



**IAEA**

*60 Years*

*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# General Conference

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## Sixtieth regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the First Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 26 September 2016, at 10.05 a.m.*

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

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**Abbreviations used in this record:**

CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
E3/EU+3	France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the European Union plus China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America
EU	European Union
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G7	Group of Seven
HEU	high enriched uranium
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
LEU	low enriched uranium
LWR	light water reactor
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NGO	non-governmental organization
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OECD/NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSART	Operational Safety Review Team
P5+1	the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

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

SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America

## – Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared the 60th regular session of the General Conference open.
2. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, he invited the delegates to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

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

3. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that the General Conference was taking place at a historic moment, as the Agency was celebrating its 60th anniversary. He welcomed the ministers and senior officials from Member States who were attending the Conference in such large numbers, thus enhancing the standing of the Agency as the foremost forum for international cooperation on the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy. The Agency had come a long way in those 60 years, demonstrating a great capacity to adapt to a changing world while remaining true to its mission, namely to ensure that nuclear energy was used for the good of humankind.

4. The Agency was now using a special logo with the message ‘60 Years: Atoms for Peace and Development’. The Director General had recently indicated that the Agency would use the anniversary to highlight its significant contribution to global peace, security and development. It could be said with confidence that without the Agency the world would be less peaceful, less secure and less developed.

5. The preceding year had been intensive. Since concluding the landmark deal on the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Agency had been playing a key role in verifying and monitoring Iran’s nuclear-related commitments, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of the JCPOA in a clear demonstration of the Agency’s professionalism and impartiality.

6. The Agency’s verification activities deserved full support as safeguards were a cornerstone of global peace and security. He expressed appreciation for the Agency’s readiness to contribute to the peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue by resuming verification activities in the country once an agreement had been reached among the countries concerned.

7. He also commended the Agency on its tireless efforts in ensuring the highest nuclear safety and security standards. Not only had the Agency’s safety standards contributed to establishing a stronger global nuclear safety framework, but it also played the leading role in developing international nuclear security guidance and strengthening the international nuclear security framework. The recent entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM represented another milestone, and efforts must now turn to the universalization and implementation of the amended Convention.

8. A year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, all international organizations and their Member States must now take action. The Agency could contribute substantially to the attainment of the SDGs, in particular through its technical cooperation programme. PACT was a good example of a new partnership contributing to strengthened cooperation. As stakeholders, Member States should ensure that the Agency had the technology, expertise, authority and resources to meet the high expectations placed on it.

9. The Agency had done well in its first 60 years and would continue to do so over the following 60 years provided that Member States upheld their commitment to ensuring that atomic energy

contributed to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world and was not used to further any military purpose.

10. He commended the Director General and the Secretariat on their remarkable achievements and dedication in upholding the Agency's ideals.

## **1. Election of officers and appointment of the General Committee**

11. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT invited nominations for the office of President of the Conference.

12. Mr STUART (Australia), speaking on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific Group, proposed Dato' Adnan Othman (Malaysia).

13. Dato' Adnan Othman (Malaysia) was elected President by acclamation.

14. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT congratulated Dato' Adnan Othman on his election and wished him every success in his task.

### **Dato' Adnan Othman (Malaysia) took the Chair.**

15. The PRESIDENT, thanking delegations for the confidence they had placed in him by electing him to preside over the General Conference at the 60th session, expressed special appreciation to the members of the South East Asia and the Pacific Group, in particular Australia, for their support and encouragement.

16. He further expressed appreciation to the Ambassador of Italy, Mr Formica, for his sterling stewardship of the 59th session of the General Conference. He also paid tribute to the Director General for his superb leadership, dedication and commitment over the preceding seven years and commended all staff members on their achievements.

17. As well as auspicious and special, the 60th session of the General Conference was also commemorative, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Agency. The Agency's work to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy in areas including water resources management, agriculture and human health had contributed immensely to socioeconomic development. The Agency had come to be known as the international promoter of 'Atoms for Peace' within the United Nations family and the focal point for peaceful nuclear cooperation.

18. Agenda 2030 and the SDGs had established a broad framework for development, giving an impetus to the Agency to build on its contributions to the attainment of the MDGs and further enhance its efforts in the nuclear field.

19. While recognizing the milestones and achievements over the preceding 60 years, thought also needed to be given to identifying ways to further accelerate, increase and diversify the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

20. To enable the Agency to perform to its full and optimum capacity, Member States were responsible for ensuring that it was provided with adequate resources. To that end, global development partnerships needed to be strengthened and cooperation enhanced between the Agency, Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

21. The General Conference provided an opportunity to review the Agency's work, build on the achievements to date and make decisions intended to further progress the Agency's efforts to promote global peace and security. As the Agency was a Member States-driven organization, it fell to Member States to make full use of the opportunity to define their aspirations and goals for the Agency's work. He expressed the sincere hope that the commemorative mood of the anniversary and the 'Vienna spirit' of consensus would contribute to making the upcoming discussions constructive. He urged all Member States to work together with a sense of urgency, cooperation and accommodation to ensure a fruitful outcome and the timely conclusion of the session.

22. Turning to procedural matters, he said that the Conference was required under Rules 34 and 40 of the Rules of Procedure to elect 8 Vice-Presidents, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and 5 additional members of the General Committee to constitute the General Committee of 15, which he would chair. However, he proposed that in the current session the General Committee be composed of 16 members, consisting of 8 Vice-Presidents and 6 additional members, so that the area of South East Asia and the Pacific, in addition to providing the President of the Conference, could also have a Vice-President. That would involve the suspension of Rules 34 and 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, as had been done in comparable situations in the past.

23. It was so agreed.

24. He proposed that the heads of delegation of Canada, Chile, Greece, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Latvia, Mongolia and the Sudan be elected as Vice-Presidents of the General Conference, that Mr Cserveny (Hungary) be elected as Chair of the Committee of the Whole and that the delegates of Guatemala, Morocco, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia be elected as additional members of the General Committee.

25. The President's proposals were accepted.

26. The PRESIDENT further proposed that the General Conference take up items 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda, in that order, pending receipt of the General Committee's recommendation on the agenda.

27. The President's proposal was accepted.

## **2. Applications for membership of the Agency** (GC(60)/6, 18 and 19)

28. The PRESIDENT drew attention to documents GC(60)/6, 18 and 19 containing applications for membership by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia respectively. The applications had been endorsed by the Board of Governors, which had submitted, in those documents, three draft resolutions to the General Conference for adoption.

29. He took it that the Conference wished to adopt the three draft resolutions by acclamation.

30. It was so decided.

31. The PRESIDENT congratulated Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia on being approved for membership of the Agency.

