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President: Mr MABHONGO (South Africa)

Later: Ms MUTANDIRO (Zimbabwe)

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Abbreviations used in this record:

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ECAS	Enhancing Capabilities of the Safeguards Analytical Services
EU	European Union
G8	Group of Eight
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIF	Generation IV International Forum
ICTP	International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Trieste)
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
LEU	low-enriched uranium
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
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
P-5+1	The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
R&D	research and development
RANET	Response and Assistance Network
SEANWFZ Treaty	Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone
SIT	sterile insect technique
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WENRA	Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association
WMD	weapons of mass destruction

8. General debate and Annual Report for 2012 (continued) (GC(57)/3 and Supplement)

1. Mr BIGOT (France) said that the Iranian nuclear programme had continued to grow, causing deep concern in France and in the international community as a whole. His delegation had taken note of the intention expressed by the new Iranian leaders to dispel those concerns. To that end, Iran must take concrete, verifiable and verified steps on the ground and cooperate unreservedly with the Agency on all pending issues. The Director General had clearly indicated the road to follow to enable the Agency to carry out its work effectively.

2. In conducting a space launch in December 2012 and a third nuclear test on 12 February, the DPRK had again flagrantly violated its international obligations, in particular those arising from the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling on it to cease all nuclear and ballistic activities in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. It was essential that the DPRK comply strictly with its obligations under the NPT and its safeguards agreement. It should permit the return of Agency inspectors without delay and give them access to all its nuclear facilities, halt all proliferation-related activities and put an end to its uranium enrichment activities.

3. The Agency's latest report on Syria noted the failure of the Syrian authorities to cooperate with the Agency since the June 2011 resolution of the Board of Governors. That was deeply regrettable. France urged Syria to comply with its obligations and to provide the additional information on its nuclear programme requested by the Agency. His delegation welcomed the communiqué of 30 August 2013 by the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, condemning the manufacture, use and trade of all weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear weapons. It was to be hoped that that commitment would ultimately lead to full cooperation with the Agency in order to shed light on Syria's past and present nuclear activities.

4. His country supported the Agency's efforts to ensure that its safeguards system remained effective and credible. It therefore welcomed activities aimed at strengthening the Agency safeguards system, in particular those that furthered the development of safeguards application based on a State-level approach, which, through the objective use of all available sources of safeguards information by the Agency, would allow the best possible conclusions to be drawn for each State.

5. France called for the universalization of the Agency's safeguards system. To attain the objectives of Article III.1 of the NPT, verification must be based on the implementation of a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. France called on all States that had not yet done so to bring those instruments into force as soon as possible.

6. France would continue to help strengthen Agency capacities by making available its competence and expertise, in particular within the framework of its national safeguards support programme.

7. The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was a major event in the history of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The scale of the accident and its consequences continued to be felt and the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety remained an essential tool in the feedback process started by the international community. France welcomed the progress made with respect to the 12 areas of action and was more determined than ever to contribute to the implementation of the Plan.

8. The accident had shown the importance of international cooperation and coordination. At the European level, stress tests at nuclear power stations had led to the development of recommendations implemented by each State as part of a national action plan. Efforts must also be made to ensure the highest levels of safety at nuclear facilities and to create an international safety culture at the decision-making and operational level. His delegation looked forward to the preparation, by the end of 2014, of a comprehensive report on the accident, which would take into account all the lessons already learned.

9. France also called on all Member States to continue to improve the international safety framework, in particular as regards transparency concerning implementation of the Action Plan at national level, the hosting of international peer review missions, the strengthening of mechanisms for assistance in the event of a nuclear accident and the universalization of a nuclear civil liability regime.

10. It would take several years to learn all the lessons from the Fukushima accident, and all stakeholders must continue their efforts in that regard. Member States should, in consultation with the Secretariat, follow up on the Action Plan, which had facilitated a common understanding of international priorities in the area of nuclear safety over the previous two years. That momentum needed to be maintained beyond 2015, for example through preparation of a document similar to the Nuclear Security Plan.

11. In order to strengthen the existing nuclear safety regime, efforts must be made to strengthen and universalize existing legal instruments. France had participated actively in the 2012 extraordinary meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Security, which had drawn a number of technical conclusions that were essential for analysing feedback on the Fukushima accident. Its experts were helping to define proposals for action by the effectiveness and transparency working group, which would be discussed at the 2014 Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention.

12. He stressed the importance of a global nuclear civil liability regime. In August, the United States of America and France had signed a joint declaration, which reflected common priorities identified by the two countries on the essential question of compensation for nuclear damage; reaffirmed a commitment to development of a global nuclear civil liability regime on the basis of existing international conventions (the Paris and Brussels Conventions, the Vienna Convention, and the related Joint Protocol, and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage); and encouraged States to accede to those instruments in order to allow for the provision of fair compensation to the victims of nuclear accidents on the basis of simple, universally recognized procedures, as recommended in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

13. Nuclear security was essential to facilitate the development of nuclear energy while minimizing the risks of nuclear and radiological terrorism, and the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in July had confirmed the Agency's central role in strengthening the nuclear security framework worldwide. France, for its part, had ratified the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. It called on States that had not yet done so to become parties to those Conventions and to ratify the amendment to the CPPNM as soon as possible so that it could enter into force without delay.

14. His country intended to continue its financial and technical support for the Nuclear Security Plan 2014–2017, in particular with the aim of improving the safe and secure management of radioactive sources.

15. His country welcomed the Agency's efforts to provide, with the assistance of international experts, assessments or advice in the area of nuclear security at the request of States. France had hosted an IPPAS mission in November 2011, and would, together with the Agency, be organizing in Paris in December the first international seminar on lessons learned from that type of mission.

16. The third International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, held in Saint Petersburg in June, had shown that, despite the Fukushima accident, the development of nuclear energy continued to be an important option for many countries. The role of the Agency, which encouraged cooperation between States with experience in the area of nuclear energy and those wishing to develop its peaceful use, was internationally recognized. France, whose commitment to the development of nuclear energy in the best conditions of safety, security and non-proliferation had been repeatedly reaffirmed, would continue to support the Agency's activities aimed at the promotion of nuclear power. It stood ready to help Member States that had embarked upon the development of responsible nuclear energy to benefit from French experience and expertise.

17. The issue of training and development of human resources in the nuclear field was of major importance for his country. Every year, France conducted training courses for students and professionals from countries that wished to develop their nuclear power capacities. It also hosted field training and fact-finding missions.

