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Committee of the Whole

Record of the Fourth Meeting

Held at the Austria Center, Vienna, on Thursday, 22 September 2011, at 10.15 a.m.

Chairperson : Ms YPARRAGUIRRE (Philippines)

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¹ GC(55)/COM.5/1.

16. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (GC(55)/INF/2; GC(55)/COM.5/L.14)

1. The representative of PERU, introducing, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/COM.5/L.14, said that it reflected the paramount importance of the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which had a key role to play in many developing countries, notably in their efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals.
2. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA proposed — for insertion after paragraph 14 — an additional paragraph reading “Stresses the importance of the Revised Supplementary Agreement (RSA) and requests all Member States receiving technical cooperation to sign an RSA Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA”.
3. The representative of ITALY, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), said that the EU, which attached great importance to the role of the Agency's technical cooperation activities in furthering sustainable development and contributing to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, considered it essential that the management of those activities become more efficient and effective, with full application of the principles of transparency and accountability, for the benefit of all Member States.
4. The EU would be proposing a number of amendments to the draft resolution.
5. The representative of BELARUS, welcoming paragraphs (mm) and 25, said it was important that the link between the Chernobyl-related activities of the Agency and its technical cooperation activities as a whole be reflected in the draft resolution.
6. Belarus greatly appreciated the efforts of the Division for Europe, Department of Technical Cooperation, in developing a technical cooperation strategy for the Europe region.
7. The representative of CANADA said that his country, which was a strong supporter of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, shared the EU's concerns regarding transparency and accountability.
8. His delegation welcomed the proposal made by the representative of the United States of America for an additional paragraph. In its view, all Member States receiving technical cooperation through the Agency should sign an RSA.
9. The representative of PERU said it was his expectation that informal consultations on individual paragraphs of the draft resolution would lead to a text that would command a consensus in the Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.