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Chairperson: Ms YPARRAGUIRRE (Philippines)

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¹ GC(55)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
WHO	World Health Organization

17. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed) (GC(55)/COM.5/L.9 and L.10)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider document GC(55)/COM.5/L.9, containing a draft resolution entitled "Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy".
2. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that cancer posed a continuing threat, especially in low- and middle-income countries. However, PACT was helping such countries to develop capacities for fighting cancer.
3. The draft resolution reflected cancer control initiatives implemented since the adoption of resolution GC(53)/RES/13.A.2 in 2009.
4. She drew particular attention to paragraph (e), which mentioned UN General Assembly resolution 64/265 entitled "Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases" and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the subject held on 19–20 September 2011, and to paragraph 4, in which the Secretariat was called on to follow up on the outcome and recommendations of the high-level meeting.
5. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that, while there was undeniably a need for additional resources in support of PACT, it was important to acknowledge the significant extrabudgetary resources already provided by Member States. She proposed inserting "welcomes the significant extrabudgetary resources provided to date" before "and encourages" in paragraph 8 and before "notes that eighty-four Member States" in paragraph 10.
6. The representative of CANADA, supporting that proposal, suggested that "and in-kind" be inserted after "extrabudgetary" in the language proposed by the representative of the United States of America.
7. The HEAD OF THE PACT PROGRAMME OFFICE, responding to a question asked by the representative of CANADA about paragraph (g), said that the Secretariat was endeavouring to coordinate and streamline the activities relating to cancer control that were being carried out within the Agency framework and to strengthen the cooperation between the relevant departments and between the Agency and organizations such as WHO.
8. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, referring to the proposals made by the representatives of the United States of America and Canada, said that the past contributions made in support of PACT were acknowledged in paragraph 18 of the draft resolution. However, her delegation had no objection to amending paragraphs 8 and 10 as proposed.
9. The representative of CANADA proposed that in paragraph (g) "Noting" be replaced by "Welcoming" and "the Agency's policy" be replaced by "the Secretariat's policy".
10. The representative of the PHILIPPINES supported the proposal.
11. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.9 with paragraph (g) amended to read "Welcoming the Secretariat's policy..." and with the insertion of

“welcomes the significant extrabudgetary and in-kind resources provided to date” before “and encourages” in paragraph 8 and before “notes that eighty-four Member States” in paragraph 10.

12. It was so agreed.

13. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider document GC(55)/COM.5/L.10, containing a draft resolution entitled “Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors”.

14. The representative of MOROCCO, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was based on resolution GC(53)/RES/13.A.4 adopted in 2009 but reflected developments of the past two years.

15. 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 contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.10.

16. It was so agreed.

15. Nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism (GC(55)/COM.5/L.11)

17. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider document GC(55)/COM.5/L.11, containing a draft resolution entitled “Nuclear security”.

18. The representative of GERMANY, introducing the draft resolution, said that it had been prepared in the light of wide consultations and built on resolution GC(54)/RES/8 adopted in 2010.

19. The representative of AUSTRALIA proposed amending paragraph (j) to read “Recalling that UN General Assembly resolution 65/62 states that progress ...”.

20. The representative of GERMANY welcomed the proposal made by the representative of Australia.

21. The DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY — responding to comments made by the representatives of AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, INDIA, SWEDEN, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and CANADA regarding the phrase “notes that NSS 13 is intended to be published as INFCIRC/225/Rev.5” in paragraph 7 — said that, at the request of some Member States, the recommendations contained in NSS 13 would also, if approved, be published as INFCIRC/225/Rev.5.

22. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA proposed that the phrase “in particular the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit” be substituted in paragraph (g) for the phrase “including Nuclear Security Summits”. She said that, if that was not acceptable, a reference to the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit could perhaps be included as a footnote to the paragraph.

23. The representative of CUBA, supported by the representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, proposed the simple deletion of the phrase “including Nuclear Security Summits” on the grounds that summits to which some Member States of the Agency were not invited should not be mentioned in General Conference resolutions.

