
Fifty-fifth regular session

Committee of the Whole

Record of the Third Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Wednesday, 21 September 2011, at 3.15 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms YPARRAGUIRRE (Philippines)

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¹ GC(55)/COM.5/1.

Abbreviations used in this record:

CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
HEU	high-enriched uranium
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service

24. Personnel Matters (continued)

(a) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat (continued)

(GC(55)/19; GC(55)/COM.5/L.12)

1. The representative of the PHILIPPINES said that in informal consultations it had been agreed that paragraph 8 of the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.12 should be amended to read “Further requests the Director General to continue to ensure that consultants are engaged based on their ability to provide the required expertise, to give due consideration, if applicable, to the geographical distribution of consultants holding Special Service Agreements, and to continue to identify the nationalities of such consultants in future reports”.

2. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA expressed support for the amended wording read out by the representative of the Philippines.

3. The DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES, responding to a request for clarification made by the representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, said that the number of consultants employed by the Agency fluctuated considerably during the year, but consultants accounted for only around 3% of the Agency's employees on average. Geographical distribution was carefully monitored by the Secretariat, in order to ensure that the overall pattern was fair.

4. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that her delegation could join a consensus on the new wording of paragraph 8.

5. 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.12 with paragraph 8 as just amended orally.

6. It was so agreed.

(b) Women in the Secretariat

(GC(55)/20; GC(55)/COM.5/L.13)

7. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, speaking at the request of the representative of PERU, introduced the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.13 and said that the Group of 77 and China deplored the fact that, according to the Director General's report contained in document GC(55)/20, there had been no marked increase in the representation of women in the Secretariat.

8. The representatives of AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, CANADA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, ICELAND, IRELAND, LITHUANIA, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, SPAIN and SWEDEN said that their delegations wished to co-sponsor the draft resolution.

9. 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.13.

10. It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 3.40 p.m.

17. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (resumed) (GC(55)/COM.5/L.7 and L.8)

11. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to take up consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.7.

12. The representative of FRANCE, introducing the first section (General) of the draft resolution, said that in paragraph (r) "Welcoming" should be replaced by "Noting".

13. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, introducing the third section (Agency activities in the development of innovative nuclear technology), said that Egypt had recently become a member of the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO). Paragraph (e) should therefore be amended to read "33 Member States" instead of "32 Member States".

14. Having welcomed two other new INPRO members, Jordan and Poland, he pledged the Russian Federation's continuing support for INPRO, the results of which were made available to all Member States.

15. The representative of CANADA, introducing the fourth section (Approaches to supporting nuclear power infrastructure development), drew particular attention to paragraph (d), where reference was made to the Agency's Nuclear Safety Action Plan and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and to paragraphs 1,2 and 10, where reference was made to Agency publications and documents that would be of use to all Member States, especially those thinking of embarking on nuclear power programmes.

16. The term "soft coordination", found in paragraph 11, was a concept explained in paragraph 6 of Annex 8 to document GC(55)/17 — "Soft coordination' refers to the Agency's efforts to promote the productive interaction among the Agency's infrastructure assistance and similar bilateral assistance between newcomers and vendor countries — all while respecting the independence of different assistance initiatives." According to the Secretariat, it entailed voluntary consultations among Member States embarking on or expanding nuclear power programmes, or between them and the Agency and other relevant bodies, with the primary aim of eliminating gaps and shortcomings in those programmes.

17. The representative of INDIA, introducing the second section (Small and medium-sized nuclear reactors — Development and deployment) of the draft resolution, said that the text was the result of extensive consultations.

18. 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.7 with "Welcoming" replaced by "Noting" in paragraph (r) of the first section and "32" replaced by "33" in paragraph (e) of the third section.

19. It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.30 p.m.

20. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to take up consideration of the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.8.

21. The representative of PERU, introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that in informal consultations it had been agreed that paragraph (c) should read “Noting the Medium Term Strategy 2012–2017 as guidance and input in this respect”.
22. It had also been agreed that paragraphs (q) and (r) should be replaced by a single new paragraph reading as follows: “Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Agency, in coordination with other international organizations, Member States and relevant stakeholders, to facilitate a reliable supply of molybdenum-99 through their efforts to support the development of Member States’ abilities to generate, for their indigenous needs and for export, the non-HEU-based production of molybdenum-99 and technetium-99m”.
23. Paragraph 7 should be amended to read “Welcomes all contributions announced by Member States, including the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which is designed to raise US\$ 100 million as extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA activities by 2015, and ...”.
24. In paragraph 9, “the Agency’s Laboratories” should be replaced by “the Agency’s nuclear applications laboratories”.
25. Finally, in paragraph 10, “to continue” should be inserted before “to implement activities that will contribute to ...”.
26. The representative of INDIA, referring to the single new preambular paragraph read out by the representative of Peru, suggested that the words “through their efforts” be deleted.
27. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, referring to the same paragraph, suggested that the words “to support” be replaced by “by supporting”, so that the paragraph would read “... a reliable supply of molybdenum-99 by supporting the development of ...”.
28. 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.8 as orally amended.
29. It was so agreed.

