

# General Conference

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## Fifty-fifth regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Seventh Meeting

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**President:** Mr DAVIES (United States of America)

**Later:** Mr FERUTA (Romania)

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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
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSServ	International Nuclear Security Advisory Service
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NPT	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
NPT Review and Extension Conference	Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organization



## **7. General debate and Annual Report for 2010 (continued)** **(GC(55)/2)**

1. Mr MACOVEI (Romania) said that his country greatly appreciated the action taken by the Agency following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, supported the actions taken by the Japanese authorities, and acknowledged the efforts made by the international community to enhance nuclear safety and radiation protection and strengthen international standards in nuclear safety and emergency preparedness and response, as well as appreciating the need to draw lessons from the accident.
2. As the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June had shown, public confidence in the safety of nuclear power had declined dramatically after Fukushima. Given that nuclear power would remain important for many countries, it was imperative that nuclear plants built in the future met the highest standards of nuclear safety.
3. Despite the emotional impact of the tragic events caused by the unforeseen magnitude of the Japanese earthquake, Romania continued to look upon nuclear power as a significant option for meeting its energy needs at low cost and in an environmentally acceptable manner. As a confirmation of its commitment, in 2010 it had been granted approval by the European Commission to complete the construction of Units 3 and 4 of the Cernavoda nuclear power plant. It also planned to build a new nuclear power plant which would become operational in the coming decade. The technology to be used for the new plant must meet the highest standards of nuclear safety.
4. With a view to the development of its national nuclear programme, his country had extended its participation in INPRO activities and had joined the INPRO-SYNERGIES project as a preliminary step towards studies and simulations on a synergistic approach to different fuel cycles.
5. One of the main responsibilities of a country with a nuclear power programme was managing radioactive waste in a responsible and safe manner. Romania had taken important steps to that end by planning the development of a national low- and intermediate-level waste repository, to be commissioned by 2020, for the operational waste generated by its nuclear power plants. Another objective was to commission a national deep geological repository for spent nuclear fuel and long-lived waste by 2055.
6. With regard to non-power nuclear energy applications, his country was committed to implementing new medical and industrial image analysis and processing systems, with a special focus on early diagnosis and treatment centres for cancer using positron emission tomography. Those initiatives had been discussed with the Director General during his visit to Romania.
7. Romania's technical cooperation with the Agency had been excellent. Together with the Agency, it had organized several international events on topics related to CPF priorities, providing an opportunity for experts to exchange experience and knowledge on the safety of nuclear reactors, safety assessment, decommissioning of nuclear facilities, planning of human resources and management of nuclear power plant lifetimes.
8. The safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy was heavily dependent on attracting, developing and stabilizing human resources and strengthening nuclear knowledge management, including through education and training. Hence the need to promote bilateral and multilateral

cooperation among all Member States in that area. In that connection, in January 2011 Romania and Jordan had signed a cooperation agreement for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

9. In May 2011, Romania's National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control, the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority and the Agency had completed an extrabudgetary regional excellence programme on safe nuclear energy in Romania. The programme had been funded by a grant from Norway through the Norwegian cooperation programme for economic growth and sustainable development in Romania. The key aim of the regional excellence programme had been to strengthen nuclear safety in Romania, to maintain and enhance safe nuclear power operations with a view to avoiding incidents, and to improve safety culture and emergency preparedness and response. Special attention had been given to capacity building and knowledge management.

10. His country fully supported international commitments related to nuclear non-proliferation, regional stability and humanitarian assistance and it would continue to endorse activities initiated under the NPT.

11. Over the years, Romania had actively promoted, and continued to promote the Agency's activities in the area of nuclear safety and security. International cooperation and adherence to the relevant conventions in the nuclear field remained crucial for the global nuclear safety and security framework. His country appealed to Member States to accede to the relevant international safety and security instruments in order to strengthen efforts to make the world safe and secure.

12. In the light of the Fukushima accident, a review of the safety of all nuclear plants the world over, through a comprehensive and transparent risk and safety assessment, was a matter of high priority. The action carried out by the European Union served as an example that could be applied internationally.

13. The year 2011 had been characterized by dramatic events in the nuclear field that had led to a global reconsideration of nuclear safety concepts. Nuclear accidents did not respect borders, but Romania was convinced that the measures promoted by the Agency would result in improved nuclear safety standards. At the same time, every country should take measures to strengthen safety culture and public acceptance. In conclusion, he expressed appreciation to the Agency for its efforts in assuming a central role in improving nuclear safety and security in the service of the common aspirations of peace and welfare throughout the world, based on the benefits that peaceful nuclear technologies could bring.

14. Mr ENKHS AIKHAN (Mongolia) said that the Agency was being called upon to play an increasing role in international affairs and its mandate needed to be strengthened accordingly, especially with regard to nuclear safety and security.

15. The nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which had occurred 25 years after the Chernobyl disaster, compelled new consideration of the measures needed to ensure the utmost safety and security at nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. While the two accidents were different in nature, they both highlighted the constant need to upgrade safety and security. Thus, his country had welcomed the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June and the declaration adopted by it on strengthening nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide. Mongolia also attached great importance to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety that had recently been adopted by the Board of Governors.

16. The Agency was not only a technical organization that was called upon to play an increasing role in promoting freedom from fear or want, nor just a watchdog. It had an important role in promoting the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He encouraged the General

Conference to take decisions that would promote favourable political conditions for the convening in 2012 of an international conference on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. As a country with a well recognized nuclear-weapon-free status, Mongolia fully supported international efforts to convene such a conference and, in that connection, it welcomed the understanding reached by the Director General with the States concerned to convene a forum on the issue in November 2011 which could make a major contribution to the successful convening of the aforementioned conference.

17. Nuclear safety and security were important for all countries, especially those pursuing nuclear power or other peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Mongolia was interested in working closely with the Agency and its Member States to strengthen national, regional and international standards. It was currently working on acceding to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

18. The Agency's technical assistance and cooperation programmes offered important benefits for its Member States. Over the preceding eight years, the number of workers in Mongolia who dealt with radioactive material had more than tripled. In the preceding year, the country had been designated as the eighth PACT Model Demonstration Site country. His Government was committed to developing the required capacity in radiotherapy so as to ensure better and more effective early detection and treatment of cancer.

19. With assistance from PACT, Mongolia had drawn up a general action plan on cancer prevention and control for 2011–2021 and adopted a strategic plan for development of radiotherapy covering the same period, the implementation of which would enable it to address professionally and more effectively the growing threat of cancer and, at the same time, as a PACT Model Demonstration Site country, to share its experience with others.

