Forty-ninth regular session

Item 5 of the provisional agenda
(GC(49)/1)

Text of Communication dated 12 September 2005 received from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the Agency Concerning Restoration of Voting Rights

The text of a Note Verbale dated 12 September 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the Agency is reproduced herewith for the attention of the General Conference.
No: 10/2005

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq in Vienna presents its compliments to the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and has the honour to enclose herewith the letter addressed by Dr. Sami Al-Mudhafar – Acting Minister / Ministry of Science and Technology in which the government of Iraq seeks exemption under article XIX.A of the Agency’s Statute and requests the 49th session of the General Conference to permit its delegation to vote on the grounds of its arrears being due to reasons beyond the control of this Government.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

12 September 2005

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Vienna
To: Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei, Director General,
International Atomic Energy Agency,
P.O. Box: 100,
Wagramer Strasse 5,
A-1440, Vienna – Austria.

Iraqi Voting Right

Excellency:

Due to the recent war, the current Government of Iraq inherited a country in which much of the basic services and infrastructure were destroyed. Since then government has desperately been trying to establish, and in some cases restore these basic services for the Iraqi population. This task has been extremely difficult due to the continuing armed conflicts that we currently experience, and above all due to the lack of sufficient funding and much still needs to be done before our basic services are operational and security for our population is once again restored. As a result for these priorities, the Government has had to allocate most funds available to activities, which will ensure the accomplishment of its objectives.

Due to the foregoing, Iraq has been in arrears for a number of years as a result of non-payment of its dues to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The consequence of this is the loss of Iraq’s voting rights resulting in very little active participation by Iraq in the decision making process at the IAEA. The Government of Iraq is of course doing all it can to correct this situation and aims to once again become an active Member State of the IAEA. To achieve this, the government of Iraq concluded a ten year payment plan with the Secretariat of the IAEA which will start in January 2006.
For this year, the government of Iraq seeks exemption under article XIX.A of the Agency's Statute and requests the 49th session of the General Conference to permit its delegation to vote on the grounds of its arrears being due to reasons beyond the control of this Government.

Thanking your cooperation and understanding.

Dr. Sami Al-Mudhaffar
Acting Minister
Ministry of Science & Technology

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