18. France was convinced that peaceful applications of the atom had a decisive role to play in meeting essential human needs and attaining the Millennium Development Goals. It welcomed the Agency's role in that area. France would continue to support the Agency's activities aimed at promoting development, and had, in 2013, provided particular support to the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre at the Agency's Environment Laboratories in Monaco,

19. Turning to the nuclear energy policy in France, he said that the Government had committed itself to a policy of energy transition that would lead to a reduction in primary energy consumption and a sharp decline in greenhouse gas emissions through the replacement of fossil fuels by renewables together with nuclear energy to the greatest possible extent. That evolution would automatically result in the proportion of electricity generated by nuclear power gradually declining from more than 75% currently to around 50% in the coming decades. Nuclear technologies and the nuclear industry would continue to be at the heart of France's energy mix. With its first and second-generation reactors, his country had accumulated considerable experience and know-how and was now in a position to implement advanced concepts with a proven technology, namely Generation III+ reactors. Developing solutions for the final disposal of radioactive waste was essential, and the national debate in France on the CIGEO deep disposal centre demonstrated France's determination to have a completely transparent understanding of issues that would affect future generations.

20. France was participating actively in the international community's efforts within the framework of the Generation IV forum, in particular through the ASTRID project (advanced sodium technical reactor for industrial development), which was broadly open to international cooperation. In March, France had hosted the International Conference on Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles.

21. In conclusion, he reaffirmed the importance France attached to the Agency and pledged his country's firm and determined support of its work to promote the use of nuclear energy for progress and sustainable development.

22. Mr CRATO (Portugal) said that he had been honoured to sign, at the beginning of the Conference, his country's CPF for 2013–2018, which would continue Portugal's longstanding cooperation with the Agency.

23. He recalled that Portugal contributed as a donor to the Agency's work in developing countries, notably in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. Its commitment had already been translated into cooperation projects in Mozambique, and Portugal was working on projects with Angola and Cape Verde. Through its Nuclear and Technological Campus, Portugal stood ready to expand its cooperation with other countries under the Agency's technical cooperation programme. It looked forward to sharing its expertise in a variety of fields, including nuclear physics and engineering,

safety, advanced instrumentation, radiochemistry and radiopharmacy, imaging and radiological protection.

24. Portugal called on all States that had not yet done so to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon States and to engage fully in its ongoing review cycle.

25. The establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction was of great importance to international stability and peace. While the postponement of the conference on the establishment of such a zone was regrettable, Portugal was convinced that that goal could be attained through the tireless and commendable efforts of Ambassador Laajava of Finland and the active involvement of the countries in the region.

26. Portugal urged Iran and the DPRK to abide by their international obligations, including resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and Agency's Board of Governors, and to take steps to build trust. It also called upon the Syrian Arab Republic to engage fully with the Agency and to comply with the Board's 2011 resolution.

27. In order to ensure that atomic energy was used to promote prosperity, it was imperative that the current verification standard, namely an additional protocol and a comprehensive safeguards agreement, continued to be upheld. Portugal had been working towards the universalization of such a standard and was ready to assist the Agency in that endeavour.

28. The Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security in July had highlighted the Agency's role as a universal inclusive policy-making forum, with a body of experts ready to tackle the important subject of nuclear security. Portugal took part in several global nuclear security initiatives, including the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, both of which had fostered desirable inter-agency coordination and provided for the active engagement of national institutions with their foreign counterparts in areas such as information sharing, nuclear detection, training and awareness-raising. Portugal also contributed to the Nuclear Security Fund.

29. Mr LEE Sang-Mok (Republic of Korea) said that nuclear energy was the most viable option for addressing numerous present-day challenges, including climate change and the rising demand for energy. In that connection, the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century had been both timely and important, as it had provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the sustainable development of nuclear power. While placing the highest priority on safety, the Republic of Korea had made continuing efforts to expand its nuclear power programme. There were currently 23 nuclear power plants in operation in the country, accounting for 30% of domestic electricity generation, and plans were underway to build 11 new reactors by 2024.

30. Continuous and intensive R&D efforts were essential for addressing issues such as the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Accordingly, Korea had been developing a closed nuclear fuel cycle that combined pyroprocessing technology with the sodium-cooled fast reactor. It had also been designing safer and more innovative nuclear energy systems and was actively participating in international collaborative research projects, such as GIF and INPRO. Furthermore, Korea was focusing its resources on developing relevant technologies for safe decommissioning — an issue highlighted by the Fukushima accident.

31. The Republic of Korea was currently pursuing a number of initiatives at government level concerning the application of radiation technology in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry and the environment. It was constructing a research reactor to ensure a stable supply of medical isotopes and developing a heavy ion therapy system for cancer treatment. In 2013, a research platform to

evaluate the safety and efficacy of new drugs through the application of radioisotopes had been established.

32. His country was working closely with the Agency and its Member States to reduce international technological gaps and share the benefits of nuclear energy. It was actively participating in international efforts by providing manpower and financial contributions for building nuclear infrastructure in developing countries and making substantial contributions to the PUI. In cooperation with the Agency, it had provided e-learning training programmes to the Asia-Pacific region through the Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology; various education and training programmes were also conducted at the International Nuclear Safety School of the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety. His country actively supported the RCA Regional Office established in Korea in 2004 to promote activities addressing regional development problems and needs.

33. The Republic of Korea was also doing its part to help strengthen global nuclear safety by providing structured support to regional networks such as the Asian Nuclear Safety Network. It was actively involved in the PACT Programme, including by supporting radiation medicine capacity building projects for PACT Model Demonstration Site countries in Asia and the Middle East.

34. His country welcomed and fully supported the Agency's initiatives to enhance nuclear safety following the Fukushima accident, including the establishment of a task force to facilitate the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the organization of international expert meetings, the sharing of the outcomes of those meetings and the ongoing effort to publish a comprehensive report on the Fukushima accident. The Republic of Korea had identified 50 short- and long-term measures to improve nuclear safety and had conducted stress tests on nuclear power plants in operation. It was also taking follow-up action in response to the recommendations from the IRRS mission to strengthen its regulatory framework for nuclear safety. The Republic of Korea had acceded to and faithfully implemented international conventions on nuclear safety.

35. Noting the serious threat posed by nuclear terrorism, he said that the Agency must play a central role in strengthening the international nuclear security regime. The Republic of Korea welcomed the Agency's successful hosting of the 2013 International Conference on Nuclear Security and remained committed to supporting the Agency's efforts in the area of nuclear security. In that connection, the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Security Academy of the Korea Institute of Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Control, scheduled to open in 2014, would provide high-quality education and training programmes to Member States and help advance regional nuclear security. Furthermore, the first IPPAS mission to the Republic of Korea in February 2015 would contribute to further reinforcing the country's physical protection system.

36. In the area of safeguards, the Republic of Korea actively participated in the Agency's network of analytical laboratories, thereby helping to strengthen the Agency's nuclear verification capacity.

37. The DPRK's nuclear programme undermined the foundation of the non-proliferation regime and posed a serious threat to the peace and security of north-east Asia and the international community as a whole. Despite the international community's continuous warnings, the DPRK had, since the end of 2012, engaged in provocative actions, launching long-range missiles and conducting nuclear tests in violation of Security Council resolutions. The international community must take a firm and unified stance, sending an unequivocal message that non-compliance would not be tolerated and that the DPRK could not and would not be recognized as a nuclear-weapon State. In that regard, the Republic of Korea hoped that the General Conference would adopt unanimously the draft resolution on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the DPRK. The Republic of Korea called on the DPRK to fulfil its obligations and commitments under the relevant Security Council resolutions and the September 2005 Joint Statement and to comply promptly and fully with its

NPT and safeguards obligations. The DPRK must realize that it would gain nothing from nuclear development and provocation and that such actions would serve only to deepen its isolation. The Republic of Korea highly valued the support extended by the Agency to the process of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and hoped that the Agency would continue to play an important role in the monitoring and verifying the DPRK's nuclear activities.

