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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORD OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna
on Thursday, 21 September 1995, at 10.35 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. LAJOUS VARGAS (Mexico)

CONTENTS

<u>Item of the agenda*</u>		<u>Paragraphs</u>
21	Personnel questions (continued)	1 - 24
	(b) Women in the Secretariat	1 - 24
22	Amendment of Article VI of the Statute (resumed)	25 - 27
14	Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget (resumed)	28 - 30
22	Amendment of Article VI of the Statute (resumed)	31 - 42

[*] GC(39)/27.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(39)/INF/21/Rev.2.

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PERSONNEL QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) WOMEN IN THE SECRETARIAT (GC(39)/16, GC(39)/COM.5/11)

1. Mr. GUÉ (France), introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(39)/COM.5/11, thanked the Secretariat for the detailed report contained in document GC(39)/16 and said that the authors of the draft resolution, who appreciated the efforts made by the Director General, hoped that he would pursue those efforts.
2. Ms. HELLSTRÖM (Sweden), having expressed her delegation's wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution, welcomed the inclusion in it of a reference to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. However, she was unhappy about the call in operative paragraph 5 for voluntary contributions. Implementation of the Platform of Action developed at the Conference should, in her view, be funded from the Regular Budget.
3. Mr. SERVIGON (Philippines) and Mr. HARBITZ (Norway) said they shared the concern of the representative of Sweden regarding the question of voluntary contributions.
4. Mr. GOETHEL (Director, Division of Personnel) said that voluntary contributions would be necessary for funding the examination of the Platform of Action called for in operative paragraph 3. Once the Platform of Action had been examined and the applicable elements integrated in the Agency's relevant policies and programmes, however, the resulting activities could be funded from the Regular Budget.
5. Mr. MACKINNON (Canada) said his delegation welcomed the progress made in the recruitment of well-qualified women from countries belonging to the Group of 77 and looked forward to further progress being made. It would like to see the barriers faced by women applying for Agency positions lowered in all Member States.
6. Canada continued to nominate well-qualified women for Agency positions and, given its current underrepresentation, trusted that it would be successful in several cases in the near future.

7. Mr. OKONKWO (Nigeria), having expressed his delegation's wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution, suggested that the word "satisfaction" in operative paragraph 1 be replaced by "appreciation".
8. Ms. OK (Turkey) suggested that a phrase on the lines of "and to reach the United Nations target of 35 % for the representation of women in due time" be added at the end of preambular paragraph (e).
9. Mr. OKONKWO (Nigeria) said that, given the technical nature of the Agency's activities, a 35 % target for women was probably too ambitious.
10. Mr. FIUZA NETO (Brazil) said he had misgivings about the mentioning of a specific target.
11. Mr. GOETHEL (Director, Division of Personnel) said he doubted whether a target of 35 % for the representation of women in the Agency's Secretariat would be attainable unless Member States nominated far more well-qualified women for Agency positions than they were nominating at present.
12. Ms. DELLA CROCE (Italy) proposed that, rather than the addition of a phrase like that suggested by the representative of Turkey in preambular paragraph (e), there be an additional preambular paragraph reading "Noting that the United Nations has set a target of 35 % representation on this issue".
13. Mr. SNYDER (United States of America), Mr. WILKE (Netherlands), Mr. VAUGHN (Australia) and Mr. HARBITZ (Norway) supported the proposal made by the representative of Italy.
14. Mr. WÓJCIK (Poland), expressing concern about the question of voluntary contributions, suggested that paragraph 5 be deleted.
15. With regard to operative paragraph 4, he hoped that the establishment of a "focal point" would not involve the creation of additional posts.
16. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) said that his interpretation of operative paragraph 4 was that the establishment of a focal point would not involve the creation of additional posts and that there would be no budgetary implications. The focal point might

well be just one person carrying out the envisaged tasks at the same time as his/her other duties.

17. Mr. FIUZA NETO (Brazil) requested clarification regarding the words "any obstacles that might impede their accepting employment in the Secretariat" in operative paragraph 6.

18. Mr. GOETHEL (Director, Division of Personnel) said that those words, which had appeared in resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/13 adopted in 1994, probably referred to obstacles which the Secretariat had encountered when endeavouring to recruit women from certain Member States - for example, lack of government sponsorship and denial of leave of absence from national institutions.

19. Mr. SNYDER (United States of America) said that much more needed to be done to increase the number of women professionals working in the Secretariat, particularly at senior and policy-making levels. However, the Agency's budget difficulties had to be borne in mind. Accordingly, his delegation believed that Member States should be encouraged to make voluntary contributions - not in order to enable the Platform for Action and the Secretariat's action plan to be implemented, but rather in order to pave the way for their implementation. Such contributions need not be financial: they could take the form of, for instance, the cost-free services of experts.

20. Ms. HELLSTRÖM (Sweden) said that countries could make voluntary contributions if they so wished. However, paragraph 5 in its present form created the impression that the representation of women was a mere side-issue.

