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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Third Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Wednesday, 20 September 2006, at 10.25 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SHANNON (Australia)

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(50)/INF/8/Rev.1.

¹ GC(50)/21.

Abbreviations used in this record:

CRP	coordinated research project
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
SIT	sterile insect technique

14. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management

(resumed)

(GC(50)/INF/2, GC(50)/3, GC(50)/COM.5/L.2/Rev.1 and GC(50)/COM.5/L.5)

1. The representative of NEW ZEALAND, introducing the draft resolution on transport safety contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.5, said that it reflected positive changes which had taken place since the General Conference's previous session.
2. The draft resolution underlined the importance of dialogue between coastal and shipping States, and his delegation was pleased that there were both coastal States and shipping States among its sponsors.
3. The representative of ARGENTINA, welcoming the draft resolution, said that his country — a member of MERCOSUR, the only international trade alliance to have adopted transport safety standards — was a strong supporter of the Agency's activities in the area of transport safety.
4. His delegation believed that the draft resolution should be incorporated into the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.2 as its section 10.
5. The CHAIRMAN said it was his understanding that the sponsors of the two draft resolutions intended to combine them in that manner.
6. The representative of CHILE, pointing out that his delegation was among the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that his country, which had an extremely long coastline and therefore attached great importance to safety in the maritime transport of radioactive materials, welcomed the constructive dialogue established between coastal and shipping States.
7. The representative of AUSTRALIA, welcoming the draft resolution, said that it rightly drew attention to the issue of refusals to ship radioactive materials. His delegation was pleased with the progress made regarding that issue during the past year.
8. The representative of JAPAN said that there had been a remarkable improvement in the cooperation between coastal and shipping States in recent years and that close cooperation between the two groups of States would be especially important when the expected increase in nuclear power generation led to an increase in the maritime transport of radioactive materials.
9. The representative of IRELAND said that the draft resolution, of which his delegation was a sponsor, illustrated how very difficult issues could be resolved through extensive and constructive consultations.
10. The representative of COLOMBIA said that her country, as a coastal State, considered it essential to have a mechanism for dialogue between coastal and shipping States, and it hoped to continue actively participating in the current dialogue.
11. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.5.
12. It was so agreed.

13. The CHAIRMAN recalled that during the Committee's first meeting the representative of China had requested more time to consider the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.2. Since then, a revised version of that draft resolution had been issued in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.2/Rev.1. Perhaps the representative of China would be in a position to comment on the revised version.

14. The representative of CHINA, referring to operative paragraph 24, said that in his delegation's view it was inappropriate to urge Member States to "implement" guidance which was still being developed.

15. With regard to the third part of operative paragraph 28, beginning with "calls upon", he asked how many Project and Supply Agreements had been concluded between the Agency and Member States, what the updating procedures would be, what — given the fact that many of the projects in question had been initiated a long time previously — the Agency and Member States should do if the nuclear installations to which they related did not meet current safety standards, and how the financial aspects of the updating exercise would be dealt with.

16. With regard to operative paragraph 56, he requested information about the progress made in developing a Code of Conduct on International Emergency Management.

17. The HEAD OF THE INCIDENT AND EMERGENCY CENTRE, referring to operative paragraph 56, said that a first meeting of Member State representatives was due to take place towards the end of the year. A draft of the envisaged Code of Conduct was currently being prepared by representatives of national competent authorities.

18. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATION SAFETY, referring to operative paragraph 24, agreed that the use of the word "implement" was inappropriate.

19. With regard to operative paragraph 28, he said that there were approximately 30 Project and Supply Agreements in force. Some of them had been in force for many years, and in a few cases the nuclear facilities to which they related no longer existed.

20. The old Project and Supply Agreements reflected safety standards that were now out of date — hence the need to update them.

21. The representative of ARGENTINA said that in his view both the word "implement" and the word "urges" in operative paragraph 24 should be replaced by more appropriate words.

22. With regard to operative paragraph 28, he said that, pursuant to Article III.6 of the Statute, Project and Supply Agreements should reflect the Agency's safety standards. However, there was no statutory requirement that they reflect the guidance in the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors.

23. With regard to operative paragraph 56, he questioned the need for a Code of Conduct on International Emergency Management.

24. The representative of MALAYSIA said that he agreed with what the representative of China had said about operative paragraph 24.

25. With regard to operative paragraph 8, he said that the IRRS was a very new service, whose effectiveness had not yet been demonstrated, so it was inappropriate to urge Member States to avail themselves of it. A more appropriate word might be "encourages".

26. With regard to operative paragraph 10, he said that in his view it was inappropriate to suggest that all of the findings of the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems

should be integrated into the Agency's regulatory guidance and regulatory review service. He would prefer something along the lines of "calls upon the Agency to consider the appropriate findings of the Conference in its..."

