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President: Mr FERUTA (Romania)

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¹ GC(55)/25.

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Abbreviations used in this record:

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G20	Group of Twenty
G8	Group of Eight
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
LEU	low-enriched uranium
NDT	non-destructive testing
New START	New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review and Extension Conference	Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
R&D	research and development
SIT	sterile insect technique
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund

5. Arrangements for the Conference

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the agenda for the current session consist of all the items on the provisional agenda set forth in documents GC(55)/1 and Add.1. With regard to the allocation of items for initial discussion, it had recommended that the items be taken up for discussion as indicated in those documents. It had also recommended that the order of items be as set out in those documents.

2. The General Committee's recommendations were accepted.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

3. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the Conference set Friday, 23 September 2011, as the closing date of the fifty-fifth regular session, and Monday, 17 September 2012, as the opening date of the fifty-sixth regular session.

4. The General Committee's recommendation was accepted.

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2010 (resumed) (GC(55)/2)

5. Mr MONTEJO (Philippines) said that the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had shaken the international community's perceptions of nuclear power, including with respect to the safety of existing and proposed new nuclear power plants, had demonstrated the immense effect of natural disasters on the overall safety of nuclear power plants and had compelled a number of countries, including his own, to rethink their national positions on nuclear power. However, as oil prices continued to soar and concerns over climate change persisted, countries continued to turn to the Agency for assistance with the development or expansion of their national nuclear power programmes. Although the Fukushima accident had posed challenges, it had also provided opportunities for Member States to discuss ways of improving the Agency's work in the area of nuclear safety. The Agency was uniquely placed to assist Member States with the development of safety infrastructure, and to promote international cooperation in nuclear safety. It should continue to provide assistance to countries like his own that were still considering the inclusion of nuclear power in their national energy mix.

6. The Philippines appreciated the Agency's efforts in response to the Fukushima accident, in particular the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. However, events had highlighted the need to enhance the role of the Agency in providing Member States and the general public with timely, objective and accurate information on nuclear emergencies, and in performing an integrated analysis of all available data to facilitate the planning by countries of possible emergency protective measures. The Philippines looked forward to working with the Agency in improving the organization's nuclear and radiological incident and emergency preparedness and response systems. His country supported the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety developed pursuant to the Ministerial Conference, which would serve as a building block for the development of more specific measures to

strengthen nuclear safety. It called on all Member States to enhance their political and financial support in order to facilitate the plan's early implementation.

7. The Agency's technical cooperation programme continued to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and the Philippines acknowledged the significant contribution made by Agency technical cooperation projects, in particular in the areas of health and nutrition, environmental resource management and agricultural and industrial productivity. In October 2010, his country had signed its CPF with the Agency.

8. With regard to human health, the imPACT mission undertaken in March 2011 had enabled his country's health authorities to assess the national cancer action plan and identify areas for improvement. The inclusion of the Philippines in a network of regional training centres on cancer control and radiotherapy would give a major boost to the country's national programme for cancer control and treatment, particularly in rural areas.

9. In the field of nuclear medicine, the radioisotope laboratory established with Agency assistance was now ready to receive the technetium-99m generator, and researchers had received training in various aspects of the production process. It was hoped that the production facility would reduce the costs of nuclear medicine procedures using technetium-99m.

10. Turning to the environment, he welcomed the Agency's current focus on water. As a pilot country for the Agency's water availability enhancement project, the Philippines was undertaking activities aimed at developing sustainable and socially responsible water resource management plans. It hoped that the Agency would continue its work to assist Member States in strengthening their national capacities to conduct comprehensive water resource assessments, in which field it had hosted a national workshop in April 2011. In 2010, the Philippines had been re-designated as an IAEA collaborating centre for the application of nuclear techniques in harmful algal bloom studies.

11. The Peaceful Uses Initiative was a useful mechanism to enhance the Agency's role in promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and to assist States committed to their non-proliferation obligations in realizing their development goals. His country urged those States in a position to do so to contribute to that worthwhile mechanism, and it acknowledged the extrabudgetary contributions received from the United States and Japan through the Initiative to finance the Philippines' footnote-a/ project on the establishment of an electron beam facility.

12. His country's commitment to preventing illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material was embodied in its national nuclear security plan finalized in cooperation with the Agency. The commissioning of the Megaports facilities at the port of Manila had marked a milestone in bilateral cooperation with the United States in the field of nuclear security. The Philippines was also working closely with Australia, the United States and fellow members of the ASEAN through the Global Threat Reduction Initiative to secure radioactive sources in the region.

13. In view of the increasing risk of nuclear proliferation, it was essential to strengthen the Agency's nuclear verification capabilities and establish confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. The conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and the provision of the Agency with the tools and resources to implement a credible verification system effectively, would go a long way towards reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation and maintaining international peace and security.

14. With regard to the DPRK's nuclear programme, his country had consistently advocated a peaceful and just solution to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and it was committed to helping create an environment of trust and confidence conducive to the DPRK's engagement with the international community.

15. The Philippines shared the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and strongly supported the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a way to contribute to international peace and security. ASEAN had established the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, and the Philippines welcomed the progress made in recent discussions with nuclear-weapon States regarding their possible accession to the treaty establishing that zone. It also welcomed the Director General's decision to convene a forum to discuss experience of possible relevance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. His country was committed to contributing to the success of that forum, which would serve as an important confidence-building measure and should contribute to the planned 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as called for in final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

16. The Agency's roadmap for the coming months would not be easy to achieve in the light of political realities and financial constraints. It was time for Member States to set aside their differences with a view to advancing common objectives. His country remained committed to working with other Member States in a spirit of mutual respect and constructive dialogue, and to participating actively in all efforts to enhance the Agency's work.

17. Mr ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) stressed his country's commitment to the Agency, which was the only intergovernmental organization with the expertise and mandate to manage the technical aspects of nuclear safety and security. Given the democratic nature of the Agency, all countries, and especially developing countries, should be able to exercise without discrimination their inalienable and sovereign right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi facility had brought home some important lessons, in particular the lesson that, while nuclear safety and security were primarily the responsibility of each sovereign country, there was a need to take account of transboundary consequences and the consequent need for inclusive, strong and binding multilateral agreements. Nuclear safety and security were essential in the use and development of nuclear energy and standards of control needed to be continually strengthened at international level.

18. The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety provided a solid basis for following up on the results of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June 2011. The Fukushima accident had marked a turning point in the history of nuclear energy and it was incumbent on the Agency to work together with Member States to ensure that there was absolute transparency in the nuclear safety area in order to rebuild confidence in the use of nuclear technology. Ecuador would continue to support all efforts in that direction within the Board of Governors.

19. The Agency's mandate went beyond control; indeed its primary role, especially vis-à-vis developing States, was to collaborate actively in building capacity and infrastructure to ensure the safe development and use of nuclear material and radioactive sources, and to transfer nuclear technology and expertise through the education and training of both nuclear regulators and operators.

20. In that connection, he highlighted the importance of the support provided by the Agency's technical cooperation programme. In Ecuador, efforts had been made to strengthen operational capabilities for maintaining and upgrading laboratory equipment and nuclear instrumentation. The Government planned to mobilize resources to that end and had succeeded in raising awareness in various sectors, and among students, of the benefits of nuclear techniques and applications.

