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President: Mr. BAER (Switzerland)

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[*] GC(XXXVIII)/25.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(XXXVIII)/INF/11/Rev.2.

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
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
G-24	Group of Twenty-Four
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (GC(XXXVIII)/3)
(resumed)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced the results of the ballot to the Conference.
2. In the election of two members from the area of Africa the result was:

<u>Abstentions:</u>	6
<u>Valid votes:</u>	168
<u>Required majority:</u>	43
<u>Votes obtained:</u>	
Ghana:	72
Morocco:	73
South Africa:	1
Sudan:	22

3. Having obtained the required majority, Ghana and Morocco were elected to the Board.

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993 (GC(XXXVIII)/2 and Corr.1)
(resumed)

4. Mr. AL ZUBI (Jordan) welcomed the fact that ten new States had joined the Agency since the previous session and said that the world was witnessing a turn of events which gave cause to hope that the spectre of war would soon disappear and that countries would no longer feel the need to acquire weapons of mass destruction.
5. After expressing the hope that peace in the Middle East would be lasting and comprehensive, he endorsed the Agency's efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region and, recalling that in the resolution on the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (GC(XXXVII)/RES/627), adopted unanimously at the previous General Conference, had called on all countries of the region to place all their nuclear activities under Agency safeguards without delay, stressed that that had not yet been done.
6. With regard to safeguards, disarmament and nuclear safety, his delegation wished to make a number of comments. First, by displaying partiality concerning sensitive issues such

as nuclear weapons and the application of safeguards, the Agency and the United Nations system as a whole risked losing their credibility. Second, the situation on the Korean Peninsula was worrying and all the countries of the region should collaborate to find a solution to the problem. Third, the positive climate that was apparent from the Director General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 687, 707 and 715(1991) relating to Iraq was very encouraging, and it was to be hoped that that would lead to the alleviation of the Iraqi people's suffering. Fourth, Jordan supported all the calls that had been made for vertical and horizontal extension of the safeguards system, with a view to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons where the risk of proliferation no longer existed. Fifth, he commended the efforts that had been made at the international level to draw up the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which his delegation regarded as an effective means of avoiding nuclear accidents.

7. Radioactive waste management was a delicate and complex issue requiring lengthy consideration. The worrying factor was that the space needed for regional repositories was only likely to be available in countries that did not have the benefit of nuclear energy and had no interest in storing waste on their territory. The future of stored waste and its long-term effects were difficult to predict. Nature might be subject to transformations leading to disasters whose consequences would be felt for generations and which international assistance, however considerable, would be unable to rectify. His delegation therefore considered that each country should be responsible for the waste it produced and that increased efforts should be made to develop scientific methods and suitable standards and apply them effectively. His delegation could approve the draft resolution submitted by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77.

8. The food and agriculture sector was a vital part of Jordan's economy, and several projects were in hand for its development and improvement. His delegation greatly appreciated the activities of the Agency and other international organizations with regard to the practical utilization of food irradiation in developing countries, and renewed its appeal to the Agency to establish an agricultural research centre in the Middle East concerned with the use of nuclear techniques. Because of its diversity, the region was a suitable base for research and scientific studies that would be of interest to all Member States. Jordan also

welcomed efforts to investigate the possible use of nuclear energy for seawater desalination, as it suffered from water shortages and was constantly drawing on its scarce underground reserves.

9. For several years the General Conference had been considering changing the distribution of seats in the Board of Governors with a view to ensuring fairer representation for the two important areas of the Middle East and South Asia, and Africa, but efforts made in that direction had so far failed. The Agency currently had 121 Members as against only 60 in 1957. Furthermore, the technological progress achieved in South and South East Asia, as well as in Latin America, and the political developments that had occurred in the world were sufficient grounds for increasing the number of members of the Board and thus ensuring greater harmony within the Agency.

10. Despite the Agency's considerable efforts to improve the representation of developing countries among the staff of the Agency's Secretariat, the number of staff members drawn from those countries remained very low. No Jordanian had ever been appointed to a higher-grade post although many qualified candidates had been nominated. His delegation hoped that the developing countries would soon be able to feel that they were represented equitably in the various posts in the Secretariat, which was sure to have the effect of promoting harmony and collaboration.

