarding the export, subject to full-scope safeguards, of nuclear-related dual-use items, and he hoped that all States exporting such items would do the same. In that connection, it had endorsed the Group's "Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers" (see document INFCIRC/254/Rev.1/Part 1/Mod.1) and had introduced national regulations governing the export and import of nuclear-related items.

34. Commending the Agency for the way in which it had been implementing the safeguards agreement concluded with South Africa in 1991, he said that Romania had welcomed South Africa's decision to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme before the agreement's entry into force.

35. After the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, the Agency had embarked on a wide range of important activities in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection, demonstrating its considerable capabilities in that field also. At present it was involved in work on preparing a nuclear safety convention which would - he was sure - help to raise the general

level of nuclear safety throughout the world and to promote a unified international approach to all aspects of the subject.

36. Romania attached great importance to nuclear safety and radiation protection, and it greatly appreciated the support which it had received from the Agency in that field and which had helped it in developing a regulatory regime based on internationally accepted principles and practices.

37. Commending the Agency's activities relating - inter alia - to INES, the safety of nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe, and the preparation of new Basic Safety Standards, he said that Romania had benefited particularly from OSART, ASSET and other missions organized by the Agency within the framework of its nuclear safety and radiation protection services. It had also benefited greatly in the past year from Agency technical assistance in that field, and his delegation was pleased that nuclear safety and radiation protection featured so prominently in the Agency's technical co-operation programme.

38. With regard to the use of nuclear techniques in the area of food and agriculture, an area of great importance for developing countries, his delegation welcomed the notable results achieved in the past and also the detailed project proposal before the Conference for introducing the practical, industrial-scale utilization of food irradiation in such countries. With Agency help, Romania was embarking on food irradiation activities.

39. Recent events had created new problems for the Agency, but it had shown itself capable of adapting its policies and priorities to changing situations and needs. His Government appreciated that and would continue to support the Agency in the fulfilment of its noble mission.

40. Mr. BRNELIĆ (Croatia) said that the Conference was meeting at a time when the safeguards regime needed to be strengthened and made universal. Croatia fully supported the strengthening and indefinite extension of the NPT and was ready to co-operate with the Agency to that end. However, it was concerned about reported cases of smuggling of nuclear materials, including materials which could be used for nuclear weapons. With that in mind, Croatia welcomed recent broad non-proliferation initiatives by the United States and

other countries. It would like the Agency to increase its efforts to strengthen the safeguards system in order to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

41. His delegation fully supported the policies applied by the Board of Governors and the Director General in implementing the Agency's programme. The promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the widest sense was vital for most developing countries, including Croatia. The Agency's role in promoting the use of ionizing radiation in medicine, agriculture, industry and hydrology was irreplaceable. Without Agency assistance many developing countries would still be lacking the facilities necessary for cancer radiotherapy, while screw worms, tsetse flies and fruit flies would still constitute an unsolved problem. Those and other examples of the Agency's promotional activities made it difficult to understand why anyone should want to criticize those activities.

42. His Government appreciated the valuable assistance provided to it already during 1992, before Croatia had become a Member of the Agency, particularly in regard to the recovery of radiation sources from buildings destroyed by military action.

43. Innumerable problems were facing the newly independent States, including Croatia. One of the most urgent issues in his country was that of creating a radiation protection infrastructure as a basis for compliance with international regulations governing the use of ionizing radiation. Croatia's priorities accordingly included drafting national radiation safety regulations and establishing an adequate infrastructure. Agency technical assistance in that area, involving the provision of expert services, was highly appreciated. There had recently been a RAPAT mission to Croatia, and the RAPAT had provided his authorities with useful guidelines regarding the use of ionizing radiation.

44. Some newly independent States, especially those with insufficient coal and hydroelectric resources, were facing problems with energy supplies. As his country belonged to that category, it was considering nuclear energy as a possible source of power and would welcome Agency assistance in that connection. First of all, a comprehensive analysis of the risks associated with various potential nuclear power plant sites would need to be carried out. Also, assistance would be sought with planning studies, project feasibility studies and infrastructure development planning, and also in the area of low- and medium-level

radioactive waste management. If Croatia embarked on a nuclear power programme, his Government would insist on full compliance with international safety standards.

45. With regard to the use of ionizing radiation in medicine, Croatia's prime interest was to reduce the doses to patients in compliance with the latest ICPR recommendations and the Agency's forthcoming new Basic Safety Standards. His country was also interested in the use of radiation sources in medical diagnostics and research into the effects of radiation on selected human tissues.

46. To sum up, he recalled that, during recent talks with the Director General, Dr. Mate Granić, the Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs, had said that Croatia's priorities in the nuclear field were: (1) strengthening of the country's radiation safety infrastructure and the elaboration of a national programme for long-term co-operation with the Agency; (2) the development of a national energy strategy incorporating all options; and (3) the application of ionizing radiation in medicine, with particular emphasis on new diagnostic and therapeutic methods and on dose optimization.

47. Mr. ARGUELLO HURTADO (Nicaragua) said that Agency assistance with peaceful applications of nuclear techniques, which was of vital importance to Nicaragua, included programmes to improve agricultural production through the study of soil-water-fertilizer relationships; animal production programmes aimed at improvements in the diagnosis of animal diseases; the introduction of isotope techniques in hydrology; radiocarbon data collection at the laboratory of the National University; and a nuclear medicine project employing the country's first cobalt-60 teletherapy machine. He thanked the countries - especially France, Italy and the Scandinavian countries - which had contributed substantial shares of the funding required for the activities in question and expressed the hope that other activities in his country would receive such support.