21. Optimizing water use was another pressing issue which would be discussed at the Scientific Forum that was taking place in parallel with the General Conference. Ecuador was working on enhancing management of irrigation, in order to improve agricultural productivity, by determining the water balance, taking measurements of soil moisture to improve its use, and determining an

appropriate irrigation schedule, thus promoting farming in rural areas, which had a highly beneficial social impact.

22. His country was grateful to the Agency for supporting one of its flagship projects which should help solve innumerable public health problems caused by a lack of domestic supplies of biological tissues needed to treat patients with, inter alia, second- and third-degree burns, tumours and bone fractures. The country's Ministry of Public Health was implementing the necessary actions to ensure the project's sustainability in the medium and long term.

23. Ecuador had high hopes for the upcoming technical cooperation cycle. The projects it had submitted fell within the main areas of Agency cooperation and Ecuador's CPF. They were also in line with the Millennium Development Goals, with an emphasis on food security and health.

24. Strengthening overall security of disused radioactive sources and radioactive waste was highly important and his country would be making efforts to that end during the next cycle.

25. The Director General's visit to Ecuador had been some indication of the momentum achieved in the nuclear energy applications area in his country and should serve to strengthen the country's ties with the Agency. As the Director General had found, the seed that the Agency had sown in Ecuador had borne fruit. The Government was investing heavily in health programmes in which nuclear energy played a leading role. In addition, an ambitious programme was under way which would see four new electron accelerators and two cyclotrons installed in public hospitals in three of the country's main cities in the near future.

26. Mr WANG Yiren (China) said that, over the preceding year, the Agency had provided guidance and support through its technical cooperation programme to countries launching nuclear programmes, and had actively promoted the application of nuclear technologies in such areas as human health, food and agriculture, water resources management and the environment. It had also made ongoing efforts to promote the universal application of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the safeguards regime. In addition, Member States had been given strong support with nuclear security and capacity building.

27. The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March had caused alarm in the international community and placed nuclear safety issues in the spotlight. China welcomed the Agency's response to the accident. The Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June had helped foster international cooperation and enhance nuclear safety and emergency response at global level. In the immediate aftermath of the accident, the Chinese government had activated its nuclear emergency coordination mechanism and had acted in accordance with its nuclear emergency response plan. It had made every effort to mitigate the impact of the accident, offering assistance to the Japanese authorities and dispatching experts to Japan.

28. Despite the implications of the Fukushima accident for the momentum of global nuclear energy development, nuclear energy still remained one of the main options in the light of climate change concerns and the shortage of alternative energy sources, and its development should not cease. The international community should use the accident as an opportunity to review the experience gained and lessons learned, to strengthen nuclear safety and to promote the safe development of nuclear energy.

29. China consistently followed the principle of 'safety first' in its nuclear energy development. Following the Fukushima accident, it had performed safety audits of all its nuclear facilities, had taken steps to strengthen the safe management of operating nuclear installations, and had comprehensively reviewed the safety of nuclear power plants under construction. Approval of new projects had been

suspended pending the adoption of a new safety plan, and investment in R&D on new safety-related technologies had been increased.

30. China continued to make progress in the area of nuclear energy. The China Experimental Fast Reactor had commenced grid power generation in July 2011, and Unit 2 of the Ling Ao II power plant had started commercial operation in August, bringing the total number of operating nuclear power generating units to 14. His country was firmly committed to the further safe and efficient development of nuclear energy and was willing to share its experience in that field with other countries.

31. China continued to meet its international obligations concerning nuclear security — an area that also deserved priority attention. It had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amendment to the CPPNM. It was currently working with other countries to establish a nuclear security demonstration centre and appreciated the assistance it had received in that regard from the Agency. His Government had decided to contribute US \$200 000 to the Nuclear Security Fund to enhance the nuclear security capacity of the Asia-Pacific region.

32. Nuclear energy was a mature, clean and competitive source of energy and played an important role in meeting energy demand and addressing climate change. The Agency, in addition to its dual role of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, should play a leading role in helping to rebuild the international community's confidence in nuclear energy development. To that end, it should give priority to the following areas in its future work. Firstly, it should review the positive experience gained and lessons learned from the Fukushima accident and implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. It should promote the universal application of safety standards and enhance the ability of nuclear power installations to withstand multiple natural disasters. It should also review existing safety-related international conventions with a view to strengthening communication and sharing of information, improving the nuclear accident notification mechanism and enhancing the effectiveness of nuclear safety and emergency assessment. China would also welcome closer collaboration between Member States and the Agency to enhance nuclear safety capabilities. Secondly, the Agency should strengthen the technical assistance provided to developing countries, particularly in connection with the establishment and enhancement of national nuclear infrastructures. It should also assist newcomer countries to develop their nuclear energy policies and nuclear safety legislation and regulatory regimes, and to build a safety culture. Thirdly, the Agency should strengthen the safeguards regime and continue to promote the universal application of comprehensive safeguards agreements and the additional protocol.

33. The Agency must maintain its objectivity and impartiality on sensitive and topical nuclear issues and continue to play a constructive role in settling such issues through diplomacy. China, for its part, would continue its efforts to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue.

34. Mr BADIA (Monaco) expressed his country's sympathy to the people of Japan following the tsunami and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March 2011. The Agency's role in establishing a global nuclear safety framework should be strengthened, including protection against extreme natural disasters and emergency response.

35. Despite its limited resources, his country was committed to playing its part in the international community's efforts to increase nuclear safety and security and develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At national level, the Government had taken all necessary measures to assess radiation and chemical risks and protect the population. At international level, it had concluded a partnership agreement with the Agency under PACT. Cancer was a major cause of death, especially in developing countries, and radiotherapy was a proven treatment technique which benefited over 50% of patients.

36. His country was proud to host the IAEA Environment Laboratories, which were celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2011 and, since the preceding year, had extended their range of activities to deal with land as well as marine pollution. The Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory, in collaboration with the Monaco Scientific Center, had been conducting major research into radioactive marine pollution and developing pollution prevention and control techniques.

37. His country was willing to provide financial support for selected initiatives and host specialist conferences to promote scientific progress and cooperation. On 29 September, Monaco and the Agency were due to sign a bilateral collaboration agreement and the supplementary agreement to the headquarters agreement for the IAEA Environment Laboratories, which would further strengthen his country's links with the organization.

38. Mr HOGAN (Ireland) said that his country greatly appreciated the vital and unique role the Agency played in promoting safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies. Though Ireland maintained a policy not to use nuclear energy for power generation, it valued its membership of the Agency.

39. His country had always been committed to effective multilateralism as the best way of upholding the rule of law, ensuring international peace and security and advancing international cooperation. It considered the Agency an example of multilateralism at its best. Its programmes played an essential role in advancing the Millennium Development Goals in such areas as health, agriculture, water management and environmental monitoring, while its work in cancer treatment, in which the Agency's technical cooperation programme played a valuable role, showed nuclear science being applied to bring real and significant benefits in the lives of real people.

40. With regard to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi facility, he expressed his Government's deepest sympathies to the people of Japan and paid tribute to the courage and determination of the workers at the plant.

41. Responding to the accident had obviously, and rightly, been a priority for the Agency and the international community, focusing global attention on the importance of an effective international framework to ensure global implementation of the highest nuclear safety standards. The Agency should, and did, form the centre and focus of that work.