20. Mongolia was a developing country with limited infrastructure, expertise and human resources. It urged the Agency to continue to provide assistance with capacity building, development of skilled and well trained human resources, and the establishment of the infrastructure required for nuclear activities. There was a need for greater contributions to the TCF and other funding sources so as to advance the goals of technical cooperation, as well as programmes and specific projects. Contributions made through the Peaceful Uses Initiative were most welcome in that regard and would surely benefit many Member States.

21. In line with its commitment to prevent illicit trafficking in radioactive sources, his Government, with technical assistance from other Member States, was installing radiation detection equipment at its main border crossings. It was also working with the Agency and Member States to put in place an effective system for responding to emergencies, as well as a system for notification, import and export, entry point control inspection, and enforcement of radiation safety and security of nuclear and radioactive sources.

22. His country was blessed with uranium resources which it was planning to exploit for its national development, including addressing its own growing energy needs. It was well aware that the exploitation of its uranium would pose a number of challenges, such as ensuring physical security of the nuclear material at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, including waste disposal. It would therefore be looking to the Agency and international partners for advice on and assistance with the proper exploitation of its uranium. Contrary to some press reports, Mongolia was not prepared to enter into any commercial nuclear fuel leasing agreement that would allow import of foreign spent nuclear fuel, nor to build an international storage depot for spent nuclear fuel in the country. Its first priority was to learn more about the nuclear industry, establish the required national capacity and lay solid foundations for a true safety culture.

23. Mongolia was preparing a pre-feasibility study to explore whether nuclear power should be included as part of its energy mix and, in doing so, it hoped to work more closely with the Agency to benefit from its expert advice and support.

24. Mr TURDIU (Albania) said that one of his country's foreign policy priorities was its commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and to meeting its obligations under relevant international treaties. He called on all countries to implement all General Conference resolutions and Board of Governors decisions, in particular those aimed at ensuring an effective and efficient international safeguards system and at establishing international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of nuclear programmes. The Agency had an important role to play in facilitating nuclear disarmament through verification.

25. The establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and other regions would be a positive step towards global nuclear disarmament. However, there could be no nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East until the States in that region cooperated and peace was established there. Albania welcomed the Director General's efforts to convene a forum in Vienna on 21-22 November 2011 to examine the experience of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and its relevance to the Middle East. All interested Member States should continue to prepare for the regional conference planned in 2012 on establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as called for in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

26. The additional protocol to Albania's safeguards agreement had entered into force on 3 November 2010. On 29 June 2011, his country had deposited instruments of accession for the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which conventions would enter into force for Albania on 27 September 2011. Albania was also in the process of approving the amendment to the CPPNM.

27. Albania attached great importance to continued cooperation in the field of nuclear security with the aim of combating illicit trafficking in radioactive material, preventing terrorist acts and reducing radiological threats. Border management and controls had been greatly improved at all checkpoints and along land and sea borders. His country participated in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative, was an active member of the illicit trafficking database, and showed considerable interest in the Agency's related training and educational programmes. It was fully dedicated to the successful implementation of the Agency's global plan to combat nuclear terrorism.

28. Conveying his country's condolences to the people and Government of Japan for the tragic loss of human life resulting from the earthquake and tsunami in that country, he said that the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June 2011 had provided an opportunity to start learning lessons from the Fukushima accident. The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety outlined a series of steps to help improve nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and the radiation protection of people and the environment. The plan should lead to a steady improvement in nuclear safety, and its robust implementation would be a significant step forward.

29. Albania supported the Peaceful Uses Initiative, which not only sought to expand and accelerate support for Agency activities that increased access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, but also was a critical component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Through the Initiative, Albania had benefited from funds for an assessment mission to make recommendations for improving the application of nuclear technologies in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Like many other Member States, it would be benefiting from that increased support in the coming years. All Member States



should support and profit from the Initiative and he called on those in a position to contribute to help it reach its US \$100 million goal by 2015.

30. Energy, health, environment, education and nuclear safety and security were the most important issues for his country, in line with its development priorities.

31. Known for its excellent cooperation with the Agency and its successful implementation of its national technical cooperation programme, Albania was a PACT Model Demonstration Site country. According to its national cancer control strategy, elaborated with the Agency's assistance, the country's oncology centre would soon achieve the status of a centre of competence in radiotherapy. Albania would continue to be a beneficiary of PACT. It was highly appreciative of the Agency's assistance and was fully committed to strengthening cancer control. Improvements had been made at the radiotherapy service of the oncology department and at the nuclear medicine service of the Mother Teresa University Hospital Centre in Tirana, in close cooperation with the Agency. The radiotherapy service would soon benefit from the addition of an electron beam accelerator, and a linear accelerator was currently being installed in the neurosurgery department. In April 2011, the nuclear medicine service had commissioned a new multi-purpose gamma camera which it had already used to diagnose hundreds of patients. The service would soon be expanding its patient care and education and training activities. Another gamma camera, for thyroid diagnosis, would be installed by the end of 2011 and modern thyroid cancer treatment employing iodine would begin soon.

32. The Director General had visited Albania in June 2011, meeting top government officials. His visit should foster cooperation between Albania and the Agency, especially in the areas of technical assistance and nuclear safety and security.

33. Nuclear power was a viable option for meeting the energy needs of many Member States, but any State planning to embark on a nuclear power programme had to establish an appropriate nuclear safety infrastructure based on Agency safety standards and the relevant guidance and assistance, with the help, inter alia, of effective Agency technical cooperation mechanisms for supporting the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies. The legal framework for nuclear safety could be reviewed only under the Agency's leadership, and the Agency's safety guidelines should be made compulsory.

34. Nuclear power contributed significantly to global electricity generation and could not easily be replaced. Without it, the goals for reduction of carbon emissions could not be met. Humanity's need for energy required risks to be taken. The important thing was that those risks were well managed. For all its terrors, Fukushima had not demonstrated that they could not be.

35. Thus, his Government regarded safe and secure nuclear power as a real and reasonable option to be taken seriously into consideration, and it had launched a national nuclear programme. A National Nuclear Agency had been set up in the preceding year with the main objective of preparing the legal and regulatory frameworks for the programme along with the proper infrastructure, inter alia for the potential introduction of nuclear power. However, nuclear technology transfer and implementation was a long process and international cooperation and assistance, including from the Agency, would be needed for many years to come. In that connection, his country's National Nuclear Agency had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy, and Sustainable Economic Development.

36. In conclusion, he reiterated his Government's full support for the Agency in the fulfilment of all its statutory functions under the guidance of its Director General.

37. Mr AL HAMMADI (Qatar) said that for decades the Agency had played a pivotal role in expanding the contribution of atomic energy to world peace and prosperity. It had sought to make nuclear energy an environmentally friendly option for meeting growing energy demand, and had

promoted nuclear technology and applications as an effective means whereby developing States could address socio-economic challenges while meeting all nuclear safety and security requirements.