11. He thanked the Agency for the assistance it had provided to Jordan in connection with various national and regional projects, in particular the establishment of the necessary infrastructure for the peaceful application of nuclear energy, radiation safety and environmental protection. Jordan was relying on the Agency for the establishment of a Jordanian centre for nuclear research and training. It welcomed the projects proposed for the West Asia region which, taken as a whole, met the latter's developmental expectations and needs. In order to accelerate the region's development, Jordan requested the Agency and the countries concerned to re-examine the possibility of establishing, as Jordan and others had proposed in 1986, a regional co-operation programme on the lines of existing regional programmes (RCA, AFRA, ARCAL).

12. His delegation could approve the Agency's Annual Report for 1993 and its Programme and Budget for 1995 and 1996, while re-emphasizing the need to fund technical co-operation and assistance through predictable resources instead of depending on voluntary contributions. In that way, all States would contribute on an equitable basis to development efforts.

13. Reaffirming his support for the Agency's efforts to accelerate and enhance the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity worldwide, he said his Government undertook to pay its contribution to the Agency's budget for 1995, together with 8% in the form of assessed programme costs.

14. Mr. AL-KITAL (Iraq) said his country had accepted Security Council resolution 687(1991) despite the damage it was causing to the Iraqi people. It had taken all the measures called for in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of the resolution whose implementation the Agency had been required to monitor. To that end, 533 inspectors from 35 countries constituting 26 teams, had been to Iraq, where they had carried out 241 inspection days during which they had made 634 visits, of which 61 were surprise visits, 210 were visits to sites unconnected to the nuclear programme and 100 were visits to sites where there were materials or equipment intended for the programme. With logistical and technical support from Iraq, the inspection teams had taken over 700 samples, performed hundreds of radioactivity checks and carried out two radioactivity measuring campaigns by helicopter at five sites.

15. In his statement to the Board of Governors on 12 September, the Director General had expressed his satisfaction at the fruitful collaboration between the Iraqi authorities and the Agency, saying that significant progress had been made during the preceding few months in the Agency's activities in Iraq under the relevant Security Council resolutions and that the correctness and completeness of the information provided in October 1993 by the Iraqi authorities on foreign sources of supplies and technical advice had been verified with the assistance of the Member States concerned. In his statement to the General Conference on 19 September, the Director General had reaffirmed that with the Iraqi authorities' collaboration the Agency had been able to perform its tasks pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, and had also said that the Agency was satisfied that the scope of Iraq's

former nuclear weapons programme was now well understood and that it no longer had any capability for the production of nuclear weapons. The mission entrusted to the Agency in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of resolution 687 had thus been accomplished.

16. In November 1991 Iraq had submitted forms containing the information required under the monitoring plan established by Security Council resolution 715(1991). The forms had been changed several times by the Agency before a final version was adopted and Iraq had made certain suggestions which had been welcomed. The final version had not been sent to Iraq until March 1994. Although it had only had two weeks to complete and return the forms, Iraq had in that time sent diskettes containing information on 24 sites, representing thousands of forms and tens of thousands of items of information. In order to help the Agency speed up its work, a new update of the information had been carried out in April and more recently in July. Iraq had also helped the Agency's teams implement the ongoing monitoring and verification plan by installing cameras, taking water and soil samples and performing aerial surveys. The ongoing inspection measures were in place, the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre was ready and the Director General had announced in his statement to the Board of Governors on 12 September that the Agency had been maintaining a continuous presence in Baghdad since 23 August.

17. Since the beginning of 1992 Iraq had collaborated wholeheartedly with the Agency's teams, as evidenced in their reports, which had helped the Agency execute tasks and accomplish its mission pursuant to paragraphs 12 and 13 of part C of Security Council resolution 687. As Iraq had fulfilled its obligations pursuant to resolution 707, the Agency should request the Security Council to allow Iraq to exercise its rights once more as a party to the NPT and resume its nuclear activities in accordance with the Treaty and the safeguards system. His delegation urged the General Conference and the Agency to take measures to that effect and to restore technical assistance to Iraq, which had been suspended since September 1990.

18. The Security Council resolutions authorized Iraq to use and import radioisotopes for medical purposes but the procedure to be followed was so complicated that the goods were often considerably delayed, which prevented medical establishments from providing services to patients needing those items. Moreover, the quantities received were less than those that

had been ordered and only covered 10% of Iraq's actual needs. He hoped the General Conference would devote more attention to the issue and arrange for a less complicated procedure to be introduced to enable Iraq to obtain the products in question for its patients without delay.

19. Paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 stated that "actions to be taken by Iraq in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the present resolution represent steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction..." As Iraq had fulfilled its obligations under the paragraphs mentioned, the Agency and other parties concerned should make a serious effort to implement the terms of paragraph 14 by urging all the countries of the region to accede to the NPT and submit to full-scope Agency safeguards. The Agency should first place all the Israeli nuclear facilities under safeguards and purge any nuclear weapons from the region, or it would remain prey to instability and a hotbed of local conflicts.