### **3. Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

32. Mr FEDOTOV (Director General, United Nations Office at Vienna), read out the following message:

“It is a pleasure to send my greetings to the General Conference and to Director General Amano and all the staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“Over the last 60 years, the IAEA has been a champion for international peace, energy security, development and global health, working to facilitate the benefits of nuclear energy while ensuring that it is not diverted for malicious purposes.

“In the past year, the IAEA has been at the centre of some of the world’s most important security challenges.

“I commend the Agency for successfully rising to the task of verifying the nuclear commitments agreed in the JCPOA on Iran’s nuclear programme.

“A sustained commitment by the parties, with the support of the IAEA and its members, will be essential to provide the international community with the necessary long-term assurances on Iran’s nuclear programme.

“I am pleased that the fourth and final Nuclear Security Summit earlier this year reaffirmed the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and in carrying forward political momentum.

“I commend the IAEA’s initiative in convening a ministerial level international conference later this year to follow up on the gains made through the summit process.

“I welcome the focus of this General Conference on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals was a towering achievement for people, peace, planet, prosperity and partnership.

“The IAEA, through its technical cooperation programme, can make real contributions to helping Member States achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the fields of food safety, agricultural productivity and medicine — especially the treatment of cancer.

“I wish you all the best for a successful conference.”

33. On behalf of the United Nations Office at Vienna, he added his own congratulations on the 60th anniversary and best wishes for a successful session of the General Conference.

### **4. Statement by the Director General**

34. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the 60th General Conference was a significant milestone in the history of the Agency, which had achieved much over the preceding six decades. By making nuclear science and technology available to improve human well-being and prosperity, the Agency had made a real difference to the lives of millions of people throughout the world. It had also made a unique contribution to international peace and security through its work to verify that nuclear material remained in peaceful uses.



35. The Agency had been given special recognition in 2005 with the Nobel Peace Prize, which had been awarded jointly to the Agency and to the Director General, Mr ElBaradei. He paid tribute to all the previous Director Generals for their enormous contributions to shaping the organization that he was proud to serve today.

36. From the start, a key area of the Agency's activities had been to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons by monitoring nuclear material and facilities. Over the years, the Agency had dealt with some of the most critical issues on the international agenda, including nuclear verification in Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK.

37. The Agency implemented safeguards in 181 States, 173 of which had comprehensive safeguards agreements in force. As Director General, he had encouraged countries to implement the additional protocol, a powerful verification tool that gave the Agency greater access to information and locations. The number of countries with additional protocols in force had risen from 93 in 2009 to 128 in 2016.

38. Since 2003, the Agency had been working to verify Iran's nuclear programme. It had reported regularly on Iran's implementation of its safeguards agreement and of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In 2015, the Agency had provided a clear, factual assessment of Iran's past nuclear activities. The Agency's work had been indispensable in paving the way for the diplomatic breakthrough achieved in 2015 in the form of the JCPOA. The Agency was now verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under that agreed plan. The fact that the Agency had enjoyed the confidence of all parties in that very complex issue was a tribute to the professionalism, objectivity and impartiality of its inspectors.

39. The preceding 60 years had demonstrated that nuclear science and technology played a major role in supporting sustainable development. Improving access to effective cancer treatment in developing countries, for example, had been a high priority for Member States, for the Agency and for him personally. Through PACT and other activities, the Agency helped countries to devise comprehensive cancer control programmes. Real progress had been made in recent years in Africa in particular. New specialist cancer centres had been established, and radiation oncologists and medical physicists were returning home after receiving intensive training abroad with Agency support. The needs remained great, however; the Agency would therefore maintain its focus on cancer control as a priority issue.

40. Cancer was only one of many areas in which the Agency was contributing to achieving the SDGs. It was also helping countries to achieve the goals related to poverty and hunger, clean water, affordable and clean energy, and climate change, which were all areas in which nuclear science and technology could make an important contribution.

41. In that connection, the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture had generated more than 3200 new varieties of foods, such as wheat and rice, using nuclear techniques, which had improved global food security. The Agency had also contributed to the eradication of rinderpest, which was only the second infectious disease — after smallpox — to have been eradicated worldwide.

42. Moreover, the Agency had helped to make nuclear power available to countries that wished to use it and had helped to strengthen nuclear safety and security throughout the world.

43. In all of those areas, capacity building was of vital importance. Since 1958, more than 48 000 scientists and engineers had held fellowships and scientific visitor positions through the Agency's technical cooperation programme, both at its laboratories and at its partners' facilities around the world. Many of those scientists and engineers had gone on to play a key role in building capacity in nuclear science in their countries.

44. The Agency's activities needed to be supported by adequate funding. The PUI, launched in 2010 as a funding mechanism to complement the TCF, had proved to be very effective in raising additional resources. Total PUI funding to date had just exceeded €100 million. He expressed thanks to all the countries that had contributed and had thereby helped the Agency to deliver its 'Atoms for Peace and Development' mission.

45. When he had first taken up office, he had stated that nuclear power should not be the preserve of developed countries and that developing countries should also be able to use it. Nuclear power could make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy security, while delivering energy in the large and growing quantities needed for development.

46. Some 30 developing countries were currently considering introducing nuclear power. The first of four nuclear power reactors in the United Arab Emirates was expected to come online in 2017. The Agency actively supported all countries that opted for nuclear power at every step of their journey to enable them to use it safely, securely and sustainably.

47. The Agency had coordinated the international response to the most serious accidents at nuclear power plants, at Chernobyl in 1986 and at Fukushima Daiichi in 2011. After the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the Agency had quickly convened a ministerial conference leading to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which had helped to significantly improve nuclear safety worldwide. In 2015, he had released his report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident, together with five technical volumes, which would serve as the key reference document for many years to come.

48. In future, the Agency planned to pay increased attention to issues such as the safety of radioactive sources used in industry, health care and other non-power applications. There was no room for complacency about nuclear safety, and a robust nuclear safety culture needed to be maintained everywhere.

49. The Agency was recognized as the global platform for strengthening nuclear security. Countries were increasingly seeking its help in minimizing the risk of nuclear or other radioactive material falling into the hands of terrorists. The Agency had trained thousands of police officers and border guards in nuclear security, supplied thousands of radiation detection devices and helped countries to address weaknesses in security at facilities.

50. In 2013, it had organized the first international conference on nuclear security at ministerial level, which had been open to all Member States. The next ministerial conference would take place in December 2016, and he encouraged all countries to be represented at ministerial level.