38. He commended the Agency, its Director General and experts on organizing the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011, which had highlighted the Agency's role in establishing nuclear safety guidelines and culture and in enhancing safety levels — with the participation of the international community — in order to overcome the challenges that had arisen following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident. Qatar stressed the need for international solidarity in establishing new nuclear safety standards in the light of lessons learned from that accident. At the same time, it emphasized that strengthening nuclear safety was a national responsibility. It looked forward to adoption by the General Conference of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

39. The Agency's safeguards regime was of fundamental importance to international efforts to prevent the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and limit the use of nuclear energy to peaceful applications for the benefit of humankind. His country was firmly convinced that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction posed a great danger to international peace and security in general, and to peace and stability in the Middle East in particular, where the relevant resolutions aimed at ridding the region of nuclear weapons had still not been applied.

40. It was essential that Israel accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State and submit all its nuclear installations to Agency safeguards, thereby making the Treaty universal in the region and paving the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. That would provide an incentive to the States in the region to focus on their socio-economic development instead of an arms race that only impeded development efforts, exacerbated tensions and led to a confidence deficit. Qatar hoped that the related forum to be convened by the Director General in November would push efforts forward in that regard and contribute to the success of the planned 2012 conference. It looked forward to collaborating with the Agency in preparing the background documentation for that conference.

41. Much time had elapsed since the adoption of the resolution on the Middle East at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and there had been no substantive progress. Whereas the Arab States had taken a unified stance in support of the non-proliferation regime and had acceded to the NPT, Israel remained the only country in the region outside that important regime, pleading the illegality of any international measures that urged it to accede to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon State and place its military nuclear installations under comprehensive safeguards. That was a serious shortcoming and constituted a threat to regional and international peace and security. The time had come for the international community to redress that situation and persuade Israel to accede to the NPT regime.

42. In recent years a number of States, particularly in the Middle East, had shown an interest in utilizing nuclear technology for power generation. The State of Qatar endorsed that position but considered it vital that such States adhere to the relevant international instruments so as to ensure the safety and security of installations, and avoid the potential hazards of contamination. The importance thereof had been underscored by the Fukushima accident. One of the lessons learned from that event was that all States should be called upon to sign and ratify the relevant instruments in the nuclear safety field.

43. Qatar valued the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which contributed to the development of human and technical capacities in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The programme had had a great impact on the development plan of his own country, which hoped to implement more projects with Agency support and had recently prepared its CPF, defining its future needs.

44. He commended the Director General's choice of the topic of adequate water supplies as the focus of the Agency's programme for the coming year, underlining the role radioisotopes could play in water supply and treatment issues.

45. In conclusion, he affirmed his country's confidence in the Agency's effectiveness in providing technical support to its Member States, thereby strengthening the role of nuclear technology in achieving social well-being and economic prosperity, as well as its effectiveness in establishing nuclear safety standards and in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons so as to strengthen international peace and security.

46. Mr GRIMA (Malta) said that the recent dramatic events in the Mediterranean region in 2011 presented the international community not only with unforeseen opportunities but also with new challenges. His country valued the important role the Agency played, through its technical assistance programme, in promoting the peaceful application of nuclear technology for nuclear energy as well as for human health, food and agriculture and the environment. It invited the Agency to increase its focus on the Mediterranean region with a view to identifying specific needs arising from the recent developments. That might include assistance in the areas of human health and the environment, but also training and capacity building in the area of nuclear energy to ensure the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. Partnerships with other international organizations and stakeholders, to ensure coherence and create synergies with other programmes, were of paramount importance.

47. He expressed his country's sympathy to the Government and people of Japan for the tragic loss of life following the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The subsequent crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had underscored the urgent need for the international community to evaluate nuclear safety thoroughly at the global level and learn lessons from the accident in order to ensure the highest standards of nuclear safety worldwide. Malta continued to favour more stringent environmental and safety checks, as well as more cooperation and information sharing, and it believed that tighter controls should be developed and implemented at global level. The Agency should play a central role in those efforts, including by further assisting Member States to enhance the safety of their nuclear infrastructures and their emergency preparedness and response capabilities. His country welcomed the inclusion of those aspects in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. In Malta, the Radiation Protection Board was the competent authority for radiation protection issues, with the responsibility and authority to develop regulations and guidance to protect people and the environment.

48. The NPT was an integral and indispensable part of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Malta recognized the inalienable right of every State to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, that right came with international obligations to ensure the highest standards of safety and security. The Agency's verification programme remained at the centre of multilateral efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear material. Through its verification activities, the Agency also had an important role to play in nuclear disarmament. Comprehensive safeguards agreements, together with an additional protocol, constituted the current Agency verification standard. All Member States had an obligation to preserve and strengthen the verification regime and to refrain from actions that could hamper its application. His country urged Member States that had not yet done so to bring into force a comprehensive safeguards agreement without delay, as required under the NPT, and to sign and ratify an additional protocol as soon as possible.

49. The nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran remained a matter of serious concern. Malta called on Iran to refrain from further enrichment activities, to cooperate fully with the Agency and to comply with the requirements of the United Nations Security Council.

50. Similarly, it called on the DPRK to resume dialogue and cooperation with the Agency without delay. Malta supported the six-party talks which, if successful, should lead to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

51. Illicit trafficking in sensitive nuclear material continued to pose an enormous non-proliferation challenge. The potential for malicious acts involving nuclear material remained an ongoing threat and required constant vigilance. Malta welcomed the increase in the number of States participating in the illicit trafficking database programme and supported measures that enhanced the capabilities of States to prevent and respond to illegal acts involving nuclear and other radioactive material. The Agency's efforts in implementing activities under the Nuclear Security Plan 2010–2013 — including to control nuclear material and radiological sources, protect nuclear facilities and strengthen border controls — were particularly appreciated in that regard.

52. His country continued to be committed to a policy that opposed the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and it fully supported the implementation of multilateral treaties and intergovernmental initiatives aimed at preventing proliferation and at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Accordingly, it fully supported the Agency, the OPCW and the CTBTO in their compliance verification tasks.

53. At national level, Malta had put in place effective control measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, and related materials, including the adoption of legislative measures and the enforcement of sanctions.

54. Malta continued to support efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. The consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference should serve as a strong basis for future action in that regard. The Agency forum on that issue, to be held in November 2011, should make a useful contribution to the planned conference to be held in 2012 as a follow-up to the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

55. In conclusion, he commended the Director General and the Secretariat on their professional work over the preceding 12 months.

56. Ms AYITTEY (Ghana) underscored the continued importance and relevance of the Agency to the world, particularly in ensuring that nuclear technology and its applications continued to be used for peaceful purposes.

