

General Conference

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Plenary

Record of the Eighth Plenary Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Thursday, 18 September 2003, at 3.15 p.m.

President: Mr. TAKASU (Japan)

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[*] GC(47)/21.

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(47)/INF/14/Rev.2.
03-05365 (LXII)

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Abbreviations used in this record:

NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
TranSAS	Transport Safety Appraisal Service

- **Oral Report by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole**

1. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, presented the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda items 8, 9, 11 and 12.
2. Under item 8, "The Agency's Accounts for 2002", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution on page I of document GC(47)/4.
3. Under item 9, "The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2004-2005", the Committee recommended that the Conference: approve a total Regular Budget figure for 2004 of \$268 534 000 on the basis of an exchange rate of €0.9229 to \$1.00 and adopt draft resolution A in the Annex to document GC(47)/3; approve a target for voluntary contributions to the TCF for 2004 of \$74 750 000 and adopt draft resolution B in the Annex to document GC(47)/3; approve maintenance of the level of the Working Capital Fund in 2004 at its current level of \$18 000 000 and adopt draft resolution C in the Annex to document GC(47)/3; and adopt the draft resolution in document GC(47)/L.2 entitled "The Financing of Safeguards".
4. Under item 11, "Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget", the Committee recommended the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution on page 3 of document GC(47)/18/Rev.1.
5. Under item 12, "Restoration of voting rights", the Committee recommended that the Conference take note of the decision of the Board to extend the period of payment plans for arrears from five to ten years, as reflected in paragraph 17 of Attachment 1 to document GC(47)/INF/7.
6. The PRESIDENT invited the Conference to take up one by one the agenda items regarding which the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole had just reported.
 - **The Agency's Accounts for 2002** (agenda item 8)
7. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution on page I of document GC(47)/4 was adopted.
- **The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2004-2005** (agenda item 9)
8. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, draft resolutions A, B and C contained in the Annex to document GC(47)/3 and the draft resolution contained in document GC(47)/L.2 were adopted.
- **Scale of Assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget** (agenda item 11)
9. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution on page 3 of document GC(47)/18/Rev.1 was adopted.
- **Restoration of voting rights** (agenda item 12)
10. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the Conference took note of the decision of the Board of Governors to extend the period of payment plans for arrears from five to ten years, as reflected in paragraph 17 of Attachment 1 to document GC(47)/INF/7.

10. Appointment of the External Auditor (GC(47)/15)

11. The PRESIDENT said that the tenure of the Agency's current External Auditor would end with the completion of the audit of the Agency's accounts for the financial year 2003. It would therefore be necessary to appoint an External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for 2004 and 2005.

12. At its June session, the Board of Governors had agreed to recommend to the General Conference the appointment of the Vice-President of the German Supreme Audit Institution as the External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for the financial years 2004 and 2005.

13. He took it that the General Conference wished to appoint the Vice-President of the German Supreme Audit Institution as the External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for the 2004 and 2005.

14. It was so decided.

15. Mr. HONSOWITZ (Germany) thanked the General Conference for appointing the Vice-President of the German Supreme Audit Institution, Mr. Norbert Hauser, as the External Auditor to audit the Agency's accounts for 2004 and 2005. The Conference's decision had been facilitated by the fact that the nominations made by Spain and India had been withdrawn in favour of Germany's nomination, and his Government was grateful to those two countries for their co-operation.

16. The German Supreme Audit Institution would strive to accomplish the task assigned to it diligently and with the Agency's and Member States' best interests in mind, and Mr. Hauser was looking forward to establishing personal contacts with members of the Secretariat and representatives of Member States.

6. General debate and Annual Report for 2002 (resumed) (GC(47)/2)

17. Mr. ERDENE (Mongolia) expressed appreciation of the Agency's assistance to Member States in using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and said that his country attached great importance to the strengthening of Agency safeguards through the implementation of additional protocols to safeguards agreements.

18. The Agency's technical co-operation projects in Mongolia were focused on – inter alia – applications of science, education and training, human health, agriculture and geology. Under the Model Project on upgrading radiation protection and waste safety infrastructure, progress had been made in establishing a legal framework for radiation protection in Mongolia, strengthening the country's independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority and training specialists in radiation protection.

19. An additional protocol to Mongolia's NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency had been signed in December 2001 and had entered into force on 12 May 2003.

20. Mr. HALPHEN PÉREZ (Panama) said that his country, although not engaged in nuclear power generation, had benefited greatly from technical assistance provided through the Agency.

21. It had also benefited greatly from the TranSAS mission to Panama that had taken place in June 2002 and the focus of which had been on the transport of radioactive material through the Panama Canal.

22. Among the technical assistance being provided through the Agency was support for the establishment of a cancer diagnosis unit at a hospital complex, for efforts to control the Mediterranean fruit fly, for seed irradiation designed to boost crop yields, and for the irradiation of foodstuffs in order to increase their shelf life.

23. Panama, which was grateful to the Agency, would continue to support it in its efforts to ensure that atomic energy was used only for peaceful purposes

24. Mr. ANDREADIS (Greece), referring to the statement made during the previous meeting by the representative of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said that he wished to remind the aforementioned representative that his country's name within the United Nations framework was "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending the resolution of litigation between his country and Greece.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.