51. The Agency had worked hard to encourage countries to adhere to the Amendment to the CPPNM, which was a key nuclear security instrument. It had finally entered into force in May 2016, 11 years after it had been adopted. The implementation of the amended Convention would help to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack involving nuclear material, which could have catastrophic consequences.

52. Noting that membership of the Agency continued to grow, he welcomed 3 countries that had joined in the preceding 12 months, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan, which brought the Agency's membership to 168 nations. He also welcomed the applications for membership submitted by Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia. The continued growth in membership showed that the Agency remained an organization that delivered.

53. In recent years, the Agency had constantly adapted to the changing needs of Member States. Despite a difficult economic environment, it had continued to invest in the future. It had completed two new state-of-the-art safeguards laboratories at Seibersdorf, within budget. It had also launched a

project to modernize its nuclear applications laboratories, known as ReNuAL, and construction work had started on two new buildings at Seibersdorf.

54. Construction of a new IAEA LEU Bank in Kazakhstan had also begun, which would give countries confidence that they would be able to obtain nuclear fuel for reactors in the event of a disruption to existing fuel supply arrangements.

55. Sound management had been key to the Agency's successes in recent years. As a technical organization that dealt with advanced nuclear technology, it had handled the often sensitive issues on its agenda impartially and objectively. It had also demonstrated its ability to successfully manage costly major projects, such as the modernization of the safeguards laboratories and the planned launch of the LEU Bank. It had responded swiftly to crises such as those involving Ebola and Zika fever. It had also maintained high standards of integrity and had significantly increased the proportion of women in senior positions, although more needed to be done in that area.

56. Although the Agency could take pride in its achievements, it continued to face major challenges. Verification and monitoring in Iran had just begun and would continue for many years to come. The DPRK had carried out two more nuclear tests in 2016; its nuclear programme remained a matter of serious concern and posed a growing threat to peace and security in north-east Asia and beyond. The Agency maintained its readiness to resume its verification work in the DPRK once political developments made that possible.

57. Member States were seeking increasing assistance from the Agency in achieving the SDGs related to energy and other key areas. The Agency's work in that area was not receiving the recognition it deserved.

58. Member States wanted the Agency to provide more help in the area of nuclear safety and security. They also expected it to continue to manage its limited financial resources prudently and with maximum impact.

59. It was essential to maintain momentum in all areas of the Agency's work over the coming years. He would be honoured to provide the necessary continuity were Member States to place their confidence in him again as Director General. He had informed the Chair of the Board of Governors of his availability to serve another term. The Agency had a remarkably broad mandate, covering many disparate areas, which needed to be implemented in a balanced manner. As Director General, he would continue to focus on delivering concrete results, ensuring timely decision-making, responding to Member States' needs and promoting sound management.

60. He thanked the Member States for their active support for the Agency's work and for him personally, as their full engagement was one of the keys to the Agency's success. He also expressed thanks to Austria for being a model host country and to all Agency staff, past and present, for their hard work and dedication.

## **6. Contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2017** (GC(60)/17)

61. The PRESIDENT said that the Board had recommended on 7 June 2016 a figure of €84 915 000 as the target for voluntary TCF contributions for 2017. Document GC(60)/17 showed the contributions that each Member State should make in order to meet its share of that target. Early pledging and payment of contributions to the TCF considerably facilitated the planning of the

Agency's technical cooperation programmes, and all delegations that could, but had not yet done so, were urged to notify the Secretariat during the session of their governments' TCF contributions for 2017.

62. He would report at the end of the session on the pledged contribution amount and hoped to do so favourably regarding the percentage of the 2017 target figure then pledged.

## **7. General debate and Annual Report for 2015** (GC(60)/9 and Additional Information)

63. Mr MONIZ (United States of America) read out the following message from President Obama:

"I send greetings as you gather in Vienna for the 60th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. Seven years ago in Prague, I outlined my vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and called on the international community to work together to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime. I am proud of what we have accomplished so far, and I commend the IAEA for playing a leading role in fostering the growth of safe, secure and reliable nuclear energy.

"It has now been over a year since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was reached among the P5+1 and Iran. Its implementation demonstrates what can be achieved through a commitment to informed, principled diplomacy. The IAEA's efforts to verify Iran's performance of its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA are vital and help assure us that the JCPOA is accomplishing its objective of ensuring Iran's nuclear programme is and remains exclusively peaceful. The United States will continue to fully implement its commitments under the JCPOA, and we urge all parties to provide continued support to the IAEA's important verification role.

"Earlier this year, I hosted the fourth Nuclear Security Summit to accelerate international efforts to reduce the evolving threat posed by nuclear terrorism and to make progress toward strengthened international norms and standards for nuclear security. While each of these Summits has contributed to bolstering the nuclear security structure at national, regional and global levels, we must now look ahead to reaffirm the IAEA's essential and central coordinating role in the global nuclear security architecture and ensure that it continues to have the appropriate structure, resources and expertise needed to carry out its mandated nuclear security activities.

"I am confident that, by working together, real progress can be made in enhancing the nuclear non-proliferation regime and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Congratulations to the IAEA on six decades of progress — I wish you all the best for the years ahead."

64. Excellent progress had certainly been made, and now the Agency was taking on even greater importance. In connection with the four Nuclear Security Summits, States had taken tangible actions to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism and to strengthen international norms and actions to promote nuclear security. More than 3.8 metric tons of material had been successfully removed or dispositioned; 34 HEU-fuelled research reactors and isotope production facilities in 18 countries had been converted to LEU fuel and targets or shut down, and all HEU had been eliminated from 15 countries as well as from Taiwan, China.

65. Eleven countries had ratified the Amendment to the CPPNM in 2016, resulting in its entry into force. Maintaining momentum in all of those areas was critical. He was committed to attending the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 and strongly encouraged other Member States to participate at the ministerial level.

66. The Agency had a major role to play for the foreseeable future, including in verifying JCPOA implementation. His country thanked the Agency and its safeguards team for their professional approach to confirming implementation and carrying out the crucial verification activities for the international community.

67. The USA continued to support all Agency verification activities with infrastructure, equipment, training and experts. It also supported the effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements, additional protocols and modified SQPs.

68. Especially following the Paris Agreement, there was a growing consensus that the world must address climate change. To that end, the USA had pioneered the PUI to help countries benefit from clean nuclear energy and other nuclear technologies. Those investments, and those by other contributors, helped support the implementation of the SDGs.

69. Civil nuclear power continued to provide the greatest proportion of his country's clean energy and could be a powerful tool for bringing the world low-carbon electricity, on condition that its use was safe and secure and enjoyed broad public confidence. Under Mission Innovation, 20 countries and the EU would promote the faster development of clean energy innovation, including nuclear innovation, by doubling their related research and development.