42. The urgency and commitment of the Director General in responding to the accident had been commendable. The IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011 had begun the process of ensuring that lessons were learned from Fukushima, while the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, to be endorsed at the 55th session of the General Conference, should significantly advance that work. It was important that the plan be implemented by Member States with commitment and ambition.

43. The events at Fukushima had powerfully reminded the world that, while specific safety provisions remained a matter for each country to decide upon, the potential transboundary impact of a nuclear accident, and the risks to human health and the environment, meant that nuclear safety in any one country was a matter of concern to all others, whether or not they had chosen to develop a nuclear energy industry of their own. International cooperation was essential in order to provide assurances, including to the public, that the right measures were in place and that they were being effectively implemented. The Agency's safety standards should form the basis of each country's regulations. Safety standards and practices were also best supported and enhanced by international peer reviews and knowledge sharing, both of which were well served by Agency programmes and mechanisms, and the organization's practical assistance to Member States. His country encouraged States to make full use of those services.

44. Transparency and effective communications were an essential part of nuclear safety and emergency response, one aspect which was effective communication among governments in relation to the marine transport of nuclear material, a matter to which Ireland attached great importance. With the involvement of the Agency, his country continued to seek to advance the ongoing dialogue between coastal and shipping States on that matter.

45. His country had significant stakeholder interest in the issue of nuclear reprocessing and it had long held the view that that activity gave rise to real and substantial safety and environmental concerns. A particular concern for his country was radioactive discharges from reprocessing operations into a shared marine environment. It therefore welcomed the ongoing work of the Agency and the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and would continue to work with them to try to minimize the risk and environmental impact of such activities.

46. The Agency played a significant role in implementing and advancing the objectives of the NPT. Ireland welcomed the Director General's decision to organize a forum on experience of possible relevance to the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in November 2011, which was an important contribution to work on the organization of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

47. His Government hoped that discussion of Middle East issues at the General Conference would advance efforts to implement the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. Any actions that might undermine those efforts must be avoided.

48. The Agency's work on safeguards and verification underpinned international confidence and cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was vital that States met their obligations in that regard and that the Agency had the tools and authority to act effectively and decisively. A comprehensive safeguards agreement along with an additional protocol constituted the essential verification standard and Ireland encouraged States yet to adopt those measures to do so without delay.

49. It was important to bring cases of non-compliance swiftly to resolution and his country called on Iran to cooperate proactively with the Agency to clarify its nuclear activities, in particular those that appeared to have a military dimension. Iran must meet unequivocally its commitments under its comprehensive safeguards agreement and Subsidiary Arrangements, and must act upon the relevant resolutions of the Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council.

50. The DPRK must comply unconditionally and without delay with its international obligations and resume full cooperation with the Agency. Ireland urged the DPRK to abandon and dismantle completely its nuclear weapons-related programme in a transparent and irreversible manner.

51. Equally, Ireland called on Syria to cooperate fully with the Agency to resolve issues surrounding the likely nuclear facility at Dair Alzour that had been destroyed in 2008.

52. For more than fifty years the Agency had played an important role in helping to maintain international peace and security and promote a culture of safety and security in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was incumbent on Member States to ensure the organization had the political, technical and financial support it needed to meet its responsibilities effectively. Equally it was incumbent on the Agency to advance the efficiency, efficacy, cost-effectiveness and transparency of its structures and practices. In the coming years, nuclear technology would impact on people's daily lives in ever more sophisticated ways, which would increase the range of roles of the Agency and the complexity of the challenges facing it, including in the areas of safety and security. Ireland remained committed to working with the Agency and other Member States to attain their common goals.

53. Mr OUANE (Mali) said that the current session of the General Conference was taking place at a time when the international community was facing a multitude of threats, including terrorism, proliferation of weapons, climate change, pandemics and food insecurity. Individual States were powerless to control the situation. A global system for security management was needed. To meet those challenges, the Agency must establish a new, robust verification system that took into account the changes experienced in recent years. Now, more than ever, all Member States must support the Agency in its efforts to meet the new challenges.

54. The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had highlighted the challenges to be met in the field of nuclear governance at national and global level. The rapid response of the Agency and the international community had helped mitigate the consequences of the accident, and his country was confident that useful lessons would be learned and safety standards strengthened, so that nuclear energy could continue to contribute to peace, health and prosperity all over the world. Africa should adopt a coherent and proactive approach to take advantage of the potential opportunities.

55. Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remained a challenge for the whole world. All States should comply strictly with the provisions of the NPT and accede to the CTBT. Mali welcomed the progress made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the recent international initiatives to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT. It was particularly appreciative of the fact that the United States and the Russian Federation had signed the New START.

56. Almost all countries in Africa had acceded to the Pelindaba Treaty, and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy had been established at the first conference of the State Parties to the Treaty. He called upon the international community to provide support to enable Africa to build on that achievement and utilize its resources for sustainable development.

57. His country attached considerable importance to the Agency's technical cooperation programme, from which it derived great benefit in such key socio-economic sectors as radiation safety and security, human and animal health, agriculture, food, and water resources management. His Government was particularly grateful for the sustained technical and financial assistance it had received with the establishment of a national nuclear regulatory authority, a nuclear medicine service in the main hospital in the capital, and several laboratories. It had also benefited from training and expert missions in connection with the construction of its first radiotherapy centre. It was involved in a model project on use of the SIT for area-wide tsetse and trypanosomosis control which had been expanded and strengthened since the advent of PATTEC. In addition, Agency assistance had enabled Mali to acquire considerable expertise in infant nutrition and malaria control.

58. The establishment of a legal framework for the safe management of all nuclear technologies used at national level posed a major challenge for Mali. The multifaceted support of the Agency would help strengthen its fledgling national regulatory infrastructure.

59. The 2012–2013 programming cycle, which was in the process of preparation, would be based on Mali's second CPF and would focus on such areas as radiation safety and security, human health, control of malaria and malnutrition, evaluation of erosion and sedimentation and exploration of groundwater, and energy planning.

60. Mr YAMANI (Saudi Arabia) commended the Agency on its efforts to realize the vision of atoms for peace and enhance the role of nuclear energy in meeting increasing global energy needs, while promoting an international security and safety regime that protected humankind from the spectre of a nuclear disaster.

61. While his country appreciated the Agency's technical assistance to Member States, it looked forward to more effective management of the programme and, in particular, a speedier response to the

needs of Member States, and it hoped that its recent experience in that regard was not indicative of the efficiency of the programme.

62. He stressed the importance of water resources management and of the Scientific Forum on water that was being held concurrently with the General Conference. The fact that greater attention was being paid to such a vital issue was a welcome development.

63. The establishment by the Saudi Arabian Government of the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy, set national targets in accordance with a specific schedule and draw up a national strategy, reflected the sound approach that was being adopted in his country with respect to the use of nuclear energy. The existing institutions guaranteed transparency and the avoidance of conflicts of interests. They pursued R&D strategies and strategies aimed at the local production of nuclear technology, and built effective partnerships with other countries.

64. Saudi Arabia had participated in the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety and in subsequent meetings to draft the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety recommended by the Ministerial Conference. While the draft action plan fell short of his country's aspirations and those of many other Member States, it should be adopted as a first step that would hopefully be reinforced in the future. The Agency should conduct detailed assessments of the results achieved under the action plan and turn the lessons learned to good account in improving global nuclear safety, radiation protection and emergency preparedness.

