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**LETTER RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NICARAGUA**

The attached letter, dated 19 September 1994, is being circulated as a document of the General Conference at the request of the Resident Representative of Nicaragua, Chairman of the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

THE AMBASSADOR OF NICARAGUA

Vienna, 19 September 1994

Dear Mr. President,

Allow me to communicate to you on behalf of GRULAC the official position of our Group with regard to item 5 of the XXXVIIIth General Conference of the IAEA: Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"GRULAC wishes to express its special gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the IAEA for the initiative of both organizations in organizing the scientific seminar entitled 'Global Food Security and Sustainability: the role of nuclear techniques', which is to be held on 21 September 1994 in conjunction with the thirty-eighth General Conference of the IAEA, to celebrate 30 years' joint effort by FAO and the IAEA in this field.

"The countries of our region without exception assign great importance to this subject, as they have the potential to increase considerably their production of raw materials and foodstuffs for the direct benefit of a constantly increasing world population.

"Our countries are aware of the negative consequences of inadequate utilization of their considerable natural resources, so that they are always ready to apply such techniques as are necessary - including nuclear techniques - for improving productivity while at the same time conserving the environment.

"In this connection, GRULAC wishes to stress that the use of nuclear techniques in the region, such as those employed for suppressing the Mediterranean fruit fly, combating brucellosis, improving cereals through mutations, food irradiation, etc. have contributed most effectively to improving production conditions in various sectors of great economic importance for our countries.

"Accordingly, the Group considers that the holding of seminars such as the present one will contribute not only to wide dissemination of the various techniques currently available but also to developing the necessary contacts between experts in the various regions.

"GRULAC hopes that initiatives such as this one will be maintained in future and is pleased to offer any support it can to that end."

That concludes the statement by GRULAC.

Yours, etc.,

(signed) Xavier Argüello
Chairman of GRULAC

Mr. Alec Jean Baer
President of the General Conference
IAEA, Vienna