48. Nicaragua, which was aware that the use of radioisotopes and ionizing radiation involved hazards, attached great importance to the Agency's assistance in defining safety measures to minimize the risks of radiation accidents and appreciated the need for an adequate radiation protection infrastructure.

49. The success of the Agency technical co-operation activities relating to Nicaragua was very much a result of the enthusiasm shown by those responsible for transferring technology and know-how, and in that regard, he wished to pay tribute to the staff of the Department of Technical Co-operation for their dedication in assisting Nicaragua, whose situation demanded an almost missionary zeal on their part: projects were frequently hampered by apathy; physical conditions were often difficult; and, generally speaking, the country had few people with adequate training. Such problems had to be overcome if the ongoing projects were to benefit the population and if the foundations were to be laid for more comprehensive projects.

50. Nicaragua firmly supported the NPT, which it considered an essential instrument for limiting both vertical and horizontal nuclear weapons proliferation. It also supported the international community's efforts to ensure the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715 relating to the conflict in the Persian Gulf. His delegation agreed with the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, addressed to the Conference, to the effect that it was unacceptable that, as a result of the end of the Cold War, the relatively weak should once again become the prey of the relatively strong.

51. As a Latin American country, Nicaragua could not but be very pleased about the agreement reached in the field of non-proliferation by Argentina and Brazil. It hoped that the Tlatelolco Treaty would soon be in effect for all the countries of Latin America, thus making the region a nuclear-weapon-free zone despite the presence there of the technology necessary for nuclear weapons production.

52. Also, Nicaragua welcomed South Africa's decision to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons and to support the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa.

53. Regarding his country's financial obligations, he was pleased to announce that Nicaragua was now up to date in its payments to the Agency, having paid off several years' accumulated debt, which had been rather large, given the difficult transition Nicaragua was currently undergoing from a centralized to a market economy and the fact that for ten years it had been the scene of one of the last East-West conflicts of the Cold War.

54. One of the Agency's fundamental tasks was to apply safeguards and, in general, monitor Member States' compliance with their obligations under the NPT, but the task of bringing peaceful applications of nuclear energy within the reach of all peoples was an equally important one. Accordingly, more resources should be made available for Agency technical assistance, especially to Latin America, on which the Agency had to spend very little of its safeguards budget.

55. The poverty, environmental destruction and political chaos prevalent in different parts of the world were, like disarmament and non-proliferation, universal issues creating challenges for the whole of humanity. The situation seemed to be deteriorating from day to day despite the fact that, paradoxically, the world had actually become more secure. Given the potential of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for counteracting poverty and underdevelopment, it was not only morally unacceptable, but also politically counter-productive to skimp on the resources needed for promoting them. While not wanting to play down the dangers associated with nuclear energy, he wished to stress that poverty, environmental destruction and political chaos in a world of shrinking opportunities were factors which, together, represented a time-bomb which, albeit not nuclear, could blow up in the face of the whole of humanity.

56. Mr. ORJUELA BERMEO (Colombia) said his Government believed that a proper balance should exist between the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and control of its misuse. That balance could be achieved through the safeguards system, which had its legal basis in the Statute and was vital to the implementation of the NPT. For that reason, his Government called on all States with nuclear programmes, large or small, whether they were party to the NPT or not, to submit all their nuclear facilities to Agency safeguards, thereby helping to strengthen the Agency and ensure the peace and prosperity of the world.

57. One could not overemphasize the importance of the safety of nuclear facilities for the peaceful use of atomic energy under the environmentally friendly conditions necessary for the survival of the planet.

58. It was vital for all Member States of the Agency to co-operate in the use of the Agency's services for enhancing operational safety and promoting the effective application

of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

59. Colombia, as a party to the Tlatelolco Treaty, welcomed and encouraged moves towards the creation of further nuclear-weapon-free zones in the world. It was sure that, if such projects came to fruition, they would serve to increase mutual confidence between States and strengthen peace and security in all regions.

60. Colombia, which earnestly hoped for a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, maintained that frank and constructive dialogue was the only way to solve differences between civilized nations.

61. The preparations for the NPT Review and Extension Conference, to be held in 1995, offered a fresh opportunity to examine ways of ensuring that States party to the NPT enjoyed freer access to nuclear technology. It was of the utmost importance to eliminate the existing restrictions on access to nuclear technology and to guarantee reliable supplies of materials and equipment. Energy requirements were increasing daily, and nuclear power continued to be one of the few sources offering rational solutions to crucial economic and human problems.

62. It would be worth examining the idea of setting up an international nuclear materials bank, administered by the Agency, which would guarantee supplies - under safeguards - of nuclear materials and equipment in the event of an unforeseen supply interruption. Likewise, the idea of establishing a databank on the flow of nuclear materials, to serve as a basis for the joint international administration of nuclear energy, might also be worth examining.

63. Excellent results had been achieved everywhere in Latin America through ARCAL projects, and Colombia wished to reiterate its support for ARCAL and to thank the Agency for its contribution.

64. The Colombian Institute of Nuclear Science and Alternative Energies (INEA) had participated actively in the analysis of the recent energy crisis, helping to identify ways of saving energy through the application of strategies for its rational and efficient use and seeking to direct the interest of the consumer towards more efficient equipment and practices.

It was also involved in research on the use of different energy sources, including the nuclear option.

65. In order to fulfil the tasks before it, the Institute had established four main programmes: 1. Nuclear sciences; 2. Alternative energies; 3. Rational and efficient use of energy; and 4. Energy studies.