65. His country had paid its contribution to the 2011 Regular Budget in full, as well as its voluntary contribution to the technical cooperation programme, despite its reservations concerning the manner in which the TCF was financed. It would continue to meet its financial obligations, although the reduced efficiency and speed of the Agency's response to his country's needs, especially in light of its large-scale nuclear programme for the years ahead, had undermined its former trust. He expressed the hope that his country would reach an understanding and find arrangements that would restore its faith in the importance of supporting the TCF.

66. Saudi Arabia supported the Regulatory Cooperation Forum, in which countries with advanced nuclear programmes provided assistance to those with less developed programmes and offered guidance on nuclear safety. It also supported the establishment of advisory committees on safety in all geographical regions to spread knowledge and experience of sound safety practices, and the dispatch of missions to review and develop the capacities of national institutions responsible for emergency preparedness and response.

67. An in-depth study of the issue of assurance of nuclear fuel supplies for peaceful nuclear programmes should be undertaken by all Member States of the Agency in order to reach a consensus on how to address the technical, legal, economic and political aspects thereof in a manner consistent with the Statute. No restrictions whatsoever should be imposed on the right of all States to develop nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, including the right to develop national nuclear fuel cycle capacities. An open-ended working group would be the best forum in which to discuss the issue.

68. The Agency was the sole body mandated to verify States' compliance with their safeguards obligations and prevent proliferation. His country supported the Agency's endeavours to consolidate the safeguards regime.

69. Saudi Arabia emphasized the importance of serious and ongoing action to achieve universality of the NPT in order to strengthen international and regional security and stability, especially in the Middle East where Israel still remained outside the non-proliferation regime. In that context, his

country trusted that the Agency would play an effective role in preparing the planned 2012 conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region, and it hoped that the forum on nuclear-weapon-free zones to be held in November 2011 would provide a useful source of international experience in that regard.

70. Mr BASHARI (Sudan) thanked the Agency for the support it gave to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries and emphasized the importance of ensuring balance between safeguards and verification activities and the technical cooperation programme. The Agency had an important role to play not only in supporting the safeguards regime and promoting the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, but also in taking resolute steps to ensure that all Member States had access to nuclear energy as a viable option for achieving peaceful goals such as food security, disease control, medical treatment, the eradication of poverty and the development of human resources. His country appreciated the Agency's action to achieve socio-economic progress in developing countries. It commended in particular PACT and the efforts to apply nuclear technology in the area of water resources.

71. Sudan expressed its solidarity with the people of Japan in the aftermath of the disaster that had afflicted that country earlier in the year. Nevertheless, there was no alternative to the use of clean and safe nuclear energy for economic development, preservation of the environment and prevention of the pollution caused by other types of energy. The Sudanese Government would therefore continue to implement its national nuclear programme and it looked forward to receiving further Agency support.

72. Sudan had participated in the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety and would spare no effort to implement its recommendations and the resulting IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

73. He was pleased to announce that his country had submitted its nuclear legislation to the Council of Ministers and subsequently to parliament for enactment. An independent regulatory authority had been established to oversee all nuclear and radiation-related activities.

74. As human resources were the mainstay of all development projects, Sudan had taken steps, in cooperation with the Agency and other organizations, to train human resources in all fields of specialization of relevance to the implementation of its nuclear programme. Such training was required to operate the country's first research reactor. Sudan continued to rely on Agency technical support and oversight for that vital project.

75. His country was deeply grateful to the Agency for its assistance in preparing technical cooperation projects for the 2012–2013 cycle in the areas of nuclear power, food security, human health, water resources, animal health and nuclear reactors. Sudan had begun implementing a key project involving use of the SIT to combat malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. With Agency assistance, Sudan had succeeded in obtaining funds from the Islamic Development Bank to implement the project and it had established all the necessary administrative and technical structures. It looked forward to further Agency support and oversight during all stages of the project.

76. Sudan was also closely involved in the planning and implementation of AFRA projects, which had proved highly successful. The AFRA Network for Education in Nuclear Science and Technology would be featured in a side event during the General Conference. Sudan had hosted two AFRA regional events, as well as receiving a number of experts involved in regional projects.

77. Sudan complied fully with all its obligations under relevant international instruments that it had ratified and it urged all States that had not yet done so to ratify those instruments at the earliest opportunity in the interests of peace and sustainable development. It commended the Agency on its organization of a review of the legal instruments deposited with it during the General Conference and

encouraged it to continue doing so in the future. Sudan had established a committee to study existing legal instruments aimed at organizing and coordinating peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

78. Everyone was aware of the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. All States in the region had acceded to the NPT and demonstrated their resolve to take practical steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone except Israel, which continued to challenge the international community by its refusal to accede to the Treaty and to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards, and by its rejection of all international initiatives in that connection. Its conduct in that regard was impeding the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Sudan called for immediate action to compel Israel to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear facilities under Agency oversight. The Arab Group was convinced of the need to maintain the item on Israeli nuclear capabilities on the agenda of the General Conference, since the Agency was the technical body responsible for nuclear verification.

79. The 2010 NPT Review Conference had underscored the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and the placement of its nuclear activities under comprehensive Agency safeguards and, to that end, had decided to organize an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The Agency had been tasked with preparing the reference documents for the conference. His country stressed the need to take urgent practical steps to prepare for that conference and it urged all parties concerned to take speedy action to ensure its success. A successful outcome would boost the non-proliferation regime and thus promote international peace and security.

80. Mr YOUNIS (Egypt) said that his country had had an interest in nuclear energy and its applications for more than half a century because of the potential contribution they could make, if properly used, to the socio-economic development of humankind. Throughout that period it had cooperated closely with the Agency in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the country by developing scientific and operational capacities and actively participating in all the Agency's activities. His country was also committed to the application of global nuclear safety standards and those adopted by the Agency.

81. Egypt had adopted implementing regulations for its law on the organization of nuclear and radiation-related activities that had been enacted the preceding year and it hoped to promulgate them shortly. The law provided for the establishment of an independent nuclear and radiation safety authority which would be subject to the control of the Prime Minister, in order to ensure the complete independence of the regulatory authority from the parties involved in nuclear and radiation-related activities.

82. Projects under the Agency's technical cooperation programme included assistance with optimum use of research laboratories and training of human resources in the design and operation of such laboratories and associated facilities.

83. The Fukushima nuclear power plant accident had cast a shadow over the use of nuclear energy throughout the world. He thanked the Director General for convening the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety to study the accident and draw useful lessons from it. The most important lesson learned related to the need to support nuclear safety standards in the nuclear industry and ensure close cooperation among all stakeholders in order to protect humankind from the potential consequences of similar accidents in the future. Egypt had reviewed the specifications for its first nuclear power plant in coordination with a group of Agency experts and was determined to apply the key lessons learned from the accident, as well as any further lessons learned in due course.

84. Owing to the new political situation in Egypt following the revolution of 25 January, the Cabinet of Ministers had deferred submission of the specifications for the first nuclear power plant so

that the draft could be presented to parliament for adoption. A further aim was to reaffirm support for an important and essential programme: an energy option for the future that would meet the requirements of sustainable development.

85. Calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the threat they posed to humankind had intensified in recent years and the State Parties to the NPT had agreed on an action plan to achieve nuclear disarmament. However, that trend had not been accompanied by action to boost the Agency's activities in support of nuclear disarmament, even though one of the objectives under the Medium Term Strategy 2006–2011 was to contribute, as appropriate, to effective verification of nuclear arms control and reduction agreements, including nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article II of the Statute. Egypt urged all Member States to take serious steps to achieve that goal.