20. In view of the positive situation brought about by the fruitful collaboration between the Agency and Iraq in implementing the Security Council resolutions, it should be possible to look forward with confidence to a future in which Iraq would exercise all its rights with regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the Agency's safeguards system, and in which positive steps would be taken in the Middle East and the rest of the world to strengthen that system and apply it in all States without exception, in order to promote the principles of non-proliferation and make them universal. Furthermore, urgent steps should be taken to achieve a complete ban on nuclear testing and to control the production of fissile materials, in order to provide security guarantees to non-nuclear weapon States and make it possible, within the foreseeable future, to live in a world without nuclear weapons.

21. He had hoped to end his statement on that positive note, but found himself obliged to say a few more words. The General Conference had before it a draft resolution on Iraq. It was clear on reading the draft that its content was purely political and had no connection with reality, since it did not even take account of what had been said by the Director General, the inspection teams and the Action Team. Depriving Iraq of its right to vote and even, as some countries apparently had proposed, preventing it from submitting draft

resolutions, simply demonstrated intent to harm Iraq and involve the Agency in political issues unrelated to its mission which ran contrary to its principles and its Statute. He was sure that those responsible would regret it, for by their actions they would harm the Agency far more than Iraq.

22. Mr. GÓNGORA-TREJOS (Costa Rica) recalled that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had started in December 1942 at the University of Chicago when Enrico Fermi built the first nuclear reactor. Although that event had been one of the most significant in the history of man's scientific and technological development, it had remained practically unknown to the world at large. In 1945, nuclear energy had been used for the first time for non-peaceful purposes at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. By its very nature, that event had had considerable repercussions in the world. Since then, possible applications of nuclear energy had engendered distrust. What was more, the negative image created by the use of nuclear weapons had been reinforced by the nuclear and radiation accidents that had occurred.

23. Scientific circles were very well informed of progress made in regard to nuclear safety and nuclear reactor operation, and those who worked in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were not only aware of the advantages of that form of energy but also knew what the Agency was doing in the field of radiation protection. Unfortunately, not much had been done to keep the general public informed, and even if they were, it would serve little purpose if mankind was being threatened by the Damoclean sword of nuclear war.

24. Effort should be devoted to developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This form of energy, which had already brought and could continue to bring considerable advantages to mankind, had met with public hostility because of its potential non-peaceful uses. For that reason, Costa Rica, which had a long democratic tradition and which had demonstrated its peaceful convictions by abolishing its army in the fifties, called on all the Governments represented at the General Conference not only to extend the NPT but also to enhance it in the light of the experience acquired in the 25 years since the Treaty's entry into force, so that - once the nuclear danger had been eliminated - all the peoples of the world could devote themselves to research in the nuclear field and benefit from the advantages that nuclear energy could bring.

25. Mr. BØJER (Denmark), associating himself fully with the statement made by the delegate of Germany on behalf of the European Union, said that the NPT continued to be the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. Denmark was pleased with the increase in the number of States which had acceded to the NPT, thereby making nuclear non-proliferation a universally accepted principle. It strongly favoured unconditional extension of the NPT in 1995 for an indefinite period.

26. Denmark was deeply concerned about the situation with regard to the application of safeguards in the DPRK. The fact that more than 50 non-nuclear-weapon States which were party to the NPT had not yet concluded safeguards agreements as required under the Treaty was also a matter of concern. Although, with the exception of the newly-independent States, the outstanding agreements involved States with no significant nuclear activities, it was important for the credibility of the NPT and the safeguards system that all States comply with their obligations under Article III.

27. Denmark strongly supported all efforts aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system. It was necessary to study ways of improving application of the safeguards system and facilitating the Agency's work in that respect.

28. The increasing number of cases of illicit trafficking in nuclear material in recent months was a matter of grave concern. That problem called for urgent action. It was principally the responsibility of Governments to prevent such proliferation at source. Nevertheless, co-operation between Governments based on mutual trust was essential, and it was clear that the Agency also had an important role to play.

29. Export and supply controls, already extensive, should be further strengthened. In that connection it was encouraging to note that the Nuclear Suppliers Group's guidelines on trade in nuclear-related goods and technology were becoming more and more widely accepted. Members of the Group now required that all current and future nuclear activities be submitted to Agency safeguards before authorizing any significant new supply. Denmark urged all other nuclear suppliers to make the application of full-scope safeguards a condition of supply.

