



# General Conference

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## Sixtieth regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Tenth Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Friday, 30 September 2016, at 9.30 p.m.*

**President:** Dato' Adnan OTHMAN (Malaysia)

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<sup>1</sup> GC(60)/20.

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**Abbreviations used in this record:**

GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
MESA	Middle East and South Asia Group
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
SEAP	South East Asia and the Pacific Group
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
USA	United States of America



## – Oral report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole

1. Mr CSERVENY (Hungary), Chair of the Committee of the Whole, reported on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda items 14, 15, 16, 17 and 21.

2. Under item 14, "Nuclear security", the Committee recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.7.

3. Under item 15, "Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities", the Committee recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.6.

4. 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(60)/L.3, as follows: "A. Non-Power nuclear applications: 1. General; 2. Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue- and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes; 3. Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign; 4. Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium sized nuclear reactors; 5. Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture; 6. Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf; B. Nuclear power applications; and C. Nuclear knowledge management".

5. Under item 17, "Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards", the Committee recommended that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.8.

6. Under agenda item 21, "Promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA decision-making process", the importance of maintaining and promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's decision-making processes and strengthening the Agency and its governing bodies had been highlighted. The expansion of membership of the Board of Governors, enhancement of the role and authority of the General Conference, and the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between the two bodies had been underlined. The importance of the direct engagement and participation of all Member States in the decision-making process on issues relating to the Agency's work had been emphasized. The relevance and importance of the process currently under way for the early ratification of the amendment to Article VI of the Agency's Statute had been mentioned in that context. The need for the Agency to reform and promote the efficiency of its working methods and adapt the application of procedures of its bodies, especially with regard to the use of electronic voting and the timely tabling of resolutions, particularly in the Committee of the Whole, had been raised by some members.

7. Having concluded his oral report, he expressed his gratitude for the confidence placed in him through his election as Chair of the Committee of the Whole. He thanked his Vice-Chair, Ms Geels of New Zealand, and expressed appreciation to the members of the Committee for the cooperative spirit in which deliberations had taken place. He also thanked the staff of the Secretariat and all those who had contributed to making the Committee's work a success.

### **Nuclear Security** (agenda item 14)

8. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.7 was adopted.

9. Mr YOUSSEF (Egypt) said that the Agency's expertise and knowledge were highly important when it came to supporting Member States in their nuclear security activities. Although Egypt had some reservations about the discussions undertaken in drafting the resolution just adopted, and the Committee's recommendation thereon, it had joined the consensus because it attached great importance to the Agency's role in the nuclear security field.

10. Egypt believed that the Agency's December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security was of paramount importance and hoped that all preparations would be made in full transparency, that all participants would be able to express clearly their concerns, and that the conference would be able to meet the needs and aspirations of Member States.

11. Ms HOLGATE (United States of America) highlighted the significant progress made in international nuclear security in 2016 driven by major events such as the final Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, the entry into force of the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the 10th anniversary of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security. The General Conference, and specifically the resolution as adopted, had afforded an opportunity to capture and reflect that progress and give direction to the Secretariat's future work in nuclear security. The USA regretted that the focus of discussions had been elsewhere during the preceding week, on issues under consideration in other international institutions. As a result, most of the major nuclear security developments could not be reflected in the resolution, and hours had been spent discussing political issues that had no direct bearing on the Agency's activities.

12. The USA, fully committed to nuclear disarmament and comprehensive nuclear security, regretted that such discussions made it more difficult to progress on the Agency's actual responsibilities. The Agency's strength lay in its inclusive and technical nature, which could help to advance important initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The USA attached great importance to the pursuit of such goals and believed that nuclear security fundamentally enabled the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. As a nuclear security event anywhere could undermine international support for, and hamper access to, the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, the USA considered that it was unhelpful to argue that nuclear security raised a barrier to peaceful uses. Far from it, nuclear security helped to ensure that Member States continued to reap the benefits of the atom for power generation, research and medicine, among other things.