86. The Middle East remained a special case in efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons, as demonstrated by the consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in that region. The Agency had been tasked with preparing the basic documents for that conference and his country welcomed that positive development. The Agency's credibility depended to a large extent on the seriousness with which its Member States addressed the issue of nuclear disarmament in the Middle East and the application of comprehensive safeguards to all nuclear facilities in the region. Their action should reflect a consensus on the importance of the goal to be attained.

87. Although 19 years had elapsed since the adoption by the General Conference of a resolution calling on all States in the Middle East to apply comprehensive safeguards, Israel had taken no steps to achieve that objective. The Agency should fulfil the mandate assigned to it under the resolutions adopted at previous sessions of the General Conference and disclose whatever information it possessed concerning Israeli nuclear facilities that should be placed under Agency safeguards.

88. The General Conference should reaffirm the responsibility of the Agency, as the executive arm of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, to take serious action to address the nuclear threat in the Middle East region by dealing with resolutions under relevant agenda items in a manner that guaranteed respect for the NPT regime and promoted regional and international peace and security. To that end, Egypt was again submitting to the current session a draft resolution on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, an issue of increasing importance in view of the international consensus that had emerged at the latest NPT Review Conference in support of serious practical steps to achieve universality of the NPT in the Middle East through Israel's accession to the Treaty and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

89. Egypt urged the Agency to act on its mandate to prepare reference documents for the planned 2012 conference on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, including a document on the scope, and options for the application of measures to verify the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the region, and a draft model agreement on the establishment of such a zone, based on its previous work in the Middle East and its experience with other nuclear-weapon-free zones.

90. The verification regime applied by the Agency, which had been accepted by the non-nuclear-weapon States in the region as parties to the NPT, was based on the assessment of material evidence and not on politicization, selectivity and the application of double standards. It was also based on respect for the principle of non-interference in countries' internal affairs.

91. His country also supported the convening by the Agency in November 2011 of a preparatory forum, to be attended by the Arab States and Israel, on experience in the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the relevance thereof for the Middle East. It also reaffirmed the right

of the peoples of the Middle East to freedom from the threat to their security posed by nuclear weapons. Serious action must be taken to achieve equal security for all States in the region.

92. Mr AHMED GAAS (Ethiopia) said that the Agency continued to support, through technical cooperation activities, his Government's efforts to develop national nuclear science and technology infrastructure. The country's CPF for the period 2012–2017 had been prepared via intensive consultations with Agency staff and reflected the agreement between the Agency and his Government on nuclear science and technology that could contribute directly and cost-effectively to national development, as envisaged in Ethiopia's 2010–2015 Growth and Transformation Plan.

93. With regard to nuclear science and technology applications, Ethiopia urged the Agency to assign high priority to agricultural and livestock development in Africa. It welcomed the steps taken by the Agency to formalize the collaborative framework in support of PATTEC. The tsetse fly continued to pose a threat to lives and livelihoods in Ethiopia and was a constraint on livestock production in Africa. African animal trypanosomosis was prevalent in the fertile lowlands in the western and southern part of the country, where some 240 000 km² were infested by five different species of tsetse fly. Since 1997, Ethiopia had committed substantial resources under the Southern Tsetse Eradication Project to adapting technologies and testing them locally in the Southern Rift Valley, prior to setting up a large-scale national programme. That project had been launched with the objective of building national capacity in pest management, including the SIT, and eradicating tsetse from an isolated valley with a total area of 25 000 km². With the support of a number of national and international organizations, including the African Development Bank, efforts to eradicate tsetse and trypanosomosis through area-wide integrated pest management had been harmonized. To date, remarkable progress had been made and a substantial number of communities had benefited. That trend needed to be intensified through integrated development, with proper land use planning and land management. Ethiopia counted on the support of the international community and donor organizations in tackling tsetse and trypanosomosis. He expressed his country's appreciation for the assistance provided by the Agency, the African Development Bank and the FAO.

94. Cooperation with the Agency's technical cooperation programme had been fine-tuned to ensure that Ethiopia's national developmental objectives were synchronized with Agency programming, thus ensuring sustainability. He expressed his country's appreciation to the Agency for its support for national, regional and interregional programmes. Agency assistance was still required in other key areas of the country's socio-economic development.

95. Ethiopia regarded peaceful nuclear applications as an important component of its sustainable development goals. Nuclear applications had a significant impact in a number of areas, not least in human health. A project was being designed for the 2012–2017 cycle to consolidate the existing radiotherapy and nuclear medicine facilities at Addis Ababa University and establish radiotherapy and nuclear medicine facilities in five regional State university hospitals for the diagnosis, therapy, palliative treatment and management of cancer and other diseases.

96. His country needed to continue to develop its national capacities in the water sector to enable it to acquire new techniques to address its problems. Water resources management was a high priority. His Government was deeply concerned at declining groundwater levels and increasing pollution caused by industrial and public activities and salt water intrusion. His Government held the view that the isotope hydrology laboratory established at Addis Ababa University with Agency support should become the national laboratory supporting all persons involved in water resources studies requiring isotopic analysis. The laboratory would focus on building up a track record in conventional chemical and isotopic analysis of samples. His Government was seeking to make the laboratory and the department a regional centre of excellence in isotope hydrology and hydrochemistry. It expected the Agency to play a leading role in making that objective a reality.

97. Together with the Agency, the Ethiopian Government would strengthen the Metal Product Development Institute, with a view to its being globally recognized, by upgrading national capability to provide training to NDT personnel in order to enable NDT centres to provide quality services to private and public enterprises. Agency assistance was sought in the form of technical expertise, training of key personnel and, possibly, essential equipment.

98. Ethiopia supported the Agency's efforts to maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide and was committed to strengthening its national nuclear and radiation safety and security infrastructure to ensure the safe operation of equipment using radiation sources. The Ethiopian radiation protection authority would continue to work towards full implementation of regulatory control systems in all safety areas.

99. His Government had invested in a central radioactive waste management facility for intermediate-level waste. Collected and conditioned sources would be transferred to a new installation once construction was complete. The Agency's technical support was vital to make the facility operational. State-of-the-art physical security arrangements had been put in place under bilateral agreements with the United States Department of Energy.

100. He reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Pelindaba Treaty. Ethiopia's nuclear science and technology programmes were purely for peaceful purposes and were aimed at enhancing the living standards of the Ethiopian people.

101. In conclusion, he expressed deep appreciation for the assistance and support his country had received from the Agency and reaffirmed Ethiopia's steadfast commitment to the Agency's goals.

102. Mr KIM Chang-Kyung (Republic of Korea) offered his country's condolences to the people of Japan in connection with the natural disasters that had occurred there and the ensuing Fukushima accident. Although that unprecedented event had led to great loss of life, livelihood and property, it had also prompted the international community to rededicate itself to improving the safety of nuclear power plants worldwide, based on the valuable lessons learned from the accident. In accordance with the mandate he had received from the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June 2011, the Director General had prepared an IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety outlining practical measures to strengthen the global nuclear safety framework.