38. Mr MONTEJO (Philippines), congratulating the Director General Amano on his reappointment, said that the Philippines looked forward to a sustained strong partnership with the Agency during the Director General's second term.

39. Noting that the Agency continued to play a very crucial role in non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, he said that the Philippines was fully committed to the NPT regime; the strict prohibition of nuclear weapons was enshrined in its Constitution.

40. It was unfortunate that the DPRK, in the face of overwhelming calls from the international community, had opted once again for the path of intransigence, having conducted a long-range rocket launch in December, and its third nuclear test in February. Such acts served as unsettling reminders of the complex challenges to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

41. At the April 2013 ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN leaders had urged the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions and its commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement. They had also reaffirmed their full support for all efforts to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner as well as the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.

42. The Philippines strongly supported the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as a means of contributing to international peace and security. It urged the nuclear-weapon States to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty, and continued to encourage the United Nations Secretary-General and the international community to make every effort to convene a conference on a Middle East NWFZ.

43. The Philippines supported the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and noted the progress made in its implementation, including with regard to safety assessment worldwide based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, strengthening national regulatory bodies and operating organizations, and enhancing transparency and more effective communication with stakeholders.

44. The Philippines recognized the importance of regional cooperation in regulatory control and welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM); it offered its full support towards realizing the goals and objectives of the Network.

45. In the Philippines, the national radiological emergency preparedness and response plan was being discussed by the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council with a view to its operationalization at the community level and incorporation of lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, including the need to establish an online network of radioactivity monitoring stations around the country. The Philippines looked forward to the Agency's assistance in establishing a network of eight stations, which could be upgraded to 16 to cover every region of the country.

46. Turning to nuclear security, which his country considered as an "enabler" rather than as a constraint in the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, he said that the Agency's first International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July had allowed Member States to exchange views on emerging trends and consider objectives for international nuclear security efforts. The Philippines looked forward to the translation of those objectives into concrete programmes with the development of the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan 2014–2017. He drew attention to the successful completion of the project on conditioning of spent high-activity radioactive sources the trilateral

cooperation among the Philippines, South Africa and the Agency and thanked the Agency and the donor countries of the NSF for funding that project.

47. His Government recognized the important role of science and technology in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and welcomed the Agency's technical cooperation activities in the country. Filipino scientists were developing smart-farming alternatives using isotope-based techniques that would avoid large wastage of resources and improve rice and corn production. The 40th annual Atomic Energy Week held in December 2012, whose theme had been nuclear science, technology and innovation: engine for growth and development, had aimed to generate awareness among the Filipino people of the beneficial uses and applications of nuclear technology.

48. In the area of nuclear medicine, the technetium-99m generator facility established with Agency assistance had been inaugurated; it was expected to cut hospital procedures by at least 50% and make diagnostic tests more affordable, accessible and faster.

49. The Philippines congratulated the Agency on its valuable work concerning PACT, and encouraged Member States and other funding institutions to donate generously to the Programme.

50. The Philippines had been designated as a repository to coordinate and manage the regional Asia and Pacific Marine Radioactivity Database. Furthermore, as the Agency's Collaborating Centre on Harmful Algal Blooms, the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute had trained scientists from Cuba, El Salvador and Oman over the previous 12 months on receptor binding assay and was now transferring that technology to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

51. In conclusion, he said that issues and challenges faced by the Agency were complicated by political realities. His country remained committed to working with other Member States in a spirit of mutual respect, transparency and constructive dialogue in order to advance the Agency's noble objectives.

52. Mr KAPFERER (Germany) said that Germany respected the sovereign right of every country to choose its own energy mix and had, following the Fukushima accident, decided to phase out nuclear power by the end of 2022. The efforts to ensure an environmentally sound, reliable and affordable energy supply in Germany focused in particular on: grid expansion, conventional power plants, renewable energies, energy efficiency and energy research, especially with regard to storage technologies. Nevertheless, safe nuclear technology would remain highly important for Germany given the relevance of the safety of nuclear power plants abroad and the fact that nuclear power plants would continue to operate in Germany for almost another decade. Germany would have to focus on the back end of the fuel cycle and decommissioning, waste treatment and disposal would take several more decades. The use of nuclear technology in other areas, particularly in industry, medicine, food and research, was not affected by decisions on the phase-out and would further increase. The Agency played a central role in all those areas and Germany would continue to cooperate constructively with the Secretariat and all Member States.

53. With regard to budgetary matters, he said that Germany had been advocating a zero growth policy in all international organizations. However, taking into account the Agency's specific role, Germany was able to accept that the Regular Budget for 2014 would foresee 0.3% real growth.

54. Beyond the Regular Budget, Germany contributed to specific needs of the Agency: from 2011 to 2013 it had donated around €5 million to the Nuclear Security Fund and, since 2010, €6.6 million to the ECAS project to modernize the Safeguards Analytical Laboratory in Seibersdorf. In 2014, €0.5 million would follow.

55. Germany recognized the importance of effective and efficient Agency safeguards. Its national support programme for Agency safeguards, which had contributed to state-of-the-art verification

methods and provided training and advice, was one of the oldest and would be celebrating its 35th anniversary in autumn 2014. In addition, the German Government had nominated the Jülich Research Centre as a candidate for membership of the expanded Network of Analytical Laboratories.

56. The Agency could provide assurances that there were no indications of undeclared nuclear material or activities only in those States with a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol. Germany therefore urged those States that had not yet done so to conclude an additional protocol.

57. In the light of the continuing growth in verification demand on the Agency on the one hand and budgetary constraints on the other, Germany welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to improve the implementation of safeguards. At the same time, it supported the further evolution of individual State-level approaches in a structured and objective manner, taking account of both the technical situation and the legal and institutional structures within a State.

58. With regard to nuclear safety, he thanked the Director General for his report on the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and welcomed the progress made in the Plan's implementation. Germany would continue to contribute to the ongoing activities by providing experts to support the Nuclear Safety Action Team itself or to help draft the summary of the Fukushima report.

59. Noting that Germany had recently registered in the Agency's Response and Assistance Network (RANET), he said that in December 2012, Germany had hosted the International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine, attended by more than 500 participants from 77 Member States and international organizations. The outcome of the conference had been the Bonn Call for Action, which identified the responsibilities of stakeholders.

60. The International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July 2013 had covered the whole spectrum of topics in nuclear security. The Agency had responded to the fast-evolving nature of the threat concerning cybersecurity at nuclear facilities by strengthening efforts to develop additional guidance documents in the field of information and cybersecurity. Germany encouraged the Agency to continue its efforts in that regard.