27. The representative of CHINA said that operative paragraph 28 should take account of three facts — that Project and Supply Agreements concluded in the future should reflect the then current safety standards and guidance, that the Secretariat should discuss how to decommission installations which were covered by Project and Supply Agreements and which were no longer in operation with the countries concerned and that the Secretariat should — in the case of still operating installations designed in accordance with the safety standards applying when the relevant Project and Supply Agreements were concluded — discuss with the countries where those installations were located and with the supplier countries how to upgrade the installations on the basis of current safety standards.

28. The representative of AUSTRALIA proposed that the second part of operative paragraph 10 be amended to read: "calls upon the Agency to consider the appropriate findings of the Conference in its regulatory guidance and its regulatory review service".

29. He proposed that the second party of operative paragraph 24 be amended to read "calls upon all Member States with nuclear installations to consider such guidance..."

30. Referring to operative paragraph 28, he proposed that "update" be replaced by "review" and "to reflect" be replaced by "with regard to".

31. Referring to operative paragraph 56, he pointed out that it would not entail any action by the Secretariat or Member States. Perhaps it could be left unchanged.

32. The representative of ARGENTINA, while expressing support for the proposal made by the representative of Australia regarding operative paragraph 28, said that there should not be a reference to the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors in that paragraph.

33. The representative of CHINA expressed agreement with the proposal regarding operative paragraph 24 made by the representative of Australia.

34. The representative of BELGIUM, referring to operative paragraph 10, asked whether the outcomes of the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems had been published. If they had, it would be helpful if the paragraph contained a reference to the relevant Agency publication.

35. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATION SAFETY said that they had been published very recently on the Agency's website and in hard copy, and that a reference to the printed publication would be provided by the Secretariat for inclusion in the paragraph.

36. The representative of BRAZIL proposed the insertion of "if they so desire," after "Member States" in operative paragraph 5.

37. The representative of ITALY, referring to the comment made by the representative of Malaysia on operative paragraph 8, said that in his view "encourages" would be too weak. He would prefer "urges" to be retained.

38. The representative of MALAYSIA said that he was still convinced that "encourages" would be more appropriate than "urges" in operative paragraph 8.

39. With regard to operative paragraph 10, he said that, as the outcomes of the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems had been published only very recently, there had

been insufficient time to study them. He therefore felt that “the findings” in the second part of the paragraph should be amended to read “the appropriate findings”.

40. The representative of ITALY said that in operative paragraph 8 Member States were being urged “to continue their efforts to increase regulatory effectiveness in the field of nuclear safety” — not to avail themselves of the IRRS. In his view, therefore, the word “urges” was quite appropriate.

41. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATION SAFETY proposed retaining the word “urges” in operative paragraph 8 and replacing the final phrase by the words “and consider availing themselves of the IRRS”.

42. The representative of FRANCE proposed that the order of the second and third elements of operative paragraph 8 be reversed, with the necessary editorial adjustments.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

43. The representative of AUSTRALIA, referring to operative paragraph 8, called for the retention of “urges” and proposed that the phrase “in the field of nuclear safety” be amended to read “in the field of nuclear and radiation safety”.

44. He expressed support for the phrase “and consider availing themselves of the IRRS” proposed by the Director of the Division of Nuclear Installation Safety.

45. The representative of MALAYSIA proposed that the phrase “in the field of nuclear safety” in operative paragraph 8 be amended to read “in the field of nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management”.

46. As regards the last part of operative paragraph 28, he understood there to be a consensus that it should be amended to read “calls upon the Agency in cooperation with Member States having Project and Supply Agreements to review the appropriate application of current safety standards with regard to those agreements”.

47. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Secretariat would include in operative paragraph 10 a reference to the Agency publication containing the outcomes of the International Conference on Effective Regulatory Systems, said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.2/Rev.1: with “; if they so desire,” inserted after “Member States” in operative paragraph 5; with the order of the second and third elements of operative paragraph 8 reversed and with various amendments and editorial adjustments, so that the paragraph would read “... national nuclear infrastructure, urges Member States to continue their efforts to increase regulatory effectiveness in the field of nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management, and consider availing themselves of the Secretariat’s new Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) and notes with satisfaction the increased interest of Member States in the IRRS”; with the second part of operative paragraph 10 amended to read “calls upon the Agency to consider the appropriate findings of the Conference...”; with the second part of operative paragraph 24 amended to read “calls upon all Member States with nuclear installations to consider such guidance...”; and with operative paragraph 28 amended in the manner just indicated by the representative of Malaysia.

48. It was so agreed.

17. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed)

(GC(50)/COM.5/L.4/Rev.2, COM.5/L.7, COM.5/L.8 and COM.5/L.9)

49. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing section A (General) of the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.7, drew attention to preambular paragraph (g), where reference was made to the international conference on approaches for the integrated combating of locusts held in Algeria in July.