103. The Republic of Korea had been actively involved in international efforts to improve nuclear safety and had immediately conducted a safety and emergency preparedness review of its 21 nuclear power plants in operation, and had identified short- and long-term measures for their improvement. In July 2011, it had been the first country to host an IRRS mission after the Fukushima accident, which had found the overall national regulatory framework for nuclear safety in his country to be excellent. The mission findings should be instrumental in strengthening national regulatory frameworks for nuclear safety and his country looked forward to seeing increased IRRS activities in the future. To strengthen the country's national regulatory framework, his Government planned to establish a nuclear safety and security commission in October 2011 that would report directly to the President and would be a fully independent regulatory body.

104. His country would contribute, in several stages, a total of \$2 million to the Agency's extrabudgetary programme in the field of nuclear safety. As public concerns mounted over safety issues in the wake of the Fukushima accident, an increasing number of countries were temporarily suspending their nuclear power plant operations, while others were even considering permanently scrapping plans to construct new nuclear power plants. However, the world still needed nuclear power to meet the increasing demand for energy. Enhanced safety should play an indispensable and leading role in the plans to raise the share of nuclear power in his country's national energy portfolio to 59% by 2030. The Republic of Korea had developed a System Integrated Modular Advanced Reactor for

electricity generation and seawater desalination which was currently undergoing design certification by the country's regulatory body, which process should be complete by the end of 2011. It was also developing next-generation nuclear energy systems, including a sodium-cooled fast reactor and pyroprocessing technologies.

105. Despite significant advances in nuclear technology, developing countries had yet to benefit fully from nuclear energy. In fact, there was an ever widening technological gap between developed and developing countries. To reduce that gap, his country had developed the Integrated Regulatory Infrastructure Support System programme and had decided to participate in the Peaceful Uses Initiative, with a view to expanding personnel training and education programmes. It encouraged other Member States to join the Initiative.

106. His country would continue to seek ways to leverage its experience in transitioning from being a recipient of nuclear technology to being a provider. The benefits to be derived from the wider application of nuclear technology in such areas as health care, the environment, water resources management, nutrition and food security should be shared worldwide. Medical applications such as cancer treatment illustrated how nuclear techniques could improve the quality of life. His country truly appreciated the Director General's leadership in that regard and fully supported the Agency's work in that area. The Republic of Korea had contributed \$200 000 to PACT to allow more medical professionals from developing countries to come for training, while also sending more of its experts to those countries. In addition, in the field of nuclear medicine, there was a severe global shortage of medical isotopes. The construction of a new research reactor in his country, due to begin isotope production in 2016, should help relieve that shortage.

107. It was generally agreed that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be promoted within the framework of nuclear safeguards, security and safety. While faithfully implementing its comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol, his country would continue to do all it could to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for a comprehensive national nuclear control system. The Agency had been applying integrated safeguards in the Republic of Korea since July 2008.

108. His country was also participating in international efforts to strengthen nuclear security. In June, it had hosted the plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and in March 2012 it would host the second Nuclear Security Summit, hoping to build upon the momentum of the first such summit and to strengthen the international community's concerted efforts to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. The 2012 Nuclear Security Summit was expected to discuss how to amplify the synergy between nuclear security and safety. His country would do its utmost to join the international cooperative efforts to strengthen capacity building in the area of nuclear security. It was working on the establishment of an international nuclear security training centre, scheduled to open by 2013, to offer opportunities for training in the prevention of nuclear terrorism. He requested the support of Member States to ensure the success of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit.

109. The DPRK's pursuit of nuclear programmes had been undermining the very foundation of the international non-proliferation regime and posed a serious threat to peace and stability in north-east Asia and beyond. The DPRK had conducted its second nuclear test in 2009 and had revealed a uranium enrichment facility in 2010, which was a flagrant violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and had generated concern in the international community. As the sole authority for ensuring the application of safeguards agreements, the Agency should not tolerate the DPRK's illegitimate action and should convey the international community's determination that the DPRK must comply with applicable Security Council resolutions.

110. In the context of the international efforts to deal responsibly with the DPRK nuclear issue, his country appreciated the comprehensive report on the application of safeguards in that country recently released by the Director General. The report had promoted interest in and understanding of the DPRK nuclear issue, including the latter's uranium enrichment programme. However, the report should not only provide information regarding the past and present status of the DPRK's nuclear programme, it should also underscore the need for prompt and effective action — including the resumption of Agency monitoring and verification activities — to avoid undermining the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

111. The DPRK must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with its obligations under Security Council resolutions, and must fully comply with its NPT and Agency safeguards obligations. It must demonstrate its commitment to denuclearization by acting to create the right circumstances for a resumption of the six-party talks.

112. Throughout the DPRK denuclearization process, the Republic of Korea had taken a principled approach, faithfully implementing sanctions under Security Council resolutions while keeping the door open for dialogue, as demonstrated by the inter-Korean dialogue in July 2011. It would continue to cooperate closely with the international community to achieve the common goal of the denuclearization of the DPRK and it looked forward to the unwavering support of other Member States.

113. When nuclear power had become a reality in the 1950s, the world had faced the great challenge of realizing the vision of atoms for peace for all. After decades of technological development and transfer, the world faced another challenge: that of ensuring nuclear safety at every nuclear facility around the world. His country was committed to playing its part in the collective endeavours to meet that global challenge and it hoped that the Agency would continue to play a central role in the establishment of a global network for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Further investment should be made to advance nuclear technology and make nuclear energy a safer and more reliable energy source.

114. Mr SPINDELEGGGER (Austria) said that the Agency had a mandate to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to enhance health and prosperity throughout the world through the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, one aspect of which would be highlighted during the current session of the General Conference at the Scientific Forum on water. To fulfil its mandate, the Agency required the support of Member States. His own country would do its utmost to fulfil its obligations and continue to pay its assessed contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF in full and on time, despite budgetary and economic uncertainties. As the host country to the Agency, it would also continue to provide the infrastructure the Agency required, both at headquarters and at the Agency's laboratories at Seibersdorf, to the best of its ability.

115. He offered his country's sympathies to all those who had suffered from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. Clearly, the Agency's nuclear safety mandate and its overall nuclear safety profile needed to be strengthened. He welcomed the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011 and the preparation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. At the Board of Governors meetings in the preceding week, Austria and other countries had pointed out a number of shortcomings in the action plan. What was required was a strong commitment by Member States to submit to peer review, a clear assignment of priorities and definition of time frames for implementation of the measures in the plan, transparency in all aspects of nuclear safety, and a strong nuclear liability regime that victims could rely upon to compensate them fully for their losses. As part of the follow-up to the Fukushima accident, his country would be participating in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security to be held in New York on 22 September.

116. Although Austria respected the sovereign right of every State to decide upon its national energy mix, his Government would use all legal means to protect its own safety interests in cases where nuclear installations would have, or were likely to have a negative impact on the Austrian people or on the country's environment or infrastructure. Its decision not to use nuclear power was based upon the express wish of the Austrian people. He called upon all States considering the development of a nuclear power programme to base their final decision on a wide-ranging and intensive opinion-building process, taking into account all the risks and relevant international responsibilities.

117. Owing to the failure to resolve regional tensions in the Middle East, there was still no universal nuclear non-proliferation regime and little hope of the swift elimination of nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, the Agency could provide a forum and the necessary expertise for discussion of technical aspects, which might contribute to the broader political debate in other forums. He expressed the hope that the Agency forum to be held in Vienna on 21-22 November 2011 would allow for constructive discussions in preparation for the planned 2012 international conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

118. The 2010 NPT Review Conference had generated new momentum in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation which should be used to move that agenda forwards. At the Conference, his country had announced support for the establishment of a permanent office of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Vienna, which was due to commence operations soon. It also supported relevant think tanks, and the new Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation had already put on a number of seminars and events.