66. With regard to applications of nuclear technology, INEA was pursuing research and development work in industry, health, agriculture, fundamental sciences and education. At the present time there were five principal areas of work: (1) radiation protection; (2) applications of ionizing radiation; (3) modernization of Colombia's research reactor; (4) energy studies; and (5) post-graduate training.

67. Within the framework of a national radiation protection programme, a detailed inventory was being made of facilities in which radioactive materials were present, the aim being - inter alia - to introduce modern radiation protection legislation, and ensure the rational and efficient treatment of radioactive waste.

68. In Colombia's private sector there was growing interest in various uses of ionizing radiation - for example, in industry, agriculture and medicine. A committee had been set up with the task of initiating studies to determine national needs regarding applications of ionizing radiation, and the country had acquired a semi-industrial gamma irradiation capability with the delivery of a 100 000 Ci cobalt-60 source obtained with the Agency's assistance.

69. Colombia's IAN-R1 research reactor, which was being modernized with the assistance of the Agency, was switching from high-enriched to low-enriched uranium fuel. Once the reactor had been modernized, INEA would use it for radioisotope production and various other applications of scientific and commercial interest.

70. In the field of energy studies, a group capable of developing nuclear power planning models was being formed within the framework of INEA, the ultimate aim being to establish an institute which would - inter alia - develop nuclear-related technologies and provide the bodies responsible for Colombia's energy policies with up-to-date information on the role of nuclear power in energy planning. The group would be staffed with physicists, electrical

engineers, energy planners and others who had received specialized training thanks to the Agency.

71. Post-graduate training was being provided in medical physics, radiation safety, radiation chemistry and non-destructive testing, the aim being to create a "critical mass" of specialists familiar with the nuclear techniques of interest to Colombia.

72. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's appreciation of the Agency's continuing support of INEA; it had enabled Colombia to make significant advances in research and development relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

73. Mr. MARTYNENKO (Belarus) said that his country, which had recently celebrated the second anniversary of its independence, was firmly committed to attaining non-nuclear-weapon status. By April 1992 all tactical nuclear weapons had been removed from Belarus, and in February 1993 it had ratified START and the Lisbon protocol thereto. On 23 July 1993 his country had deposited its instrument of accession to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State. As a full party to the treaty, Belarus would participate actively in preparations for the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

74. Belarus supported multilateral talks with a view to a universal test ban and a cessation of the production of fissile material for military purposes. The time was right to draw up a multilateral agreement (convention) whereby the nuclear-weapon States guaranteed the safety of the non-nuclear-weapon States.

75. The Agency's activities in the field of nuclear safety were of fundamental importance. With regard to the safety of ageing nuclear power plants, the decision whether such a plant should continue operating had implications beyond national boundaries; accordingly, the decision-making process should be controlled by the Agency. Belarus was particularly interested in the Agency's initiatives regarding the safety of nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe and in countries of the former Soviet Union.

76. He commended the joint initiative of UNDP and the Agency aimed at strengthening radiation protection and nuclear safety infrastructure in countries of the former Soviet Union. The Forum which had taken place in May 1993 had demonstrated the timeliness of the

initiative. His delegation hoped that, once the needs of the States in question had been finally determined, UNDP and the Agency would provide practical assistance.

77. Belarus attached great importance to the conclusion of a nuclear safety convention and, in common with a number of other countries, felt that the work of the Group of Experts responsible for preparing the draft should be accelerated. The convention should require the safety upgrading of existing nuclear power plants to the levels established by the convention. International co-operation would be required for such upgrading, and he hoped the final text would be worded with that in mind.

78. His country was participating in the review of the Basic Safety Standards - an activity of particular interest to it in view of the adjustments being made to the State programme for minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

79. Belarus was in the process of establishing an up-to-date legislative and regulatory framework for its nuclear activities. Steps were being taken to set up a State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material, and a State committee for the supervision of safety in - inter alia - the nuclear power sector (Gospromatomnadzor) had been created. Belarus had acceded to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material earlier in the current year, and it was considering accession to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna and Paris Conventions.

80. In view of the great importance which his country attached to the Agency's technical assistance programme, it had decided to make a voluntary contribution of 85 million roubles to the TACF.

81. The Chernobyl accident had left an indelible mark on all aspects of life in Belarus. Its consequences were felt at the social, psychological, political and environmental levels. Complex physical and chemical processes were taking place in the soil, in the air and in flora and fauna and were having a profound effect on human life. His country was therefore extremely interested in any decisions taken by the Agency with a view to alleviating the situation.

82. His country intended to co-operate with the Agency in developing a strategy for the radiation protection of populations, in studying the effects of low radiation doses and in developing production technologies for use in contaminated areas. His Government was grateful to the Agency for implementing, in collaboration with FAO and the Norwegian Government, a project - referred to by the Director General in his statement - which had brought about a two- to threefold reduction in the caesium content of milk and meat in regions affected by the Chernobyl accident.

83. His Government was making every effort to cope with the unprecedentedly complex tasks involved in creating normal living conditions for the people living in those regions. Major resources had been allocated to building homes for those who had been resettled. Medical care was being organized and methods for deactivating and disposing of radioactive waste and deactivation products were being developed.

84. The Agency should endeavour to assess the prevailing post-Chernobyl situation in the light of local phenomena and on the basis of the risks faced by individuals rather than on the basis of averaging and collective risk concepts. A great body of experimental material now available for biomedical, physical and chemical investigations was being lost - investigations which could serve as the basis for the provision of help in the event of radiological emergencies. Because of fragmentation and chaotic financing, the various Agency studies were not generating reliable information and data. The priorities governing the allocation of Agency budgetary resources should therefore be changed. Unfortunately, the interest in the Chernobyl issue on the part of both the Secretariat and the main donor countries appeared to be declining. He appealed to donor countries to help implement projects which were very important for Belarus and also of considerable interest for the international community.

