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International Atomic Energy Agency

GOV/2751-GC(XXXVIII)/13
22 August 1994

BOARD OF GOVERNORS GENERAL CONFERENCE

GENERAL Distr.
Original: ENGLISH

Sub-item 5(c) of the Board's provisional agenda
(GOV/2748)
Item 24 of the Conference's provisional agenda
(GC(XXXVIII)/1)

AN AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE (NWFZ)

Report by the Director General

1. In resolution GC(XXXVII)/RES/625, the General Conference last year requested the Director General to report on the progress made in implementing that resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its thirty-eighth regular session under an agenda item entitled "An African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone".
2. Also, the Conference welcomed the progress made at the third meeting of the UN/OAU (United Nations/Organization of African Unity) Group of Experts to draft a treaty on an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (which had been held in Harare from 5 to 8 April 1993), took note of the report by the Director General contained in document GC(XXXVII)/1075, commended "the African States in their efforts directed towards the establishment of an African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone" and requested the Director General "to continue to assist them [the African States] in these efforts".
3. In resolution 48/86 of 16 December 1993, the United Nations General Assembly *inter alia* requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, "to take appropriate action to enable the Group of Experts designated by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity to meet during 1994 at Windhoek and Addis Ababa, in order to finalize the drafting of a treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa".

4. In 1993, the United Nations requested the Agency to assist the Group of Experts by preparing draft treaty provisions relevant to verification requirements in a future nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. Subsequently, at the invitation of the United Nations, the Agency's Assistant Director General for External Relations also participated in the meetings of the Group held in Windhoek from 16 to 25 March 1994 and in Addis Ababa from 11 to 14 May 1994.

5. During these meetings the Group of Experts reached agreement on the draft text of a treaty which would, inter alia, entrust to the Agency the task of verifying compliance with the peaceful use undertakings of the States parties. The Group requested its Chairman to transmit its report and the draft treaty text to the Secretary General of the OAU for submission to the OAU's Council of Ministers for consideration at its sixtieth ordinary session - held in Tunis in June 1994. Also, the Group agreed that its report and the draft treaty text should be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution 48/86 of 16 December 1993.