30. Turning to nuclear safety, a matter of great importance to his Government, he recalled that in 1985, a year before the Chernobyl accident, Denmark had decided not to include nuclear power in its energy planning because it felt that the problems of nuclear safety and waste management had not been resolved. That seemed even more valid at the present time given that many nuclear power plants were operating at a dangerously low safety level and that nuclear waste management left much to be desired.

31. The Agency had an important role to play as technical adviser to the G-24. Denmark unreservedly supported the provision of assistance in nuclear safety to the States of Central and Eastern Europe and to the newly-independent States, to which it was contributing its full share. The Danish contribution to European Union assistance programmes was complemented by special voluntary contribution to the EBRD nuclear safety account and by monies allocated to bilateral assistance programmes.

32. His Government felt it was extremely important to exploit the considerable energy saving potential in the countries concerned and to develop longer-term alternative energy supply strategies in order to reduce their energy dependence and encourage them to shut down unsafe reactors.

33. Denmark supported the creation of a comprehensive and legally binding international safety regime. The adoption of the Convention on Nuclear Safety was a step forward and he paid tribute to the experts who had elaborated that document under the leadership of Mr. Domaratzki. Denmark would in fact have preferred the Convention to cover not just civil nuclear power plants but waste management as well. He hoped that the safety fundamentals for radioactive waste management would be adopted soon. At all events, work on drawing up a nuclear waste convention should start without delay. Denmark was on the whole satisfied with the outcome of the Diplomatic Conference. It had signed the Convention during the current session of the General Conference and would ratify it as soon as possible. He urged all other parties to do the same so that that important Convention could enter into force as soon as possible. An important aspect of the Convention was the commitment to institute appropriate procedures for consulting parties in the vicinity of a proposed nuclear installation insofar as they might be affected by that installation.

34. He also welcomed the agreement that had been reached on establishing a nuclear protocol within the framework of the European Energy Charter. That protocol, which would probably be signed by the end of the year, would cover the whole fuel cycle and would complement, without duplication, the work done in the context of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

35. Strengthening and enhancing of the international nuclear liability regime remained a high priority. Denmark strongly supported the work of the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage and expressed the hope that it would be possible to reach a common solution on the outstanding questions in order to convene a diplomatic conference at an early date. Broad participation in the civil liability regime would undoubtedly lead to increased international co-operation on upgrading nuclear safety. It should be added that the widest possible accession to the present Vienna Convention and the Joint Protocol was essential.

36. Denmark attached great importance to the Agency's technical assistance activities, which continued to show substantial growth. It could accept the target of US \$61.5 million for the TCF for 1995 and had already pledged its full voluntary contribution.

37. In conclusion, he expressed his country's great appreciation and full support for the dedicated work of the Director General and his staff. Given the great demands made of the Agency's Secretariat, it was vital that the high level of professional qualification of its staff be maintained.

38. Mr. NANJIRA (Kenya) said that his country would like first of all to thank the Director General and all his staff for their continuing efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to apply safeguards, particularly the measures which had been taken to meet the tough safeguards challenges faced by the Agency in recent years.

39. Kenya was nonetheless deeply concerned about the cases of illicit trafficking in weapons-grade nuclear material reported recently by the media. The Agency should therefore intensify its efforts to strengthen the safeguards system in order to eliminate such trafficking and should endeavour to provide timely information to Member States on such cases. That would help dispel fears about illicit trafficking, especially within Member States which did not have direct access to accurate information on the matter.

40. Kenya wished to take the opportunity to congratulate sincerely the Government of South Africa on the new developments in that country which had opened up new possibilities for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region.

41. Kenya was highly appreciative of the Agency's technical co-operation programme and other related programmes. Many developing countries, including Kenya, were facing innumerable socio-economic problems. The technical and socio-economic gap between the developed and the developing countries was continuing to increase year by year, particularly in Africa. That gap was due in part to global events which were far beyond the control of those countries. The Agency's efforts to reduce the technical gap were well known and Kenya was deeply appreciative of them, but it urged the Agency to increase its efforts to find lasting solutions. In that connection, he appealed to the developed countries to increase their financial support to the Agency for the promotion of technical co-operation.

42. Kenya appreciated the considerable assistance provided to it by the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, France and many other countries in the form of expert services, equipment and training in many areas of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It thanked them sincerely and asked them to increase their contributions towards Kenya's national development efforts.