13. While the USA was pleased that consensus had been restored on the draft resolution, it was to be noted that a number of Member States had proposed paragraphs with political intent, and having no bearing on the Secretariat's work. The desire for consensus had prevailed over the goal of strengthening the Agency's work, and Member States had retracted long-established understandings, including with regard to the Statute. The USA stressed, however, that the Agency's statutory basis for nuclear security was not open to debate, for it rested on Articles II, III, VIII, IX and XII, which covered the provision of training and technical advice and the facilitation of information exchange, for which Member States had regularly affirmed support in many decisions of the Board of Governors.

14. The USA regretted that the Agency's central and coordinating role in nuclear security, albeit endorsed by Member States, could not be fulfilled owing to over-reliance on extrabudgetary contributions from a few key donors, leading to a constant turnover of personnel and a loss of much needed expertise. It was disappointed that Member States could not agree to provide the Agency with reliable and sufficient resources to meet needs and expectations. Fewer than 15% of Member States, in addition to the European Commission, had contributed to the NSF in the preceding two years. The USA was committed to raising awareness of such vulnerabilities and to working with Member States to find solutions.

15. The USA called for the obstacles to progress on nuclear security to be overcome. The ministerial declaration that was being drafted in preparation for the Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 would afford ministers an opportunity to speak to each other and to the world about their nuclear security goals and priorities. The USA encouraged everyone involved to focus on commitments and concrete actions, and looked forward to achieving greater progress in December.

16. Mr VINHAS (Brazil) thanked the drafters for their hard work on the resolution just adopted, and all those who had helped to move the consultation process forward. In particular, delegations had been required to make a concerted effort to reach a consensus on paragraph (c). He praised the goodwill and flexibility demonstrated by all to that end. Learning from that year's arduous experience, he hoped that all delegations would engage early in negotiations on the safeguards resolution in the future. There was ample room for improvement on the working methods for drafting the document, with a view to enhancing transparency, participation and interaction among Member States.

17. Given the Agency's central role in the international nuclear security architecture, it was essential to place its work in that field in the proper context, highlighting the intrinsic link between nuclear security, nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation regime. It was obvious that a world with fewer nuclear weapons and less nuclear material for military purposes would be a world with fewer nuclear security vulnerabilities. Progress in all of those areas could set in motion a virtual circle in which nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security would be mutually reinforcing. The Agency played a statutory role in the verification of voluntary disarmament measures, as demonstrated by its activities to verify the dismantling of the South African nuclear weapons programme. Other efforts, such as the Trilateral Initiative, also took into account the Agency's role as well as NPT obligations relating to nuclear disarmament. Although some countries had tried to deny it, the Agency's role in nuclear disarmament had, in recent years, been duly reflected in the safeguards resolution. The links between nuclear security, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament had been recognized in the resolution as adopted, thus placing the Agency's nuclear security endeavours in their proper international context.

18. Such a comprehensive perception of the Agency's role became all the more important as the Agency's December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security drew near. Brazil hoped that the related ministerial declaration would be ambitious and forward looking, encompassing not only the Agency's specific tasks, but also broader nuclear security challenges at all levels, including States' responsibility to protect their most sensitive nuclear material and facilities. The resolution adopted provided a good basis for that declaration, but other important documents, such as the communiqué of the Nuclear Security Summit, should also be taken into account. Brazil called on all States to follow the example of States that had already taken commendable, transparent measures to protect nuclear material for nuclear weapons, and to discuss the development of mechanisms to foster transparency and confidence building in that area.

19. Recognizing the growing importance of nuclear security and taking into account global financial constraints, it stressed the importance of striking a balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

20. Mr BUDIMAN (Indonesia) thanked all those who had taken part in the informal consultations and negotiations on the draft resolution for displaying such great flexibility. Although many contentious issues had been discussed, an agreement had finally been achieved, thus showing that the Vienna spirit was still alive. Indonesia had some reservations about the conduct of the consultation process but hoped that the experience would lead to greater transparency and inclusiveness in future.

