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President: Mr BARROS OREIRO (Uruguay)

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[1] GC(56)/19.

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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(56)/INF/9.

Abbreviations used in this record:

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
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
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INLEX	International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
LDC	least developed country
LDC-IV	Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency (of OECD)
NECSA	South African Nuclear Energy Corporation
NNR	National Nuclear Regulator of South Africa
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
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)

Abbreviations used in this record (continued)**:**

TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WANO	World Association of Nuclear Operators
WINS	World Institute for Nuclear Security

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2011 (continued)
(GC(56)/2 and Supplement)

1. Mr LASMAN (Indonesia), having welcomed Fiji, San Marino and Trinidad and Tobago as new members of the Agency, said the Conference was taking place at a time when it was vital to maintain good momentum in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He hoped the positive trend would be reflected in progress by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear-weapon-free zones. The negotiations between ASEAN member states and nuclear-weapon States on the Protocol to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone had been concluded during Indonesia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2011, and he hoped the signing of the Protocol would soon be completed.

2. In the Middle East, pursuant to the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the international community should exert all efforts towards convening a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, which should be attended by all States in the Middle East. Such a conference was a vital step in a comprehensive and constructive approach to resolving the non-proliferation issue in the Middle East.

3. His country continued to view the CTBT as an essential instrument for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Having ratified the CTBT on 6 December 2011, Indonesia reaffirmed its strong support for the early entry into force of the Treaty and invited the remaining Annex II countries to complete their ratification process.

4. To advance the international community's agenda on nuclear security, particular attention should be given to enhancing the national implementation of nuclear security-related treaties and documents to which countries were parties, with due consideration of each country's constitutional processes and national interests. At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the President of Indonesia had put forward a proposal for the drawing-up of a national legislation implementation kit on nuclear security which had received the support of many countries. Indonesia was now, in cooperation with the Agency and other international organizations, preparing such a kit, which would take the form of a compilation of documents on model provisions of various international legal instruments related to nuclear security that could be incorporated into national legislation.

5. At the national level, Indonesia was in the process of drawing up comprehensive legislation on nuclear security. It would not replace the existing legislation, but hopefully it would fill possible legal gaps in the areas of nuclear security and safeguards, improve the prevention capacities of law enforcers, and enhance the authority and power of the Indonesian Energy Regulatory Agency.

6. In addition, Indonesia was currently collaborating with the Agency on installing radiation portal monitors in seaports and was thankful for the cooperation received in installing such a monitor in Belawan port which had started operation at the end of July 2012. As there were other major ports in Indonesia that might benefit from such support, it was hoped that such cooperation would be continued.

7. The Agency had an important role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, especially in the developing countries of the world. Nuclear technology was important in addressing many aspects of Indonesia's national development programmes, particularly in the areas of health, food and agriculture, water resources management, environmental protection, and industry.

8. In order to ensure food security and improve people's living standards, his country had been applying the radiation-induced mutation technique and other nuclear and isotopic techniques to increase crop quality and productivity. Using such techniques, 20 mutant rice varieties and 6 soybean varieties had been produced and distributed. Irradiation technologies had also been used for sanitary and phytosanitary treatment of agricultural products.

9. The technical cooperation programme was the main vehicle for the Agency to fulfil its mandate to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, especially in the developing regions of the world, and therefore deserved continued support. For its part, Indonesia would pledge to pay its share of the target for the TCF in 2013.

10. Indonesia supported the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, which was designed to raise US $100 million by 2015. In the current year, his country had contributed €120 000 to support the Initiative through technical cooperation among developing countries and the provision of expertise to assist other developing countries.

11. The RCA played an important role in promoting the use of nuclear technology for socio-economic development in the Asia and the Pacific region. In the past 40 years of its existence, valuable experience had been accumulated in the area of cooperation and coordination of nuclear-related development activities in the region. His country was determined to continue its active participation in research, development and training in nuclear science and technology.

12. With regard to its nuclear energy programme, Indonesia had been involved in INPRO and the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Group, which were important forums for the exchange of information and experience among participating countries. By using the INPRO methodology, Indonesia had integrated the Nuclear Energy System Assessment to study the long-term sustainability of nuclear energy programmes. In previous years, his country had supported INPRO by providing one cost-free expert each year, and since 2011, it had increased its contribution to two cost-free experts.

13. To regain public confidence in the safety of nuclear energy, in Indonesia as elsewhere, it was critical that nuclear safety be addressed as a global agenda. Indonesia would continue to support efforts to shape a global rethink on nuclear safety. Public expectations of the Agency in the nuclear safety area were high.

14. Indonesia believed firmly in the principle of 'safety first' in all aspects of nuclear activities. Its national safety requirements and standards gave no room for complacency. An important issue that should be taken up at national level was how to advance a 'nuclear safety culture'. Through its Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency, Indonesia continued to initiate and formulate policies that further stressed the importance of ensuring nuclear safety standards at all levels. In April 2012, a regulation on the safety and security of nuclear installations had been successfully established.

15. Indonesia's commitment to safeguards implementation remained strong. Indonesia was taking part in efforts to enhance regional collaboration in safeguards by launching the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network, which served as a vehicle for defining how to implement safeguards, assuring the use of nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes in the economically vibrant Asia-Pacific region.

16. In conclusion, he was optimistic that the General Conference would make important decisions on the advancement of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a family of nations, the Agency's members should address the difficult and delicate issues regarding nuclear safety, safeguards and security. He was confident that the spirit of compromise and the understanding of each other's concerns would prevail.

17. Indonesia strongly believed that nuclear technology was a valuable component in the area of socio-economic and technological development of people around the world. It was the responsibility

of all Member States to ensure that the IAEA Statute was further strengthened. Indonesia, for its part, was ready to support endeavours to promote nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

18. Mr D'UJANGA (Uganda) expressed appreciation for the concerted efforts and remarkable achievements made by the Agency in performing its statutory mandate "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world." However, those achievements in the areas of cancer diagnosis and treatment, potable water supply, food security, energy planning, industrial system optimization and radiation safety as well mitigation of climate change and environmental pollution needed to be more publicized than was the case currently.

19. Internationally, the IAEA was known as the "UN nuclear watchdog", a term which did not represent what the developing countries expected from the Agency, having nothing like nuclear weapon programmes for the Agency to watch over. To countries like Uganda, the Agency was more of a 'nuclear guide dog'. Just as guide dogs led visually-impaired people around obstacles to their destination, so the Agency was guiding developing countries in the utilization of nuclear science and technology to support socio-economic development. His delegation would therefore like to propose rebranding of the IAEA. As a first step, he proposed that the Agency's slogan should be changed from the current "Atoms for Peace" to "Atoms for Development", since the activities of the Agency had more to do with supporting development through scientific research and innovations than with peace promotion initiatives.