85. Belarus was currently going through a severe energy crisis due to a shortage of fuel and to the fact that its electricity generating capacity was inadequate. One possible solution to the problem was nuclear power. If the Government decided to build a nuclear power plant, it would require the active support of the Agency.

86. Mr. MIŠÁK (Slovak Republic) said it was a great pleasure for him to be addressing the Conference as representative of a full Member of the Agency, which the

Slovak Republic recognized as an organization promoting international technology transfer and providing the international community with evidence of the utilization of nuclear materials exclusively for peaceful purposes.

87. In his country, nuclear power was playing a major role in the energy sector, the four power reactors in operation at Bohunice accounting for 49.5% of total electricity production in 1992 - the fourth highest percentage figure in the world for the nuclear share of electricity production.

88. The picture regarding the country's power reactors was rather complex: there was a heavy-water-moderated gas-cooled reactor at Bohunice being decommissioned; two of the reactors in operation at Bohunice (WWER-440/230s) were about to undergo major safety upgrading; and four reactors of the WWER-440/213 type were under construction at Mochovce. Particular attention was being devoted to two WWER-440/230s at Bohunice, which were currently in operation under temporary permits. Between 1991 and the first half of 1993, some 90 safety upgrading measures had been implemented, and major safety upgrading was now being prepared. At a meeting convened by the Agency in July, experts from six countries had reviewed the safety upgrading proposals and agreed that they were technically feasible.

89. With regard to the two other power reactors in operation at Bohunice (WWER-440/213s), a comprehensive safety evaluation had been initiated with a view to subsequent safety upgrading. A substantial contribution to that effort was expected from Agency regional technical co-operation project RER/9/004, "Safety analysis of WWER-type reactors", for which the WWER-440/213s at Bohunice were serving as reference reactors.

90. Future electricity demand in Slovakia would, of course, depend on the progress of industry and of the economy in general and on success in effecting energy savings. Different scenarios had been prepared for the purpose of estimating the plant capacities likely to be needed over the next decade. In any event, the nuclear power plants now in operation and under construction would play a substantial role. The four reactors under construction at Mochovce were to become operational before the year 2000. No final decision about the continued operation of the two WWER-440/230s at Bohunice had yet been taken, but it

would be difficult to meet the country's electricity demand without substantial electricity imports if they were shut down before the Mochovce reactors became operational. However, absolute priority would be given to safety when the final decision was taken. In that connection, the Slovak Republic supported elaboration of an international convention on nuclear safety.

91. The Slovak Government, which was aware of its responsibilities arising out of the country's large-scale utilization of nuclear energy, had that year set up a Nuclear Regulatory Authority as an independent State agency reporting directly to it. The Authority was responsible for the safety of nuclear facilities (covering all stages of the fuel cycle), the treatment of radioactive wastes, safeguards and - to some extent - the use of radioactive substances. It was also responsible for the fulfilment of the Slovak Republic's obligations under international agreements relating to nuclear safety and nuclear materials.

92. The Slovak Republic believed that, in the interests of a reasonable international consensus on safety-related actions, countries should be transparent about the safety status of their nuclear facilities and the efficiency of their State regulatory bodies. Accordingly, since the beginning of the year it had received six Agency expert teams focusing on different aspects of nuclear safety.

93. The Agency technical assistance programme was important for Slovakia, whose qualified manpower and financial resources were very limited. Support was especially needed in areas such as nuclear legislation, nuclear safety, radioactive waste treatment and disposal, personnel dosimetry, radiation protection and personnel training. At the same time, his Government had decided to contribute to the TACF Slovakia's full share of the targets for 1993 and 1994.

94. The Slovak Republic intended to continue its active co-operation with the Agency by organizing training courses and technical meetings and by providing expert services and fellowships. It believed there was also a potential for the provision of specialized services in such fields as safeguards inspector training and software development. The favourable location of Slovakia, the facilities available there and the technical capabilities of its specialists could facilitate the implementation of many Agency programmes.

95. The Slovak Republic favoured the introduction of new safeguards methods and appreciated the results achieved so far in that connection. It was now a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) - and also of the Zangger Committee - and had participated in the NSG's March meeting in Lucerne.

96. The Slovak Republic would like to see strict safeguards applied throughout the world and a ban on nuclear weapons testing. Accordingly, it hoped that all countries not yet party to the NPT would accede to it soon and that those countries which were contemplating withdrawal from the NPT or even calling for its discontinuation would reconsider their position.

97. The Slovak Republic appreciated the Agency's inspection activities in Iraq and the DPRK. It also appreciated the decision of Argentina and South Africa to join the NSG and to accept its guidelines.

98. With regard to civil liability for nuclear damage, legislation on that subject was being prepared in Slovakia, which aimed to become a party to the Vienna Convention soon.

99. Mr. JOKONYA (Zimbabwe), noting that the world had witnessed fundamental political changes over the past few years, said that the end of the disastrous confrontation between East and West had ushered in an era more conducive to international co-operation and that the Agency should seize the resulting opportunity and work for the complete removal of the nuclear threat and for the realization of the full potential of the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

100. The Agency was playing a crucial role, through its safeguards activities, in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and related nuclear devices. It was continuing to achieve considerable successes in that connection, and his delegation was encouraged by the arrangements being made for the introduction of new or modified mechanisms designed to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Agency safeguards.