61. Germany emphasized the importance of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series for implementing national security regimes and called upon all States to implement the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

62. Germany greatly appreciated the valuable assistance provided to Member States through the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which brought about clear improvements in areas such as health, especially cancer treatment, and water resources management, agriculture and environmental protection. In times of limited financial resources, Germany would in particular try to find ways to further support the Agency by increasing cooperation on concrete projects.

63. Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle remained an important task. Three different models had been approved by the Board of Governors. The establishment of the Agency's LEU bank appeared to be a complex undertaking. He reminded Member States of the fully developed German proposal, namely the Multilateral Enrichment Sanctuary Project, which could be taken up by interested States.

64. Regarding the NPT review cycle, Germany considered that a balanced approach towards the three pillars, with progress in both disarmament and non-proliferation, was the best guarantee for a successful Review Conference in 2015. In that context, his country regretted the postponement of the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

65. Germany remained very concerned about Iran's nuclear programme and reiterated its demand that Iran cooperate fully with the Agency and provide the necessary transparency. It also appealed to Iran to restart a serious and substantive negotiation process with China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. His country took note of the remarks by the newly elected Iranian President regarding greater transparency and hoped that they would translate into concrete steps. It would judge Iran by its deeds.

66. The ballistic missile and nuclear programmes of the DPRK remained a threat to regional and international security. Germany remained gravely concerned about the latest nuclear test in February and the ongoing work to restart the Yongbyon reactor. While the DPRK's rhetoric and outrageous claims might be ignored, pressure must be maintained to signal clearly to Pyongyang that nuclear brinkmanship would not be tolerated.

67. Germany looked forward to continuing its constructive cooperation with the Secretariat and all Member States, and was looking forward to a second term of able leadership by Director General Amano.

Ms Mutandiro (Zimbabwe), Vice-President, took the Chair.

68. Mr HAMID (Sudan) said that the competent bodies in Sudan were preparing the country's CPF for 2014–2018 in close cooperation with the Agency. The comments and suggestions from the Agency's technical staff on the first draft had been incorporated in a later version, which had been submitted to the Agency in July 2013. Sudan had concurrently drawn up four framework project plans, three of which had been approved. It had then prepared three projects that it hoped would be financed after the CPF document was signed later in the year so that work could begin on the projects in 2014.

69. Sudan gave high priority to the PACT Programme and had been one of the first African States to launch a radiotherapy programme at a centre in Khartoum in 1967. The radiotherapy centre had attended to patients not only from all over Sudan but also from neighbouring African countries for many years. While Sudan had successfully established many other radiotherapy centres in the meantime, it was unable to cope with the growing number of patients. It therefore hoped to continue expanding existing centres and building new ones in cooperation with the Agency to meet the growing national and regional demand. Sudan thanked the Agency for sending an imPACT mission to the country in 2012 and planned to implement the recommendations contained in the mission's final report.

70. His country was keenly interested in the use of isotope hydrology techniques in water resource management. It therefore welcomed the development of a partnership between the Agency, UNDP and the GEF, which helped to provide the necessary data for the preparation of the Strategic Action Programme on the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System. The Programme, which would be implemented in four countries, including Sudan, would be signed during the General Conference in the presence of the responsible ministers. The high-level delegation from Sudan would be led by the Minister of Water Resources and Electricity. Sudan planned to implement a project under the technical cooperation programme aimed at promoting the sustainable use of the important resources involved.

71. His country hoped to proceed with its research reactor programme in view of its vital role in training human resources for a nuclear power plant. According to the Agency experts who had visited Sudan in the 1990s to study the country's future energy prospects, the average growth in demand for traditional sources would render nuclear energy the only possible option for resolving the energy crisis that could be expected to erupt in Sudan by 2025.

72. The SIT was far safer and more effective than other techniques in combating malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. Sudan had made considerable progress towards introducing the technique in cooperation with the Agency and the Islamic Development Bank. It had completed all the

requisite engineering studies and a mosquito-rearing plant would be built within the next few months. All the necessary work would probably be completed within a year. Sudan hoped that the pioneering project would serve as a model for other regions of the world.

73. His country was training human resources, in cooperation with the Agency, in all sectors related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy by means of training courses, scientific visits, fellowships and expert services in support of national projects. AFRA projects had played an effective role in training personnel for peaceful uses of nuclear energy in key areas. During the current year, Sudan had launched a national network for education and training in nuclear science under the auspices of the African Network for Education in Nuclear Science and Technology. Some ten educational, research and service institutions belonged to the national network and a national training plan was being developed. Sudan had also approved a non-destructive testing project with South Africa and a nuclear education and training project with Egypt.

74. Sudan complied fully with its obligations under the international instruments that it had ratified and urged all States that had not yet done so to ratify the relevant instruments with a view to creating a climate conducive to peace and sustainable development. At the beginning of 2013, Sudan had adopted the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. The Sudanese Government had also decided to separate the authority responsible for regulating nuclear and radiation activities from the users and promoters of nuclear energy. A focal point had been created for the Incident and Trafficking Database. Moreover, practical steps had been taken to protect workers in the nuclear sector through the establishment of national committees on radioactive emergencies and on nuclear security. A law on nuclear energy had been drafted in cooperation with the Agency's Office of Legal Affairs and a comprehensive nuclear security plan was being elaborated. Sudan would then have completed all the legal and administrative procedures relating to the establishment of an independent regulatory authority.

75. The elimination of nuclear weapons would build confidence, support the non-proliferation regime and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy in order to meet the growing demand for nuclear applications in the fields of health, food, agriculture, industry and other areas.

76. While all States in the Middle East region had acceded to the NPT and demonstrated their resolve to take practical steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, Israel continued to defy the international community by refusing to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear installations under comprehensive Agency safeguards, and by rejecting all international initiatives in that regard. His delegation underscored the need to bring pressure to bear on Israel to accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State and to place all its nuclear installations under comprehensive Agency safeguards, thereby supporting international efforts to make the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and promoting peace and security in the region. The countries of the region could then focus on the economic and social development of their peoples and refrain from engaging in an arms race that sparked crises and undermined confidence.

77. The Arab States had refrained from submitting a draft resolution on Israeli nuclear capabilities at the 2011 and 2012 sessions of the General Conference as a gesture of goodwill and to facilitate the convening of the Helsinki conference in 2012. However, the negative developments that had led to the postponement of the conference had motivated the Arab Group to resubmit the draft resolution. His delegation called on all peace-loving States to vote in favour of the draft resolution in order to reaffirm the universality of the NPT and to preserve international peace and security.

78. Mr MOVSISYAN (Armenia) said that his country's cooperation with the Agency in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy was developing effectively, with the Agency providing comprehensive

support in many areas, including nuclear power and nuclear medicine. Armenia attached great importance to the development and intensification of its cooperation with the Agency.

