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Committee of the Whole

Record of the First Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Tuesday, 18 September 2007, at 10.40 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. FEROUKHI (Algeria)

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¹ GC(51)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

– Election of Vice-Chairmen and organization of work

1. The CHAIRPERSON, having expressed appreciation for the confidence which the General Conference had placed in her, said that, as provided for in Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure and following group consultations, it had been proposed that Ms. Kauppi of Finland serve as a Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. She took it that the Committee wished to accept the proposal.

2. It was so agreed.

3. The CHAIRPERSON said it was expected that a Vice-Chairman would also be elected from among the members of the East European Group. However, she had been informed that so far there was no candidate from that group. She hoped that the East European Group would soon be in a position to nominate a candidate.

4. She drew attention to document GC(51)/COM.5/1, which listed the agenda items referred to the Committee of the Whole by the General Conference. She proposed that, in line with past practice, she report orally on the Committee's deliberations at a plenary meeting of the Conference. Also, she took it that the Committee wished to continue, to the extent practicable, the practice of clustering the draft resolutions recommended to the Conference by the Committee for adoption.

5. It was so agreed.

10. The Agency's Accounts for 2006

(GC(51)/13)

6. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on page "i" of document GC(51)/13.

7. It was so agreed.

11. The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2008-2009

(GC(51)/2)

8. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to draft resolutions "A. Regular Budget Appropriations for 2008", "B. Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2008" and "C. The Working Capital Fund in 2008" contained in document GC(51)/2, all recommended by the Board for adoption. Noting that no Committee member wished to take the floor, she assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a total Regular Budget figure for 2008 of €295 331 187 on the basis of an exchange rate of €1.00 to \$1.00 and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution "A. Regular Budget Appropriations for 2008".

9. It was so agreed.

10. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a target for voluntary contributions to the TCF for 2008 of \$80 000 000 and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution “B. Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2008”.

11. It was so agreed.

12. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the level of the Working Capital Fund in 2008 at €15 210 000 and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution “C. The Working Capital Fund in 2008”.

13. It was so agreed.

12. Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute

14. The CHAIRPERSON pointed out that the Secretariat had distributed a draft decision which was based on the decision taken in 2006 by the General Conference on the subject of Article XIV.A and which the Committee might wish to recommend to the General Conference for adoption at its current session.

15. Noting that no Committee member wished to take the floor, she assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft decision which had been distributed by the Secretariat.

16. It was so agreed.

14. Scale of assessment of Members’ contributions towards the Regular Budget

(GC(51)/21)

17. The CHAIRPERSON, noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, assumed that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution in document GC(51)/21.

18. It was so agreed.

17. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (GC(51)/COM.5/L.1)

19. The representative of PAKISTAN, introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.1, proposed that the last part of preambular paragraph (j) be amended to read "... and noting that the Director General has recently issued a report entitled 'TC Programme Resources – Sufficient, Assured and Predictable' ”.
20. The representative of AUSTRALIA, noting the references in preambular paragraphs (m) and (t) of the draft resolution to "the conclusion of the Board's Chairman in July 2007", asked whether the Secretariat could assist in making the references more explicit.
21. The SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE said that, subject to the agreement of the sponsors, he would see how they might be made more explicit.
22. The representative of GERMANY said that his delegation would like to study the draft resolution further and suggested that the Committee revert to it at a later meeting.
23. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that it would be helpful to include in the draft resolution a reference to the '20/20' study mentioned by the Director General in his statement to the Conference.
24. The representative of MALAYSIA, responding to the comment made by the representative of the United States of America, said that, in her view, the Group of 77 and China would first need to learn more about the '20/20' study.
25. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that all interested delegations consult informally on the wording of the draft resolution, with the help of the Secretariat if necessary.
26. It was so agreed.

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (GC(51)/COM.5/L.2, L.5 and L.7)

27. The representative of MALAYSIA, introducing the draft resolution on 'Non-power nuclear applications' contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.2, drew particular attention to the phrase "...noting that many Member States are obtaining [the] benefits from the application of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture through the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme" in paragraph (d), to the phrase "... and in measuring the effects of climate change on the environment" in paragraph (m), to the reference to the convening of an international conference on quality assurance and new techniques in radiation medicine in November 2006 contained in paragraph (o), and to paragraph (t), in which the creation of the IAEA Nobel Peace Prize Cancer and Nutrition Fund was welcomed.

28. Referring to paragraph (q), she proposed that the phrase “a new CRP on PET radioisotope production” be amended to read “a new CRP relating to PET radioisotope production”.
29. Referring to paragraph 6, she proposed that it be amended to read “... and the Mediterranean fruit fly, the unique applications of isotopes to track the global uptake by the oceans of carbon dioxide and the resulting acidification effects on marine ecosystems, the use of isotopes ...”.
30. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, having commended the draft resolution, said that his delegation would need to consult technical experts about the proposed addition to paragraph 6 as it was unclear whether there was a consensus regarding the effects of the uptake of carbon dioxide by the oceans.
31. The PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES AND APPLICATIONS said that the proposed addition reflected research that was being carried out at the Agency’s Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco and had been recommended by the Secretariat.
32. The representative of AUSTRALIA asked whether it had already been concluded that acidification was taking place.
33. The PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES AND APPLICATIONS said that experts had reached a consensus that it was, but the long- and short-term effects were not fully understood.
34. The representative of AUSTRALIA suggested that the word “possible” be inserted before “resulting acidification effects” .
35. The CHAIRPERSON proposed that the delegations of Malaysia, the United States of America and Australia consult informally on paragraph 6.
36. The representative of INDIA, introducing the draft resolution entitled “Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management” in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.5, drew particular attention to the reference, in paragraph (h), to the International Symposium on Advances in Isotope Hydrology and its Role in Sustainable Water Resources Management held in May 2007 and the reference, in paragraph (j), to the development of new helium-3 isotope detection techniques for more accurate dating.
37. The representative of MOROCCO, introducing the draft resolution entitled “Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors” in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.7, drew particular attention to the reference, in paragraph (h), to the International Nuclear Desalination Advisory Group (INDAG).
38. The representative of JAPAN said that her delegation needed more time in which to consider the draft resolutions contained in documents GC(51)/COM.5/L.5 and GC(51)/COM.5/L.7.
39. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that a draft resolution on the development and deployment of small and medium-sized reactors was expected to be tabled and that it might be advisable to defer further consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.7 until that other draft resolution had been tabled.

40. The representative of INDIA said that the other draft resolution would focus mainly on power generation, whereas the draft resolution contained in document GC(51)/COM.5/L.7 focused on the production of potable water. His delegation was nevertheless prepared to consider the two draft resolutions together in order to determine whether there was any overlap.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.