101. Prompted by the challenges of the new era, his country had collaborated with the United Nations Department for Disarmament and the Organization of African Unity in convening, in Harare, a regional meeting of experts to start work on drafting a treaty for making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free continent - a long-cherished African dream. He hoped

that the Agency would provide technical support for such regional efforts, in line with what was requested in resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/577 adopted by the General Conference in 1992.

102. Zimbabwe, which attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance programme, welcomed the fact that Africa's share in the programme had risen from 19.9% in 1991 to 26.2% in 1992; he hoped that Africa's share would rise further.

103. Technical co-operation with the Agency had enabled Zimbabwe to make considerable progress in applying nuclear techniques and using isotopes in priority sectors such as health, agriculture and stock-breeding. Some problems had not yet been solved, however, and further co-operation with the Agency was required. Thanking the Department of Technical Co-operation for the tangible improvements made in project implementation, he said that the regional workshops on technical co-operation, project preparation, pre-project assistance and country review missions were indicative of the Secretariat's commitment to the proper implementation and management of projects in Africa. In that connection, he urged that more African experts be used for Agency missions to Africa since they were better acquainted with the conditions there.

104. With regard to the Agency's precarious financial situation, which was a cause of great concern, he said that a number of Member States had not fulfilled their financial obligations vis-à-vis the Regular Budget. At the same time he emphasized that, because of political destabilization, environmental disasters and economic hardship, many developing countries found it difficult or almost impossible to fulfil their obligations.

105. The worst drought in living memory had ravaged the whole of Southern Africa in 1992. Although conditions in the region had improved since then, the drought-prone African countries still needed Agency help in carrying out co-ordinated research programmes in the agricultural sector. The Agency's 1992 technical co-operation programme had placed considerable emphasis on food and agriculture, which had accounted for 18.3% of the programme disbursements. His delegation welcomed that fact and also the efforts being made to initiate projects on the practical utilization of food irradiation in developing countries.

106. With regard to the handling and disposal of spent radiation sources, he expressed appreciation of the RAPAT and WAMAP missions organized by the Agency. With regard to education and training in radiological protection and nuclear safety, he welcomed the fact that two pilot interregional post-graduate educational courses in radiation protection (one to be held in English and one in French) were planned for 1994.

107. The Agency's activities in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection were of benefit to the whole of humanity, but as those activities related directly to power reactor safety his delegation believed that they should be financed from extrabudgetary funds. The Agency's budgetary resources should be used primarily for improving safety in the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture and medicine and for enhancing the radiation protection infrastructures of developing countries.

108. Zimbabwe, which had done much to strengthen its radiation protection services, would welcome Agency assistance with the training of radiation protection officers.

109. The end of the East-West confrontation had unfortunately not been accompanied by general world stability. In fact, the main "peace dividend" appeared to be countless regional conflicts. That would not facilitate the work of the Agency, but Zimbabwe would continue to co-operate with the Agency as it endeavoured to achieve its objectives.

110. Mr. ZUBI (Jordan) said that the recent efforts to bring about a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East were being jeopardized by Israel, which was persisting in its refusal to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. If genuine peace was to be achieved in the Middle East, the threat of weapons of mass destruction had to be eliminated entirely from the region. As Israel was the only State in the region with the capacity to make nuclear weapons, the application of Agency safeguards to all Israeli nuclear facilities was absolutely essential.

111. As a member of the Group of 77, Jordan supported the Group's view regarding the universal reporting of imports and exports of nuclear materials and equipment and certain non-nuclear materials used for nuclear purposes: such reporting should remain voluntary, and the Agency should not be burdened with additional verification responsibilities. Rather, with the recent improvements in international relations and the new prospects for peace and

understanding in some parts of the world, greater priority should be given to technical assistance.

112. In that context, he thanked the Agency for having over the years provided Jordan with substantial assistance in the establishment of infrastructure for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and the development of radiological protection services. Experts from the Agency had been assisting with a pre-feasibility study for a training centre which the Agency had agreed to help establish.

113. Jordan appreciated the Agency's support for regional projects in areas such as environmental radiation monitoring, and he recalled how the Agency had helped establish an early warning network in Jordan following the Chernobyl accident. With the co-operation of the Agency and the Arabic Atomic Energy Agency, the feasibility was being studied of extending the network beyond Jordan's boundaries to include other Arab countries; he hoped that the Agency would support such a project.

114. Jordan welcomed the Agency's activities relating to the production of potable water using nuclear energy. Water shortages were a cause of political instability in the Middle East, and he looked forward to the day when nuclear energy would be used in providing the region with sufficient water at a reasonable cost.

115. Welcoming the Agency's efforts to help develop the potential of developing countries in the field of food irradiation, he said that the Middle East suffered serious agricultural losses owing to the climatic conditions and the high cost of traditional means of food preservation. In that connection, he expressed the hope that the Agency would help in launching an urgently needed programme for promoting the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture in the Middle East, which - given the difficult conditions there - could serve as a testing ground for many techniques of potential benefit to the entire world.

116. Some relatively advanced European countries were treated by the Agency in much the same way as countries of the Middle East for technical assistance purposes, despite the fact that the European countries in question were interested mainly in receiving assistance in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection while the Middle East countries accorded priority to the introduction of nuclear techniques. He suggested that the Agency establish

a programme on the lines of RCA covering Europe and the Middle East and said that Jordan would be happy to host a meeting convened for the purpose of considering the feasibility of such a programme.

117. Like many other developing countries wishing to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear techniques, Jordan needed help with education and training in radiological protection. In that connection he urged the Secretariat to arrange for Arabic to be used as a language of instruction in some of the Agency's interregional and regional courses on that subject. Jordan was willing to co-operate with the Agency and the Arabic Atomic Energy Agency to that end.