119. Mr BURT (United Kingdom) said that only six months had elapsed since the unprecedented scenes created by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the developments that had followed at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The people of Japan were rebuilding their lives and communities admirably in the face of such adversity. Inevitably, the events at Fukushima had subjected nuclear energy worldwide, and the work of the Agency, to intense scrutiny. His country commended the leadership of the Director General and the Secretariat in securing and publicizing accurate and detailed facts from Fukushima, engaging with key figures and coordinating debate.

120. In the context of the heightened interest in nuclear safety in the wake of the accident, the United Kingdom had launched a review of the implications of Fukushima for its own nuclear facilities led by the Chief Nuclear Inspector of the United Kingdom who, in his interim report, had concluded that, while the United Kingdom's nuclear facilities were not at the same sort of risk, there were no grounds for complacency. Several actions identified in the interim report were now being implemented. A final report with detailed findings would be issued in October 2011 and made available online in accordance with his country's commitment to sharing such information. The Chief Nuclear Inspector had also led the Agency task force to Japan to investigate and report on the lessons to be learned from the accident. The United Kingdom warmly commended the initiative of the Director General to hold the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011, and it fully supported the aims of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety deriving from that important event as a positive and pragmatic step to ensure and improve continuously nuclear safety standards. Not least, his country urged all Member States, and especially those that were planning to embark on nuclear activities, to adhere to the relevant conventions, in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.

121. With the debate on energy security and climate change intensifying, and faced with the growing global energy demand and rising fossil fuel prices, the role of nuclear power in providing reliable low-carbon energy remained vital for many Member States. His country remained committed to safe nuclear power as part of its energy mix both now and in the future. As it was essential to provide

long-term certainty about commitment in order to ensure long-term investment, his Government had issued a national policy statement on nuclear power generation in July 2011, which had included a list of eight potential sites for new nuclear builds. Energy companies were already showing significant interest in investing and progress was being made on plans for development at one potential site.

122. His country was anxious to ensure that other States had the information they needed to take important decisions on whether or not to introduce nuclear power programmes or expand existing programmes, in line with the commitments made at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. It was timely to consider how those commitments had progressed.

123. In connection with strengthening the Agency, the events following the Fukushima accident had demonstrated to the world at large that the Agency played a central role in ensuring a safe, secure and proliferation-free nuclear future. Despite the intense pressure on national budgets, the budget agreed for the Agency would ensure that it continued to have the resources it needed to do its job effectively and efficiently. The varying and increasing demands on the Secretariat, and the challenges that lay ahead had also been acknowledged.

124. The NPT Review Conference had underscored the need for an enduring commitment to safeguards, security and safety. The Agency's safeguards system needed to be effective and efficient to meet the increasing demands placed on it. In that connection, he commended those States that had brought into force comprehensive safeguards agreements and/or additional protocols since the preceding session of the General Conference and urged those non-nuclear-weapon States that had still to do so to conclude and bring into force safeguards agreements and additional protocols and, wherever relevant, to amend their SQPs. His country also welcomed the continuing efforts, both within the Secretariat and Member States, to develop new and improved safeguards tools and techniques, and it strongly encouraged the evolution of safeguards towards a system that was fully information-driven and utilized a State-level concept to determine the optimal set of safeguards activities to be conducted in any State.

125. The threat posed by those who sought to acquire and use nuclear devices for terrorist and other non-peaceful purposes was real and a growing concern. The United Kingdom welcomed the new publications in the IAEA Nuclear Security Series in 2011, in particular the new recommendations on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities (INFCIRC/225/Revision 5). It also looked forward to the Agency's continuing implementation of its Nuclear Security Plan. As part of its ongoing commitment to nuclear security, his Government had contributed a further £4 million to the Nuclear Security Fund in 2011.

126. Significant progress had been made in the area of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, in line with commitments made at the NPT Review Conference. The United Kingdom had strongly supported the resolution adopted by the Board of Governors in December 2010 (GOV/2010/70) on the establishment of an IAEA LEU bank which, alongside the LEU reserve that was being established in the Russian Federation, would constitute an important confidence-building measure. It acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat to turn the LEU bank concept into a reality and looked forward to learning about the full modalities of operation in due course. The United Kingdom's proposal for a virtual nuclear fuel assurance mechanism, submitted to the Board in March 2011, was simple, straightforward and incurred almost no costs, offering the potential to underpin contracts for enrichment services and provide further assurances to those countries that did not wish to establish their own nuclear fuel cycle. His country was grateful for the constructive comments made on it and for the Board's endorsement, and it looked forward to exploring implementation of the assurance mechanism with interested States in due course. None of the proposed measures would affect a State's rights under the NPT; on the other hand, not all States would find fuel assurance mechanisms useful. The aim was to ensure that the potential for such

mechanisms to assist with the economic and safe expansion of nuclear energy was not ignored, and that full and open discussions took place to examine the possibilities available.

127. The Director General's latest report on Iran reminded Member States that that country was continuing to defy United Nations resolutions and was failing to cooperate fully with the Agency. In addition to outstanding concerns, the recent announcements by Iran regarding the tripling of its production of LEU enriched up to 20%, and the transfer of facilities to the Fordow nuclear site, showed that Iran's programme continued to develop in a direction that offered no assurance of that country's peaceful intentions. Once again, the report flagged the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme. The United Kingdom fully supported the Director General and his staff in the work they were doing in connection with current or past undisclosed activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile. The Director General's report had made it clear that Iran had not provided the necessary cooperation to permit the Agency to confirm that all nuclear material in the country was in peaceful activities. The steps that Iran needed to take to restore confidence were clearly set out in Agency reports and United Nations Security Council resolutions. The United Kingdom was committed to working with China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United States and the European Union High Representative on a negotiated solution, but Iran must show that it was prepared to negotiate seriously without preconditions.

128. Following the adoption by the Board of Governors of the resolution finding Syria in non-compliance with its obligations under its safeguards agreement (GOV/2011/41), the United Kingdom urged Syria to give the Agency the full disclosure and cooperation that it had promised.

129. Finally, he expressed his country's deep concern at the DPRK's continued lack of cooperation with the Agency and called on that country to resume cooperation with the organization, comply immediately with all relevant Security Council resolutions, and refrain from any further provocative actions. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was vital for peace and stability in that region and beyond.

130. Mr MBARAWA (United Republic of Tanzania) offered his country's sympathies and condolences to the Government and people of Japan for the loss of life and destruction of infrastructure following the earthquake and tsunami which had caused the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident.

131. In 2011, his country had signed its new CPF for 2012–2017 which should enhance coordination between the country's development and management priorities and the resource limitations of the Agency. The projects to be funded under the technical cooperation programme were an integral part of the sectoral priorities established by Tanzania for socio-economic development. The resources provided would contribute to meeting the objectives of the technical cooperation programme between Tanzania and the Agency in the new technical cooperation cycle, which would continue to focus on end-user oriented activities with visible socio-economic impact.