20. Clean energy sources remained a major challenge for Uganda and other developing countries. The pressure exerted by the fast growing population would lead to a point where renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar, geothermal, biomass and wind power, as well as fossil fuels, would be insufficient to meet the energy demand. Thus other sources such as nuclear energy needed to be included in the energy mix. That would also help in mitigating global warming and climate change.

21. Mr Yoweri Museveni, the President of Uganda, strongly supported the nuclear power programme and had directed the Ministry of Energy and Minerals to develop a road map for it within the boundaries of the Agency's safety, security and safeguards regimes. Therefore Uganda, like other countries interested in launching nuclear power programmes, would value the Agency's support through both the technical co-operation programme and the regular budget programme.

22. As a milestone on the way to the nuclear power programme, his country had established an Atomic Energy Council as the national regulatory authority by Act of Parliament. The Council was now actively carrying out its regulatory functions. Comprehensive regulations on atomic energy applications had been promulgated and gazetted and were now being implemented.

23. Furthermore, a Nuclear Energy Unit had been established by the same Act to promote and coordinate the nuclear power programme. In addition to the capacity-building programme under the Agency's technical cooperation, the Government had sponsored a number of young graduates in the Nuclear Energy Unit and the Atomic Energy Council to undertake degrees at Master's level in a number of nuclear fields.

24. His Government believed that the acquisition of nuclear technology for meeting energy needs and other socio-economic interventions was a fundamental right for every nation as long as it was done in such a way as not to threaten the peace and prosperity of other nations. In that regard, his Government would like to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Iran for the successful commissioning of its first nuclear power plant at Bushehr, which was now operating at full capacity, marking the climax of an undertaking of over 40 years. That gave hope that other countries could also, with time, be in a position to launch a successful programme.

25. Nevertheless, his Government requested Iran to remain committed to its declaration to use its nuclear power programme strictly for peaceful means, namely power generation and other peaceful activities such as medical radionuclide production.

26. The Agency's safeguards system was fundamental to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the promotion of world peace. Accordingly, Uganda strongly supported the safeguards programme and encouraged all States which had not yet done so to conclude and bring into force an additional protocol without delay.

27. Uganda believed in a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The nuclear free zone initiative should not be limited to the Middle East (as in General Conference resolution GC(55)/RES/14, Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East). Uganda called upon all countries having stockpiles of nuclear weapons to accede to and implement all relevant nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation conventions.

28. Uganda wished to echo the concerns expressed by the UN Secretary-General recently in a paper entitled "The World Is Over-Armed And Peace Is Under-Funded", in which he urged all States to (i) establish a moratorium on developing or producing nuclear weapons or new delivery systems, (ii) negotiate a multilateral treaty outlawing fissile materials that could be used in nuclear weapons, (iii) end nuclear explosions and bring into force the CTBT, (iv) stop deploying nuclear weapons on foreign soil and retire such weapons, and (v) ensure that nuclear-weapon States report to a public UN repository on nuclear disarmament, including details on arsenal size, fissile material, delivery systems, and progress in achieving disarmament goals.

29. The peaceful application of radioactive materials the world over continued to grow, and thus too did the challenges for ensuring security and safety. The main concern for his country and other developing countries was the issue of illicit trafficking in nuclear and radiological materials, mainly for purported monetary benefits. Such illicit trafficking continuously put the lives of many people at risk.

30. On that note, he expressed gratitude to the Agency's Office of Nuclear Security as well as the global threat reduction initiatives of the United States National Nuclear Security Administration for their efforts to enhance nuclear security in Uganda.

31. Mr AZEEZ (Sri Lanka) said that the Annual Report 2011, combined with several other thematic reports on various subjects, provided a comprehensive account of the Agency's multifaceted work on safeguards, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety and security as well as technical cooperation.

32. The services of the Department of Technical Cooperation distinctly stood out. He paid special compliments to the Director General, the Deputy Director General and his staff for their exemplary work.

33. The reports submitted to the current session covered multifarious issues, in particular nuclear security. Some of the documents demonstrated that lessons learnt and best practices in the area of safety and safeguards had the potential to shape the post-Fukushima nuclear energy discourse.

34. It was almost a year and a half since the Fukushima nuclear accident had occurred in March 2011. The world had learnt many a lesson. While the peaceful application of the atom still remained a potent force for progress, Fukushima had revealed the uncertainties and risks that it was fraught with. It had brought to the fore the importance of nuclear safety and emergency preparedness, response and mitigation. His delegation was pleased to note that much work had been done in that area and commended the Government of Japan for its continued commitment to addressing safety issues and for its successful management of the post- disaster situation.

35. The Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted by the General Conference the previous year was the culmination of international concern to address safety issues. It manifested Member States' collective commitment to harnessing the potential for progress in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Peer review, capacity-building, and emergency preparedness and response remained among the most salutary features of the plan.

36. Though much had been accomplished, yet much needed to be done. History had shown that impacts of nuclear accidents transcended national boundaries. They had the potential to affect vast areas and large numbers of people. Acutely aware of that possibility, Sri Lanka was emphasizing the role of practical programmes for mutual cooperation and confidence-building.

37. At the national level, the Government of Sri Lanka had identified nuclear safety as its primary responsibility and had included radiological emergency preparedness and planning in its nuclear policy framework as areas of priority. As part of the rationalization of the work and structure of the Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka, the strength of its scientific staff had been doubled recently so that it could better respond to any radiological disaster.

38. Nuclear safety was only one side of the coin. Equally important was its other side, nuclear security. It was inconceivable to seek to pursue the one at the expense of the other. In that regard, his delegation took note with appreciation of the Nuclear Security Report 2012 (GC(56)/15). The report highlighted, among other things, the assistance the Agency had extended to Member States in that critical area. His country appreciated the Secretariat's continued capacity-building support in that emerging sphere of concern. In that context Sri Lanka expressed firm support for the work of WINS on rapid and sustainable improvement of security at nuclear facilities around the world.

39. Sri Lanka had traditionally played a proactive and leading role within regional and international forums on countering terrorism, supporting global measures to combat that menace. It was party to a host of international conventions, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Its commitment towards countering the threat in all its forms and manifestations remained undiminished.

40. Nevertheless, his delegation viewed nuclear security as a broad, comprehensive concept. While nuclear terrorism needed to be combated with a sense of urgency, more needed to be done to address nuclear security effectively in all its aspects. His delegation trusted that the High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism due to be held on 28 September at the UN in New York would provide an opportunity to approach that challenge from all angles.

41. Sri Lanka firmly believed in the principle that the peaceful use of nuclear energy was a sovereign right under international law. On that basis, Sri Lanka had taken a number of initiatives voluntarily, in cooperation with other States, to ensure that nuclear material was used for peaceful purposes only. One example was the Proliferation Security Initiative pioneered by the United States. Sri Lanka's continued, effective contribution to the Initiative manifested its clear, unflinching commitment to ensuring global peace and security. Similarly, Sri Lanka had joined the Megaports Initiative and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. His delegation hoped those initiatives would go a long way towards improving the safety and security of radioactive sources by monitoring illicit movements of nuclear material.