21. Indonesia believed that the resolution put nuclear security in its proper context, and hoped that it would build awareness of States' fundamental responsibility to ensure effective and comprehensive security for all nuclear material, including material in nuclear weapons. The risk of non-State actors gaining access to nuclear weapons or to weapons-grade material only heightened the need to achieve nuclear disarmament speedily. Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

22. As a contributor to the NSF, Indonesia recognized the importance of appropriate technical, human and financial resources for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities that, in Indonesia's view, should continue in the main to be funded voluntarily through the NSF, without disturbing the balance between the established priorities of the Agency's statutory activities.

23. Indonesia welcomed the consensus achieved on the draft resolution, which would provide a springboard for the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security.

24. Mr STALDER (Switzerland) expressed his country's satisfaction at the adoption of the resolution by consensus, which opened up new prospects and provided a platform for addressing nuclear security more broadly to include all nuclear material. The rise in terrorist threats had heightened the importance of a united stand on nuclear security. The resolution must therefore be built upon for the Ministerial Declaration of the International Conference on Nuclear Security, in order to send a clear, ambitious and forward-looking message from ministers to the international community, illustrating their commitment to supporting the continuous strengthening of nuclear security. Switzerland assured the co-chairs of the December conference of its full support, and was confident that the resolution formed a solid basis for a successful outcome.

25. Mr FALCONI (France) congratulated all delegations for reaching a compromise on the resolution after difficult discussions and for finding ways and means of overcoming differences. France believed, however, that disarmament fell within the remit of other bodies, and regretted that some delegations had exerted pressure to have it included in the Agency's work. That had created tension and divisions, and had threatened the good work of the Agency. The agreed language in the resolution was at the limit of what France was willing to accept. France would focus on the positive spirit that had prevailed, which boded well for cooperation in preparing for the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security.

#### **Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (agenda item 15)**

26. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.6 was adopted.

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

27. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.3 was adopted.

#### **Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards (agenda item 17)**

28. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution set out in document GC(60)/L.8 was adopted.

29. Mr MISRA (India) said that his country, a founding Member of the Agency, had consistently supported all of its activities within the framework of its Statute. India attached great importance to the



Agency's safeguards work in particular, and had contributed to improvements to safeguards effectiveness and efficiency.

30. Although India had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it believed, with regard to paragraph 7 thereof, that Agency safeguards should apply to all Member States and other relevant partners in accordance with their respective legal obligations.

31. Mr AHMED (Pakistan) said that his country had demonstrated its support for the Agency's safeguards by implementing its safeguards obligations for all civilian facilities and by cooperating with the Agency. The role of safeguards was to facilitate and provide a framework for cooperation on the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, free from discrimination and from strategic or political considerations.

32. The Agency's Statute took into account the differentiated nature of Member States' safeguards obligations and did not accord universality to the comprehensive safeguards agreement. It was Pakistan's understanding that the current language contained in paragraph 7 of the resolution as adopted had to be read in conjunction with the existing *chapeau* which stated "Consistent with respective safeguards undertakings". Accordingly, paragraph 7 applied only to those States which had signed comprehensive safeguards agreements. Pakistan would continue to support the Agency's verification activities consistent with the framework provided for in the Statute.

33. Mr SHAUL (Israel) said that his country wholeheartedly supported the objective of strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards. Israel regretted, however, that recent attempts to amend the wording of paragraph 7 had not been accepted in order to alleviate concerns by all Member States. The universal application of comprehensive Agency safeguards was beyond the scope of the Agency and derived from the international obligations which each State had taken upon itself.

#### **Promotion of efficiency and effectiveness of the IAEA decision-making process (agenda item 21)**

34. The General Conference took note of the report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

35. The PRESIDENT said that the General Conference had dealt with all the items referred to the Committee of the Whole. He thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole for their successful work. He was gratified that a consensus had been reached within the Committee of the Whole on all draft resolutions, on the occasion of the Agency's 60th anniversary.

36. Mr NAJAFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) stated his country's strong objection to the misconduct of one delegation during that year's general debate. Under Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, only the presiding officer could invite delegates to observe silence, yet one delegation had misused the floor to request silence. Iran categorically rejected such behaviour and hoped that it would not happen again.

37. He thanked the President for the professional manner in which he had led the deliberations of the General Conference, drawing on his experience and diplomatic skills.