79. For the further development of nuclear power, compliance with the non-proliferation regime was of great importance, as was the application of NPT safeguards, which could be ensured through Armenia's fulfilment of its international obligations and improvement of its domestic legislation. Armenia was continually improving its domestic legislation and scrupulously met its international obligations. It had made appropriate amendments to its law on the safe use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes relating to nuclear material accounting and control. Those amendments were currently before the Armenian Parliament and he hoped that the law would be adopted by the end of the year. In May 2013, Parliament had ratified the 2005 amendment to the CPPNM.

80. Armenia had received an Agency mission for the review of the country's INSSP in August 2013, and would be hosting an important IPPAS mission in the second half of 2014.

81. Armenia met its obligations under the safeguards agreement and additional protocol and submitted the proper reports and declarations in a timely manner. It welcomed the ongoing assistance from the Department of Safeguards.

82. Armenia was pursuing cooperation with various countries in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. In the near future, an agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear safety would be signed between the Governments of Armenia and the Russian Federation, which would enable the development of Armenia's nuclear safety infrastructure through the construction of new Russian-designed nuclear power units in Armenia; training, retraining and skills upgrading for nuclear safety specialists on the basis of Agency recommendations; and the expansion of cooperation on nuclear power.

83. A memorandum of understanding on energy, including nuclear energy, had been signed between the Governments of Armenia and the United States in October 2012. The document would enable closer cooperation between the two countries in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

84. Armenia reaffirmed its intention to develop nuclear power, which was one of the key elements of its energy development programme. Only by including nuclear power in its energy mix could the country maintain a sufficient degree of energy security and independence. Negotiations were currently ongoing with potential investors for the construction of a new nuclear power unit in Armenia. A list of the major areas of cooperation was currently being agreed upon.

85. With assistance from the Agency and international experts, extensive work had been undertaken to improve the seismic safety of the existing unit at the Armenian nuclear power plant. During planned maintenance work in 2012, support structures had been installed to increase the seismic resistance of buildings and equipment. With that, the third and final stage of the programme to review the seismic safety of the second unit of the Armenian nuclear power plant, developed on the basis of Agency guidance, had been completed. Modelling of various types of unforeseen incidents and emergencies had shown that the plant met the design standards for seismic resistance.

86. Armenia appreciated the technical assistance it had received from the Department of Technical Cooperation, including in monitoring of the current condition and assessing the remaining operating lifetime of the major systems, structures and components of the Armenian nuclear power plant. Completion of those tasks would make it possible to continue work on extending the design life of Unit No. 2 of the Armenian nuclear power plant.

87. On the recommendation of the OSART mission conducted in 2011, the programme to improve the operational safety of the Armenian nuclear power plant had been reviewed. The main suggestions and recommendations made by the OSART mission had now been implemented at the plant. In 2013 a repeat OSART mission had taken place, which had noted the high level of work carried out but also

problematic issues, in particular issues relating to radioactive waste management. His country highly appreciated the level of assistance provided by the Agency for the programme to improve the operational safety of the Armenian nuclear power plant.

88. In the near future, Armenia planned to develop a radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management strategy with technical support from the European Union. In addition, it would complete the implementation of the OSART mission's recommendations.

89. Armenia had ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in 2013.

90. Armenia, with assistance from the European Union, would soon be completing the stress test on the existing unit at the Armenian nuclear power plant, and the final report on the test would be forwarded to the relevant organs of the European Union by the end of the year.

91. The safety of the existing unit at the Armenian nuclear power plant was closely monitored by the Administration. In November 2013, the Armenian Presidential Council for Nuclear Energy Safety, the members of which were internationally recognized experts and academics, would hold its 14th meeting and would consider a report on the implementation of measures to improve the safety of the plant. The sixth technical meeting on the coordination of international assistance to improve safety at the plant would also be held to examine the part that Armenia and donor countries could play in improving the safety of the existing unit.

92. He reaffirmed his country's willingness to participate in INPRO projects, particularly those dealing with the problems of developing nuclear power in small countries and designing small and medium sized reactors. Armenia was an active member of INPRO and stood ready to organize meetings in Yerevan under INPRO programmes.

93. In closing, he expressed his country's full support for the Agency's work in the further development of the peaceful and safe use of atomic energy.

94. Mr MBARAWA (United Republic of Tanzania) commended the tireless efforts of the Director General to advance the peaceful application of nuclear technologies and congratulated him on his reappointment.

95. Welcoming the theme of the 2013 Scientific Forum, he said that Tanzania, as a coastal State, recognized the need for a global approach and integrated effort to address current and emerging challenges concerning the marine environment. By applying nuclear technologies, the Agency, in cooperation with Member States and other international organizations and key partners, would help to find ways to protect and preserve the ecological balance, which was vital for the survival of coastal regions and shores as well as the marine environment. The role of the marine environment in the hydrological cycle could not be overemphasized for an agricultural country like Tanzania, and every step must be taken to conserve that essential resource. As one of the beneficiaries of the regional programme on building capability in marine pollution, Tanzania reaffirmed its commitment to and support for cooperation under AFRA as well as other interregional initiatives.

96. In 2013, Tanzania had celebrated the tenth anniversary of the National Nuclear Regulatory Authority. It acknowledged the close partnership that had grown over the years with the Agency and other Member States, which had made it possible to strengthen nuclear safety and security and to implement technical cooperation programmes with considerable socio-economic impact in the country. Notable achievements in that regard included a major transformation in cancer diagnosis and treatment, which had been virtually non-existent; the establishment of a legal framework governing the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies that were in compliance with international requirements; and the development of national capabilities for the utilization of nuclear technologies

in agriculture and livestock as well as for prevention, detection and rapid response in the area of illicit trafficking in nuclear and other related radioactive materials.

97. His delegation thanked the Agency and other bilateral partners that had assisted Tanzania in implementing the national development programmes behind those achievements, and expressed particular appreciation to the Government of the United States of America for the extrabudgetary funding extended to Tanzania in 2013 through the PUI.

98. To ensure sustainability in the area of radiation protection, Tanzania needed to upgrade its secondary standard dosimetry laboratory to enable it to meet national and regional demands. His delegation appealed for further technical support and collaboration in that regard.

99. His delegation acknowledged the Agency's assistance to the Tanzania Food and Drug Authority, which would significantly enhance the Authority's ability to analyse metal contaminants, pesticide residues and mycotoxins, and further national and regional efforts to ensure food safety for the local and external market. The accreditation of the laboratory in Dar es Salaam would further enhance the laboratory's national and regional capabilities.

100. His delegation also acknowledged the expansion of the ongoing work with PACT and other partners on the improvement of cancer diagnosis, treatment and control at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam and the Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza. Through the promising results of that work, Tanzania had set targets to fight cervical cancer and other major cancers in a five-year national cancer control strategy inaugurated by the Director General during his visit to Tanzania in early 2013. However, a number of challenges still needed to be addressed, including a lack of funds and trained human resources.