42. Returning to the revitalization of the work and structure of the Atomic Energy Authority of Sri Lanka, he said the aim was to improve its legal framework to keep pace with new and emerging trends in the nuclear field. It was also intended to help address future challenges in a more pragmatic manner.

43. Sri Lanka continued to value the cooperation and support received from the Agency for several capacity-building initiatives. It had particularly benefited from Agency assistance in revising the basic nuclear law and enhancing the capacity for the analysis of radioactivity and for the application of nuclear medicine. The framework of nuclear law would facilitate the realization of that objective, underpinned by a clear and coherent national nuclear policy.

44. An example was the Agency's support for nuclear medicine projects, especially in the field of analysis of radioactivity, which had enabled the Atomic Energy Authority to assist the health authorities in determining the factors contributing to chronic kidney disease in some regions of Sri Lanka.

45. Energy planning and development was an important priority in Sri Lanka's national development strategy. As the world faced an energy situation beset with volatility, the need for preparedness and response readiness could not be over-emphasized. In that regard, he acknowledged the expert assistance provided by the Agency with the application of energy planning tools, which had contributed to the further strengthening of his country's future energy planning.

46. Sri Lanka had also participated during the 2012-2013 cycle in 15 RCA projects in the areas of agriculture, health, industry and environment. Its first multipurpose gamma irradiation facility, currently under construction, would come into operation by 2013. Already, Sri Lanka had commenced the construction of a National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing, Training and Certification. The project had immense potential, especially for the industrial sector. It was hoped that it would also contribute to the development of human resources, including for foreign employment.

47. Following on those accomplishments, the Government of Sri Lanka had identified several projects for implementation in the near future, including the establishment of national centres for nuclear applications in agriculture, hydrology and dam safety and for the prevention of marine pollution.

48. His delegation was pleased that Sri Lanka had been selected as a PACT Model Demonstration Site. The assistance provided by the Agency with establishing a biodosimetry facility for early cancer detection would further strengthen the PACT initiative.

49. The Agency's technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes had helped the developing countries to a great extent. Such assistance would not be feasible if there were no continued donor support and funding from Member States, whose fulfilling of their funding obligations in a timely manner was therefore imperative.

50. In his opening statement to the Conference, the Director General had emphasized that the IAEA was "first and foremost" a technical organization, and indeed it should continue to serve and remain technical at all times. In a globalizing world, that required no boundaries. Equitable representation of professionals from all Member States in the staff of the Agency was essential and would go a long way in preserving and strengthening the Agency's independent technical character.

51. Mr BENHOCINE (Algeria) welcomed the progress achieved by the Agency in implementing the technical cooperation programme, an indispensable vehicle for the transfer of nuclear knowledge and technology in support of sustainable socio-economic development. His country thanked the Department of Technical Cooperation for the implementation of its national programme, underpinned by the signing, in December 2011, of the CPF for the period 2012-2017, which reflected Algeria's short-, medium- and long-term development priorities.

52. Human health was a priority area for his country. The strategic partnership between the IAEA and WHO and other international partners should be strengthened with a view to mobilizing sufficient financial resources for PACT. Algeria was grateful to the Secretariat for organizing an imPACT

mission in October 2011. In its preliminary evaluation, the mission had highlighted the Algerian Government's commitment to fighting cancer and commended the Algerian authorities for the progress made with drawing up a national cancer plan. It was expected that the IAEA and WHO would support Algeria in consolidating the national integrated anti-cancer strategy.

53. Agency cooperation was also appreciated in other areas such as energy planning, preparation for the introduction of nuclear power, agriculture and water resources.

54. Algeria was steadily preparing for the introduction of nuclear power into its energy mix, taking due account of the potential of other energy sources. It was also strengthening the radiation protection infrastructure and national nuclear security capacities. The development of human resources was of primary importance, and his country highly appreciated the Agency's support in that area.

55. At regional level, Algeria underscored the importance of AFRA in promoting regional cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. As a founding member, it appealed to the IAEA and Africa's partners to raise the funds needed to implement AFRA's objectives and so accelerate the socio-economic development of the continent. Algeria for its part was prepared to continue its engagement in and support for activities taking place under the AFRA programme, by providing expertise and making available its facilities and centres of excellence for the training of national and African professionals.

56. During its time as AFRA Chair, Algeria had worked to strengthen cooperation with the Agency and Africa's other partners in developing the strategic framework programme for regional cooperation 2014–2018, which covered the various fields of interest to Africa. Moreover, as a member of the recently established African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), it intended to work on developing the necessary synergy with the AFRA programme.

57. His delegation welcomed the emphasis given in the technical cooperation programme for 2012–2013 to capacity-building and water management, two priority areas for the African continent. In that regard, the establishment of the Algerian Institute of Nuclear Engineering, to which the Agency had contributed under a technical cooperation project, would help strengthen the national human resources development programme.

58. The implementation of the regional project on water resources management in Africa focusing on the Sahel, a region facing major and multiple challenges linked to poverty and food insecurity, should enable rational and sustainable management of shared groundwater resources in the region. Through the use of isotope techniques, the countries of the region would become better able to manage shared aquifers while protecting biodiversity and natural resources. Algeria had announced its interest in hosting one of the regional centres foreseen under the project and welcomed the funding pledges made by the United States and Japan.

59. The problem of the desert locust remained a concern not only for his country but for many African countries. Algeria appealed to the Agency, in accordance with resolution GC(52)/RES/12.A.1 adopted by the General Conference in 2008, to continue its support for the ongoing research project on studying the biology and ecology of that pest with the use of stable isotope techniques.

60. His delegation welcomed the choice of food security as the topic for the current year's Scientific Forum. That initiative, which was of major importance to Africa, should be given the greatest attention by the Agency and other specialized international organizations and bilateral partners as part of the effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating hunger.

61. His delegation agreed that the implementation of all those programmes and projects demanded adequate financial resources, especially for the TCF, whose implementation rate had seen a worrying downturn in 2011. He appealed to Member States to honour their pledges to ensure that resources

were sufficient, assured and predictable. Algeria for its part would continue to pay its contributions regularly.

62. Algeria attached great importance to maintaining a balance between the three pillars of the Agency's work — promotion of peaceful uses, safety and security, and verification.

63. The establishment of an appropriate international mechanism for nuclear safety and security and the strengthening of the verification regime should in no way erode or restrict the inalienable right of States party to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the NPT and Article II of the Statute.

64. Algeria welcomed the results obtained in implementing the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted by the Ministerial Conference in June 2011. Even though primary responsibility for nuclear safety lay with user States, the Fukushima accident had required the Agency to mobilize considerable financial and human resources to improve the level of nuclear safety worldwide.

65. In that context, he urged the Agency to strengthen its assistance to developing countries in adapting to the new safety standards required for the development of their civil nuclear programmes. It was to be hoped that the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety to be held in Fukushima in December 2012 would result in recommendations capable of strengthening the nuclear option and helping to overcome the current hesitations due to the March 2011 accident.