38. Ms PEÑA ARAQUE (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, congratulated the President on the success of the 60th session of the General Conference, and thanked the Secretariat for its great diligence.

## **23. Report on contributions pledged to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2017**

(GC(60)/17/Rev.1)

39. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report on TCF contributions pledged for 2017 contained in document GC(60)/17/Rev.1. The total amount pledged was €25 862 007, or 30.5% of the target for 2017, and was 16.5% higher than the percentage of the TCF target pledged at the same time in 2015.

40. Since the publication of the document, the following Member States had communicated pledges: Burkina Faso: €3 397; Côte d'Ivoire: €7 642; Lebanon: €37 363; Mozambique: €3 397; and Qatar: €388 476. In addition, Israel had communicated an increase of €84 361 in its previous pledge.

41. The total amount pledged by the end of the General Conference was therefore €26 386 643, representing pledges from 82 Member States and accounting for 31.1% of the TCF target for 2017. The amount pledged was €10.4 million, which was 12.1% higher than that pledged by the end of the previous General Conference. Both the amount and the percentage of the TCF target represented a record compared with previous General Conferences and reflected the commitment of Member States to the Agency's TC activities.

42. However, pledges had been received by four fewer Member States than at the end of the previous session of the General Conference. He therefore urged all delegations that had not yet done so to make their 2017 pledges and pay their contributions in full at the earliest opportunity to enable the Secretariat to submit to the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee in November 2016 a draft 2017 TC programme and budget based on the level of pledges received and then implement the approved programme without hindrance or uncertainty.

### **– Closing of the session**

43. The PRESIDENT said that the 60th session of the General Conference had been well attended by high-level representatives of Member States, including one Vice-President and 27 ministers. During the general debate, 130 speakers had taken the floor.

44. Mr FORMICA (Italy) congratulated the President on his successful handling of the work of the General Conference and on his excellent time management. He commended the professionalism of the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

45. Mr ALSHAHMAN (Iraq) expressed appreciation of the President's stewardship of the General Conference. He congratulated the Member States that had been elected to the Board of Governors from all geographical areas, especially MESA. Iraq would continue, notwithstanding the results of the ballot, to contribute to the Agency's work and to support the goals of nuclear non-proliferation and international disarmament.

46. Ms SABORÍO DE ROCAFORT (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, thanked the Chair of the Committee of the Whole for his skilful conduct of the negotiations and congratulated the President on his efficient stewardship of the General Conference. GRULAC commended all delegations for the constructive spirit that they had displayed, which had enabled the General Conference to adopt most resolutions by consensus.

47. Mr STUART (Australia), speaking on behalf of SEAP, thanked the President for presiding over the work of the General Conference with distinction. SEAP thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole for their constructive and even-handed approach and commended delegations for working in a cooperative, patient and flexible manner to achieve a range of consensus outcomes.

48. Ms ALGAYEROVÁ (Slovakia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, thanked the President, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole and the resolution coordinators for their highly constructive and professional approach, which had led to the successful outcome of the 60th session of the General Conference.

49. Ms ANGARA COLLINSON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Far East Group, congratulated the President on his dextrous handling of the 60th milestone session of the General Conference, and the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and other delegations for keeping the Vienna spirit alive.

50. The PRESIDENT said that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as President of the General Conference at its 60th session.

51. He expressed appreciation for the skilful manner in which the Chair of the Committee of the Whole had guided the deliberations. His professionalism and diplomatic skills had greatly contributed to the successful outcome of the Conference.

52. He thanked all delegates for their cooperation, which had led to the solution of a number of problems.

53. On behalf of the General Conference, he thanked the Director General and his staff, including the interpreters, translators, précis-writers, the members of the Conference Services Section, the members of the Secretariat of the Policy-Making Organs, the officers in charge of the speakers' list, the printers and the officers in charge of documents control and distribution.

54. On behalf of the General Conference, he thanked the Austrian authorities and the city of Vienna for their traditional hospitality.

55. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, he invited the Conference to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

**All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.**

56. The PRESIDENT declared the 60th regular session of the General Conference closed.

**The meeting rose at 10.30 p.m.**