43. The Agency was also making a valuable contribution to the socio-economic development of Kenya, particularly in the agricultural sector, which was the mainstay of its economy. It was providing technical assistance within the framework of numerous ongoing projects which were expected to benefit the small-scale farmers in the long term. With regard to human health, the Agency was supporting several projects aimed at improving the health of the population.

44. The Kenyan Nuclear Science Training Centre, which had been established several years previously with Agency assistance, continued to receive Agency support. As well as continuing to provide services in the application of nuclear analytical techniques, that Centre had remained a focal training point in that field, hosting regional and international training activities. In the field of non-destructive testing, Kenya had received considerable technical assistance from the Agency in the form of equipment, training and expert services, with the

result that services were now being provided not only to the public but also to the private sector.

45. Since water was vital to the survival of mankind, he welcomed Agency initiatives to support Kenya's work on the use of isotopes to study various water resource problems. The Agency had given his country the opportunity of hosting several meetings and training activities since September 1993. It was sincerely grateful and would continue to place its facilities at the Agency's disposal whenever needed.

46. Agency projects in the Africa region, implemented within the framework of AFRA, depended for their success both on Agency assistance and international co-operation. As the outgoing Chairman and active member of AFRA, Kenya was very grateful to France, Spain and other friendly countries which had continued to provide the financial resources and technical assistance necessary for implementation of several AFRA and national projects. He appealed especially for more financial support for the AFRA programmes in the new cycle.

47. In conclusion, his delegation stressed that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy had revolutionized ways of resolving mankind's socio-economic problems. Nuclear energy was now being used for peaceful purposes in practically all fields and would play a decisive role in the future of mankind. The future uses of nuclear energy would be even more complex and challenging. Nevertheless, Kenya had confidence in the Director General and the entire staff of the Agency, who had made the Agency one of the most effective organizations in the United Nations system.

48. Mr. GANBAATAR (Mongolia) thanked the Director General and staff of the Secretariat for their efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to strengthen Agency safeguards. In particular, his delegation commended the Annual Report of the Agency for 1993 which highlighted the significant results it continued to achieve and demonstrated the competent and efficient manner in which it was managed.

49. With preparations now under way for the 1995 NPT Extension Conference, Mongolia wished to see the universality of that important international legal instrument strengthened, and supported its indefinite extension. Consequently, it fully supported any initiative to that

end. In that connection, it greatly appreciated the role played by the Agency in verifying the application of the NPT. It fully supported Agency safeguards and the programme launched by the Secretariat to strengthen them.

50. Like the delegate of Sweden, he felt that non-proliferation efforts alone could not guarantee international peace and security and had to be backed up by verifiable disarmament measures. Mongolia welcomed the ongoing negotiations on a comprehensive test-ban treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. It also favoured early conclusion of a convention on fissile material and shared the grave concerns expressed by many delegations about the recent cases of illicit trafficking in nuclear material.

51. Mongolia also shared the general concern for nuclear safety. It therefore welcomed the adoption of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in June 1994 which it intended to accede to in the near future.

52. Mongolia strongly supported Agency efforts to establish nuclear weapon-free zones. Establishment of such zones was a major aim of Mongolia's foreign and security policies, and it had accordingly declared its territory a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

53. Mongolia continued to attach great importance to the Agency's technical co-operation activities because they greatly facilitated utilization of nuclear science and technology to solve many of the problems in developing countries. The Agency's technical co-operation had enabled Mongolia to benefit from a major transfer of technology and experience for development purposes. Projects implemented included upgrading of the national information system, the establishment of nuclear analytical facilities for analysis of coal, mineral and ore samples, the application of nuclear techniques in agriculture, nuclear medicine, radiation protection and safety and groundwater hydrology, and the setting up of a radiobiological laboratory. The Agency was also helping Mongolia to establish gamma radiography and radiochemistry teaching laboratories and to assess the country's uranium potential. He hoped that the Agency would continue to support those projects.

54. In conclusion, his country pledged its active support to the Agency in pursuing its goals of accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

55. Mr. OWN (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), welcoming the return of South Africa to full participation in the international community, including the Agency, recalled that in resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/540 the General Conference had requested the Director General to assess the costs of potable water production using nuclear plant and to compare them with desalination costs by other means. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was among those countries which were finding it increasingly difficult to satisfy their basic water needs. It had therefore been one of the first countries to propose using nuclear energy to desalinate sea water and to provide support in that field in the hope of realizing that dream in the near future. It requested the Agency to devote more attention to activities related to nuclear desalination and to support the regional project to assist North African States in the use of nuclear reactors for water desalination (RAF/4/010) as well as activities concerning low- and medium-capacity nuclear reactors. In addition, his country called on all nations to provide financial and technical support to help achieve that worthy objective.