66. As part of the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, Algeria had deployed particular efforts to strengthen the national regulatory infrastructure, including the establishment of a complete operational system for the regulatory control of radiological sources and practices. In addition, Algerian experts participated regularly in the Agency's specialized committees on nuclear safety, nuclear waste safety and radiation safety, as well as in evaluation missions when requested by the Agency.

67. Turning to nuclear security, he said Algeria had ratified the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, participated in the Washington and Seoul summits on nuclear security, and recently joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. It welcomed the Agency's contribution to the international community's efforts to prevent the diversion of nuclear material. As an active participant in the Agency's nuclear security programme, it had recently established a national training centre for supporting nuclear security, with activities at international, regional and national level.

68. In that context, Algeria favoured solidarity in cooperation so that States could have the most advanced tools and technologies for responding to new demands in the area of nuclear safety and security.

69. With respect to safeguards, Algeria considered the Agency's verification system to be a fundamental element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and wished to reaffirm its confidence in the Secretariat's performance of its statutory verification missions. The verification activities conducted by the Agency under the comprehensive safeguards agreement signed in 1996 had proceeded smoothly and had consistently confirmed Algeria's compliance with its obligations under that agreement. His country appreciated the objectivity, impartiality and professionalism with which the Agency carried out its verification missions.

70. Algeria was convinced that all issues concerning international peace and security should be resolved peacefully by dialogue and consultation. It noted with regret the lack of progress in the application of safeguards in the Middle East resulting from Israel's persistent refusal to join the NPT and place its nuclear facilities under the Agency's verification regime. Given that all other States in the region had joined the NPT and signed comprehensive safeguards agreements, Israel's attitude not

only ran counter to the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly and to the recommendations of NPT Review Conferences, but also constituted the sole obstacle to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that particularly sensitive area of the world.

71. In that regard, Algeria welcomed the Forum on Experience of Possible Relevance to the Creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East held in November 2011 and reiterated its support for the Facilitator, Mr Jaakko Laajava, in his efforts to prepare and ensure the success of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction to be held in Finland in December 2012.

72. Ms MOLABA (South Africa) commended the important work of the Agency in the area of nuclear science, technology and applications, which had helped developing countries to benefit from the peaceful uses of the atom in addressing socio-economic challenges. For example, the Agency's activities, in collaboration with FAO, to develop the sterile insect technique had resulted in the successful containment of the fruit fly in the Western Cape Province of South Africa, leading to the enhancement of exports of citrus crops. Her country looked forward to further collaboration with the Agency in the eradication of malaria in South Africa and elsewhere.

73. Her delegation was pleased that the 2012 Scientific Forum was focusing on the theme "Food for the Future: Meeting the Challenges with Nuclear Applications", thereby showing the role that the Agency, using nuclear techniques, could play in agricultural development and food security.

74. South Africa continued to participate in programmes that encouraged technical cooperation among developing countries, both as a recipient and a donor. IAEA fellows were being placed at South African institutions and South African experts were assisting during Agency missions.

75. South Africa was proud to mention that in June 2012 it had started a joint programme with the Agency in support of efforts to improve five veterinary laboratories in Sub-Saharan Africa. It had contributed 15 million rand towards the project and appreciated the support given by the Governments of the United States and Japan.

76. As a further demonstration of support for the Agency, South Africa was tabling a resolution on the modernization of the Agency's Nuclear Application Laboratories at Seibersdorf. Her delegation believed it was crucial that the Laboratories' capacities be further enhanced and hoped that the General Conference would adopt the resolution by consensus.

77. Furthermore, South Africa had pledged its full share of the target for contributions to the TCF programme for 2013.

78. As an NPT State Party for over two decades, South Africa was committed to providing the Agency with the necessary support and assistance to fulfil its safeguards and verification mandate. It continued to work closely with the Agency in the verification of nuclear materials and related activities in compliance with its obligations under the comprehensive safeguards agreement and the additional protocol.

79. Her country was convinced that it was each State Party's obligation to provide all required notifications, information and reports under its respective safeguards agreement to the Agency in full and on time. It encouraged States with access to advanced technologies to conclude and implement the additional protocol, an important voluntary measure to build confidence and to provide assurances regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

80. South Africa attached great importance to nuclear safety. Whilst nuclear safety remained the responsibility of individual States, the Agency also had a role to play in assisting Member States in that important field.

81. South Africa's electricity utility, ESKOM, had operated the Koeberg power plant safely since 1984. Following the first 10-year safety review of the power plant, important safety enhancements had been implemented, significantly improving the safety of its design. The second 10-year safety review had commenced.

82. There was no doubt that the accident at Fukushima Daiichi had been a turning point for nuclear safety. In response to it, ESKOM, pursuant to the directive and under the guidance of the National Nuclear Regulator of South Africa (NNR), had undertaken an assessment of the safety of the Koeberg nuclear power plant in line with recommendations of the European regulators and with international practice. The scope of ESKOM's assessment was broader than the general international scope and considered other human-induced events over and above just naturally occurring events.

83. The overall conclusion reached by the NNR after evaluating the re-assessment of the Koeberg nuclear power plant had been that the nuclear installation was adequately designed, maintained and operated to withstand all external events considered in the original design basis. There had been no findings to warrant curtailing operations or questioning the design margins of the facility. However, a number of potential improvements to further reduce risks beyond the design requirements had been identified which were currently being considered for implementation by ESKOM.

84. A safety assessment had also been performed on the SAFARI-1 research reactor operated by the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA) at Pelindaba, as directed by the NNR, and the outcome showed that the reactor's safety case, preparedness and operational procedures sufficiently accounted for the defined event scenarios.

85. ESKOM was one of the founding members of WANO and participated in a review of all its operations by a panel of world nuclear experts every two years. The Koeberg nuclear power plant operated by ESKOM was assessed against the best international nuclear benchmarks and areas for improvement were drawn up and acted upon during the two-year interval. The most recent review had taken place in November 2011.

86. Regarding the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, she was pleased to report that her country had already implemented 9 out of the 12 main actions.

87. In order to ensure that there was sufficient provision for the long-term management of radioactive waste, South Africa was establishing the National Radioactive Waste Management Fund, which was mainly aimed at sustaining the establishment of the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute.

88. South Africa continued to review and improve its regulatory framework to include the safety standards relevant to the siting of nuclear installations and severe accident management, including multiple hazards and emergency preparedness and response. Those critical safety elements would be incorporated and/or strengthened in the process of amending the primary legislation governing the nuclear sector.

89. As a contracting party, South Africa continued to fulfil its responsibilities by implementing the nuclear safety conventions, and it participated in and contributed to the discussions in the various IAEA safety standards committees, working groups and technical meetings.