57. In the area of nuclear safety and security, she noted that the Agency's focus was on strengthening global emergency preparedness through collaborative activities with Member States. In the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that had struck Japan in March 2011, it was imperative that emergency response and preparedness in Member States be enhanced. Ghana urged the Agency to step up its assistance to Member States in that connection. She expressed the hope that the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety would provide important guidelines to help prevent, where possible, and limit both natural and man-made accidents and their devastating effects, which was essential to restore public confidence in the use of nuclear power.

58. Her country commended the Agency on its work to ensure that Member States, and particularly developing countries, acquired the ability to apply nuclear and isotopic techniques in various ways. Under Ghana's CPF, its scientists at its national research institutions and universities were engaging in activities geared towards food preservation, medical sterilization, crop improvement, pest management and isotope hydrology in order to improve the standard of living of the population, thereby contributing to the nation's sustainability and complementing the Government's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

59. Ghana appreciated the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which was aimed at the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technology for development, and it particularly appreciated the priority accorded to human health and agriculture. It remained committed to PACT, through which the Agency was assisting developing countries to integrate radiotherapy into the broader framework of cancer control. As the seventh PACT Model Demonstration Site country, Ghana would continue its collaboration with the Agency with a view to improving and enhancing national and subregional control programmes.

60. She thanked those Member States — notably the United States of America, Japan and the Republic of Korea — that were providing extrabudgetary funding to ensure the success of programmes under the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative, which sought to expand and accelerate support for the Agency's activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Her country urged other international partners to join and support the Initiative, with a view to raising the target figure of \$100 million by 2015. She thanked the United States of America for providing funds for a cancer assessment mission to Ghana and expressed the conviction that the mission's recommendations would be useful in further improving treatment of cancer in Ghana through the use of nuclear techniques.

61. As one of the pilot sites for the Virtual University for Cancer Control and Regional Training Network in Africa, Ghana would be working closely with the Agency to facilitate education and training of cancer care professionals in their home countries.

62. Ghana was also developing a comprehensive groundwater assessment programme, using isotope hydrology to map its groundwater resources. The project would require the establishment of a tritium analysis laboratory and her country looked forward to the Agency's assistance with that project.

63. Her country had been very supportive of the initiative by AFRA Member States to establish the AFRA Network for Education in Nuclear Science and Technology and it was confident that the establishment of that network's web portal in Ghana would contribute to efforts to enhance, preserve and maintain nuclear knowledge in Africa. Similarly, the Agency's designation of Ghana's Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences as a regional centre for professional and higher education for the AFRA master's programme in nuclear science and technology should contribute towards that objective. Preparations were well advanced for the commencement of the postgraduate diploma course in radiation protection and safety of radiation sources in November 2011. The tireless efforts and unwavering support of the Agency's Department of Technical Cooperation for that project and other AFRA regional projects was very much appreciated.

64. Ghana had recently ratified and acceded to a number of international instruments relating to nuclear safeguards, safety and security, including the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Ghana Nuclear Regulatory Authority would also soon be established. Those measures demonstrated Ghana's continued commitment to playing its part in advancing the activities of the Agency, and its continued support for the Agency in the discharge of its statutory duties.

65. Mr MABHONGO (South Africa) said that the NPT remained the only international instrument that contained both the legal commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons and measures to prevent nuclear proliferation, while recognizing the inalienable right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear science, technology and applications. It was therefore imperative that all State parties to it be held accountable for compliance with their NPT obligations. The current intensification of non-proliferation measures must be matched with measures to strengthen the other two pillars of the Treaty. During the 20 years since it had signed the NPT, South Africa had worked closely with the Agency on the verification of its nuclear material and on strengthening the Agency's safeguards

system, including via the additional protocol which, while voluntary, was an important confidence-building measure, especially for States with advanced nuclear programmes and facilities.

66. Nuclear energy could play an important role in energy security to promote sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and in mitigating climate change. In line with its obligations under the UNFCCC, his country would continue to contribute to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to implement strategies to mitigate climate change. It was pursuing clean energy and expansion of energy access, as well as diversification. Under its 20-year integrated resource plan, it was foreseen that nuclear energy would contribute 23% of all new electricity generation capacity by 2030, and the first reactor of the new fleet would be connected to the grid by 2023. The Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa would play an instrumental role in the nuclear power expansion programme, serving as the hub for the supply of specialized local content for the future fleet and for access to the global supply chain of reactor vendors and fuel manufacturers. Since 2007, Eskom, South Africa's electricity utility, had conducted an environmental impact assessment of three potential sites for nuclear power plants. The final report thereon would be submitted for evaluation and environmental authorization at the end of 2011.

67. In 2011, unprecedented attention had been paid to nuclear safety, partly in response to the Fukushima accident, after which his country had realized it could not take a 'business as usual' approach to that subject. The national nuclear regulator had directed its licensees, including the operator of the Koeberg nuclear power plant, to conduct safety reassessments and stress tests at all nuclear installations, addressing such issues as design requirements and potential vulnerabilities in the design, with a particular emphasis on defence in depth and low-probability beyond design basis accidents, prolonged power blackouts, availability of cooling water and cooling of spent fuel under severe accident conditions.

68. The review and enhancement of South Africa's regulatory framework would also cover safety standards relevant to the siting of nuclear installations and severe accident management, including multiple hazards and emergency preparedness and response. Having adhered to most of the obligatory and voluntary nuclear safety conventions and best practice measures, South Africa would work to ensure that its national nuclear regulator participated in the Agency's safety standards committees, working groups and technical committees. As further evidence of its strong commitment to nuclear safety, it would host an Agency technical meeting on nuclear safety culture in Cape Town in December 2011. Also, the national nuclear regulator had used the Agency's methodology and associated self-assessment tool to identify gaps between its safety standards and Agency safety standards, with a view to strengthening regulatory effectiveness.

69. South Africa continued to play a leading role in the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, which had been given impetus by the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty. To complement the initiatives of the Forum, the heads of nuclear regulatory bodies in the Southern African Development Community had agreed to establish a nuclear regulatory network.

70. His country had embarked on efforts to improve public understanding of the peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology and applications, spearheaded by the Visitor Centre of the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa at the Pelindaba site which had officially opened in February 2011 and had already attracted large numbers of visitors.

71. His country looked forward to the adoption by the General Conference of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and urged all Member States to spare no effort in implementing it.

72. With a view to consolidating a culture of nuclear security, South Africa would continue to build on work undertaken within the framework of its INSSP. Support would be provided to the Nuclear

Energy Corporation of South Africa for the establishment of a nuclear forensics laboratory to extend its existing radioanalytical capabilities.

73. In the area of human health, his country was playing a leading role in the stabilization of the global radioisotope market, following the supply disruptions of recent years. A major investment had been made in the LEU-based production of molybdenum-99.

74. South Africa attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation programme and would be pledging its full share of the TCF target for the next cycle. He commended AFRA on its projects in support of Africa's development and the ultimate attainment of some of the Millennium Development Goals. South Africa would work towards ensuring that AFRA and the Agency assisted with the prompt commencement of the activities of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy.