56. While welcoming the increasing number of States acceding to the safeguards system, which would go a long way towards creating a safe and peaceful world freed from the threat of nuclear weapons, he noted that certain States, notably Israel, remained deaf to the repeated calls - in many resolutions - of the international community to place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and the NPT.

57. The world was aware of the danger posed to the Middle East and the rest of the globe by the Israeli nuclear arsenal. The international community - particularly the major powers - should therefore take all necessary measures to have all Israeli nuclear installations placed under safeguards and to cause Israel to accede to the NPT.

58. While all Member States stressed the importance of safeguards, the method of financing safeguards placed an excessive financial burden on some of them. It was essential that States with major nuclear activities contribute more to the costs involved in applying safeguards.

59. With regard to document GC(XXXVIII)/14 on the restoration of technical assistance to Israel, his delegation recalled that the arguments put forward in that document bore no relation to the reason for the resolution depriving Israel of the right to Agency technical

assistance, namely the criminal attack on the Iraqi reactor which had been condemned in numerous international resolutions. The Israeli régime had yet to demonstrate good intentions in that regard, above all in the nuclear energy field. It refused to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency, to allow its installations to be inspected and to sign the NPT. The international community should not encourage such an attitude by restoring technical assistance, but rather oppose it by every possible means. The peace referred to in the aforesaid document could not be achieved as long as the nuclear threat prevailed. That peace should be based on confidence, which could not be established without transparency and verification. Only then could a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction be created in the Middle East.

60. Given the increasing number of countries interested in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, serious consideration should be given to introducing the necessary modifications to Article VI of the Agency's Statute to ensure more equitable representation on the Board of Governors and enable countries to participate effectively in the decisions affecting them.

61. Mr. PEYRAT (Paraguay), recalling that the two preceding years had witnessed both considerable progress and disappointing delays, said that the Agency should pursue its efforts to establish itself as the principal safety body in the use of nuclear energy in the international context. Relations between Paraguay and the Agency had been marked by intense activity and significant results. His delegation, which had been on the Board of Governors for the first time, felt that it had done good work during its period of office in constant liaison with the National Atomic Energy Commission.

62. That Commission, which had been established in 1959, was now part of the National University and was composed of representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Public Health and Social Welfare, Public Works and Communications, Mines and Energy, and Agriculture, as well as representatives from the Institute of Health Science Research and from the private sector. That direct connection with the National University had helped accomplish objectives concerning the promotion and control of nuclear applications. In view of the enormous hydroelectric potential of the country, priority had been given to applications in the fields of medicine, industry and agriculture rather than nuclear power. Courses had

been organized to train specialists in nuclear medicine and the use of nuclear techniques. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the use of radioimmunoassay methods in animal pathology had been promoted, and nuclear tracers had been used to determine the physical, hydrochemical and bacteriological properties of potable water.

63. The Government was focusing its efforts on radiation protection and nuclear safety, the subject of increasing collaboration between the National Atomic Energy Commission and other establishments such as the National University. These activities would be further developed thanks to the technical and scientific co-operation agreements concluded in November 1993 between the Faculty of Exact and Natural Sciences and the National Atomic Energy Commission. A similar agreement had been concluded with the Faculty of Chemical Sciences in June 1994. Those legal instruments laid down rights and obligations with regard to the training of highly-qualified specialists. In that connection he recorded that the Vice-Chancellor of the National University in Asunción had approved the Basic Safety Standards.

64. Recapitulating the ongoing technical co-operation projects between the Agency and Paraguay and the activities in which Paraguay had participated within the framework of ARCAL projects and the projects planned for 1995-96, he said that technical and scientific co-operation agreements in the course of negotiation with Peru and the Nuclear Safety Council of Spain since May of that year would complement existing agreements with Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

65. Control over radioactive material had been tightened to cover entry into the country of material for medical and industrial use. All the technical co-operation projects had been integrated into the medium-term programming system with provision for the necessary flexibility.

66. A basic course on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy was being organized for journalists by the National Atomic Energy Commission and the UNDP in November that year. Paraguay thanked the Agency for its technical co-operation, which was of vital importance for the development of the country's priority sectors. Paraguay also continued to support regional co-operation efforts under the ARCAL programme - an important

instrument for the application of nuclear techniques in medicine, agriculture, industry and research - for the regular provision of resources was necessary to ensure continuity.