90. The NNR's active participation in the Regulatory Cooperation Forum had ensured that the comprehensive support required to strengthen regulatory requirements and capacity as well as the associated regulatory infrastructure was achieved through the provision of the advisory services and the essential IAEA peer review expert missions. South Africa had continued to play a critical role in the activities of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa and participated actively in the

various technical working groups. As further evidence of its strong commitment to nuclear safety, it would be hosting a technical meeting on nuclear safety culture in November 2012.

91. As one of the original ten members of the NEA Multinational Design Evaluation Programme, her country had continued to participate in sharing technical information and experience on the safety design reviews that would enable regulators to make timely decisions and promote the harmonization, safety and standardization of the regulatory requirements related to those designs. Above all, it would ensure increased cooperation among regulators and the establishment of mutually agreed practices to enhance the safety of the new nuclear reactor designs and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the regulatory design reviews through convergence of regulatory practices and related requirements by building upon already existing and harmonized IAEA standards and best practices.

92. As a follow-up to the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, INLEX had visited South Africa in July 2012 with a view to raising policy-makers' awareness of liability regimes. Several options were being considered for strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework for the nuclear sector, including becoming a party to the convention on liability for nuclear damage.

93. The NNR had continued its efforts to strengthen its regulatory effectiveness by implementing the action plan which had resulted from the timely and successful completion of the self-assessment which had been carried out in 2010 using the Agency's methodology and the concomitant self-assessment tool. Substantial work had been done in that regard and the remaining actions would be completed in 2013, ensuring an optimized, effective and efficient legal and regulatory framework for the NNR.

94. The strengthened and harmonized regulatory framework would enhance regulatory oversight and provide assurance of the readiness to implement the nuclear power expansion programme. That included the reviewed nuclear security strategy and policy, aimed at further strengthening the nuclear security regulatory arrangements and requirements at various regulated facilities guided by the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, which ensured the incorporation of nuclear security into the overall security regime of South Africa. That work would be done with the support and assistance of the Agency and other Member States in line with the IAEA nuclear security framework and best practice.

95. Whilst nuclear security was a national competency, her delegation acknowledged the work of the Agency in supporting the efforts of Member States to enhance nuclear security. It appreciated the recent IAEA visit to South Africa to discuss the possibility of establishing a nuclear security centre and looked forward to further engagement with the Agency on that matter.

96. A South African nuclear forensics programme had been established, as reported during the 2011 session of the General Conference, and a national nuclear forensic laboratory, situated at NECSA, was currently under construction in collaboration with the National Nuclear Security Administration of the United States Department of Energy.

97. South Africa was committed to the expansion of nuclear energy as part of its total energy mix and had announced a new Nuclear Build Programme. Significant advances had been made in finalizing the localization and industrialization strategy of the Programme. A National Nuclear Energy Executive Coordinating Committee, made up of Ministers tasked with making high-level strategic decisions for the Nuclear Build Programme, and a Nuclear Energy Technical Committee, to provide technical support to the Coordinating Committee, had been established.

98. In preparation for the new nuclear build and ongoing enhancement of the nuclear safety culture, South Africa had completed the self-assessment in line with the INIR methodology and looked forward to the independent review to be completed by the Agency in 2013.

99. The electricity utility, ESKOM, had conducted environmental impact assessments at three potential sites for nuclear power plants. It was anticipated that a final environmental impact report would be completed at the end of 2012 and submitted to the Government for evaluation and a decision on an environmental authorization in 2013.

100. Mr NWE (Myanmar) thanked the Director General for his professional work in steering the Agency and promoting the three pillars of its activities. He also thanked the Agency Secretariat for their professionalism, impartiality and objectivity in carrying out the various tasks of the Agency. The Government of Myanmar highly appreciated the efforts and achievements of the Agency in the performance of its mandate in nuclear energy development, nuclear technology applications for peaceful purposes, technical cooperation with Member States, nuclear safety and security, and verification.

101. The need for sustainable economic development to reduce poverty and hunger indubitably called for an increased supply of energy and electricity. Nuclear power was an inevitable option if energy security was desired while minimizing climate change effects. The Agency had been playing a key role in assisting Member States to ensure that the development, production and utilization of nuclear energy took place under the most stringent operational, legal, safety, security and non-proliferation conditions.

102. The non-power applications of nuclear science and technology also played an important role in addressing global threats such as climate change, food insecurity, potable water scarcity and deterioration of the environment. The Agency's efforts to assist its Member States in promoting the non-power applications of nuclear science and technology had helped address those challenges and issues of the present day.

103. The Agency had been assisting its Member States in enhancing their capacities for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human health problems through the application of nuclear techniques. In addition to human health, it was also making a significant contribution in agricultural productivity and food security, monitoring and managing water resources and the environment, industrial applications, energy planning and nuclear power, nuclear radiological and waste safety, and nuclear security.

104. His delegation appreciated the Agency's continued efforts to increase its technical cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels with a view to enhancing the living conditions of the people of its Member States, in particular in the developing countries.

105. The global population was expected to rise in the coming decades. Food production would need to expand dramatically to meet increasing demand. Yet the challenge to ensure food security today had never been greater: fresh water was dwindling and arable land was shrinking. Resources were overexploited. With local and global food security at risk, it had never been more important for the world to use agricultural technology effectively to reduce hunger and poverty in an equitable and sustainable manner. Accordingly, Myanmar supported the Agency's efforts and activities aimed at developing and improving strategies for sustainable food security, utilizing land and water resources optimally, improving animal health, breeding new crop varieties resistant to major plant diseases, developing and transferring tools for diagnosing animal diseases and applying the sterile insect technique — an environmentally friendly method for controlling plant and animal insect pests — and developing effective post-harvest treatment to improve food safety and facilitate international trade.

106. Myanmar greatly appreciated the valuable assistance the technical cooperation programme provided to Member States. It was a platform for sharing information, experience and technical know-how related to nuclear science and technology among Member States at different levels of development in all regions of the world.

107. Agency technical cooperation projects had played a leading role in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear techniques in Myanmar in high-priority areas of particular significance to the national development programme, which focused on agricultural productivity, food security, livestock production and health, human health care and nutrition, strengthening of national capacity in nuclear science and technology, radiation safety, water resource management, environmental monitoring and industrial applications of radioisotopes.

108. Currently, Myanmar was carrying out seven new technical cooperation projects in the 2012–2013 cycle, of which three were in the field of food and agriculture, one in the field of human health, one in the field of nuclear knowledge development and management, one in industrial applications and radiation technology and one in radiation protection. Besides, Myanmar had also participated in many regional and interregional projects and taken part in RCA activities.

109. During the past year, Myanmar had received significant assistance from the Agency in the fields of crop improvement through radiation-induced mutation, nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security, the application of radiation in medicine and applications of nuclear science and technology. Myanmar sincerely thanked the Agency for the assistance received in terms of training, expertise and equipment.

110. Myanmar was a developing country with limited infrastructure, expertise and human resources in the applications of nuclear science and technology. Recognizing the potential of those applications to bring benefits to the people in various fields of national development, Myanmar was making efforts to strengthen its national infrastructure for the promotion and application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful developmental purposes and would like the Agency to provide assistance in capacity-building, development of skilled and well-trained human resources, and establishment of required infrastructure through its technical cooperation programme.

