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Text of communication of 23 August 2004 received from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan concerning restoration of voting rights

The text of a letter dated 23 August 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan and addressed to the Director General is reproduced herewith for the attention of the General Conference.

PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

You may wish to recall that the government of Afghanistan and the International Atomic Energy Agency have recently signed a payment plan for settling the arrears of Afghanistan in ten consecutive instalments. I am pleased to inform that the first instalment was transferred on 4 August 2004 to the IAEA accounts as appropriate.

The delay in payment of our assessed contribution to IAEA was caused, as you are fully aware, by unfortunate circumstances including war and social conflicts during the past two decades.

As mentioned, however, in the letter of the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, dated 4 July 2004, approving the payment plan, and taking into account the status of Afghanistan as an LDC, my government hopes that, through the signed agreement and payment of the first instalment of its arrears, the way is paved for restoring Afghanistan's voting right in various organs, in particular the General Conference of IAEA.

Against this background, and since Afghanistan is committed to respect the obligations on timely payment of its contributions to IAEA, I would appreciate it very much if IAEA could initiate the relevant steps and prepare the necessary documents on restoring the voting right of Afghanistan, for approval by the 48th General Conference

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

Please, Excellency, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

(signed) Dr. Zia NEZAM
Ambassador