70. The United States Department of Energy, in partnership with the country's nuclear industry, was investing in a range of innovative reactor technologies, including technologies to extend the lifetimes and improve the economics of current reactors, small modular reactors to be constructed in the coming decade and next generation reactor designs for the longer term beyond 2030. Four new reactors were under construction in the USA and a fifth was about to begin operation. Backed by over US \$1.6 billion in private capital, dozens of companies were also working to commercialize next generation nuclear reactor designs.

71. Thanks to strong partnerships with research institutions and the leadership provided by the OECD/NEA and the Agency, his country was making progress towards installing and beginning to test advanced fuel concepts in commercial reactors by 2022.

72. As the end of President Obama's administration approached, substantial progress had been made towards realizing his vision for nuclear security and towards a clean energy future. With its atoms for peace and development mission, the Agency would play a key role in that regard.

73. Ms ŽIAKOVÁ (Slovakia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States; the candidate countries Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, San Marino and Ukraine, said that the EU attached great importance to the Agency's core responsibilities with regard to non-proliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security and technical cooperation.

74. The EU also attached importance to the empowerment of women and to gender mainstreaming. In its view, efforts to achieve gender equality at the Agency, such as by increasing the representation of women in the Professional category, in management positions and in the context of the technical cooperation programme, benefited the Agency.

75. The EU was fully committed to promoting universal adherence to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament agreements. It reiterated its firm support for the full, complete and effective implementation of the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty, and considered it vital for the further development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The EU called on States that had not yet done so to join the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States.

76. The Agency's safeguards system was an essential part of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and central to the implementation of the NPT. The EU underscored that the UN Security Council had primary responsibility for handling cases of non-compliance. The EU recognized the serious, ongoing threat posed to international security by nuclear proliferation challenges and the need to find peaceful, diplomatic solutions to those challenges.

77. Over a year had passed since the historic agreement had been reached between the E3/EU+3 and Iran on the JCPOA regarding Iran's nuclear programme, and the EU noted with satisfaction its ongoing implementation. The agreement reached on the JCPOA highlighted the importance of effective multilateral cooperation within the framework of relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, relevant resolutions of the Agency's Board of Governors and the NPT. Iran must adhere strictly to all its commitments under the JCPOA and cooperate fully and in a timely manner. Early ratification by Iran of its additional protocol, which would also demonstrate Iran's commitment to the JCPOA, was essential.

78. The EU condemned in the strongest possible terms the fifth nuclear test carried out by the DPRK on 9 September 2016. The proliferation of nuclear weapons, as exemplified by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, remained of grave concern to the EU. Nuclear weapons test explosions, and all other nuclear explosions, represented a threat to international peace and security and undermined the non-proliferation regime. The EU urged the DPRK to reverse its course, abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programme, comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and return to the NPT and Agency safeguards at an early date. The EU attached the utmost importance to the continuation of the Agency's essential verification role in connection with the DPRK's nuclear programme.

79. Recalling the resolution adopted by the Board on 9 June 2011<sup>2</sup> in which it concluded that the Syrian Arab Republic was in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement, the EU urged Syria to cooperate with the Agency to resolve all outstanding issues, including by concluding and implementing an additional protocol as soon as possible.

80. The EU fully supported the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Only if all stakeholders engaged in dialogue and confidence-building could agreement be reached on arrangements for a meaningful conference on the establishment of such a zone, to be attended by all States of the region.

81. A comprehensive safeguards agreement with an additional protocol constituted the current verification standard and the EU called for their universal implementation without delay. The EU urged the 46 States which had not yet adopted a modified SQP to accelerate progress in that direction. The EU supported efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of Agency safeguards through the further development and application of the State-level concept, enhanced capabilities of analytical services and information analysis and technologies. Consistent and universal application of the

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<sup>2</sup> GOV/2011/41

State-level concept in particular would further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system and thus contribute to global non-proliferation efforts.

82. In the EU's view, the close cooperation between Euratom and the Agency on safeguards was effective and efficient. The EU was actively supporting the Agency's safeguards system through its safeguards support programme and through the programmes of some of its member States.

83. To further support the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the EU had allocated €225 million for the period 2014–2020 to assist non-EU countries in the promotion of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the efficient and effective application of safeguards.

84. The EU attached the utmost importance to nuclear safety and its continuous improvement worldwide. The Euratom directive on nuclear safety set the objective of preventing accidents and, should they occur, mitigating the consequences and avoiding early and large radioactive releases. That objective, which was also included in the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety adopted in 2015 by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, would be of particular interest to EU member States at the forthcoming meetings in connection with the Convention. The EU and its member States stressed the importance of building on the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Clear priorities in nuclear safety would help the Agency to direct its efforts where they were most needed, avoid duplication of effort and make the best use of its resources.

85. The EU strongly supported the Agency's central role in the global nuclear security framework, as seen in international initiatives that had helped to improve nuclear security, including the nuclear security summits. To date, the EU had contributed €40 million and its member States had contributed an additional €45 million to the NSF, to the benefit of some 100 countries, and they intended to continue their support for the Agency's work in that area. The EU looked forward to the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 and encouraged all Member States to participate at the ministerial level.

86. The EU welcomed the signature of the Host State Agreement between Kazakhstan and the Agency and its approval by the Board of Governors in 2015, noting with satisfaction that the Agency was already preparing for the acquisition of the LEU required for the establishment of the IAEA LEU Bank. It welcomed the signature of the transit agreement in that connection between the Agency and the Russian Federation and looked forward to the signature of the transit agreement between the Agency and China. The EU was supporting that project with up to €25 million, of which €20 million had already been provided for the purpose of acquiring the LEU.

87. The EU noted the projections that global installed nuclear power capacity would increase by 2030. Although those projections had been lowered since 2010, the EU noted that nuclear power remained an important option for some Agency Member States and that the modernization of existing nuclear power plants and construction of new ones continued in various regions of the world.

88. The EU and its member States strongly supported the Agency's technical cooperation programme, including through the TCF and the PUI, and were the second largest contributor to it. The EU particularly appreciated the Department of Technical Cooperation for its efforts to combat the Zika virus disease in Latin America and the Caribbean and its efforts through PACT aimed at building sustainable capacities for cancer control, particularly in low and middle income countries. As the Seibersdorf laboratories of the Agency's Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications contributed substantially to those efforts, the EU was pleased to note the progress made under the ReNuAL project. The EU's support for the Agency and its Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, including the provision of technical expertise, amounted to some €150 million per year.

