

# General Conference

**GC(47)/COM.5/OR.3**  
Issued: January 2004

General Distribution  
Original: English

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**Forty-Seventh (2003) Regular Session**

## Committee of the Whole

### Record of the Third Meeting

*Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Wednesday, 17 September 2003, at 10.30 a.m.*

**Chairman:** Mr. GARCIA (Philippines)

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[\*] GC(47)/21.

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(47)/INF/14/Rev.2.

03-05293



## **16. Strengthening the agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)** (GC(47)/11; GC(47)/INF/6; GC(47)/COM.5/L.6)

1. The representative of MOROCCO, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution contained in document GC(47)/COM.5/L.6, entitled "Plan for Producing Potable Water Economically using Small and Medium-Sized Nuclear Reactors". He said that it closely resembled resolution GC(45)/RES.12.A adopted by the General Conference in 2001, the only substantive changes being the addition of preambular paragraphs (i), (m), (n) and (o).
2. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA said that a good deal of progress had been made with regard to the production of potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors as a result of close co-operation between the Secretariat, Member States and other international organizations. He therefore proposed that preambular paragraph (g) be amended through the insertion, after "the Secretariat", of the words "in co-operation with interested Member States and international organizations".
3. The representative of GERMANY, while expressing support for the draft resolution, wondered whether it might not be somewhat premature to state - in preambular paragraph (d) - that seawater desalination using nuclear energy was "in general cost-effective".
4. With regard to preambular paragraph (h), he asked what the rate of progress had been during the past two years in the interregional technical co-operation project on "Integrated nuclear power and desalination system design" and whether the concern expressed by the General Conference in 2001 had been responded to by the Secretariat.
5. He also asked what preambular paragraph (n) added of value to the draft resolution.
6. With regard to the second bullet point of operative paragraph 2, he proposed that the words "within existing resources" be amended to read "subject to the availability of resources".
7. With regard to operative paragraph 5, he expressed doubts about the idea of including the social and economic impact of nuclear desalination technology in feasibility studies.
8. Finally, he proposed the insertion of the word "interested" before "Member States" in operative paragraph 7.
9. The representative of JAPAN, while expressing support for the general thrust of the draft resolution, said that his delegation also was unsure of the value of preambular paragraph (n).
10. The representative of AUSTRALIA, likewise expressing support for the general thrust of the draft resolution, endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Germany regarding operative paragraph 7.
11. Regarding operative paragraph 6, she proposed that, since the activities in question had so far been funded from extrabudgetary resources, the phrase "to seek appropriate funding from extrabudgetary resources and to raise seed money" be changed to read "to raise seed funds and other appropriate funding from extrabudgetary resources".

12. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER said that the Secretariat had no problem with the proposal made by the representative of Australia regarding operative paragraph 6 or with the proposal made by the representative of Germany regarding operative paragraph 7.

13. Regarding preambular paragraph (d), he said that studies conducted by the Agency in five countries during the late 1980s and early 1990s had indicated that seawater desalination using nuclear energy was “in general cost-effective”.

14. Regarding preambular paragraph (n), he said that it was important to co-ordinate the development of nuclear reactor simulators for use on personal computers and that the Secretariat had established a programme for training in the use of such simulators. In the Secretariat’s view, the paragraph was useful and should be retained.

15. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE welcomed the proposal, made by the representative of Germany, to replace “within existing resources” by “subject to the availability of resources” in operative paragraph 2.

16. The representative of MOROCCO, responding to the comment made by the representative of Germany about the reference, in operative paragraph 5, to “the social and economic impact” of nuclear desalination technology, said that Morocco, which had been among the first countries to conduct feasibility studies on seawater desalination using nuclear energy, had regrettably overlooked the economic and social aspects. In his delegation’s view, it was important that the economic and social aspects - in addition to the technical aspects - be covered in future feasibility studies.

17. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document GC/(47)/COM.5/L.6 with the amendments to preambular paragraph (g) and operative paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 which had been proposed.

18. It was so agreed.

**The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.**

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that the sponsors of a number of draft resolutions which had been submitted were not yet ready to introduce them.

**The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.**