75. His Government had recently offered to provide support for, and contribute €1.5 million to activities to improve veterinary capacities in sub-Saharan Africa.

76. South Africa welcomed the decision of the 2010 NPT Review Conference on the need for full implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East. He called for efforts to be stepped up to organize the planned conference in 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and looked forward to the forum on that subject to be held in November 2011. The success of those initiatives should contribute to the broader goal of achieving peace in that region.

77. It was important to enhance implementation of the decision taken some years ago to expand the composition of the Board of Governors. South Africa had completed its ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute and had deposited its instrument of ratification.

78. There was a need to revitalize and strengthen the Agency, enhancing its relevance and ensuring that it was equipped to meet the challenges the world was facing in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

79. Ms FEROUKHI (Algeria) said that the concerns raised by the Fukushima accident had led to the adoption of an action plan following the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June 2011. Algeria supported that plan which reaffirmed the Agency's key role in arriving at an international consensus on what should be the high level of safety required to protect the public and the environment against the adverse effects of ionizing radiation. Universal application of basic safety standards and principles and regular reviews of nuclear power plants in operation throughout the world, including those in the Mediterranean region, should help promote regional confidence. Sharing of information remained crucial.

80. Her country attached great importance to security, which required constant vigilance. The high-level conference of the countries of the Sahel on security, partnership and sustainable development held in Algiers on 6–7 September had highlighted the risks and dangers posed by the uncontrolled circulation of weapons for the security and stability of the region.

81. As a party to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, Algeria had put in place emergency plans at all its nuclear facilities, including those housing radioactive sources, implementation of which would be governed by regulations currently being promulgated.

82. Her country appreciated the assistance provided by the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security and the Department of Technical Cooperation with improving its national safety infrastructure, in particular for radiation protection, and with the 2011–2013 plan for training 30 Algerian trainers and the establishment of the Algerian Institute of Nuclear Engineering, which would offer specialized training at national and regional level including in the field of nuclear and radiation safety.

83. Algeria, which was currently chairing the African Group, reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation as a means of disseminating scientific knowledge and realizing the Agency's prime objective "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

84. In designing technical cooperation programmes and projects, it was vital to ensure that the priorities of Member States were also those of the Agency, thereby reinforcing Member States' sense of belonging to the Agency, with due respect for diversity and without discrimination.

85. The Agency needed to be given the human and financial resources it required to meet its growing responsibilities and expanded role, which might have implications for the Statute, bearing in mind the greater demand for energy, capacity building and the infrastructure needed for the nuclear power programmes planned in many countries including her own.

86. Thus, determined efforts must be made to speed up the ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Statute in order to expand, and achieve balanced geographical representation in the Board.

87. Algeria attached equal importance to the Agency's different statutory missions, i.e. promotion of nuclear energy, safety and security, and safeguards. Balance in the Agency's operations could not fail to have a positive impact on its contribution to peace and security, socio-economic development and environmental protection.

88. Global projections showed that nuclear energy continued to be perceived as a credible and clean alternative which could help reduce greenhouse emissions by half, and whose applications contributed to the well-being of the public. Moreover, improvements in nuclear safety brought about by advances in the nuclear industry, which was developing increasingly safe reactors, could benefit States interested in embarking on a nuclear power programme.

89. As had been reaffirmed by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, potential risks related to proliferation of sensitive technologies as a result of the nuclear renaissance, and the safety concerns raised by the Fukushima accident, should not be used to deprive States party to the NPT of the peaceful uses of the atom. Similarly, limitations on the rights and choices of States with regard to the nuclear fuel cycle were unacceptable as long as they respected their international obligations. Those rights were just compensation for the enormous concession made by non-nuclear-weapon States in acceding to the NPT.

90. The Agency played a unique role in verifying compliance with disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and maintaining peace and security. The impartiality and professionalism of the Secretariat in the discharge of that important task must be protected against any interference or undue pressure.

91. As one of the first countries to ratify the Pelindaba Treaty, Algeria welcomed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa as a sign of regional confidence and a tangible contribution to the goals of non-proliferation and general and complete disarmament.

92. In that connection, the forum on experience of possible relevance to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East to be organized by the Agency in Vienna on 22–23 November 2011 was a positive step towards realizing one of the 13 steps recommended by the 2000 NPT Review Conference. As a non-nuclear-weapon State committed to disarmament and non-proliferation, Algeria was of the view that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would help put an end to the imbalance created by Israeli nuclear capabilities that were not subject to Agency safeguards, a situation which was unacceptable to the States in the region that were party to the NPT. She encouraged the Director General and the Agency to continue their efforts



to achieve universality of the NPT and safeguards agreements, and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

93. Her country also urged the nuclear-weapon States to comply with their non-proliferation and disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT. It appreciated the decision by the United States of America and the Russian Federation to entrust the Agency with the verification of unused weapons-grade plutonium, the results of which exercise would be made available to Member States.

94. The theme of water resources that had been selected for the Scientific Forum during the current General Conference was much appreciated. Africa, and particularly the countries of the Sahel, had great expectations of that event and hoped to benefit in that field from the use of nuclear techniques. Algeria encouraged the Agency to design a multi-year programme on water resources in Africa which would cover transboundary aquifers. The parties concerned and development banks should be requested to contribute to that initiative. For its part, Algeria was prepared to host a regional centre on the use of isotope techniques in exploiting groundwater resources.

95. Her country was pleased that the global cancer problem had been included in the Millennium Development Goals. It encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts to mobilize financial and human resources to consolidate the PACT programme and inter-agency partnerships, notably with the WHO.

96. Algeria would be hosting an imPACT mission in October 2011 on strengthening national capacities for combating and controlling cancer and was prepared to continue providing assistance to African States, and to host a regional cancer therapy centre in cooperation with the Agency.

97. Her country also appreciated the initiative of the United States of America in making an extrabudgetary contribution for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy from which an Algerian project on the production of short-lived radioisotopes had benefited and, it was hoped, would continue to do so in the future.

98. Bilateral cooperation between Algeria and the Agency should improve in quality with the finalization of the CPF for 2011–2020. That document identified socio-economic development objectives and priorities requiring the use of nuclear applications and would be signed by the end of 2011.

99. Algeria, which held the presidency of AFRA during 2011–2012, welcomed the designation of two regional designated centres for nuclear medicine and secondary standards dosimetry, and the new AFRA regional centre for training in radiation protection.

100. Her country continued to contribute to the AFRA programme by making available its experts in areas of interest for Africa, including health, radiation protection and nuclear safety. It was also pursuing its cooperation under the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework for 2008–2013, and it encouraged the Secretariat to contribute to the next Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework for 2014–2018, and to assist with activities in progress in the key areas of health, energy and water resources and those scheduled for 2012–2013.