67. Reaffirming both its support for the Agency's work on applying treaties and agreements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and its firm position regarding the dangerous situation resulting from non-compliance with safeguards agreements, the Paraguayan delegation again urged the DPRK to comply fully with its safeguards commitments.

68. Paraguay supported efforts to draw up international standards and rules for the safe utilization of nuclear technology. It therefore welcomed the Convention on Nuclear Safety which had been adopted in June 1994 and would be putting its signature thereto. In addition, it was pleased with the efforts made by the Secretariat under the Programme 93+2 and progress made by the Standing Committee on Liability for Nuclear Damage in its review of the Vienna Convention. It also commended countries not previously signatories of the NPT or the Tlatelolco Treaty which had now acceded to those Treaties, or declared their intention of doing so.

69. Once again, his delegation expressed its continuing support for the Secretariat's efforts to improve the distribution of posts within the Secretariat, and in particular to increase the representation of all countries and women - with special reference to the developing countries - in higher and decision-making posts in all the technical and administrative areas.

70. In conclusion, he commended the Director General on his competent and dedicated leadership, and also the Secretariat on the high level of efficiency with which it was executing its tasks.

71. Mr. AL-GHAIS (Kuwait) said his country fully supported the Agency's activities in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world.

72. Shortage of drinking water was a particularly serious problem in countries such as Kuwait where water resources were scarce or non-existent. For that reason Kuwait, which was one of the most advanced countries in the field of seawater desalination technology using fossil fuel energy and which had provided several countries with technical assistance, could

approve and support the research carried out by the Agency on the feasibility of using nuclear energy for desalination.

73. With regard to the application of safeguards in the Middle East, the Kuwaiti delegation considered that, in view of the new political situation there, the need to apply the safeguards system and make the region a nuclear-weapon-free zone was becoming ever more urgent. It requested the Agency to intensify its efforts to that end and urge all the countries of the region to place their nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. It also hoped that, once the Middle East had been declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone, it would proceed to the next stage which would be to eliminate all other kinds of weapons of mass destruction - chemical, bacteriological or ballistic - and even to reduce conventional arsenals.

74. As the issue of safeguards was closely linked to world peace and security, Kuwait endorsed any measure that might strengthen the safeguards system. The Agency had undoubtedly enlarged its experience of safeguards application during its operations in Iraq and the DPRK. As to the financing of safeguards, the current formula - due to expire at the end of 1995 - was out of date, inequitable and in need of complete revision.

75. He drew attention to the highly important issue of the action taken by Iraq pursuant to the Security Council resolutions concerning it. What the Iraqi Government called collaboration did not emanate from sincere intentions, as shown by Iraq's aggressive behaviour towards the Agency and the Special Commission between May 1991 and the end of 1993. It was thanks to the firm stand taken by the international community and the constant pressure it had exerted that the Iraqi authorities had been forced to comply. If its intentions had been honourable from the outset, why had Iraq not accepted resolution 715 in October 1991 and only done so in November 1993? Why had collaboration been restricted to only a part of the many Iraqi obligations? What was the reason behind the Iraqi authorities giving some of their nuclear facilities names associated with their occupation of Kuwait - thus exposing their expansionist intentions - as could be seen from the list at the end of the report by the twenty-fifth inspection team. It was part of a premeditated plan on the part of the Baghdad régime to induce the Security Council to lift the embargo on Iraq's oil exports imposed under paragraph 22 of resolution 687, while it continued to violate the rest of its international obligations. Knowing the Iraqi leaders well, his delegation was quite

sure that their collaboration was only temporary, and that they would not hesitate to expel the experts and the Special Commission once the Iraqi objectives were achieved, and then simply resume their nuclear activities. The Agency should handle the issue with great care and keep a close watch on activities in Iraq in the future. His delegation wished to thank the Agency for all its efforts in that regard.

76. The Director General had been right to refer in his statement to the close link that existed between the Agency and the other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly in the case of Iraq, where the Agency was acting on the basis of a mandate from the Security Council and not within the framework of its safeguards system. In that regard, he pointed out that Iraq still refused to recognize the independence and sovereignty of Kuwait and its international borders, and was also refusing to collaborate with the International Committee of the Red Cross on freeing Kuwaitis held in Iraqi prisons. Moreover, Iraqi school books continued to describe Kuwait as the nineteenth province of Iraq. It was for those reasons in particular that the Security Council had just decided to maintain the sanctions against Iraq. He also noted that the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf had adopted a firm stance on the issue, as shown by the statement of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Council's member states at their recent meeting in Jiddah, at which they had endorsed the Security Council's decision on sanctions.