The meeting was suspended at 4.45 p.m. and resumed at 5.05 p.m.

15. Nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism (resumed) (GC(55)/COM.5/L.11/Rev.1)

30. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider the revised draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.11/Rev.1.
31. The representative of GERMANY, introducing the revised draft, with an updated list of sponsors, said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations on many of the outstanding issues.
32. Paragraph (j) had been amended in the manner proposed during the Committee’s second meeting by the representative of Australia.

33. The revised wording of paragraph 7 reflected the intent of the Secretariat to publish Nuclear Security Recommendation document NSS 13 as an INFCIRC document, as reported during the second meeting.

34. The paragraph now numbered 16 was the additional paragraph proposed by the representative of France during the second meeting, with the addition of the phrase “, as mentioned in the Nuclear Security Report 2011”.

35. In paragraph 18, wording used in 2010 in paragraph 13 of resolution GC(54)/RES/8, “national nuclear material databases”, had been substituted for “national nuclear forensics libraries”, as proposed by the representative of Pakistan.

36. Paragraph 21, relating to self-assessment, had been proposed during the second meeting by the representative of Egypt.

37. In paragraph 22, the words “site selection” had been inserted after “through” as proposed by the representative of Singapore.

38. The only paragraph on which no agreement had yet been reached was paragraph (g), which contained the bracketed phrase “, including Nuclear Security Summits,”.

39. The representative of SWITZERLAND suggested the inclusion in the draft resolution of a request to the Director General to report to the Board of Governors in November 2011 on the Agency’s participation in the first Nuclear Security Summit, held in 2010, on the follow-up meeting held in Buenos Aires and on preparations for the forthcoming second Nuclear Security Summit, scheduled to be held in Seoul in March 2012.

40. The representative of INDONESIA suggested that paragraph (g) be moved to a position following paragraph (i), in order to highlight the Agency’s role rather than the role of international processes and particular initiatives.

41. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, referring to paragraph 21, asked whether the Secretariat had any experience of establishing self-assessment methodologies and approaches and conducting self-assessments.

42. The DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY, noting that paragraph 21 closely reflected the subparagraph following the first bullet point in paragraph 68 of document GC(55)/21 (Nuclear Security Report 2011), said that the Secretariat did have such experience. For example, it had established and promoted a self-assessment methodology for carrying out IPPAS reviews based on Nuclear Security Series documents.

43. It hoped to train nuclear security personnel of Member States in self-assessment, at the States’ request, the self-assessments to be followed by peer reviews if the States so wished.

44. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA, referring to paragraph (g), said that his country and the United States of America had conducted outreach briefings for the benefit of States that had not participated in the first Nuclear Security Summit — a summit that had led to, inter alia, the repatriation of several hundred kilograms of HEU and the ratification by a further 13 States of the CPPNM.

45. He proposed the following wording for paragraph (g): “Noting the mutually reinforcing role of international processes and initiatives, including the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, in facilitating ...”.

46. The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM, responding to a comment made by the representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, proposed that paragraph 21 be amended to read "... methodologies and approaches that are based on ... the Nuclear Security Series and can be used by Member States on a voluntary basis to ensure effective and sustainable ...".
47. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that, with the amendment proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom, his country could accept the draft resolution.
48. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if she saw no objection, she would take it that the Committee accepted paragraph 21 as so amended.
49. It was so agreed.
50. The representative of CUBA, referring to paragraph (g), said that it was inappropriate to refer in a General Conference resolution to an event in which some Member States had not been invited to participate, despite the importance of the issue addressed for all States.
51. His delegation would welcome information about the criteria applied in the selection of those States which had been invited to participate in the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit and information about the role played by the Agency at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit. It was his understanding that the Agency had been merely an observer at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, so that there were no follow-up activities which should be reported to the Board of Governors.
52. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, having expressed support for the comments made by the representative of Cuba, said that a number of countries, including his own, had launched initiatives aimed at facilitating synergies and international cooperation in the area of nuclear security.
53. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, having expressed support for the proposal made by the representative of the Republic of Korea, said that the preparations for the forthcoming Seoul Nuclear Security Summit had been marked by a spirit of cooperation and transparency which, she felt, made the event very relevant to the Agency's activities.
54. The DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY, replying to a question from the representative of CUBA, said that, as he understood it, the Agency would have the status of an observer at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit.
55. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA said that the Agency would be free to participate in the discussions and submit written contributions.
56. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that consideration of the agenda item be suspended in order to allow for further informal consultations.
57. In response to questions from the representatives of the UNITED KINGDOM and SWEDEN, she said that the only point still to be resolved was the wording of paragraph (g).

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.