111. The Government of Myanmar would also like to acknowledge the Agency's efforts in supporting Member States in enhancing worldwide nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety by means of international safety instruments, strengthening national, regional and international emergency preparedness and response capabilities, preparing and responding to nuclear emergencies and accidents, developing, preparing and reviewing comprehensive safety standards and safety guides, setting up nuclear safety knowledge networks, capacity-building in various areas of radiological and nuclear safety, and developing and improving national nuclear safety infrastructure in each of the Member States.

112. Nuclear security was an essential programme of the Agency and Myanmar reiterated its support for the Agency's efforts in preventing and combating nuclear terrorism, strengthening measures for the detection of illicit nuclear trafficking, responding to nuclear security incidents, upgrading the physical protection of nuclear facilities, improving quality control of nuclear security equipment, promoting nuclear security education, and facilitating and implementing the international nuclear security instruments in Member States.

113. The proliferation of nuclear weapons was a threat to international peace and security. Myanmar believed that in order for the utilization of nuclear energy to be peaceful and secure, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation must be achieved on a global scale. Myanmar had been party to the NPT since December 1992 and had signed a safeguards agreement and the Small Quantities Protocol pursuant to the NPT in April 1995. As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar had also acceded to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone which had been signed in 1995 and had entered into force in 1997. Myanmar had also signed the CTBT in November 1996.

114. In conclusion, his country hoped that the IAEA would continue to play a central role in strengthening international collaboration for the further expansion of nuclear energy and its related

technologies. It had supported and would continue to support the Agency's efforts towards innovation and promotion of nuclear science and technology with a view to satisfying the growing needs of the world population in various sectors of development.

115. Mr AL HINAI (Oman) expressed satisfaction that, one and a half years after the Fukushima nuclear accident, efforts were still ongoing by Member States with nuclear power plants, or those intending to build them, and the Agency to strengthen nuclear and radiation safety at the national, regional and global levels with a view to restoring confidence in the safety of nuclear energy and its various peaceful uses, especially electricity generation.

116. The Sultanate of Oman welcomed all the Agency's efforts and its cooperation with Member States to learn the lessons from that terrible accident and from earlier similar accidents involving the safety of nuclear installations, and also to take all the steps necessary to prevent the recurrence of a major accident in the future. He highlighted, in particular, the efforts of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety to be held in Japan in December 2012, the second extraordinary meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in August 2012 and the international experts' meetings on various technical topics related to nuclear and radiation safety.

117. Oman considered that publishing the results of the Agency's IRRS missions was a positive step towards full transparency regarding issues of importance to all governments and peoples of the world. It called on all States to consent to publication of the Agency's evaluation of their nuclear and radiation safety situations so that other States could benefit from the Agency's recommendations and adopt appropriate measures on the basis of reliable data.

118. The Sultanate of Oman appreciated the events organized by the Agency during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) on the issues of sustainable energy, food and water. Oman attached a high priority to all those sectors and intended to create favourable conditions for continued development without detriment to humans or the environment.

119. There was a need to ensure the safety of food and water, including verification of their origins, in order to safeguard human health and preserve the environment. Also, there was a need to strengthen international trade by means of health controls on exports and imports of agricultural products.

120. Oman had submitted a technical cooperation project aimed at strengthening the analytical capabilities of its existing laboratories, building a reference laboratory using nuclear analytical techniques, and developing its national legislative and regulatory system in line with international standards. It hoped that the project would enjoy Agency support like other projects submitted by Oman on sustainable development using nuclear techniques.

121. In the framework of sustainable development, he took note of the implementation of the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement (IWAVE) project in which Oman was participating together with the Philippines and Costa Rica. In that regard, Oman was grateful for the assistance received from the Isotope Hydrology Section as well as financial support from the United States of America under the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Good management of water resources was an important issue the world over. The Sultanate of Oman was beset with many major challenges, such as water shortages, decreasing rainfall, increasing salinity and the unavailability of precise data on groundwater tables and surface water.

122. The IWAVE project would help build national scientific and technical capacities through the use of isotopic, as well as other, techniques, to obtain the data required to enable specialists to make a precise evaluation of water resources and rainfall and determine how best to exploit them.

123. World security and stability would not be achieved unless greater efforts were made to eradicate the factors which exacerbated tensions and raised suspicions about States' intentions. His country

endeavoured always to refrain from any actions that could jeopardize security and stability. It called for all nuclear installations, including the Israeli nuclear installations, to be placed under Agency supervision.

124. He confirmed Oman's support for the convening of the 2012 conference on ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, as decided by the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which was scheduled to take place before the end of the year in Helsinki, Finland. He thanked the Finnish facilitator and the Secretariat for their efforts to coordinate with the parties concerned in convening the conference and making it a success.

125. In conclusion he said that, despite the challenges posed by the uses of nuclear energy, the doubts about peaceful purposes, the fears concerning safety and the dangers associated with radioactive waste for which no final disposal solution had been found, it should not be forgotten that nuclear energy had a key role to play in sustainable development and limiting global warming.

126. Oman called on all States of the world to give due attention to the three pillars of nuclear energy, namely the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and nuclear safety and security.

23. Examination of delegates' credentials
(GC(56)/23)

127. 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. After discussion, the Committee had recommended the adoption by the Conference of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of its report, with the reservations and positions expressed in the report.

128. Mr POURMAND TEHRANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that adoption of the draft resolution as recommended by the Committee did not imply recognition of the Israeli regime by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

129. Mr SHAMAA (Egypt) said that acceptance by the General Conference of the Committee's recommendation did not imply recognition of Israel's occupation of Arab territories since 1967, including the Arab part of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and others.

130. The PRESIDENT took it that, with the reservations expressed, the Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 8 of document GC(56)/23.

131. It was so decided.

– Oral report by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

132. Mr SHUKRI (Saudi Arabia), Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, presented the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 22.

133. Under item 9, "The Agency's Financial Statements for 2011", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution set out on page i of document GC(56)/10.

134. Under item 10, "The Agency's Budget Update for 2013", the Committee recommended that the Conference approve a Regular Budget figure for 2013 of €337 933 305 for the operational and recurrent portion and €8 340 952 for the capital portion and accordingly adopt draft resolution A, Regular Budget Appropriations for 2013, as set out in document GC(56)/4; that it approve a target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2013 of US $88 750 000 and accordingly adopt draft resolution B, Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2013, as set out in document GC(56)/4; and that it approve a level for the Working Capital Fund in 2013 of €15 210 000 and accordingly adopt draft resolution C, The Working Capital Fund in 2013, as set out in document GC(56)/4.

135. Under item 11, "Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute", the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft decision set out in document GC(56)/L.3.

136. Under item 12, "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(56)/12/Rev.1.

137. Under item 13, "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(56)/L.4.

138. Under item 16, "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(56)/L.5, which were divided into two groups: A. Non-power nuclear applications; and B. Nuclear power applications.