24. The representative of PAKISTAN proposed additional paragraphs on the following lines: “Noting with concern the continuing duplication of activities between the work of the Agency and other international efforts in the field of nuclear security”; and “Reaffirms the leading role of the Agency in the design and development of guidelines, recommendations and guidance documents in the area of nuclear security, while underlining the need to avoid parallel and duplicative efforts”.
25. The representative of CUBA said that the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan had the support of her delegation.
26. The representative of EGYPT, having expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan, proposed an additional paragraph reading “Encourages the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to establish and promote self-assessment methodologies and approaches based on universally applicable guidance within the Nuclear Security Series with a view to ensuring effective and sustainable national security infrastructure”.
27. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, referring to the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan, drew attention to paragraph (h) of the draft resolution — “Recognizing the Agency’s leading role in the field of nuclear security and the need for improved cooperation and co-ordination of international efforts in order to avoid duplication and overlap”.
28. The representative of SINGAPORE proposed that “site selection,” be inserted after “initial planning stage through” in paragraph 20.
29. The representative of FRANCE said that, in his view, the idea conveyed by the preambular paragraph proposed by the representative of Pakistan was already covered, and in a more positive manner, in paragraph (h). As regards the operative paragraph proposed by the representative of Pakistan, something on similar lines would be acceptable to his delegation.
30. As to the proposal made by the representative of Egypt, paragraph 19 already referred to self-assessment methodologies. Consideration should perhaps be given to how her proposal might be linked with that paragraph.
31. He expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of Singapore regarding paragraph 20.
32. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA expressed support for what the representative of France had said with regard to the proposals made by the representatives of Pakistan and Egypt.
33. She also expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of the Republic of Korea with regard to paragraph (g).
34. The representative of JAPAN also expressed support for what the representative of France had said with regard to the proposals made by the representatives of Pakistan and Egypt and for the proposal made by the representative of the Republic of Korea.
35. The representative of HUNGARY expressed support for what had been said by the representative of France.
36. The representative of EGYPT, referring to her proposal and to paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, said that self-assessment methodologies should not be addressed in the same paragraph as the Agency’s nuclear security advisory services.

37. The representative of PAKISTAN proposed that in paragraph 17 the words “national nuclear forensics libraries” be replaced by the words “national nuclear materials databases”, which had been used in 2010 in paragraph 13 of resolution GC(54)/RES/8.

38. The representative of FRANCE, referring to the comment just made by the representative of Egypt, proposed that paragraph 19 be terminated at “by Member States” and the paragraph proposed by her be inserted after paragraph 19.

39. With regard to the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan regarding two additional paragraphs, he proposed the insertion, after paragraph 15, of a paragraph reading “Reaffirms the leading role of the Agency, in cooperation with Member States, in ensuring coordination of activities in the field of nuclear security, whilst avoiding duplication and overlap”

40. As to paragraph (g), his delegation believed that it should be left unchanged.

41. The representatives of CUBA and the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN reiterated their delegations’ opposition to the reference to Nuclear Security Summits in paragraph (g).

42. The representative of FRANCE suggested removing the reference to Nuclear Security Summits and placing it in a footnote, which might read “Including Nuclear Security Summits, the next of which is to take place in Seoul in 2012.”

43. The representative of CUBA said that her delegation could not accept that suggestion. Even in a footnote, the reference would be to events that were non-inclusive in nature.

44. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA said that the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit, in Seoul, would involve more than 50 countries and would no doubt give rise to a communiqué very supportive of the Agency’s role in the field of nuclear security. Thus, it would be inappropriate not to refer in the draft resolution under consideration to the Summit, which would be the subject of briefings to which all Member States of the Agency would be invited.

45. The representative of FRANCE proposed that the phrase “including Nuclear Security Summits” be replaced by “including, for participating countries, Nuclear Security Summits”.

46. The representative of CUBA said that the problem could be resolved by simply deleting the entire paragraph (g).

47. The representative of PERU proposed deleting paragraph (g) and inserting the following phrase at the end of paragraph (h): “and noting the role of international processes and initiatives, including Nuclear Security Summits, in facilitating synergies and complementing the role of the Agency”.

48. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that her delegation, one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, would be pleased to consult with other delegations on the preparation of a revised version of the draft resolution.