50. Preambular paragraphs (m) to (s) related to matters not covered in resolution GC(49)/RES/12 adopted in 2005.

51. Operative paragraph 6 was similar to, but contained more detail than, operative paragraph 6 of resolution GC(49)/RES/12.A.

52. The point of operative paragraph 7 was that SIT was proving to be ineffective against locusts.

53. The representative of MOROCCO, introducing section B (Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy) of the draft resolution, said that the Group of 77 and China considered PACT important for human health, especially in developing countries, and would like to see PACT funded at least in part from the Regular Budget.

54. Introducing section C (Development of the Sterile Insect Technique for the Control or Eradication of Malaria-Transmitting Mosquitoes), he drew attention to preambular paragraph (b), about the Special Summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria held in Nigeria in May.

55. Introducing section D (Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)), he pointed out that in operative paragraph 2 Member States were called upon to strengthen — rather than merely to continue to provide, as in operative paragraph 2 of resolution GC(49)/RES/12.D — technical, financial and material support to African States.

56. The representative of CANADA, introducing the draft resolution on nuclear knowledge contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.8, said that it highlighted the importance of preserving nuclear knowledge — especially for safety.

57. He pointed out that the draft resolution called for a report by the Director General to the Board and the General Conference only in 2008.

58. Introducing the draft resolution on approaches to supporting nuclear power infrastructure development contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.9, he said that its purpose was to maintain the necessary focus on the infrastructure requirements for nuclear power programmes, including programmes which involved innovative technologies.

59. Referring to operative paragraph 2, he said that Canada was co-sponsoring the December 2006 workshop mentioned there.

60. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.8.

61. The representative of JAPAN, referring to operative paragraph 2(a), suggested adding the phrase “and subject to the availability of resources” after “at their request”.

62. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA pointed out that the phrase “subject to the availability of resources” already appeared near the beginning of operative paragraph 2.

63. The representative of INDIA said that his country was pleased with the progress made by the Secretariat in the field of nuclear knowledge preservation and enhancement since the 2005 session of the General Conference.

64. The representative of FRANCE said that preserving and enhancing nuclear knowledge was a matter of great importance for many Member States.

65. The representative of ARGENTINA said that her delegation welcomed the draft resolution.

66. The representative of the LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA said that education and training relevant to the preservation and enhancement of nuclear knowledge were very important for many developing countries. His country would therefore like to see more support being provided for such education and training — including distance education and training.

67. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, said he assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.8 with the addition suggested by the representative of Japan.

68. It was so agreed.

69. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take up the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.9.

70. The representative of FRANCE said that the question of nuclear power infrastructure development was a very important one and that the Agency had received many requests from countries seeking assistance with the development of the infrastructures necessary for nuclear power programmes.

71. The CHAIRMAN, noting that no other Committee members wished to take the floor, said he assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.9 without any amendments.

72. It was so agreed.

73. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(50)/COM.5/L.4/Rev.2 on Agency activities in the development of innovative nuclear technology, said that — as emphasized by the Director General in his statement to the General Conference — technological and institutional innovation was a key factor in ensuring the long-term sustainability of nuclear power. The aim of INPRO was to support the development of nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel cycles with characteristics such as inherent safety, high proliferation resistance and minimal radioactive waste generation. The draft resolution under consideration was in line with that aim, and it reflected the progress made within the INPRO framework during the past year.

74. The representative of INDIA expressed satisfaction with the progress made within the INPRO framework since the previous General Conference session.

75. Referring to operative paragraph 3, he proposed the insertion of “R&D” between “possible” and “collaborative projects” and the insertion of “, including CRPs and technical cooperation projects,” between “collaborative projects” and “and methods for their joint implementation”.

76. Referring to operative paragraph 8, he proposed the insertion of “, including enabling technologies,” before “and the high potential”.

77. The representative of JAPAN said that his delegation had problems with the phrase “new modes of financing” in operative paragraph 3. In its view, a phrase along the lines of “the mobilization of unconventional financial resources” would be preferable.

78. The representative of IRELAND proposed the insertion of “interested” before “Member States” in operative paragraphs 2 and 6.

79. Referring to operative paragraph 4, he proposed the deletion of “world” in the phrase “world economic development”.

80. The representative of CANADA, having expressed support for the draft resolution, proposed inserting the words “and advanced thermal reactors” after the words “advanced fast reactors” in operative paragraph 6.

81. The representative of AUSTRIA said that he supported the amendments proposed by the representative of Ireland.

82. Referring to operative paragraph 5(b), he proposed that it be amended to read “Stresses the need to establish, in line with national circumstances and consistent with international obligations, common user criteria...”.

83. The CHAIRMAN requested those delegations which had proposed or wished to propose amendments to the draft resolution to consult with the sponsors after the meeting had risen.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.