101. Tanzania would take all necessary measures to support Agency policies and programmes aimed at improving the safety and safeguards of nuclear facilities worldwide and at strengthening national, regional and international efforts and capabilities for emergency preparedness and response. In that connection, Tanzania appreciated the work carried out by the Agency's uranium production site appraisal team during a mission from 27 May to 5 June, which had enabled Tanzania to reassess its safety and regulatory infrastructure in preparation for the commencement of uranium mining in the near future. Tanzania would welcome additional technical assistance to further improve its ability to assess and manage radiological safety and security in that area.

102. He reaffirmed his Government's commitment to meeting its obligations and supporting the Agency's efforts to achieve its mandated objectives and was pleased to pledge the full share of Tanzania's voluntary contribution to the TCF.

103. Mr AL SAMERRAI (Iraq) said that the General Conference was being held at a time of major change at the international and regional level, especially in the Middle East region. The Iraqi Government was deeply concerned about the continuous upheavals in the region, which could undermine security and lead to an escalation in terrorist threats and in the use of lethal weapons against civilians — developments that would jeopardize international peace and security. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq had referred in his statement to the International Conference on Nuclear Security to the international community's shared view that terrorism represented the greatest threat to international peace and security, and that vigorous action in the area of nuclear security was required to prevent nuclear and radioactive materials from falling into the hands of terrorists. Iraq strongly supported Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) concerning the importance of preventing non-State actors from acquiring such material and equipment and the need to expand international cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

104. The Iraqi Government had taken many legislative and practical measures aimed at enhancing the safety and security of nuclear activities. The Parliament had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 13 May 2013 and the CPPNM on 13 December 2012. It had enacted Law No. 52 of 2012 concerning an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement, a law ratifying the CTBT, which would shortly be published in the Official Gazette, and Law No. 48 of 2012 establishing the National Monitoring Board to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Parliament was expected to enact a law on the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Authority by the end of 2013 and the Government was shortly expected to adopt a law on the National Nuclear and Radiation Control Authority and submit it to Parliament for enactment.

105. With regard to practical measures, Iraq was pressing ahead with the establishment of a national system for the control of dual-use material and equipment. It had completed the second stage of the process aimed at strengthening control over sensitive material and equipment, especially items listed in disarmament treaties and the NPT. The Council of Ministers had adopted a nuclear and radiation emergency plan and made the necessary arrangements for capacity-building, routine exercises and enhanced preparedness and response.

106. Iraq had been working for more than five years with experts from the Agency, friendly countries and the European Union on the decommissioning of destroyed nuclear facilities and on radioactive waste management. Considerable progress had been made in the decommissioning process notwithstanding the major challenges stemming from the fact that the facilities had been destroyed during the 1991 military conflict. A number of facilities in the Al-Tuwaitha complex and elsewhere had been decommissioned. Detailed plans for the decommissioning of other facilities, in accordance with agreed priorities, were currently being prepared. Further details were available at a General Conference side event.

107. The Iraqi Government was committed to the application of Agency standards in order to ensure the safety of society and the environment. Draft basic principles for a national radioactive waste management policy were currently before the Council of Ministers and would probably be adopted shortly. Steps could then be taken to develop a detailed policy implementation strategy. The Ministry of Science and Technology was preparing a national capacity-building programme in the areas of nuclear security and nuclear forensics in coordination with relevant Iraqi institutions.

108. Iraq was currently seeking to introduce peaceful applications of nuclear energy such as electronic accelerators for use in scientific research as well as medical, environmental, agricultural, industrial and other applications. His country hoped to receive increased support for such projects from the Agency. The Iraqi Government had financed some of the approved technical cooperation projects that had not been earmarked for appropriations under Iraq's joint funding mechanism with the Agency. Thus, a sum of about half a million euros had been transferred to the Agency during the 2012–2013 cycle and it was expected that additional funds amounting to about €1 million would be provided under the same mechanism for the 2014–2015 cycle.

109. His delegation wished to reiterate the appeal it had made at the last session of the General Conference for additional international support for the decontamination of the Iraqi environment and for the detection and disposal of the landmines that prevented the development of large tracts of agricultural land in addition to causing human casualties.

110. The Iraq Government believed that action to free the Middle East region of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction was a basic prerequisite for the achievement of security and stability in the region. It was therefore regrettable that the conference scheduled to be held in Helsinki in late 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East had been postponed. Iraq believed that further efforts should be made to convene the conference in view of its

prospective positive impact, in both political and security terms, on the sensitive situation in the region.

111. The development of peaceful nuclear programmes was an inalienable right of all States, especially developing countries, and should not be subject to restrictions, monopolies or binding international conditions that harmed the interests of the countries concerned.

112. Mr PISTELLI (Italy) commended Director Yukiya General Amano for his hard work and leadership and congratulated him on his reappointment.

113. The use of chemical weapons in Syria served as a painful reminder that the danger of WMD was real and that the proliferation of nuclear weapons and all other kinds of WMD was a major threat to international peace and security. The NPT remained the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and Italy supported unconditionally all three pillars as essential elements for achieving disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear power. Every NPT State party had the responsibility to preserve and strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. In 2015, the NPT Review Conference would assess the progress made in the implementation of the 2010 action plan, including the convening of a conference on a Middle East NWFZ. Freeing the Middle East from all WMD and their delivery systems remained an absolute priority and Italy regretted the postponement of the 2012 conference. His country reiterated its support for the ongoing efforts of the facilitator and the co-conveners to hold the conference at the earliest possible date and urged all States in the region to attend.

114. Italy reaffirmed its full support for the Agency's verification activities and highlighted the need to ensure that the Agency was given the necessary means and support to continue that important work. In that connection, Italy called on all States that had not yet done so to implement a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol since the universal application of those instruments remained of the utmost importance.

115. His country reiterated its support for a comprehensive, peaceful and diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, and hoped that Iran would engage with the international community in a spirit of mutual respect, in order to achieve a negotiated solution. However, Iran's continued violation of the relevant Security Council and Board resolutions was a cause of concern, as were the possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme. The lack of progress in the dialogue between the Agency and Iran was regrettable. Italy supported the Agency's ongoing efforts to achieve tangible progress in negotiations on a structured approach, and looked forward to the resumption of talks scheduled for September 27.

116. Italy fully supported the diplomatic efforts of the P-5+1 and the Almaty confidence-building proposal. In light of the results of the presidential elections in Iran, a change in the Iranian approach to negotiations was possible. Italy hoped that a new round of talks would be scheduled in the near future.

117. The continued development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by the DPRK was a clear threat to international peace and security. Italy condemned in the strongest possible terms the nuclear test carried out by the DPRK in February — the third since 2006 — which had further seriously undermined regional stability and prospects for lasting peace in the region. Italy shared the goal of verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. To that end, the DPRK should return to the NPT, take concrete steps to comply with its obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions and refrain from any further provocative acts.

118. Italy once again urged Syria to remedy its non-compliance with its safeguards obligations and cooperate fully with the Agency in solving all outstanding issues.