132. His country welcomed the focus of the 2011 Scientific Forum on water, as millions of people in the world still lacked access to adequate, clean drinking water. The Agency's cooperation with Member States, international organizations and other partners would help in assessing water resources and improving water productivity and efficient water use in agriculture. Tanzania reaffirmed its commitment to and support for AFRA and urged other Member States to support that initiative and increase funding mobilization.

133. There had been a notable increase in the number of new cancer cases and deaths in Tanzania over the years, and treatment capabilities were still inadequate for a population of around 43 million people. There were gaps and shortages in cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, human resources development, training, research and mobilization of resources, which

had resulted in inequitable access to services, late-stage presentations and poor treatment outcomes, leading to a significant number of cancer patients dying unnecessarily. Continued support from PACT and other partners would help Tanzania in that regard.

134. PACT had provided valuable assistance with strengthening of the capacity of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute by providing additional therapy machines and treatment simulation machines, establishing training programmes for radiation therapy and choosing Tanzania as a model demonstration centre for cancer therapy. The Agency had also been assisting with the establishment of radiotherapy services at the Bugando Medical Centre. His country welcomed the opportunity to be among the pilot countries in the Virtual University for Cancer Control and Regional Training Network in Africa.

135. The utilization of nuclear techniques had been hampered by a lack of personnel with the requisite knowledge and skills. Given the urgent need to implement the country's obligations as a Member State of the United Nations and the Agency, and in particular under Agency agreements and conventions, his Government was committed to building capacity for effective project implementation, to continued compliance with Agency agreements and conventions, and to developing the human resources of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission and other stakeholders. He thanked the Agency for the support his country had received to date with human resources development and expressed the hope that it would continue to grow.

136. Energy was essential for development and his country needed a reliable electricity supply in order to achieve its planned economic growth and development. Traditional sources of energy were not sufficient to sustain industrial growth and thus to support the country's anticipated economic growth. To address the country's energy shortage, his Government needed Agency assistance to devise appropriate plans for electricity generation based on sound energy planning, which would include projections of electricity demand and the development of supply strategies.

137. His country valued the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, remained committed to implementing relevant international nuclear safeguards and to ensuring safety and security, and would endeavour to ratify all relevant international legal instruments.

138. In closing, he reaffirmed his Government's commitment to meeting its obligations and to supporting the Agency's efforts to realize its mandated objectives. Tanzania had complied with its obligations vis-à-vis the Agency by contributing its share of the organization's budget in a timely manner. It also pledged its full share of the TCF target.

139. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, offered condolences to the people of Japan in connection with the earthquake and tsunami that had struck that country.

140. The encouraging developments at the 2010 NPT Review Conference had not yet yielded concrete results. In the nuclear disarmament field, the momentum achieved through the ratification of the New START seemed to have petered out and new negotiations on nuclear disarmament were not on the agenda, either between the United States and Russia or within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. The preceding year had not brought any developments in regional proliferation issues that would allow the files in question to be closed. The Agency had recently submitted a report on the DPRK which offered no prospect of a way out of the current stalemate. Nor had there been any prospect of progress with regard to Syria. In that connection, he expressed the hope that the meeting between the Syrian authorities and the Agency scheduled for October would bring some advance. Recent developments had given some cause for optimism with regard to the nuclear file of Iran, but they were still to be confirmed.

141. Switzerland and Liechtenstein saw no way out of regional proliferation issues other than a diplomatic approach. They supported any approach that fully involved the Agency, in order to reaffirm the Agency's unique role in verification.

142. Switzerland fully supported the organization by the Agency of a forum on nuclear-weapons-free zones in November for States in the Middle East, which should help prepare the ground for future developments.

143. The Fukushima accident should serve as a lesson. After analysing the accident, practical conclusions would need to be drawn and measures implemented to ensure such an incident never happened again. Following the earthquake and tsunami, Switzerland had endeavoured to gather information in order to assess as quickly as possible what was happening. In March, the Swiss safety authority had asked Swiss power plants to establish an off-site emergency resources centre and to re-evaluate plant behaviour in the event of an earthquake, a flood, and both in combination. On 25 March, by agreement with the Swiss government, the safety authority had supported the request of the European Union to carry out stress tests and had decided to participate.

144. Switzerland had joined international efforts launched within the framework of the G8/G20 to strengthen nuclear safety and had been participating actively in the discussions on the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted by the Board of Governors the preceding week. None of his country's objectives with respect to the action plan had been achieved. It had hoped for more binding commitments and viewed the action plan only as a first step. It hoped the plan would be updated and strengthened at the extraordinary meeting of the parties to the Convention of Nuclear Safety, based on the conclusions drawn from the Fukushima accident. In the meantime, Switzerland would continue the efforts initiated in collaboration with its neighbouring nuclear countries and within the Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association.

145. Following the Fukushima accident, the Swiss government had immediately frozen requests to authorize the construction of three new nuclear power plants in Switzerland. It had also requested a review, in the light of the disaster, of the energy scenarios developed in 2006. In May, it had decided that existing nuclear power plants would not be replaced at the end of their lifetime and that the Swiss electricity supply strategy should be adapted accordingly.

146. Switzerland wished to embark on a more sustainable energy policy whose central elements would be increased energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy. Increased energy efficiency should enable the country to keep its CO₂ commitments, despite the fact that, initially, it would have to have recourse to gas power plants. The new energy policy would provide an opportunity to promote clean technologies, which would have a positive effect on economic growth and the environment. His country's nuclear policy had changed radically since the Fukushima accident.

147. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Switzerland had proposed looking into how safeguards efforts and costs could be reduced in States with an additional protocol in force. It had held a seminar in the spring which had led to the publication of a study on optimizing the Agency's safeguards system. That study would be presented during the General Conference and his country intended to look into that subject in greater depth in the coming months. It hoped to make the additional protocol even more attractive to the States which were hesitant to adopt it, by reducing the costs of the safeguards system and the burden of inspections. It was convinced that States with comprehensive safeguards agreements and an additional protocol in force would see their visibility and political credibility increase owing to their transparency in their nuclear field.

148. His country had a strong interest in financial and budgetary questions, especially in the face of the current global financial crisis. It believed that the Agency had sufficient funds to fulfil its statutory tasks and it reiterated its request that, for any proposal with financial and administrative implications,

the Director General should submit a report to ensure that Member States could take a decision in full knowledge of the facts. He thanked the chairperson of the working group on financing of the Agency's activities which had been tasked with proposing a budget for 2012. That task had not been easy and discussions had, unfortunately, clearly shown once again that the agreement reached was not satisfactory. The Regular Budget still did not take into account investment expenditure.

149. While it did not wish to minimize the importance of safety, non-proliferation, security, or technological or scientific development, Switzerland would like to see the technical cooperation budget integrated into the Regular Budget, for both Switzerland and Liechtenstein believed that Article II of the Statute was the main reason why the vast majority of States became members of the Agency.

150. Turning to Switzerland's nuclear waste disposal sites, he said that the Swiss Government had adopted a sectoral plan for deep geological repositories in 2008 which should, in time, enable the country to select disposal sites for low-, intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste. To date, six geological sites had been selected and declared technically suitable to store nuclear waste. Extensive consultations were being held with the public in the areas concerned, and with cantonal authorities and neighbouring countries. The evaluation of those consultations was ongoing.

151. In conclusion, he thanked the Secretariat and the Director General for the high quality of their work, and in particular for their dedication in responding to the expectations of the international community during the months following the major earthquake in Japan.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.