77. Mr. MUQBEL (Yemen) said that over the past three decades the Cold War had resulted in political and intellectual confrontations and groupings or in local or regional armed conflicts. Many countries had devoted considerable resources to protecting themselves against the risk of such conflicts, which had accelerated the nuclear arms race and restricted the funding of research and development, especially in the area of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Consequently, many developing countries had found it difficult to obtain the resources needed to implement their economic and social development programmes or to meet the basic needs of their populations.

78. Since the end of the Cold War the international community had been moving towards a policy of détente and fruitful co-operation, which would enable the Agency to make further progress on the application of safeguards, the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the strengthening of nuclear safety, as well as helping the developing countries derive the

maximum benefit from technical assistance and peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a means of boosting their national economies and meeting their populations' vital needs.

79. The case for using nuclear energy instead of or to complement conventional energy sources, in order to meet increased energy requirements was already proven, and the developing countries were becoming increasingly aware of the need to make use of it, in order to accelerate their socio-economic development. The Agency had a vital role to play in enhancing mutual trust and co-operation among Member States with a view to establishing firmly the policy of international friendship, promoting development opportunities in various countries, and bringing together North and South.

80. There was no doubt that many poor countries of the South continued to suffer the after-effects of colonization and economic and social underdevelopment, sometimes aggravated by demographic problems, with the result that a large part of their populations lived in poor conditions. International co-operation programmes should therefore be strengthened and the developing countries assisted with meeting their basic requirements for food, medical care and education. The specialized international organizations and donor countries should support the developing countries' efforts to make better use of various energy sources and improve their economic, social and cultural conditions. In that regard the Agency could play an important role in the area of technology transfer.

81. Nuclear energy had become essential to the improvement of agricultural and industrial production, and to the development of medical and engineering techniques. It was thanks to the Agency that nuclear energy was used for peaceful purposes, and it would be for the Agency to find the necessary resources and methods for strengthening nuclear safety, controlling the production and use of nuclear material and handling radioactive waste.

82. He expressed concern at the food and water shortages in some poor countries, particularly in Africa and West Asia, and urged the Agency to do its utmost to help those countries find the latest and least expensive means of investigating their underground water resources and treating and desalinating sea water.

83. The Director General's visit to Yemen in December had expedited the formalities for it to become a member of the Agency. Yemen had also signed the NPT and endorsed the

establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The success of the Middle East peace negotiations was not only just a matter of continued dialogue. It was also necessary for all the parties concerned to agree to apply the safeguards system and declare the region free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. He trusted that the Agency would manage to convince all the parties involved that stability and security could only be assured if the region became a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

84. Yemen belonged to the group of least developed Member States. Its efforts at political, economic and social development had been handicapped by lack of funds and resources, economic underdevelopment, political divisions and the effects of the Cold War. All that had weakened Yemen's infrastructure, held back the economic and social integration of different levels of its population and prevented it profiting from the use of modern techniques, including the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Since 1990, Yemen had been a united country based on democracy and respect for human rights. Despite the conflicts which had occurred, the country had returned to a state of political stability and security in May, enabling it to re-engage in development and investment activities.

85. He announced that Yemen had completed Agency membership formalities and was proud to assume its responsibilities with regard to the Agency and its various programmes. At the same time, Yemen hoped to derive the greatest possible benefit from the Agency's experience and its technical assistance programmes and, in particular, was looking to the Agency and its Member States for help in establishing a national centre for peaceful applications of nuclear energy. A secretariat had already been appointed to co-ordinate the centre's work with Agency services and with the associated national and regional bodies.

ELECTIONS TO THE AGENCY'S STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE

86. The PRESIDENT recalled that the General Conference was currently represented on the Agency's Staff Pension Committee by two members - Mr. Hamada (Tunisia) and Ms. Schick (Australia) - with Mr. Campuzano Piña (Mexico) and Mr. Myck (Luxembourg) as alternates. As Ms. Schick was no longer available to serve on the Committee he proposed that Mr. Myck be elected as a member and that Mr. Nogueira Viana (Brazil) be elected as an alternate.

87. Mr. Myck (Luxembourg) was elected as a member of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee and Mr. Nogueira Viana (Brazil) was elected as an alternate, with Mr. Hamada continuing to serve as a member and Mr. Campuzano Piña continuing to serve as an alternate member of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.