101. Agency assistance was also requested to facilitate interaction and synergies between the AFRA programme and the African Commission on Nuclear Energy established pursuant to the Pelindaba Treaty in connection with nuclear applications, regulation, safety and security. The Peaceful Uses Initiative and the partners of the Pelindaba Treaty might also be involved.

102. Another subject of interest for Algeria and many African countries was control of the desert locust, which required continuing collaboration between the Agency and the FAO to develop nuclear techniques to combat that pest. Setting up a training centre in that field would be particularly useful.

103. Mr SOULAMA (Burkina Faso) said that the current session of the General Conference was taking place against a global backdrop that called for profound reflection on the use of nuclear technology. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident had reminded the international community of the vital necessity of according the greatest importance to safety and security at nuclear installations.

104. With a view to strengthening the global nuclear safety framework, Member States should systematically review the safety of their nuclear installations, and other facilities housing ionizing radiation sources, in close cooperation with the Agency. States should also work effectively to strengthen their capacity as regards defining and evaluating the risks associated with establishing and operating such facilities.

105. Nuclear technology was undeniably a global asset benefiting humankind. However, its use required the application of appropriate safety and security measures, without which the world would be exposed to major disasters with transboundary consequences. In that connection, the Agency played a vital role via capacity building, technical assistance and the promotion of a safety and security culture in Member States. The lessons of past nuclear accidents clearly demonstrated the need to strengthen the international legal framework governing such matters in order to limit the effects of accidents on people and the environment.

106. He expressed appreciation to the Director General for convening the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011, pursuant to which the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety had been developed and submitted to the General Conference.

107. Despite the Fukushima accident, which continued to prompt cautious reactions with respect to the development of nuclear power, his Government was still convinced that nuclear power remained one of the solutions to energy problems and climate change and it encouraged the Agency to pursue its awareness-raising activities, alongside sound and practical action plans to promote nuclear safety and security.

108. In recent years, Burkina Faso had experienced a mining boom and increased use of radiation sources in a range of socio-economic areas. As the various uses of radiation sources could lead to safety and security problems, his Government had requested an INSServ mission from the Agency, which had taken place in June 2010 and had reviewed security measures, visited the installations concerned and interviewed officials and technical staff. The mission had concluded that his country had made progress in implementing a legal framework for safety and security of nuclear material and other radiation sources, and for safeguards. However, Agency technical assistance with the development and implementation of an INSSP was essential.

109. Burkina Faso supported international initiatives to promote the effective application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and universalization of the safeguards system, which was a prerequisite and an effective tool for combating nuclear terrorism.

110. His country fulfilled its obligations under its SQP and additional protocol, making the appropriate declarations regularly to the Department of Safeguards and thus demonstrating its commitment to use the atom exclusively for socio-economic development.

111. Of the three pillars of the Agency's activities, his country attached great importance to the technical cooperation programme and welcomed the positive results of that programme in key socio-economic sectors such as health, food security, water resources management and energy demand planning.

112. However, its ambitions went beyond traditional technical assistance, including promoting education and research in nuclear science and technology, which would facilitate strengthening of

national capacity. Its second CPF, covering the period 2012–2016, had been prepared with the aim of strengthening its partnership with the Agency.

113. Burkina Faso acknowledged the commitment of Member States to meeting their financial obligations vis-à-vis the Agency in order to enable it to carry out its mandate, and his Government pledged to pay its share of the TCF for 2011.

114. Noting with satisfaction the spirit and atmosphere pervading the current session of the General Conference, he expressed the conviction that its conclusions would help the Agency to do even more to fulfil its prime role of promoting socio-economic progress, peace and international security.

115. Mr ELWAZER (Palestine) said that the Agency's role in the world had been spotlighted by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. His country expressed its profound sympathy to the Japanese people and Government in their tragic ordeal. They had demonstrated great prowess in responding to the crisis and stabilizing the nuclear reactors.

116. The eradication of rinderpest was a major achievement for the Agency. He also commended the successful organization of the Scientific Forum on water matters.

117. The Agency played an important role in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy in such areas as electricity generation and seawater desalination. Palestine also attached great importance to activities aimed at ensuring the safety and security of radiation sources and nuclear material. Strict rules and guidelines should be applied in controlling and monitoring the transport of such material.

118. Agency safeguards were cornerstone of the organization's mandate and of the non-proliferation regime and were supported by most countries. Palestine therefore called on States that had not yet signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement to do so as soon as possible, and urged all States party to the NPT to comply with their obligations under the Treaty.

119. Palestine welcomed the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, especially the decision to convene an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. It urged the Agency to discharge its responsibility to prepare the basic documents for the conference, and called on the international community to do its utmost to compel Israel to sign the NPT.

120. The technical cooperation programme played a major role in promoting the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, especially in developing countries. The use of nuclear energy was becoming increasingly widespread in such areas as medicine, agriculture, industry and research, since the applications were easy to use and produced fast and reliable results.

121. Palestine was grateful to the staff of the Agency for their cooperation and for the funding of a number of projects aimed at establishing an infrastructure that could be used to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It hoped that such cooperation would assist Palestine in protecting the environment, building its technical and scientific capacity, and training human resources to respond to radiological and nuclear emergencies, especially since the Israeli Dimona reactor was only 40 kilometres away. That reactor was a perennial source of concern and a major threat to the Palestinian people and environment because of its age and the possibility of a nuclear accident.

122. Under its technical cooperation programme, the Agency had agreed to fund projects on the following topics: establishing legislative and regulatory infrastructure, safety infrastructure for occupational and medical exposure control, and emergency response capabilities; supporting education and training in radiation protection and medical physics; integrated management of fruit flies in Palestinian territories; and improving local Palestinian wheat and barley varieties for salt and drought resistance through mutation breeding and biotechnology.

123. Those projects could not succeed, however, if the Israeli occupation authorities continued to impede the delivery of materials and equipment provided by the Agency. For instance, materials and equipment that had been purchased in 2008 were still in the Agency's warehouses at Seibersdorf awaiting delivery. He hoped that the Agency would take effective action to assist the Palestinian authorities in overcoming such obstacles, and would send Agency experts to visit Palestine in order to assess the current nuclear and radiological situation.

124. The Palestinian people had the right to live in peace and security, like other peoples in the region, in an independent Palestinian State with its capital in Jerusalem. With a view to ending Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, the Palestinian leadership, headed by President Mahmoud Abbas, was determined to exercise Palestine's right to demand full membership of the United Nations. It was fully qualified for statehood, as many States and international organizations had attested, including the World Bank. However, that did not mean that Palestine had abandoned negotiations. He availed himself of that opportunity to thank all countries that had recognized the Palestinian State within the borders that had existed prior to 4 June 1967 with its capital in Jerusalem. His people were confident that the Palestinian dream of becoming the 194th member State of the United Nations would come true.

