



GC

International Atomic Energy Agency  
**GENERAL CONFERENCE**

GC(45)/OR.8  
October 2001  
GENERAL Distr.  
Original: ENGLISH

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**FORTY-FIFTH (2001) REGULAR SESSION**

RECORD OF THE EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Austria Center Vienna  
on Thursday, 20 September 2001, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. GRÖNBERG (Finland)

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[\*] GC(45)/28.

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(45)/INF/17/Rev.2.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their own copies of documents to meetings.
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## RESTORATION OF IRAQ'S VOTING RIGHTS

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that Iraq's voting rights not be restored because, in the Committee's opinion, Iraq's failure to pay the amount necessary in order to avoid the application of Article XIX of the Statute had not been due to conditions beyond its control. Some delegations had expressed reservations regarding that recommendation.
2. Mr. AL-JANABI (Iraq) pointed out that, since the Agency's establishment in 1957, his country had consistently supported all its activities and had always met its financial obligations vis-à-vis the organization. However, since August 1990, when the cruel sanctions had been imposed on Iraq and its assets in international banks had been frozen pursuant to the unjust resolutions of the Security Council, it had been unable to transfer any amounts in hard currency to pay its contributions to the United Nations and other international organizations, including the Agency. Those sanctions were still in force and constituted conditions beyond his country's control which prevented it from meeting its financial obligations to the Agency. As the Director of the Agency's Division of Budget and Finance had confirmed in a letter dated 16 February 2001, under Article XIX.A of the Statute the General Conference could permit a member of the Agency in arrears with its financial contribution to vote, if it was satisfied that the failure to pay was due to conditions beyond its control.
3. Since its right to vote had been suspended, Iraq had repeatedly requested the Agency and the General Conference to restore that right. The real causes preventing it from discharging its financial obligations to the Agency and other international organizations, i.e. the sanctions, had been clearly stated in the Iraqi Foreign Minister's letters of 2 September 1999 and 30 March 2000 to the Director General, and at the forty-third regular session of the General Conference. As the aforementioned letters made clear, Iraq met the conditions stipulated in the criteria and guidelines for the restoration of voting rights adopted by the General Conference at its forty-second regular session in resolution GC(42)/RES/4.
4. The United States, the United Kingdom and some of their allies were attempting to place obstacles in the way of the restoration of Iraq's voting rights for political reasons. He hoped that his country's request would be approved and that the General Conference would treat the matter in an objective and neutral manner, avoiding the application of double standards.
5. Mr. DEDUSHKIN (Russian Federation) said that his country supported Iraq's request for the restoration of its voting rights, which met the criteria adopted at the forty-second regular session of the General Conference. Iraq was willing to pay its contributions to international organizations but was prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond its control, namely the maintenance of the sanctions against it.
6. The Russian Federation was in favour of the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions on Iraq, and felt that that objective could be achieved by restoring international monitoring in Iraq while at the same time relaxing or lifting sanctions.

7. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India), supported by Mr. DEDUSHKIN (Russian Federation) said that, since the General Committee's recommendation had only been issued that day, discussion of it should be postponed to the following day, in line with the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference

8. It was so decided.

#### EXAMINATION OF DELEGATES' CREDENTIALS

9. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had met earlier in the day to examine the credentials of all delegates, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure. The report of the Committee was contained in document GC(45)/32 and Corr.1. After discussion, the Committee had recommended the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of its report, with the reservations and position expressed in the report. Since the Committee had met, he had been informed that credentials in proper form had been received from 95 Member States, and documents that did not constitute formal credentials from 26 Member States.

10. He took it that the General Conference was prepared to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of document GC(45)/32.

11. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.