139. Under item 22, "Elections to the Agency's Staff Pension Committee", the Committee recommended that Ms Carmen Cecilia Villanueva Bracho of Mexico and Mr Mohamed Jamal Eldien Omer Bukheet of Sudan be elected as alternate members to represent the General Conference on the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

The Agency's Financial Statements for 2011 (agenda item 9)

140. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out on page i of document GC(56)/10 was adopted.

The Agency's Budget Update for 2013 (agenda item 10)

141. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, draft resolutions A, B and C set out in document GC(56)/4 were adopted.

Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute (agenda item 11)

142. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft decision set out in document GC(56)/L.3 was adopted.

Scale of assessment of Members' contributions towards the Regular Budget (agenda item 12)

143. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out on page 3 of document GC(56)/12/Rev.1 was adopted.

Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (agenda item 13)

144. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution contained in document GC(56)/L.4 was adopted.

Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (agenda item 16)

145. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolutions contained in document GC(56)/L.5 were adopted.

Elections to the Agency's Staff Pension Committee (agenda item 22)

146. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, Ms Carmen Cecilia Villanueva Bracho of Mexico and Mr Mohamed Jamal Eldien Omer Bukheet of Sudan were elected as alternate members of the Agency's Staff Pension Committee.

8. Election of Members to the Board of Governors (GC(56)/3 and 20)

147. The PRESIDENT recalled that in 1989 the General Conference had approved a procedure whereby, when there was agreement regarding the candidate or candidates from a particular area, no secret ballot would be held. Balloting would take place only in respect of those areas for which there was no agreed slate. That procedure considerably facilitated the rational use of the Conference's time.

148. However, Rule 79 of the Rules of Procedure, which provided that elections to the Board should be by secret ballot, would need to be suspended in respect of the areas for which no secret ballot was to be held.

149. Given that all area groups had reached agreement on their candidates for the vacancies to be filled, he took it that the Conference wished to suspend Rule 79 in order to dispense with the need to hold a ballot.

150. It was so agreed.

151. The PRESIDENT, after thanking all groups for their efforts to reach agreement, drew attention to document GC(56)/3, containing the names of the Member States which the Board of Governors had designated to serve on the Board from the end of the fifty-sixth (2012) session of the Conference until the end of the fifty-seventh (2013) session.

152. Recalling that, under Rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure, the presiding officer must indicate to the General Conference those elective places on the Board which must be filled, he referred the Conference to document GC(56)/20, paragraph 2 of which indicated, for each of the geographical areas, the number of Members which must be elected so as to ensure that the Board would be constituted in accordance with Article VI.A. of the Statute.

153. There were 11 seats to be filled: 3 for Latin America, 2 for Western Europe, 1 for Eastern Europe, 2 for Africa, 1 for the Middle East and South Asia, 1 for South East Asia and the Pacific and 1 — the so-called floating seat — which it was the turn of a Member State in Africa to fill.

154. Paragraph 3 of that document contained a list of 24 Member States which had been either elected by the General Conference in 2011 in accordance with Article VI.A.2 of the Statute, and which would therefore continue to serve on the Board of Governors until 2013, or designated by the Board in June 2012 for membership of the Board pursuant to Article VI.A.1 of the Statute for the one-year period 2012–2013.

155. In order to facilitate the election, delegates had been furnished with a note showing the results of consultations among the area groups regarding their candidates for the vacant seats as far as they were known. The note was purely informal in character and provided information insofar as it had been made available to the President and to the Secretariat.

156. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay to the three vacant seats for Latin America.

157. Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay were duly elected.

158. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Greece and Norway to the two vacant seats for Western Europe.

159. Greece and Norway were duly elected.

160. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Poland to the one vacant seat for Eastern Europe.

161. Poland was duly elected.

162. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Algeria and Libya to the two vacant seats for Africa.

163. Algeria and Libya were duly elected.

164. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Pakistan to the one vacant seat for the Middle East and South Asia.

165. Pakistan was duly elected.

166. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Thailand to the one vacant seat for South East Asia and the Pacific.

167. Thailand was duly elected.

168. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to elect Nigeria to the floating seat, which it was the turn of a Member State in Africa to fill.

169. Nigeria was duly elected.

170. The PRESIDENT recalled that, under Article VI.D of the Statute, the eleven Member States just elected to the Board would hold office from the end of the current, fifty-sixth session of the General Conference to the end of the fifty-eighth regular session in 2014.

7. General debate and Annual Report for 2012 (resumed)

171. Mr TURPIN (Senegal) said that his country wished to express its great satisfaction with its technical cooperation with the Agency, which covered the main areas in which it hoped for assistance: training, transfer of technology, and exchange of experts; supply of advanced equipment for medicine and nuclear safety; support for research in the areas of water resources management, agricultural productivity, stockbreeding, radiation protection and malnutrition; and energy planning and production.

172. He welcomed the important efforts made by the Agency in implementing the Action Plan which had resulted from the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held in June 2011 in Vienna in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident. The improvements undertaken in nuclear information and communication, the review of safety standards, the evaluation of the vulnerability of power plants and many other safety-related actions showed that safety and security in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy would be enhanced post-Fukushima and that the various advantages of nuclear energy would stand out more clearly.

173. Senegal was committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, on a basis of transparency, safety and sustainability. It had ratified the major Agency conventions and agreements on nuclear safety and non-proliferation and was working on their implementation. It observed the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and participated in the Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies (USIE).

174. Senegal accepted that nuclear safety was an international public good and that a nuclear accident anywhere could engage responsibilities worldwide. Accordingly, it was open to strengthened cooperation in international security to control transport and fight against nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking in radioactive sources and nuclear material.

175. Senegal would spare no effort to build on its excellent cooperation with the Agency through proactive policies, using nuclear science and technology for economic and social development. It reaffirmed its full commitment to promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to strengthening the Agency's non-proliferation and verification regime. It would unfailingly work with the international community to achieve world peace and stability.

176. In conclusion, he thanked the Agency for its steady and effective support under the technical cooperation programme and hoped to see the broader adoption and application of the Agency's safety standards and basic conventions and agreements on safety, security and safeguards.

177. Mr BELFORT (Haiti), having thanked the Director General and the Secretariat staff for making the Agency a credible and professional organization with a high sense of ethics and human relations, said that his country attached great importance to non-proliferation and the combating of nuclear terrorism and the weapons of mass destruction which threatened the long-term survival of humankind. As the NPT was virtually the only legal instrument that could prevent a nuclear apocalypse, Haiti urged all States scrupulously to comply with the Treaty and the Agency's safeguards system. Within the still essentially Westphalian international system, all men were brothers and, despite their ethnic, political and religious differences, condemned to live together through consensus and a sense of brotherhood.