89. Mr KIRIENKO (Russian Federation) read out the following message from President Putin:

“I welcome the participants in the commemorative 60th session of the IAEA General Conference.

“Since its establishment, the Agency has proved itself to be an eminent specialized international organization. The constructive cooperation among States within the framework of the Agency has been facilitated by its handling of the crucial task of maintaining a delicate balance between the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

“As one of the founding members, our country has contributed both knowledge and technology to the construction of the Agency. Today, the Russian Federation is still a firm front-runner in nuclear power, with successful experience in constructing nuclear power plants in various parts of the world. Its national nuclear power programme and cooperation with its foreign partners are fundamentally in line with Agency norms and regulations.

“We are firmly committed to the provisions of the Statute and call on all States to follow it consistently in spirit and letter. We shall continue to support the Agency in every possible way, including in connection with the new threats and challenges facing the international community.

“I wish you a productive session and all the very best.”

90. Turning to the mitigation of human-induced effects on the environment, he said that nuclear power was essential in reducing carbon emissions. The cost and stability of its baseload were guaranteed in the long term without any carbon dioxide production. Another of its advantages was that it was not dependent on climatic factors or geographical location. Its energy potential was also important, since humankind would always aim to glean the maximum benefit from the available resources. With 98% of the useful extractable energy on earth contained in three elements, uranium-238, deuterium and thorium, just 1 kg of uranium yielded 88 thousand times more energy than 1 kg of coal.

91. The use of nuclear power could make a real contribution to implementing the Paris Agreement. By 2020, all countries were to publish their national programmes on maintaining the rise in the average global temperature below 2°C on the United Nations Framework on Climate Change website. The specific characteristics of each country should be taken into account and transparency ensured. Only the Agency had a unique methodology for evaluating nuclear power systems developed under the INPRO project initiated by the Russian Federation. He proposed that the Agency’s toolbox be updated and adapted to create a service package enabling all Member States to use a standardized methodology to prepare national reports and emission reduction programmes.

92. With regard to his country’s recent nuclear power achievements, he noted that new nuclear power plant projects must meet the dual objectives of complying with all post-Fukushima requirements and providing for spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management. In August 2016, Novovoronezh-6 had been commissioned, the world’s first Generation III+ nuclear power plant meeting all of the Agency’s post-Fukushima standards. A number of similar units had been designed and were under construction but that was the first to have been connected to the grid. The BN-800 fast reactor had also been brought to full capacity. Connected to the national grid, it was both a fully functional power reactor and the prototype for the reactors of the future. Innovative approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle were under development there, including work on fuel manufactured using the reprocessing products from LWR spent nuclear fuel.

93. An important step had been taken towards devising a strategy for the effective management of accumulated spent nuclear fuel worldwide. At the end of 2015, the Russian Federation had



commissioned a plant producing MOX fuel for fast reactors at the Gorno chemical works in Zheleznogorsk, which could meet the BN-800 requirements. In Seversk, pilot production had begun of the nitride uranium-plutonium fuel that was new for fast neutron reactors and could produce waste with the radioactivity level of natural uranium.

94. In July 2016, a delegation of high-ranking diplomats accredited to the Agency had visited two fast reactors in operation at the Beloyarsk nuclear power plant site. They had seen for themselves that a closed fuel cycle was not a hypothetical concept, but entirely feasible in practice. The Russian Federation attached great significance to such visits and would welcome resident representatives from Vienna in the coming year. In June 2017, participants in the Agency's International Conference on Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles in Yekaterinburg in the Russian Federation would also be able to visit Beloyarsk.

95. Officially contracted to construct more than 30 power units in various countries, the Russian Federation honoured its special responsibility by strictly complying with nuclear non-proliferation and safety requirements. In the preceding year alone, an intergovernmental agreement had been signed with Egypt on the construction of the four-unit El-Dabaa plant, and a general contract had been concluded on the construction of the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. Kudankulam Unit 1 had been handed over to India at a formal ceremony on 10 August 2016 and Unit 2 had been connected to India's grid on 29 August 2016. The first concrete was being prepared for Units 3 and 4 and the documents for the construction of Units 5 and 6 were planned to be signed by the end of 2016.

96. In 2016, the Russian Federation had officially handed over Unit 1 of the Bushehr reactor to the Islamic Republic of Iran. On 10 September 2016, the laying of the first stone for the construction of Bushehr Units 2 and 3 had been celebrated with the Iranians.

97. Turning to the Russian Federation's work in connection with the JCPOA, he said that his country was taking an informal approach to its implementation. It was even helping with actions that had not been directly assigned to its area of responsibility. On 28 December 2015, all surplus LEU and nuclear material had been shipped out of Iran, with 'implementation day' then occurring on 16 January 2016. On 13 and 20 September 2016, 38 tons of heavy water from Iran had been delivered to the Russian Federation in two trips. His country was working with Iran on modifying two cascades at the Fordow plant to produce stable isotopes.

98. In connection with the increasing interest worldwide in constructing atomic research centres, the Russian Federation had signed an intergovernmental agreement in March 2016 with Bolivia on the construction of such a centre. A similar agreement had been signed with Nigeria in June 2016. Intergovernmental agreements would also be signed with Tunisia and Cuba during the current session of the General Conference.

99. Taking a comprehensive approach to work with potential partners, his country paid close attention to direct cooperation with regulatory authorities on the legal infrastructure issues related to the construction of nuclear energy facilities. All cooperation with partner countries was in accordance with Agency standards and regulations. As the number of countries launching their own nuclear power programmes continued to rise, the Agency's role effectively increased. The position of the Russian Federation was clear: the Agency played a leading role in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was important that the Agency maintain its status as a professional, non-politicized, technical organization.

100. The Russian Federation supported the conduct of Agency nuclear safety missions and was implementing a special programme on OSART missions, which would run until 2023. Visits to six

Russian nuclear power plants were planned as well as a Corporate OSART mission. His country also welcomed the outcomes of the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems.

101. The Russian Federation was involved in Agency projects in all its main areas of activity and always paid its TCF contributions. It valued the Secretariat's work to boost international cooperation on the non-power applications of nuclear technology, and had made a commitment to support PACT over the coming four years.

102. His country supported the Agency's key role in international cooperation on nuclear security and ran a safeguards support programme.

103. The Russian Federation unwaveringly supported Director General Amano who was managing to steer a balanced professional course in difficult circumstances, and would support his election for a third term.

104. Anatoly Aleksandrov, one of the founding fathers of Soviet nuclear power, had said that atomic energy was millions of times superior to chemical in terms of concentration and fuel resources, giving humankind a new level of freedom and the opportunity to create the lives they desired. In the interests of making the most of that opportunity, the Russian Federation fully supported the Director General's initiative to change the message in the logo to 'Atoms for Peace and Development'.