**Mr Feruta (Romania), President, took the Chair.**

## **– Oral report by the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole**

125. Ms YPARRAGUIRRE (Philippines), Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, presented the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda items 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 22, 23 and 24.

126. Under item 9, "The Agency's Accounts for 2010", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution set out on page i of document GC(55)/4.

127. Under item 10, "The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2012–2013", the Committee recommended that the Conference approve a Regular Budget figure for 2012 of €333 297 799 for the operational portion and €8 153 455 for the capital portion and accordingly adopt draft resolution A, Regular Budget Appropriations for 2012, as set out in document GC(55)/5; that it approve a target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2012 of US \$88 750 000 and accordingly adopt draft resolution B, Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2012, as set out in document GC(55)/5; and that it approve a level for the Working Capital Fund in 2012 of €15 210 000 and accordingly adopt draft resolution C, The Working Capital Fund for 2012, as set out in document GC(55)/5.

128. Under item 12, "Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft decision set out in document GC(55)/L.2.

129. Under item 13, "Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution set out on page 3 of document GC(55)/8.

130. Under item 14, "Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/L.3.

131. Under item 17, “Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications”, the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolutions contained in document GC(55)/L.7, which were divided into two groups: A. Non-power nuclear applications; and B. Nuclear power applications.

132. Under Item 22, “Amendment to Article VI of the Statute”, the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft decision set out in document GC(55)/L.4.

133. Under item 23, “Elections to the Agency’s Staff Pension Committee”, the Committee recommended that Mr Anthony Hinton of Canada and Mr Sardar Adnan Rashid of Pakistan be elected as alternate members to represent the General Conference on the Agency’s Staff Pension Committee.

134. Under item 24, “Personnel Matters”, the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the two draft resolutions entitled Staffing of the Agency’s Secretariat and Women in the Secretariat contained in document GC(55)/L.6.

**The Agency’s Accounts for 2010** (agenda item 9)

135. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out on page i of document GC(55)/4 was adopted.

**The Agency’s Programme and Budget for 2012–2013** (agenda item 10)

136. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, draft resolutions A, B and C set out in document GC(55)/5 were adopted.

**Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute** (agenda item 12)

137. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft decision set out in document GC(55)/L.2 was adopted.

**Scale of assessment of Members’ contributions towards the Regular Budget** (agenda item 13)

138. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out on page 3 of document GC(55)/8 was adopted.

**Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety** (agenda item 14)

139. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/L.3 was adopted.

140. The PRESIDENT said that, pursuant to consultations he had conducted, he intended, on behalf of the General Conference, to convey the text of the resolution just adopted, along with the text of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, to the United Nations Secretary-General, who was the convener of the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security to be held that day in New York. He took it that that was agreeable to the Conference.

141. It was so agreed.

142. Mr NAKANE (Japan) welcomed the adoption of the resolution entitled “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety” and thanked the delegation of Australia, and especially Ms Ada Cheung, for producing the consensus resolution. His country also welcomed the Conference’s endorsement of the Board’s decision to approve the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. In order to strengthen further global nuclear safety, the action plan would need to be implemented promptly and effectively through the taking of concrete measures by, and cooperation

between Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders. Japan was committed to implementing the action plan with a view to achieving substantive results in a timely manner, and there would be discussions on progress made in that regard at the high-level conference on nuclear safety to be organized by Japan and the Agency in his country in the second half of 2012. Japan would also continue to share knowledge acquired and lessons learned from the Fukushima accident and the subsequent restoration efforts with the international community.

**Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications**  
(agenda item 17)

143. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolutions contained in document GC(55)/L.7 were adopted.

**Amendment to Article VI of the Statute** (agenda item 22)

144. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft decision set out in document GC(55)/L.4 was adopted.

**Elections to the Agency's Staff Pension Committee** (agenda item 23)

145. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, Mr Anthony Hinton of Canada and Mr Sardar Adnan Rashid of Pakistan were elected as alternate members of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

**Personnel Matters** (agenda item 24)

146. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolutions contained in document GC(55)/L.6 were adopted.

## **25. Examination of delegates' credentials** (GC(55)/27)

147. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had met that day as a credentials committee to examine the credentials of all delegates, as provided for in Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure. Since that meeting, the Secretariat had received credentials in due form for the delegate from Kuwait.

148. After discussion, the Committee had recommended the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 of its report (GC(55)/27), with the reservations and positions expressed therein.

149. Mr POURMAND TEHRANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country's acceptance of the recommendation did not in any way constitute recognition of the Zionist Israeli regime.

150. Mr UZCÁTEGUI DUQUE (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) expressed serious concern over the decision of the Committee to propose that the General Conference recognize the transitional government of Libya and allow it to be represented in the Conference as a Member State since, in Venezuela's view, it was not a body properly constituted in accordance with the sovereign will of the Libyan people.

151. The Foreign Ministers of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, which represented 8 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, had issued a communiqué on 9 September 2011 concerning the military intervention by NATO in Libya and, in that context, Venezuela reiterated its

rejection of that intervention which had forced a regime change under the pretext of preventive war, and which had exploited the United Nations Security Council to further the geopolitical and economic interests of the major powers in violation of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011). His country remained firmly committed to the principle of the self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and it called for an immediate and unconditional cessation of NATO's bombing and military intervention in Libya. Efforts must be made to find a peaceful resolution of the situation in Libya through negotiation and dialogue.

152. The de facto recognition by the General Conference of a transitional authority imposed through foreign military intervention would set a grave precedent and led Venezuela to express its reservations. It would be better that Libya's seat remain unoccupied until it had a government legitimately constituted without foreign intervention and representing the Libyan people's freely expressed choice.

153. Mr MARSÁN AGUILERA (Cuba) said that his country joined Venezuela in expressing its reservations concerning the report of the Committee. Cuba did not recognize the transitional government of Libya because it had not been democratically elected by the Libyan people. The change of government had been brought about by an illegitimate military operation launched by NATO with the clear objective of appropriating Libya's strategic resources. NATO's intervention was a violation of Libya's sovereignty made possible through the abuse of the mandates of United Nations bodies and of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Cuba, in keeping with the position it had expressed in the United Nations General Assembly, and with the declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, rejected the illegitimate aggression committed against the Libyan people which had caused the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. It likewise rejected the attempt to adopt a similar approach in Syria, taking advantage of the political difficulties that country was experiencing, and reaffirmed its support for the self-determination of all peoples.

154. Mr SHAMAA (Egypt) said that his country's endorsement of the report of the Committee should not be interpreted as recognition of the borders of Israel or of that country's occupation of territories in 1967, including the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the Shebaa Farms.