118. Stating that the representation of the Middle East and South Asia and of Africa in the Board of Governors had long been recognized as inadequate, he called for an expansion of the Board in order to rectify the situation. He also called for an increase in the proportion of Secretariat staff members coming from developing countries, in order to increase the contribution of those countries to the work of the Agency.

119. Although it supported the proposed budget for 1994, his delegation was opposed to the continued application of the zero-real-growth principle in the face of the Agency's growing responsibilities and the developing countries' growing needs. The continued dependence of technical assistance activities on voluntary contributions was also regrettable, deplored by his delegation, which believed that stable financing should be provided for those activities through the Regular Budget.

120. Mr. FASSI FIHRI (Morocco), emphasizing the importance which his country attached both to Agency safeguards and to Agency technical assistance, said that the credibility of safeguards was essential to the creation of a climate of confidence and international co-operation conducive to nuclear technology transfer for economic and social development purposes.

121. His delegation welcomed the transparency and the spirit of co-operation displayed by South Africa in implementing its NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency. It also welcomed the recent positive changes in the Middle East; they suggested that it should be

possible to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in that region.

122. Morocco was aware of the advantages of the many applications of nuclear techniques and was trying to promote the use of such techniques in important sectors such as agriculture, medicine, hydrology and industry. The Deputy Director General for Technical Co-operation, Mr. Qian, had visited Morocco earlier that year and had been able to see the advances made and the potential for further progress in radiation therapy, hydrology, animal health and a number of other areas.

123. As part of the effort to consolidate its national scientific and technical infrastructure, Morocco was setting up a centre for nuclear studies which would have a research reactor, to be used - inter alia - for training and radioisotope production. Already the country's National Centre for Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (CNESTEN) was providing support for bodies working in fields such as sedimentology, environmental protection, nuclear medicine and radioactive waste management. In that connection he recalled that in April a WAMAP team had visited Morocco in order to help CNESTEN draw up a national plan for the management of radioactive waste.

124. The Agency had also been helping Morocco with the drafting of basic legal texts on subjects such as radiological protection, the licensing and supervision of nuclear facilities, the transport and physical protection of radioactive materials, and liability for nuclear damage.

125. Morocco was interested in diversifying its energy sources, and the nuclear option was receiving serious consideration in that context. Siting and feasibility studies for a nuclear power plant were nearing completion, the results to be used in determining the role of nuclear power within the national energy production system.

126. In May a National Nuclear Energy Council had been set up to co-ordinate national policy on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, to co-ordinate scientific and technical activities involving the utilization of nuclear techniques, to supervise the utilization of such techniques, to advise on regulatory matters relating to nuclear energy applications and to help in

determining priority areas for international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

127. Morocco had decided to set up a national radiation protection centre, and construction work had already started. The centre would - inter alia - monitor the implementation of radiation protection regulations and engage in training and research activities.

128. Morocco had also decided to strengthen its participation in AFRA, which was acquiring great significance for the African continent and demonstrating the importance of the Agency's role in the dissemination of nuclear techniques. Thanks to AFRA, many countries of Africa were developing the human resources and infrastructures necessary for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. In that connection, he expressed his country's gratitude to the French and Spanish Governments for the way in which they were supporting Africa.

129. In 1993 Morocco had hosted a seminar on the planning of regional projects for water resource evaluation in arid and semi-arid regions. It had also hosted meetings on radioimmunoassay techniques and the production of reagents for radioimmunoassay and also a regional training course for users of such reagents.

130. Recalling that in June his country had hosted a meeting convened within the framework of a regional programme for controlling the Mediterranean fruit fly by means of the sterile-insect technique, he thanked the Agency for supporting that programme and also for its support of activities relating to seawater desalination using nuclear power.

131. In conclusion, he said that the needs of developing Member States for Agency technical assistance were still growing and that a way should be found of financing that assistance from predictable and assured resources. In any event, the TACF's resources should be increased in line with the growing needs of developing Member States.

132. Mr. CACCIA DOMINIONI (Commission of the European Communities) said that the CEC had important responsibilities under the EURATOM Treaty, responsibilities which gave it an active role in the international nuclear community.

133. In his statement the previous year, he had highlighted some major developments - the completion of the single European market, the Maastricht Treaty and the Rio de Janeiro Conference on Environment and Development - which were shaping international affairs.

134. Regarding the liberalization and opening-up of the electricity and gas markets, referred to in that statement as pillars of the single European energy market, much remained to be done. The CEC's proposals, which were still being examined in the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, would put an end to exclusive rights to generate electricity and construct electricity power lines and gas pipelines, and also impose an obligation on transmission and distribution companies to offer certain large consumers and distributors access to their networks (third-party access). Progress was slow, which was hardly surprising given the technical, economic and political implications of the proposals.

135. Steps had been taken to start implementing the energy-related recommendations of the Rio Conference - namely, the recommendations concerning carbon dioxide emissions. Directives had been issued concerning measures to limit such emissions and improve energy efficiency in buildings, transport and industry (SAVE). Also, a Community programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (ALTENER) had been adopted, together with a mechanism for monitoring national programmes to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. On the other hand, a proposal - made by the CEC to the Council of Ministers - for the introduction of a tax on carbon dioxide emissions and energy was still under discussion.

136. The Maastricht Treaty had now been ratified by 11 of the Community's 12 member States. Once in force, the Treaty would enhance the role of the European Community, which would become the European Union.