119. The inalienable right of all States parties to the NPT to choose nuclear power as a major energy source for their economic development came with responsibilities and obligations. Although Italy had decided to discontinue its nuclear energy programmes, it remained committed to nuclear safety and security. Significant funds were being allocated for the decommissioning of nuclear plants and managing radioactive waste. The national energy strategy adopted in March had confirmed the commitment to continue nuclear decommissioning and update national expertise in the fields of nuclear safety and technology. It also considered the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan, which had been approved at the EU level and set out the strategic priorities necessary to tackle the energy and climate challenges of the future, including research and development on new-generation reactors.

120. Although nuclear safety was a national responsibility, it was an area requiring stronger international cooperation. Italy intended to continue sharing its expertise and to learn from the best practices of others. It was open to participate in multilateral initiatives, including in the areas of decommissioning and waste management. In line with the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, Italy stood ready to work with other countries towards establishing a nuclear liability regime that would provide for adequate guarantees in the event of an accident.

121. Italy would host an IRRS mission in 2015 and looked forward to cooperating fully with Agency experts in assessing Italy's compliance with international agreed standards.

122. The Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security held in July had offered a unique opportunity to focus on the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism, the prevention of which should be a key security priority for all. Italy actively participated in the G8 Global Partnership against the spread of WMD. It worked closely with the United States of America in the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative for the repatriation to the United States of nuclear materials still on Italy's territory. The nuclear security summit process, to which Italy contributed, provided a framework for strengthening global nuclear security, and Italy looked forward to the next summit in The Hague in 2014.

123. Italy recognized the importance of education and training in the fight against nuclear terrorism and had, together with the Agency and the ICTP in Trieste, set up the International School on Nuclear Security, which received a large number of applications from both developing and emerging countries. Italy was working closely with the Agency to ensure that the School offered courses on nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response

124. In the current difficult financial situation, the Italian Government had made unprecedented efforts as regards public expenditures. The Italian public expected that the same rigour would be applied by international organizations. Nevertheless, Italy would remain a major contributor to the Agency's Regular Budget and the TCF in the future.

125. Ms VLAHOVIC (Montenegro) said that her country had come a long way since its first General Conference in 2007. A number of important developments had helped create the preconditions for full implementation of the highest international and EU standards at national level. Montenegro, which had used its positive experience with the Agency in the negotiation process with the European Union, had commenced preparations for the adoption of a new CPF for 2014–2020. That time frame would coincide with Horizon 2020, the new European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, in which Montenegro would participate extensively. Montenegro would strive to harmonize its future cooperation with the Agency with its accession to the EU.

126. The first article of the country's Constitution defined Montenegro as an "Ecological State", which meant that all major national decisions and action must first be considered from the standpoint of environmental sustainability. Her Government recognized the importance of cooperation with the

Agency on environmental protection and the enhancement of the quality of life of its citizens. The Agency's valuable technical and expert assistance in enhancing environmental protection efforts had helped promote comprehensive, dynamic and sustainable development in the country. Her delegation thanked the Agency for providing Montenegro with wide-ranging technical assistance in drafting legislation and establishing an institutional framework based on international standards and principles.

127. Since 2006, Montenegro had participated in many national and regional technical cooperation projects that had helped in strengthening capacities in a variety of medical fields, upgrading the regulatory infrastructure and promoting environmental and radiation protection. Her delegation thanked the Department of Technical Cooperation for its assistance and noted that, during the 2012–2013 cycle, the national technical cooperation programme had focused on upgrading the diagnostic radiology quality assurance/quality control system for breast cancer screening.

128. Montenegro was committed to further strengthening its national security framework by implementing international instruments and fostering cooperation on the prevention of illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive materials. It took part in many non-proliferation initiatives, including a programme for the establishment of a system for knowledge management in the area of illicit trafficking in chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances and weapons in south-eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Her country's authorities and institutions would continue to contribute actively to the Agency's work and to the implementation of the decisions of the General Conference.

129. Ms TROJANOWSKA (Poland) said that her Government's decision to launch a nuclear power programme had been made mainly for energy security reasons, namely to ensure the country's long-term electricity supply at reasonable prices, while meeting environmental protection requirements. Noting that the Polish nuclear power programme was due to be approved shortly by the Government, she said that Poland was planning to build two nuclear power plants with a total installed capacity of about 6000 MWe and to start the operation of the first nuclear power reactor around 2025.

130. Following the guidance provided by Agency recommendations, an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review mission had taken place in Poland in March 2013. The INIR report underlined that Poland had made significant progress in creating the necessary infrastructure for its nuclear power programme and referred to good practices along with some recommendations.

131. An IRRS mission had taken place in April. In general, it had found the Polish regulatory system to be effectively independent, well organized and effective in making decisions, in accordance with international and European Union regulations, and on the right track in preparation for nuclear power production.

132. Poland's national R&D establishments, universities and institutes of the Academy of Sciences were crucial for the successful introduction of nuclear power. The Polish research centres established more than 50 years earlier had been very quickly recognized by the Agency. They had trained many foreign experts and their researchers had been used by the Agency as experts. Furthermore, Poland's Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology had been nominated as an Agency collaborating centre for radiation processing and industrial dosimetry from 2010 to 2014. The EU Structural Funds project for a centre of radiochemistry and nuclear chemistry had been implemented, and a laboratory building had been reconstructed and provided with the first-class equipment.

133. Countries developing nuclear power programmes were required under international law to implement regulations on the safety of nuclear installations. Experts from the Polish nuclear regulator, acting on the basis of the recommendations of the Agency and the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association (WENRA), had developed detailed safety requirements for nuclear facilities, including their siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning, together

with a model for financing radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management. The aforementioned requirements had been passed into Polish law through an amendment to the country's Atomic Law and its specific regulations.

134. Poland participated actively in international cooperation aimed at continuously raising and maintaining the level of nuclear safety worldwide. Vital to that cooperation were the review processes of the Joint Convention whose Fourth Review Meeting in 2012 had given a new impulse to the implementation of long-term national policies and strategies on the management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Poland intended to continue its efforts devoted to the successful implementation of safety improvement measures, in particular concerning the application of the Agency's safety standards, the enhancement of the transparency and effectiveness of its nuclear regulator and the implementation of international peer review missions.

135. Her country considered technical cooperation as an important activity in relations between the Agency and the Member States. Poland's national technical cooperation programme had proved very helpful in preparing the national infrastructure for the introduction of the nuclear power programme. In particular, for the previous two years, Poland had been cooperating with the Agency on human resources development for the nuclear power programme and on strengthening its regulatory infrastructure in the nuclear safety area. Her Government hoped to continue that important cooperation in the 2014–2015 cycle.

136. Under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative's Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return Programme, Poland was removing low and high enriched uranium spent nuclear fuel from the EWA and MARIA research reactors. Six operations of spent nuclear fuel shipments had been organized. The uranium-235 recovered from the spent nuclear fuel would be used for peaceful purposes as new fuel for nuclear power plants. Simultaneously, the MARIA reactor conversion was being conducted. If all the necessary technical conditions were met, the reactor core conversion process should be completed in 2014.

