

General Conference

GC(48)/COM.5/OR.4

Issued: November 2004

General Distribution

Original: English

Forty-Eighth (2004) Regular Session

Committee of the Whole

Record of the Fourth Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Wednesday, 22 September 2004, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(48)/INF/16/Rev.1

[*] GC(48)/25.

Abbreviations used in this record:

INPRO International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles

13. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management (continued) (GC(48)/COM.5/L.5/Rev.1, L.7 and L.9)

1. The representative of NORWAY said that, in the light of the discussion regarding operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.9 during the previous meeting, her delegation wished to suggest that the word “extrabudgetary” be added to that paragraph between “additional” and “resources”. The word “extrabudgetary” had appeared in paragraph 6 of Annex 4 to document GOV/INF/2003/15-GC(47)/INF/4, to which reference had been made during the previous meeting, but it had mistakenly been omitted from operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.
2. The representatives of SWITZERLAND and MEXICO expressed support for the suggestion made by the representative of Norway.
3. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, referring to the words “their arrangements for responding to acts involving the malicious use of nuclear or radioactive material and to threats of such acts” in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, said that States should have two sets of arrangements — preventive arrangements and penal arrangements.
4. The representative of PERU, supported by the representative of NORWAY, said that the issue of arrangements for punishing individuals who used or threatened to use nuclear or radioactive material for malicious purposes lay outside the scope of the draft resolution — and outside the scope of the Agency’s mandate. She suggested that, in order to meet the concerns of the Iranian delegation, the words “preparedness and response” be inserted in operative paragraph 2 before “arrangements”.
5. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that he could go along with that suggestion.
6. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.9 with “preparedness and response” inserted before “arrangements” in operative paragraph 2, “extrabudgetary” inserted between “additional” and “resources” in operational paragraph 6 and “, subject to the availability of resources,” inserted after “to enhance” in operative paragraph 7.
7. It was so agreed.
8. The representative of MOROCCO said that agreement had been reached on merging the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.7 with the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5. The result was the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5/Rev.1.
9. The CHAIRMAN took it that the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.7 had been withdrawn.
10. The representative of AUSTRALIA, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5/Rev.1, commended the safety-related efforts of the Secretariat, and particularly

the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, and thanked those delegations which had provided his delegation with advice during the preparation of the draft resolution.

11. Besides the changes relative to the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5 that had resulted from the merging exercise, the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5/Rev.1 included an additional preambular paragraph — (g) — relating to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Also, operative paragraphs 3 and 4 in section B (Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors) of the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5 did not appear in the revised draft resolution.

12. The HEAD OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT SECTION, DIVISION OF RADIATION, TRANSPORT AND WASTE SAFETY, replying to a question from the representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA, said that the term “associated safety guidance” in operative paragraph 41 meant relevant safety standards and other relevant safety-related documents.

13. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE suggested that the phrase “subject to the availability of resources” be added to the end of operative paragraph 41.

14. The representative of MOROCCO, supported by the representative of GREECE, said that in his view the phrase “within available resources” would be more appropriate.

15. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE said that the phrase “within available resources” was interpreted by the Secretariat to mean that resources could be diverted from one programme to another for purposes of programme implementation, whereas “subject to the availability of resources” was interpreted to mean that the programme in question would be implemented only if the necessary additional resources became available through savings or from extrabudgetary sources. The distinction between the two phrases was a fine one, but the latter phrase had come to be used more frequently in General Conference resolutions in recent years.

16. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that assisting Member States in the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors came firmly within the Agency’s mandate, and it was therefore important to avoid the implication that the necessary activities might not take place owing to a shortage of resources.

17. The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Committee recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.5/Rev.1 with the words “within available resources” added at the end of operative paragraph 41.

18. It was so agreed.

16. Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed) (GC(48)/COM.5/L.13)

19. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(48)/COM.5/L.13, said that the first phase of the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) was essentially complete and the need for wide-ranging innovations had become clear. In the second phase, the INPRO participants would assess the potential of innovative systems taking into account economic factors and regional characteristics.

20. The representative of CANADA suggested that, in preambular paragraph (e), the phrase “and options to utilize them ... in the 21st century” be deleted. In his delegation’s view, at the current stage of INPRO it was premature to speak of considering jointly options to utilize innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel systems under multilateral agreements.
21. With regard to operative paragraph 2, he suggested that “facilitating the” be inserted before “application of”.
22. With regard to operative paragraph 5, he suggested that “identifying” be replaced by “taking advantage of”.
23. The representative of INDIA said that, since INPRO clearly came within the Agency’s mandate, more funding for it should be provided from the Regular Budget.
24. Recalling that preambular paragraph (f) of resolution GC(47)/RES/10.C had referred to “the unique role that the Agency can play ...”, he suggested that “unique” be inserted before “role” in preambular paragraph (e) of the draft resolution under consideration.
25. The representative of GREECE said that he did not feel it was appropriate to refer to the “unique role” of the Agency in preambular paragraph (e).
26. While expressing support for the deletion of the phrase “and options to utilize them ... in the 21st century” in preambular paragraph (e), as suggested by the representative of Canada, he said that he was not in favour of replacing “identifying ” by “taking advantage of” in operative paragraph 5.
27. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA suggested that in preambular paragraph (c) reference be made also to the conference “Nuclear Energy and Science for the 21st Century: Atoms for Peace + 50” held in Washington D.C. on 22 October 2003.
28. The CHAIRMAN, in response to a comment made by the representative of JAPAN, proposed that further consideration of the draft resolution be postponed in order to give delegations more time in which to study it.
29. It was so agreed.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.