21. Ms. HASAN (Pakistan) and Mr. NG'ANG'A (Kenya), having expressed their delegations' wish to co-sponsor the draft resolution, said they shared the views of the representative of Sweden regarding operative paragraph 5.

22. Mr. HARBITZ (Norway) proposed that operative paragraph 5 be amended to read as follows: "Stresses that the work should primarily be financed from the Regular Budget of the Agency but also calls on Member States to provide voluntary contributions in order to assist with the implementation of the Platform for Action and of the Secretariat's action plan;".

23. The CHAIRMAN said she assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(39)/COM.5/11 as amended during the discussion.

24. It was so decided.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI OF THE STATUTE (GC(39)/21, GC(39)/21/Add.1, GC(39)/COM.5/9, GC(39)/COM.5/10) (resumed)

25. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee begin by discussing the report of the Chairman of the Open-ended Consultative Group on Article VI of the Statute contained in the Attachment to document GC(39)/21 and then take up the Moroccan proposal for amending Article VI contained in Annex 8 to that report. Subsequently, the Committee could take up the draft resolutions contained in documents GC(39)/COM.5/9 and GC(39)/COM.5/10.

26. Mr. SNYDER (United States of America), supported by Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) and Mr. LEDERMAN (Israel), requested that the meeting be suspended pending the conclusion of the informal consultations currently under way in connection with the Article VI issue.

27. It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE REGULAR BUDGET (GC(39)/24, GC(39)/24/Mod.1, GC(39)/24/Rev.1) (resumed)

28. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document GC(39)/24/Rev.1, which contained a revised version of the draft resolution that the Committee had on Tuesday decided to recommend to the General Conference for adoption. The revised version reflected the fact that Slovenia had subsequently notified the Director General that it did not wish to be included in the list of "shielded" countries.

29. She took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(39)/24/Rev.1 instead of the one contained in document GC(39)/24.

30. It was so decided.

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE VI OF THE STATUTE (GC(39)/21, GC(39)/21/Add.1, GC(39)/COM.5/9, GC(39)/COM.5/10) (resumed)

31. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco), introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(39)/COM.5/9, said that preambular paragraphs (a)-(d) were based on resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/14 adopted at the previous session of the General Conference. The operative paragraphs were entirely procedural; it was not a question of deciding on matters of substance, but rather one of laying down a future course of action.

32. With regard to operative paragraph 2, he said that for a proposal to qualify as "formal" it had to be certified by the Legal Division, communicated by the Director General to all Member States at least 90 days before the opening of the General Conference session at which it was to be considered, and discussed by the Board of Governors. The Moroccan proposal was alone in having fulfilled all those conditions.

33. With regard to operative paragraph 3, he said that the word "lasting" had been included in order to guard against the possibility of the Article VI issue being reopened every few years.

34. Mr. MOHAMEDAIN (Sudan), having drawn attention to Annex 5 ("African position on the amendment of Article VI of the Statute") to the report attached to document GC(39)/21, proposed the addition to the draft resolution contained in document GC(39)/COM.5/9 of a preambular paragraph reading as follows: "Realizing the growing needs of developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, for technical co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,".

35. With regard to operative paragraph 2, he said that either there should be a semi-colon after the word "consensus" (the rest of the paragraph being deleted) or the paragraph should end with the words "... consultations among Member States and regional groups on all the proposals contained in document GOV/2814/Rev.1".

36. Mr. FITZGERALD (Ireland), noting that his country was just completing a term as an elected member of the Board of Governors, said that his delegation had become aware of the advantages enjoyed by those Member States which were designated as Board

members and were thus in effect permanent members of the Board. It had concluded that in considering the Article VI issue one should bear in mind the long-term dominance of the designated members in the Board's deliberations and the unequal chances which other Member States had of being elected to the Board. With regard to the latter point, the chances of a non-designated country in Western Europe of becoming a Board member were appreciably worse than those of a non-designated country in Latin America, South East Asia and the Pacific or the Far East.

37. The following three principles should be observed in any amendment of Article VI: no increase in the number of designated Board members; equal chances for all non-designated Member States to be elected to the Board, irrespective of the area they belonged to; and no significant increase in the total number of Board seats.

38. His delegation supported the draft resolution submitted by Morocco insofar as it provided for a continuation of consultations, but felt that the word "expansion" in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by "composition".

39. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) said that he had no difficulty in accepting the preambular paragraph proposed by the representative of Sudan, especially as the majority of the least developed countries were located in Africa.

40. On the other hand, he could not accept the proposal made by the representative of Sudan regarding operative paragraph 2. An acceptable alternative ending might perhaps be "... a consensus on the formal Moroccan proposal (GOV/2814/Rev.1) in its current or an amended form or on any other option contained in document GOV/2814/Rev.1".

41. With regard to the comment made by the representative of Ireland on operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, he said that, if the problem of the underrepresentation of certain areas was to be remedied, there would have to be an expansion of the Board.

42. Mr. FITZGERALD (Ireland) said that, in his view, the word "composition" would not rule out an expansion of the Board.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