137. Poland was committed to ensuring that the highest standards of nuclear security were observed in the development of its peaceful nuclear power programme. It had begun cooperating with the Agency on the preparation of a national nuclear security training programme, and a national workshop on the development, use and maintenance of the design basis threat had been held in Warsaw in September 2012. Poland had also amended its legislation to empower the competent government agencies to act in the nuclear security field.

138. In closing, she reaffirmed her Government's firm support for the Agency's activities, and noted that her country would strive to ensure that its tenure as a member of the Board of Governors benefited every Member State.

139. Mr JAXALIYEV (Kazakhstan) said that, as a party to the NPT, Kazakhstan was making active efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime. It would welcome the universalization of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and, to that end, called on States that had not accepted those instruments to do so without delay.

140. Kazakhstan had played an important role in the establishment of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and hoped that the experience it had gained in that regard would be useful in other regions, including the Middle East.

141. President Nazarbayev had launched the ATOM (Abolish Testing. Our Mission) project, whose purpose was to enable people everywhere to sign an online petition calling for the permanent abandonment of nuclear testing.

142. Kazakhstan had supported the Agency's nuclear fuel supply assurance initiative and its offer to host an international LEU bank had been accepted. Negotiations with the Agency on draft agreements and related documents were continuing and joint activities were being carried out to ensure the highest level of safety and security for the bank.

143. Kazakhstan had welcomed the recent visit of an Agency expert group, during which the Director General and Deputy Director General for Safeguards had familiarized themselves with the proposed site of the bank. The Director General's meetings with high-level officials had helped to clarify many of the issues regarding the draft agreements and the implementation of the project in general.

144. Kazakhstan was convinced that the establishment, under Agency auspices, of such nuclear fuel supply assurance mechanisms would in no way jeopardize the right of Agency Member States to establish their own production capacity within the nuclear fuel cycle. However, any such mechanism should not be politicized or discriminatory and should be accessible to all States committed to the principles of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

145. Kazakhstan, which was implementing the provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, called on those countries that had not acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible. Kazakhstan had acceded to the CPPNM and ratified the Amendment thereto, and urged other States to do likewise. The early entry into force of the Amendment would strengthen nuclear security globally.

146. Kazakhstan had taken part in the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul and was making every effort to implement its outcomes.

147. With the support of the United States Department of Energy, the WWR-K research reactor at Kazakhstan's Institute of Nuclear Physics was being converted to LEU fuel and studies were under way on the feasibility of doing the same for other research reactors in Kazakhstan. Given the lower efficiency of radioisotope production technologies not involving the use of HEU, Kazakhstan had, at the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit, proposed that economic incentives be offered to encourage the transition to technologies that did not use HEU.

148. Kazakhstan, which was implementing the provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), was taking measures to further improve the system for combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material. As a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee, Kazakhstan was taking all possible steps to ensure the scrupulous control of nuclear exports, including those relating to facilities and equipment used to enrich uranium and reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

149. Kazakhstan highly appreciated the Agency's work in strengthening the nuclear safety regime. As any large-scale nuclear accident could have serious transboundary consequences, Kazakhstan was supporting the Agency's efforts to develop a tougher approach to nuclear safety in the nuclear power sector and attached great importance to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

150. Kazakhstan welcomed the Agency's activities in promoting the development and transfer of technology and knowledge related to peaceful nuclear applications, including nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle. It was particularly interested in the Agency's work to identify a policy for the development of human resources in the field of nuclear science and technology.

151. Kazakhstan had been working with the Agency to assess the contamination of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site with a view to returning it to economic use, and on joint projects in the field of nuclear medicine.

152. Noting that his country intended to develop further its technical cooperation with the Agency, he emphasized that Kazakhstan intended to continue to pay in full its contributions to the Agency's Regular Budget and to the TCF.

153. Kazakhstan, which was a leading producer of uranium ore and had the potential to produce nuclear fuel, intended to expand its involvement in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy under the NPT. The State-owned company Kazatomprom was creating a vertically integrated company covering the complete nuclear fuel cycle. Kazatomprom had joined forces with a Russian isotope separation company and joint nuclear fuel and conversion activities were being carried out.

154. Although his country was an active and responsible member of the Agency, it was unfortunately deprived of the opportunity of participating in the elected bodies of the Agency. Kazakhstan would therefore like to see the amendment to Article VI of the Statute entering into force soon.

155. Ms KAFFA (Niger) said that her country would become the world's second largest producer of uranium by 2016. Given the strategic nature of uranium, Niger endorsed close international cooperation and partnership and had a heightened sense of responsibility vis-à-vis the international community. It would do everything it could to ensure that its mining of uranium complied with its national and international obligations, and intended to work transparently, in complete synergy with the Agency and the international community, to ensure that nuclear energy remained a major factor in promoting peace, progress and development in a world free from the threat of nuclear war.

156. Niger had made tangible progress towards attaining national and international non-proliferation objectives and had finalized a regulatory framework. The main international legal instruments on nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security and radiological protection had been signed and ratified.

157. Niger's CPF for 2010–2015 was being implemented, and the resulting projects were consistent with the objectives under its national plan for economic and social development 2012–2015. The CPF focused on nuclear safety and security, human health, agriculture and animal resources, sustainable energy development, integrated and sustainable water resources management, and human resources development in nuclear science and techniques. She expressed appreciation to the Agency for its assistance, which had enabled Niger to obtain very satisfactory results, and noted that Niger would like to undertake a review of the programme in collaboration with the Agency.

158. Niger was working together with PACT and other development partners such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank to implement its national cancer prevention programme more effectively. A centre for cancer treatment had been put in place and radiotherapy unit was under construction with a view to ensuring sufficient technical capabilities. He hoped that Agency assistance in that regard would continue until construction was completed and noted that, once operational, the facility would as a subregional reference centre for the comprehensive treatment of cancer patients.

159. The nuclear medicine centre, operational since 1995, conducted in-vitro and in-vivo activities, which had been expanded thanks to two Agency technical cooperation projects. Niger would like to enlarge the centre and also to build a second one in Zinder, 900 kilometres from the capital, for the more than one million inhabitants of the central and eastern parts of the country as well as persons from neighbouring countries.

160. Niger reiterated its request for Agency assistance to embark upon an integrated nuclear power programme and would make every effort to ensure that its utilization was in keeping with Agency safety, security and safeguards standards. It urged the Agency to encourage countries that had already mastered the relevant technology to assist in its transfer and training so that more African countries might add nuclear power to their energy mix.

161. She announced that a Chair for Nuclear Science had been created at the Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey and that the process of creating an atomic energy and CTBTO high authority was being finalized.

162. With over 80% of its working population employed in the agriculture and stockbreeding sectors, Niger attached great importance to the cooperation programmes of the Agency aiming to increase agricultural and animal production, which would help meet the challenges of food security and the fight against poverty. She commended the Agency for its wide-ranging assistance in the framework of regional, sub-regional and international programmes, and in particular AFRA, and drew attention to the project on integrated and sustainable management of the shared aquifer systems in the Sahel region, which was helping to improve water resources management in the region.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.