178. His Government reiterated its support for Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and other international instruments condemning terrorism in general and nuclear terrorism in particular. It attached great importance to nuclear safety and security and welcomed the Agency's plan to hold an

international conference on nuclear security in July 2013. It also fully supported the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted by the General Conference in 2011.

179. Haiti attached great importance to technical cooperation with the Agency. Despite the structural difficulties inherent in its status as an LDC and following the 2010 earthquake, it continued to benefit from cooperation both multilaterally through the Agency and regionally under ARCAL. The Agency had shown itself very attentive to Haiti and its development problems.

180. His delegation was pleased that the Agency had joined the UNDAF process along with other UN system organizations. That would make it easier to integrate its assistance into countries' national development process and give other organizations a better picture of how nuclear and isotopic techniques could contribute to the sustainable and integrated development of developing countries in general and LDCs in particular. Haiti accordingly looked forward to the signing of an UNDAF agreement with the Agency.

181. Haiti dreamed of the day when it could be said that the Agency had contributed effectively and efficiently to its development and to its promotion from LDC to developing country status. The 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011, had endorsed the goal of raising half the existing LDCs out of that category within ten years. His delegation was convinced that the Agency would assist Haiti in achieving that goal by addressing some of its specific needs.

182. For years, Haiti at the General Conference and other countries such as Niger in the Board of Governors had joined in fighting for the recognition of the specific problems faced by LDCs. The Group of 77 and China at the IAEA in Vienna had taken up that issue in its work and discussions and had for two years been asking the Secretariat to produce a report on the issue in general and the specific needs of those countries in particular with a view to helping them escape from the structural trap which, like a black hole, pulled them towards increasing under-development. The Group of 77 and China had ensured since September 2010 that that serious issue was reflected in the General Conference's resolutions on technical cooperation, and he thanked the Group for supporting the requests of Haiti and others that the Secretariat produce a report on the matter. He hoped the Director General, pursuant to those resolutions, would very soon present such a report establishing an effective and efficient diagnosis of the problems of LDCs in their cooperation with the Agency. It was not yet clear what would emerge from such a report, but his delegation hoped it would lead to a solution to the structural problems faced by the LDCs in the management of IAEA technical assistance.

183. The report might perhaps also serve as a guide for other international organizations in pursuing the goals set by LDC-IV. Would it propose a new approach to the management and receipt of technical assistance? Or a new paradigm that might raise the IAEA to the ranks of contributors to the sustainable development of the poorest countries on the planet? He did not know, but he was sure it would have a fundamental impact on the way the Agency and the international community responded to the wishes of the LDCs, which were best placed to know what problems they faced. The report, when it was published, would lead the international community and the United Nations to an evolved global way of thinking about development and draw attention to the need for new approaches in the development process.

184. His delegation wished to thank Haiti's friends in ARCAL and its new executive board for the assistance afforded Haiti, especially in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake, when ARCAL had offered to give tangible help through a special project to help Haiti rebuild its infrastructure and capacities. That project was original and off the beaten track and bore witness to the vigour, solidity and effectiveness of that regional network.

185. In conclusion, he drew the Director General's attention to the need for the Agency to have a very good public communications policy. Great efforts had already been made, and the Agency communicated more and more via new social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. That certainly contributed to the visibility of the Agency and its work. Nevertheless, much remained to be done both with the public and international news media and with other international organizations. In the latter case, there had been little progress and the organizations continued to ignore the Agency's splendid work in development and other areas. He therefore encouraged the responsible Secretariat staff to work in that direction and offered Haiti's help in those endeavours.

186. Ms DURAND LAZO (Peru) said that the Fukushima accident had marked a turning point in the Agency's work on strengthening the nuclear safety regime. While Peru acknowledged that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety lay with States, it believed that the Agency played an important role in the promotion of international cooperation and the coordination of global efforts to strengthen the world nuclear safety regime and that, by virtue of its mandate, technical specialization and broad membership, the Agency was the proper forum for the treatment of nuclear safety issues.

187. Although the use of nuclear energy in Peru was limited largely to research activities and applications in agriculture and human health, and nuclear power plants were absent, the implementation of adequate nuclear safety standards was nevertheless a high priority for her country. For that reason her delegation wished to highlight the progress made in implementing the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety approved by the General Conference at its previous session. Peru was committed to strengthening nuclear safety at the international level in the light of the lessons learned from Fukushima. The Action Plan and its implementation were part of a broader process that had started after the Fukushima accident and was aimed at strengthening the nuclear safety regime with the Agency as central coordinator.

188. Peru recognized that many delegations were cautious about addressing nuclear safety and nuclear security together. However, both issues were eminently technical in nature and could be addressed together, especially in countries where nuclear development was only just starting. Ultimately, the consequences of a nuclear accident, whether caused by a natural disaster or a malicious act, were equally serious in terms of possible losses of human life and material and environmental damage.

189. Peru noted the initiatives to strengthen nuclear security at the global level. It had followed the process of security summits started in Washington in 2010 and continued in Seoul in 2011. It was firmly committed to the objectives underlying that process, namely non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the need to prevent malicious acts.

190. Turning to technical cooperation-related issues, especially nuclear applications and regional cooperation programmes, she said that in order to address the needs of developing countries adequately and to move nearer to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the Agency should focus on four areas: (i) fighting cancer: since two thirds of diagnosed cancer cases were in developing countries, the creation of national capacities, in terms of both professional training and equipment for diagnosis and treatment, was an urgent need; (ii) improvement of food availability through nuclear applications in agriculture; (iii) support for Member States deciding to start planning a nuclear power programme, in the form of technical, economic and legal advice; and (iv) improvement of water resource studies using isotope techniques for water purification, water use in agriculture or groundwater management (availability, distribution and age of water).

191. In addition to its active technical cooperation projects, Peru had submitted a number of future projects related directly to its sustainable development plans. It would welcome the Agency's assistance with upgrading and improving the operation of the RP10 research reactor. An INSARR

mission in June 2011 had identified some safety aspects which should be attended to in order to raise the standard of nuclear safety and security of the reactor.

192. As to regional cooperation, Peru had participated in ARCAL since 1984 and considered it the most important regional mechanism for the transfer of nuclear technology between countries in the Latin America region. Peru was involved in most of ARCAL's projects, which ranged from the training of human resources to the development of infrastructure in areas such as energy, health, agriculture, hydrology, industry, nuclear safety and radiation protection.

193. Peru had joined the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies in 2010 and was working actively on the harmonization of national legislation, benefiting from the valuable experience of the regulatory bodies of countries more advanced in nuclear development. She congratulated the Forum on its 15th anniversary of seeking to maintain high levels of radiological and nuclear safety and security in the region and highlighted its contribution to the health and safety of people and the environment.

194. Finally, the Government of Peru thanked the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre and the Governments of the United States and France for the timely and valuable assistance they had provided to mitigate the consequences of a radiological accident that had occurred in Peru in January 2012. Thanks to the activation of the Agency's notification and assistance network the most seriously affected patient had been transferred successfully to a French hospital for treatment.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.