137. The CEC was also involved - both directly and indirectly - in various other developments taking place in the nuclear field. The developments affecting nuclear trade, nuclear safeguards and nuclear safety reflected the search for a new balance in a world undergoing rapid change.

138. International trade relations in general were at a difficult stage, as shown by the fact that much remained to be done in the "Uruguay Round" - the multilateral trade negotiations

launched in September 1986 and originally scheduled for completion in 1990. Similarly, in the energy sector, difficulties over questions of principle were being encountered in the negotiations on a legally binding Basic Agreement to implement the European Energy Charter signed in the Hague in December 1991. That agreement would set out such things as the general rules for trade in the energy sector, conditions of competition, conditions for access to capital and rules concerning the transfer of technology, but because of the aforementioned difficulties the text of a Nuclear Protocol setting forth principles of "good nuclear citizenship" for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the safety of nuclear installations, and also for co-operation in those areas had not yet been finalized. It was hoped, however, that agreement on both texts would be reached by the end of the year.

139. The ongoing work of the Nuclear Suppliers Group was, of course, also important for nuclear trade. In 1992, the CEC had submitted to the Council a proposal for a regulation dealing at the Community level with the regime agreed upon in Warsaw that year for the export of nuclear-related dual-use items. The Council was still discussing the regulation, whose purpose was to respond to the principles of the Community's internal market and to respect the non-proliferation commitments emanating from international regimes.

140. Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, the uranium market had been confronted with a large flow of material of CIS origin, which was jeopardizing its stability. For example, acquisitions in the Community of natural uranium of CIS origin had increased from zero in 1989 to 3000 tonnes in 1992, the latter figure representing about 25% of the Community's annual needs. Large imports at artificially low prices would obviously endanger the viability of uranium production in non-CIS countries and might prevent the necessary diversification of supply sources, thereby threatening the long-term security of supply. It was not surprising, therefore, that corrective action had been taken. In the United States an anti-dumping procedure had led to the signing of what were termed "suspension agreements". In the Community, imports were examined on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure regular and equitable access to supplies for all Community users in conformity with the EURATOM Treaty. Guidelines concerning quantities and prices had been drawn up and were taken into account in the examination of contracts involving CIS-origin nuclear materials.

141. The Community nevertheless attached great importance to CIS countries as partners on the supply side and had negotiated a nuclear trade agreement with the Russian Federation, together with agreements for co-operation in nuclear fusion and nuclear safety. Those agreements were now awaiting ratification. The case for similar agreements between the Community and the CIS countries engaged in uranium production and supply was being studied, and contacts had been initiated to that end. Naturally, such agreements would have to take account of the different countries' non-proliferation commitments.

142. Turning to the subject of safeguards, he said that the CEC also had important responsibilities in managing the Community's regional safeguards system. Considerable progress had been made since 1992 in implementing the new Partnership Approach under the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency, the European Community and the Community's non-nuclear-weapon member States. That approach should result in a level of Agency inspection that was lower than the level applicable under safeguards agreements covering comparable nuclear facilities not subject to any regional safeguards system. In the present budgetary situation, the expected reduction of 2000 inspection person-days would be most welcome. The CEC would therefore make every effort to maintain the momentum gained, and it was sure that the Agency would do likewise.

143. At the CEC's request, the Council of Ministers had approved amendments to the EURATOM Regulation No. 3227/76 concerning the application of the provisions regarding EURATOM safeguards. Those amendments, which had entered into force the previous month, would enable the CEC to support efforts to strengthen international safeguards and non-proliferation arrangements; they were already enabling it to provide the Agency with important additional information.

144. The appearance of nuclear materials on the West European black market suggested that there might be some slackening of the safeguards and verification system in certain areas. The member States of the Community, the European Parliament and the CEC had acted promptly by making funds available and supporting activities with a view to the development of effective and efficient control systems in the CIS countries. The systems developed in collaboration with the CIS countries would be designed to comply with Agency

requirements - and thus contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear materials - and to minimize the hazards associated with the illicit trade in nuclear materials.

145. Regarding nuclear safety, he said that the CEC had followed with satisfaction the progress made to date towards establishing a nuclear safety convention, which it believed would prove to be a valuable tool for ensuring a high level of nuclear safety worldwide. He was confident that the drafting work would continue satisfactorily and that the Community would accede to the convention in respect of those areas - such as radiation protection - where it had competence. It had, in fact, already taken appropriate steps in that direction.

146. The safety of nuclear installations continued to provide a focus for concerted action in the European Community. The CEC was now presenting to the Council of Ministers a comprehensive report on the implementation in its 1992 Resolution preparing the way for a Community nuclear safety system, together with an outline of a strategy for radioactive waste management. Concerted action was necessary in order to ensure the internal coherence - and hence the Community character - of the support being provided through the PHARE and TACIS programmes for the improvement of nuclear safety throughout Europe.

147. The safety of nuclear power plants in the former Soviet Union and in Central Europe continued to be the subject of international attention. Although progress had been made in implementing the safety programme agreed at the Munich Summit, it had been felt necessary at the Tokyo Summit to reiterate the need for urgent safety measures - co-ordinated through the G-24 - in order to ensure genuine improvements at the plants still causing concern.

148. The CEC had been invested with special responsibility for G-24 co-ordination and had set up a G-24 Nuclear Safety Assistance Co-ordination Centre, for which the Agency would be acting as a technical adviser. The CEC and the Agency had exchanged experts and linked their two databases, which they would continue to expand in a complementary manner; also, they were taking part in each other's meetings. Last but not least, representatives of the CEC and the G-24 were taking part in the ASSET, OSART and other safety-related missions organized by the Agency.