49. The representative of EGYPT welcomed that idea.

50. The CHAIRPERSON requested interested delegations to engage in consultations on the outstanding issues.

22. Amendment to Article VI of the Statute (GC(55)/9), GC(55)/COM.5/L.2)

51. The CHAIRPERSON, having drawn attention to document GC(55)/9, said that document GC(55)/COM.5/L.2 contained the text of the decision adopted by the Conference on the subject in 2009, updated for the current year. The Committee might wish to recommend that text as a decision to be adopted by the General Conference at its fifty-fifth regular session.

52. Noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, she took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the Conference that it adopt the draft decision set out in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.2.

53. It was so agreed.

23. Elections to the Agency's Staff Pension Committee

54. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the General Conference was represented on the Agency's Staff Pension Committee by two members and two alternates. Vacancies existed for two alternate positions and, following consultations, she had been asked to propose that Mr Hinton of the delegation of Canada and Mr Rashid of the delegation of Pakistan be elected as alternate members to fill them.

55. She took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that Mr Hinton of the delegation of Canada and Mr Rashid of the delegation of Pakistan be elected as alternate members to represent the General Conference on the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

56. It was so agreed.

24. Personnel Matters

(a) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat (GC(55)/19; GC(55)/COM.5/L.12)

57. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the request of the representative of PERU and introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.12, said that the Group of 77 and China strongly believed that developing countries should be adequately represented in all aspects of the work of the Agency's Secretariat. Unfortunately, they were still heavily under-represented in senior Professional staff positions.

58. Paragraph (e) had been drafted in response to a statement by the External Auditor concerning the adverse impact of the lengthy recruitment process.

59. Paragraphs (h) and 8 had been drafted in light of the table in Annex I to document GC(55)/19, which indicated that only about 21% of the consultants holding Special Service Agreements were nationals of developing countries.

60. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that her delegation, while generally welcoming the draft resolution, would like to see paragraph 8 amended through the

insertion, after the words “if applicable”, of the phrase “and in line with the criteria outlined in Article VII.C and D of the Statute”.

61. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that she did not think that Article VII of the Statute was relevant in the present context, since paragraph 8 related to the hiring of consultants — not of regular staff members. That having been said, the Group of 77 and China considered that technical competence should be a prime criterion in the recruitment both of regular staff members and of consultants.

62. The representative of CANADA expressed support for what had been said by the representative of the United States. Article VII.C of the Statute stated — inter alia — that the Agency “shall be guided by the principle that its permanent staff shall be kept to a minimum”. Keeping the permanent staff to a minimum created a need for consultants, who should surely be “of the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence and integrity”. Meanwhile, Article VII.D stated — inter alia — that due regard should be paid to the contributions of Member States to the Agency, in addition to the importance of recruiting the staff “on as wide a geographical basis as possible”. Paragraph 8 of the draft resolution focused on only one recruitment consideration — geographical distribution.

63. The representative of the PHILIPPINES requested the Secretariat to clarify the issue.

64. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES said he understood that the objective of paragraph 8 of the draft resolution was to ensure that the Director General and the Secretariat paid attention to geographical distribution in recruiting consultants and that the representatives of the United States and Canada wished to draw attention to criteria other than geographical distribution, such as expertise and appropriateness for the position. The latter criteria had actually constituted the principal basis for the recruitment of consultants to date. The fact that the geographical distribution of the Agency consultant community was very wide had been the consequence of good fortune. The Secretariat was, in the recruitment of consultants, quite willing to be guided by principles that were applicable, under the Statute, to regular staff members.

65. The representative of FRANCE proposed inserting references in paragraph 8 to technical competence and to the contributions of Member States to the Agency. The same criteria should apply to the recruitment of consultants as to the recruitment of regular staff members.

66. The representative of PERU pointed out that in paragraph 8 the Director General was being requested to take geographical distribution into consideration only “if applicable”.

67. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, expressing support for the proposal made by the representative of France, said that it was essential to avoid giving the impression that a new approach was being adopted to the recruitment of different categories of employees.

68. She had been pleased to hear the representative of the Philippines say that the Group of 77 and China considered that technical competence should be a prime criterion in the recruitment both of regular staff members and of consultants.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.