155. Mr ROSENBERG GUERRERO (Ecuador) said his country joined Venezuela and Cuba in expressing its reservations with regard to the grave situation in Libya, in keeping with the recent statement by the Foreign Ministers of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas. Ecuador could not accept the fact that Libya's seat at the General Conference was occupied by a transitional and illegitimate authority which had been imposed through foreign military intervention. It should be occupied only by a legitimately elected government constituted without foreign intervention as the expression of the free and sovereign will of the Libyan people.

156. The PRESIDENT asked the representative of Ecuador to clarify whether his country rejected the report of the Committee or whether it merely wished to record its reservations.

157. Mr ROSENBERG GUERRERO (Ecuador) said that his country accepted the report with the reservations expressed.

158. Mr ROBELO GONZÁLEZ (Nicaragua) said that his country joined Cuba, Venezuela and Ecuador, and the countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas, in expressing its reservations regarding the transitional government of Libya.

159. Mr QUEISI (Jordan) said that his country's acceptance of the credentials of the delegate of Israel to the current session of the General Conference was based on the understanding that Israel's territory did not extend beyond that country's borders as they had existed on 4 June 1967.

160. The PRESIDENT took it that, with the reservations expressed, the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 10 of document GC(55)/27.

161. It was so decided.

## **19. Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GC(55)/4; GC(55)/L.5 and Add.1)**

162. The PRESIDENT noted that the item had been included in the agenda pursuant to resolution GC(54)/RES/12 adopted by the General Conference the preceding year. Document GC(55)/24 contained a report by the Director General summarizing developments over the preceding year. Document GC(55)/L.5 contained a draft resolution submitted by a number of countries.

163. Mr BARRETT (Canada), introducing the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/L.5, said it had been negotiated by a core group of countries in consultation with China and the Russian Federation.

164. It was similar to the preceding year's resolution on the agenda item in question and reiterated concerns over actions by the DPRK which posed serious challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and to peace and security. It noted serious concerns outlined in the Director General's report, inter alia recent reports of claims by the DPRK regarding a uranium enrichment programme and construction of a light water reactor. It reiterated strong calls for the DPRK not to conduct any further nuclear tests and stressed the importance of full implementation of obligations pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolutions and of commitments undertaken in the context of the six-party talks. It strongly urged the DPRK to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to cease immediately all related activities. It deplored the DPRK's cessation of all cooperation with the Agency, endorsed the actions taken by the Board of Governors and commended the impartial efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat to apply comprehensive safeguards in the DPRK. It encouraged the Secretariat to maintain its readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme. It stressed the desire for a diplomatic resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue and expressed support for the six-party talks as an effective mechanism for dealing with that issue. It also called on the DPRK to come into full compliance with the NPT and to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of Agency comprehensive safeguards.

165. Canada had confirmed that the draft resolution would be supported by the five Agency Member States involved in the six-party talks. Given the importance of the DPRK nuclear issue to international peace and security, it had been disappointed that consensus had not been reached on the General Conference resolution on the DPRK nuclear issue in 2010 and it hoped that consensus would be possible on the current draft resolution.

166. Mr MARSÁN AGUILERA (Cuba) said that his country would not oppose the consensus.

167. Cuba supported the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It strongly believed that diplomacy and dialogue should continue with a view to achieving a definitive, sustainable and viable resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue.

168. His country reaffirmed its position on nuclear disarmament, stressing its concern over the threat to humanity posed by the continuing existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of



use. Cuba was greatly concerned at the slow pace of nuclear disarmament and the lack of progress on the part of the nuclear-weapon States in eliminating their nuclear arsenals. It reaffirmed its support for the action plan put forward by NAM at the most recent NPT Review Conference aimed at eliminating and banning nuclear weapons at the latest by 2025. It likewise supported the declaration on the total elimination of nuclear weapons adopted at the 16th NAM Ministerial Conference held in Bali the preceding May, which had called for a high-level conference to address that issue.

169. His country once again called on all nuclear-weapon States to comply immediately and unconditionally with the obligations contained in Article VI of the NPT, and to accelerate implementation of the agreements reached at the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conferences regarding the total elimination of nuclear weapons through systematic and progressive efforts, in particular the 13 practical steps identified in the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. It reiterated its conviction that international peace and security could only be guaranteed through the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery.

170. Finally, Cuba noted with satisfaction the recent announcement by the DPRK authorities of their willingness to resume the six-party talks and hoped that that process would contribute to the long-term resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue through diplomacy and dialogue.

171. The PRESIDENT took it that the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(55)/L.5 without a vote.

172. It was so decided.

173. Mr CHO Hyun (Republic of Korea) said that his country welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus and thanked Canada for submitting it.

174. The resolution highlighted the DPRK's construction of a light water reactor and a uranium enrichment facility, which had been revealed to a group of United States scientists in November 2010. Those activities reflected the DPRK's ongoing defiance of its obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions requiring it to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to cease immediately all related activities.

175. As the Director General had stated in his report, the DPRK's nuclear programme was a matter of serious concern, and the construction of a new uranium enrichment facility and a light water reactor was deeply troubling. The existence of a uranium enrichment plant, in particular, should be of grave concern to all States, as it could open a second path for the DPRK to develop its nuclear weapons capability. If that serious provocation by the DPRK were to go unchallenged, it would shake the nuclear non-proliferation regime to its core. The absence of a firm response to actions taken in defiance of international norms and binding obligations relating to the use of nuclear energy would be interpreted as tacit approval and would set a most unwelcome precedent.

176. The participants in the six-party talks were working hard to resume dialogue with the DPRK. On the preceding day, representatives of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea had met in Beijing to discuss the common goal of the denuclearization of the DPRK and ways to resume the six-party process. The Republic of Korea welcomed those developments, but nothing would be gained by not saying what needed to be said just for the sake of resuming the talks. Such reticence would only encourage the DPRK to continue to defy the international community's calls to re-engage in the denuclearization process. Delivering the right message to the DPRK would not only help bring about an early resumption of the talks but would also promote a successful outcome.

177. The Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus and hoped that that unified message from the international community would be heard loud and clear by the DPRK and would pave the way for achieving the denuclearization of the DPRK.

178. Mr NAKANE (Japan) noted that the Director General's report stated that the DPRK's nuclear programme gave cause for serious concern, in particular the reports of the construction of a new uranium enrichment facility and a light water reactor. The DPRK's nuclear activities were in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and joint statements, including the September 2005 Joint Statement from the six-party talks pursuant to which the DPRK should not conduct any further nuclear tests, should abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, including any uranium enrichment activities, in a verifiable and irreversible manner, should immediately cease all related activities, should retract its announcement of withdrawal from the NPT and should act strictly in accordance with its safeguards agreement with the Agency. In addition, the DPRK must provide the Agency with transparency measures in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions.

179. With those remarks, he welcomed the fact that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus.

**The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.**