149. In addition to the Community, there were now 14 donor States, and five international organizations - the Agency, NEA, EBRD, EIB and the World Bank - engaged in providing

assistance to 11 beneficiaries. The assistance was being provided through 451 projects, with budgets totalling 460 million ECU. Under the PHARE and TACIS programmes, the Community accounted for more than half of the effort involved.

150. A further aspect of nuclear safety assistance deserving special attention was third-party liability, which was proving to be a serious problem for assistance programmes as Western companies supplying goods and services were reluctant to expose themselves to damage claims arising from nuclear accidents. Hardly any of the recipient States concerned were so far parties to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, but the situation might improve somewhat if revision of the Convention resulted in broader adherence. It was therefore important that the negotiations on its revision be concluded soon.

151. The European Community and the Agency were engaged in revising their respective basic safety standards for radiation protection in the light of the latest scientific findings and the ICRP's 1990 recommendations. Satisfactory co-operation in that area had been established between the CEC on one hand and the Agency and other interested international organizations on the other. There would thus be full compatibility between the two sets of standards, and the specific features of the Community Directive would be preserved. In that context, mention ought perhaps to be made of two directives on radiation protection which were also necessary for the single European market. One covered temporary workers, whose mobility was now less restricted, while the other dealt with the movement of radioactive materials now that there were no frontier controls or customs procedures. Both directives had already entered into force.

152. The problems and challenges of today, which had formed the subject of his statement so far, were of the utmost importance, but it was also necessary to prepare for tomorrow. Controlled thermonuclear fusion therefore continued to have high priority among the research activities of the European Community whose efforts in that area were focused on magnetic confinement.

153. In 1992 the Community, together with the United States, Japan and the Russian Federation, had signed a co-operation agreement on engineering design activities for ITER. Those activities, planned to last six years, would result in a detailed plan for a reactor

demonstrating the scientific and technological feasibility of using fusion energy for peaceful purposes. The joint central team had its base at three locations of equal importance - Garching in Europe, San Diego in the United States and Naka in Japan - and was led by a European scientist.

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING A NEW MEMBER OF THE AGENCY

154. The PRESIDENT announced that Armenia, whose application for admission had been approved on Monday, had deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Statute with the Government of the United States of America, thereby becoming a Member of the Agency.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

155. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot was held; balloting took place in respect only of those areas for which there was no agreed slate. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the Conference's time.

156. Accordingly, he proposed that the procedure be followed at the Conference's current session and that, as in the previous few years, Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure, which provided that elections to the Board should be held by secret ballot, be suspended in respect of the areas for which no secret ballot was to be held.

157. Having drawn the Conference's attention to document GC(XXXVII)/1087, he said agreement had been reached among the Member States in all areas except the Middle East and South Asia. There were two candidates for the one seat to be filled by a Member from the Middle East and South Asia, and a secret ballot would therefore have to be held in respect of that area.

158. He assumed that the General Conference wished to elect Colombia and Cuba to the two seats for Latin America.

159. Colombia and Cuba were duly elected.

160. The PRESIDENT assumed that the General Conference wished to elect Ireland and Switzerland to the two seats for Western Europe.

161. Ireland and Switzerland were duly elected.

162. The PRESIDENT assumed that the General Conference wished to elect Poland and Ukraine to the two seats for Eastern Europe.

163. Poland and Ukraine were duly elected.

164. The PRESIDENT assumed that the General Conference wished to elect Ethiopia and Tunisia to the two seats for Africa.

165. Ethiopia and Tunisia were duly elected.

166. The PRESIDENT assumed that the General Conference wished to elect the Philippines to the seat for the Far East.

167. The Philippines was duly elected.

168. The PRESIDENT assumed that the General Conference wished to elect Indonesia, from the area of South East Asia and the Pacific, to fill the so-called "floating" seat.

169. Indonesia was duly elected.

170. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Conference proceed to elect a member from the area of the Middle East and South Asia.

171. Mr. AYATOLLAHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had acceded to the NPT at an early date and had subsequently entered into a full-scope safeguards agreement with the Agency in accordance with its general policy of openness and transparency in all nuclear activities. Also, it had co-operated with the Agency in all the main areas of Agency activity. In 1990 the Islamic Republic of Iran had been elected to a seat on the Board of Governors for the first time after more than a decade. The records of the Board's proceedings reflected the sincere efforts of his country while serving as a Board member to make a positive contribution to the work of the Agency at a time when the Board had been dealing with a number of important and complex issues.

172. As the President had indicated, there were two candidates for the seat to be filled by a Member State from the Middle East and South Asia group; they were Lebanon and the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, however, he wished to announce that his country was withdrawing its candidature and hoped that Lebanon would serve effectively as a member of the Board.

173. The Islamic Republic of Iran would seek a seat on the Board at some future time, hoping to make a further constructive contribution to the work of the Agency.

174. Mr. SALLOUKH (Lebanon) thanked the Iranian representative and his delegation for their kind gesture, which reflected the spirit of co-operation and consensus which prevailed within the Middle East and South Asia group. The two delegations directly concerned believed that a seat on the governing body of an international organization meant an opportunity to serve that organization, and the Islamic Republic of Iran had a good record in that respect.

175. Lebanon was rising again, like the phoenix, to resume its position in regional and international affairs, and it would make every effort, within the framework of its regional group and in co-operation with other groups, to support the activities of the Agency.

176. The PRESIDENT, commending the spirit of co-operation and understanding demonstrated by the two previous speakers, said he assumed that the Conference wished to elect Lebanon to the seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

177. Lebanon was duly elected.

The meeting rose at 1.35 p.m.