105. Mr SALEHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that in the light of the *fatwa* issued by the country's Supreme Leader on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, his country pursued the path of developing peaceful nuclear technology in line with the Agency's statutory objectives. After two years of intensive negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect and the timely and full implementation of its commitments by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Director General had issued a report<sup>3</sup> setting out the final assessment of all past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear programme, thereby closing the false and fabricated nuclear file. A historic agreement had been reached as a result of Iran's persistent defence of its inalienable rights and was a diplomatic triumph not only for Iran, but also for world politics.

106. It was vital that all parties work together in good faith to ensure the implementation of the JCPOA, in the interests of the entire international community. Iran had fulfilled its role diligently by implementing all of its JCPOA commitments, as monitored and verified by the Agency, and by continuing its close cooperation with the Agency through the voluntary application of the additional protocol. However, expectations regarding the comprehensive and expeditious termination of all sanctions, as stipulated in the JCPOA, had not been met to date. The reciprocal and full implementation of the commitments by the P5+1 was the cornerstone of the JCPOA and fundamental to its sustainability. In the meantime, it was expected that the Agency would continue to pursue its monitoring role fairly and objectively.

107. In the atmosphere established following the agreement on the JCPOA, Iran would benefit from the infrastructure that it had developed, and in particular from its talented and experienced human resources, in continuing to accelerate the development of peaceful nuclear technology for both power and non-power applications. It stood ready to cooperate with interested, technologically advanced Member States and to exchange experience and expertise with developing countries through the technical cooperation programme. To increase the proportion of nuclear power in Iran's energy mix, the construction of new nuclear power plants was on the agenda of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

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<sup>3</sup> GOV/2015/68

108. The first nuclear power plant in the Middle East at Bushehr had recently been handed over to the Iranian operator after its successful commissioning and safe operation. The power plant had already saved the equivalent of approximately 25 million barrels of oil and had prevented the emission of approximately 16 million tons of pollutants. An advanced training centre had been set up for the power plant to develop the knowledge and skills of the operators and Iran declared its readiness to offer training services to other Member States, specifically those in its region, within the framework of the technical cooperation programme. A contract had been signed with Rosatom in relation to a long-term nuclear power plant development plan and assured supply of fuel, and the first phase of two new plants had been in September 2016.

109. In addition to Iran's impressive development with regard to various aspects of fission technology, a national project to develop fusion technology was under serious consideration and initial steps had been taken with the assistance of international partners, such as the EU and the Agency.

110. Given the importance of the ongoing promotion of nuclear safety knowledge and the constant enhancement of safety standards, the Agency needed to ensure the uninterrupted publication of its Safety Series and to facilitate and expand cooperation in that regard. As a pioneer in the use of peaceful nuclear energy in its region, Iran had always attached the greatest importance to nuclear safety and was considering establishing an advanced nuclear safety centre which would be pivotal to regional nuclear safety cooperation. It also envisaged hosting a nuclear safety conference to promote collaboration and better understanding among the countries in the region which had recently embarked on the acquisition of nuclear power plants and welcomed the cooperation of the EU in enhancing nuclear safety in the region.

111. The Agency played a crucial role in nuclear security, with full consideration of Member States' sovereignty. Measures to strengthen nuclear security should neither hamper international cooperation on peaceful nuclear activities nor undermine the established priorities of the technical cooperation programme. The sharing of knowledge and experiences was indispensable in underpinning nuclear security infrastructure. As emphasized in past General Conference resolutions, the inclusive involvement of all Member States was essential when formulating new ideas in connection with nuclear security, and decisions made at selective, restricted meetings could not be expected to be recognized by the majority of Member States. Iran supported the organization of regular inclusive ministerial level meetings and looked forward to participating in the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions to be held in December 2016 in Vienna.

112. Iran expressed its deep concern regarding the illicit trafficking of nuclear material and the possible acquisition of dirty bombs by terrorists. Cyberattacks such as the deployment of the Stuxnet virus against nuclear and other facilities in Iran represented one of the most egregious forms of sabotage.

113. While supporting the implementation of Agency safeguards and related verification mechanisms, Iran expected that the application of the State-level concept and approach should not lead to the discriminatory implementation of measures or to the sovereignty of Member States being undermined. For the sake of clarity and to remove any remaining ambiguities or concerns, Iran urged the Secretariat to continue to pursue regular constructive consultations with Member States. The implementation of the JCPOA and the safeguards regime, including the voluntary application of the additional protocol, had paved the way for the Agency to draw the broader conclusion for Iran but it was vital that the Agency adhere to the principle of confidentiality.

114. A world free of nuclear weapons in full implementation of Article VI of the NPT and the realization of nuclear disarmament by 2025 as proposed by NAM was an inevitable necessity and one of the best guarantees of nuclear security. As an advocate of nuclear disarmament, Iran continued to

urge the nuclear-weapon States to meet their obligations and called upon all Member States to join forces in that regard.

115. Iran reiterated its deep concern about Israel's clandestine military nuclear programme. Iran had initiated the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in 1974, which had been included in the 1995 NPT resolution on the Middle East and in the 2010 NPT Review Conference action plan. Israel, however, had not yet put its nuclear activities and facilities under a comprehensive safeguards agreement, thereby endangering the stability and security of the region as well as the integrity and credibility of the NPT.

116. Realizing Iran's motto 'Nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none' would accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

117. Mr ISHIHARA (Japan) said that for the preceding 60 years, the Agency had supported the NPT regime by promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and working to secure nuclear non-proliferation. Under the Director General's strong leadership, the Agency had played a critical role in monitoring and verifying the implementation of the JCPOA, addressing the DPRK's nuclear tests and development, and advancing development goals through various initiatives, notably the atoms for peace and development initiative. To continue those efforts, Japan supported the re-election of Mr Amano as Director General and called on all Member States to follow suit.

118. Nuclear energy was an important baseload power source for stable supply, economic efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, provided that its safety was ensured. His Government planned to restart nuclear reactors that satisfied the new regulatory requirements established after the Fukushima Daiichi accident, in agreement with the host municipalities.

119. Japan had maintained its policy of not holding reserves of plutonium without specific purposes, and his country would steadily utilize its plutonium in LWRs under rigorous Agency safeguards, including Ikata-3, which had resumed operation in August 2016. In accordance with that principle, Japan was making additional efforts to further increase transparency and confidence in its plutonium use, including measures such as the annual publication of The Status Report of Plutonium Management and the legislation passed in May 2016 aimed at reinforcing governance of reprocessing projects.

120. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, steady progress had been made in decommissioning and contaminated water management at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant as well as in decontamination and environmental remediation, and the evacuation zones were growing smaller. With the Agency's support, Japan had organized the first International Forum on the Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in April 2016, would continue to work in a transparent manner, and would also share the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident with the international community. In addition, his country was continuing its efforts to ensure the safety of food produced in Japan. Recognizing that many countries had already lifted restrictions on food imports from Japan, his country encouraged the international community to implement import policies based on scientific evidence.

121. Achieving and maintaining a high level of nuclear safety worldwide was an ongoing challenge. In January 2016, Japan had hosted an IRRS mission and was following up on the recommendations and suggestions.

122. His country appreciated Member States' efforts to improve nuclear safety in accordance with the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and was ready to support the Agency's continuing analysis of the observations and lessons learned from the implementation of the Action Plan, as well as in the identification of priorities for the Agency's programme.

123. Given the increasing importance of multilateral legal frameworks, Japan called for the efficient implementation of the nuclear safety-related conventions and for enhanced communication among the contracting parties. It also urged all States to accede to an international nuclear liability instrument. Japan called on all stakeholders in international nuclear cooperation, including those exporting and importing nuclear power plants, to give due consideration to nuclear safety. His country would continue to support the Agency in assisting with infrastructure development in countries introducing nuclear power by developing human resources, promoting public communication and building capacity in radiation safety and emergency preparedness and response. Japan would also contribute to global safety through further technological development.

124. His country commended the Agency's contribution to global socioeconomic development in areas such as human health, food and agriculture and water resources management based on its unique expertise, and hoped that the Agency would use its comparative advantage to help to achieve the SDGs. In August 2016, the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development had adopted the Nairobi Implementation Plan advocating support for the Agency's efforts to tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Agency's highly valued technical cooperation activities could become even more effective through strengthening partnerships with international development organizations and NGOs. Japan had pledged US \$25 million over a five-year period to the PUI in 2015. Its contributions were helping to fund a wide range of projects, including ReNuAL and projects aimed at combating the Zika virus, and Japan prioritized sharing expertise and capacity building.

125. His country's focus on research and development was demonstrated by the launch of the National Institutes for Quantum and Radiological Science and Technology in April 2016, and the IAEA Fusion Energy Conference to be held in Kyoto, Japan in October 2016. His country would continue to promote international cooperation in research and development and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and would help to develop the next generation of experts through the Japan-led Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia and other international frameworks.

126. With the conclusion of the Nuclear Security Summit in April 2016, the Agency would now take on the central role in coordinating international efforts in nuclear security. Japan strongly hoped that the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 would facilitate further technical discussions and lead to specific international cooperation. His country also commended the Agency's tireless work towards promoting the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM.

127. As part of efforts to further strengthen nuclear security by minimizing and appropriately managing its sensitive nuclear material, Japan had completed the removal of all HEU and separated plutonium fuels from the Fast Critical Assembly of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency in March 2016, and had announced the conversion of the Kyoto University Critical Assembly from HEU to LEU fuel. His country had formally decided to introduce a system to confirm the trustworthiness of personnel at Japan's nuclear power plants. In another key area, the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security had trained more than 2700 nuclear security experts over the preceding five years. In 2016, Japan was making further efforts to lead multilateral discussions on nuclear non-proliferation by assuming the G7 presidency and serving as Chair of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. Japan would also host the 2017 Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

128. Japan would continue to support the Agency's work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its safeguards system. To support the promotion of the universal application of comprehensive safeguards agreements and the additional protocol, Japan had organized an outreach event in Myanmar and had supported an Agency safeguards seminar in Niger in 2016. Japan was also promoting

non-proliferation, particularly in Asia, by serving as Chair of the Asia–Pacific Safeguards Network and hosting the annual Asian Senior-Level Talks on Non-Proliferation.

129. As a result of the DPRK's repeated nuclear tests including its fifth on 9 September 2016 and ballistic missile launches, the international community faced an increased threat. The DPRK's nuclear and missile development represented a grave challenge to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and was completely unacceptable. Japan condemned it in the strongest terms and strongly urged the DPRK to refrain from further provocations, to fully comply with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Joint Statement of the fourth round of the Six-Party Talks, and to return to compliance with the NPT and Agency safeguards. Japan supported the Agency's continued and full engagement in that matter.

130. His country welcomed the steady implementation of the JCPOA and strongly hoped that it would continue to be implemented fully. The Agency played an essential role in the monitoring and verification of JCPOA implementation, and Japan would continue to offer active support.

131. As a country enjoying the benefits of advanced nuclear technology, Japan was committed to further promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to strengthening nuclear non-proliferation.

132. Mr ALBAYRAK (Turkey) said that the 60th anniversary was a testament to the ongoing importance of the Agency's mandate. The Agency had coped with many challenges, accumulated unrivalled experience and substantial expertise on which Member States could rely, and had successfully adapted to the changing circumstances and needs of Member States. It occupied a central role in international nuclear cooperation and its contribution to global development and non-proliferation continued to grow. It was important to ensure that the Agency had the necessary political, technical and financial support to carry out its mandate effectively.

133. The Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington in April 2016 had presented a timely opportunity for an international response to nuclear security challenges. It had achieved new commitments that would improve the nuclear risk outlook in future years. Turkey, which had been involved in the Nuclear Security Summit process since its inception, welcomed the 2016 Communiqué, which reaffirmed the central role of the Agency in strengthening global nuclear security cooperation. His country, which had ratified the Amendment to the CPPNM in 2015, commended the Agency's role in facilitating the entry into force of the Amendment in May 2016. While the responsibility for nuclear security lay with States, nuclear threats and the consequences of nuclear terrorism transcended international borders and regional threats could quickly evolve into a global phenomenon. Though every country might take precautions relating to its own power plants, a broader security perspective was also needed that was not limited to legislative frameworks and where decisive, cooperative action would be taken against possible threats. Turkey had shown strong commitment to the enhancement of nuclear security, both as a national responsibility and through cooperation in international nuclear security efforts. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was in force in Turkey and provisions of the Turkish Penal Code were being updated to bring it into line with international obligations. Turkey welcomed the Agency's ongoing assistance in upgrading its country's legislative framework to meet the highest international standards and enhancing its implementation capacity. More work was needed to build an effective global nuclear security system and to secure all nuclear weapon-usable material, and high-level political attention to nuclear security must be maintained. In that connection, Turkey looked forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions to be held in December 2016 in Vienna.

134. Given the vital importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the result of the 2015 NPT Review Conference had been disheartening but the 2010 action plan was still in place and a common vision must be re-established before the new review cycle began.

135. Comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols were essential tools for establishing a verification standard and he expressed satisfaction with the increase in the number of States with additional protocols. He called on those States that had not yet done so to sign, ratify and implement a comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol without further delay. Turkey, which had concluded both a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol, had obtained the broader conclusion in 2012, which demonstrated the high standards of its system of accounting and control of nuclear material.

136. In connection with the occurrence of 'implementation day' under the JCPOA at the beginning of 2016, he expressed satisfaction that the 2010 Joint Declaration by Iran, Turkey and Brazil on Nuclear Fuel had contributed to that success. Turkey expected the uninterrupted, transparent and full implementation of the JCPOA.

137. Turkey took note of the Director General's report<sup>4</sup> on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic and trusted that continued engagement with Syria would help the Agency to close the case eventually. As Syria was currently more unstable than ever, which impacted negatively on safeguards implementation, it should sign an additional protocol and allow the Agency access for inspection and monitoring, which was important in a country that continued to use chemical weapons on its citizens. The failure to convene a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East had been very disappointing and Turkey called on all parties to reach an agreement on the way forward. As a prerequisite, every country in the Middle East should sign a safeguards agreement.

138. The Agency had updated tools at its disposal for fostering a stronger safety culture thanks to the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, the publication of the report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the final report on the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Turkey commended the Secretariat's plans to build on those efforts by systematically analysing the observations and lessons learned to identify priority safety aspects, and believed that a comprehensive approach towards strengthening nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety should be adopted. The safety of old nuclear power plants remained of particular concern and Turkey called on Member States either to review and enhance the safety of such plants in line with the updated Agency safety standards as quickly as possible or to shut them down. The very old Metsamor nuclear power plant, located in an earthquake-prone zone in Armenia close to the border with Turkey, lacked protective structures and remained a concern for Turkey and other neighbours of Armenia. Turkey strongly reiterated its request that all necessary measures must be taken to eliminate the risks associated with the plant, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Metsamor should be shut down as the region, and the world, could not afford another nuclear accident.

139. In connection with its efforts to increase and diversify its energy supplies, Turkey had signed agreements with countries which had expertise and three projects on building nuclear power plants with four units were at various stages of development. The most advanced was the Akkuyu nuclear power plant project, based on a cooperation agreement signed with the Russian Federation in 2010. The Sinop nuclear power plant project, based on a cooperation agreement signed with Japan in 2013, was at the feasibility stage and a third project was at the site selection stage. Bilateral cooperation to improve nuclear safety was a significant component of Turkey's intergovernmental cooperation

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<sup>4</sup> GOV/2016/44

agreements on nuclear power plant projects, as was the use of state-of-the art technologies. It looked forward to the Seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to be held in 2017. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was expected to be ratified by the Turkish Parliament soon. The Turkish Atomic Energy Authority had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with its Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, United States, French and Japanese counterparts and a nuclear energy agreement had been signed between Turkey and China.

140. In recent years, Turkey had hosted several Agency review missions and was continuously enhancing its national infrastructure, human resources and knowledge capacity. Efforts to update laws and regulations were ongoing, including those related to the use of nuclear energy and radiation applications, which took into account the latest Agency safety standards, international best practices and EU directives.

141. Turkey attached great importance to the technical cooperation programme and tried to make as much use of it as possible. The Agency's support and assistance in challenging areas such as the establishment of the appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks, site selection for nuclear power plants and developing radioactive waste management policies and strategies were invaluable for embarking countries such as Turkey and it hoped that the Agency would continue to give priority to those Member States which were developing or implementing a nuclear power programme.

142. Mr WANG Yiren (China) said that, since its establishment in 1957, the Agency had faithfully carried out its mandate and had made outstanding contributions to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and promoting peace, prosperity and sustainable development in the world. He encouraged the Agency to continue to work for peace and development and to make new contributions to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

143. China had hosted the recent Group of Twenty Summit at which the challenges of building a dynamic and inclusive world economy against the backdrop of a global economic slowdown, sluggish energy demand, the deteriorating security situation, pollution and climate change had been discussed. The Summit participants had sought to develop a global macroeconomic policy framework and formulate a plan of action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by ensuring energy security, addressing environmental pollution and climate change and combating terrorism. Nuclear technology and applications could play an ever greater role in implementing Agenda 2030.

144. Turning to sustainable development and climate change, he said that China's President had recently deposited the instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement, demonstrating China's acceptance of its responsibility as a major country. The development of nuclear power furthered energy conservation and emissions reduction, helped to reduce environmental pollution and promoted steady economic growth. China's 13th Five-Year Plan for national economic and social development called for the implementation of a coordinated, innovative and green development philosophy and emphasized the importance of safe and efficient nuclear power development.

145. With 35 power units in operation and another 20 under construction, China possessed a wealth of experience and continued to foster innovation-driven development. The ongoing construction of the first two nuclear reactors using China's independently-developed Generation III Hualong-1 reactor design, one in China and another abroad, had been advancing smoothly and testified to the design's sophistication. China's advanced large pressurized water reactor, the CAP1400, and the small multipurpose ACP100 reactor had both passed the Agency's Generic Reactor Safety Review.

146. Recognizing that nuclear safety was the cornerstone of sustainable nuclear energy development, China had always put safety and quality first and had established a stringent nuclear safety regulatory



system. Having closely studied the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, China had carried out full-scale safety inspections, identified risks and taken steps to address them. The Agency's IRRS follow-up mission to China in August 2016, while acknowledging that the regulatory system had been significantly strengthened following the Fukushima accident, had made recommendations for improvement. The Agency's missions would continue to contribute to China's efforts to improve its safety regulatory system.

147. At the fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, China's President had proposed the establishment of a global nuclear security framework to strengthen national responsibility, international cooperation and safety culture. China's Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security, which had provided nuclear security training jointly with the Agency since March 2016, could be used to build a nuclear security capacity-building network and to provide training for countries in Asia and the Pacific and for developing countries elsewhere. In view of the progress that had been made in the HEU-to-LEU conversion of the Chinese-made miniature neutron source reactor in Ghana, China was ready to use the experience as a model to help other countries with the HEU-to-LEU conversion of reactors imported from China.

148. China cooperated extensively with other Member States on the development of nuclear power and had hosted the 20th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference and the ninth International Youth Nuclear Congress, which served as exchange platforms for the world's nuclear community and encouraged young people to pursue careers in the nuclear energy industry. In addition, trainees from 36 countries had attended courses on nuclear power plant construction at the International Construction Training Centre established in cooperation with the Agency.

149. China had supported the ReNuAL project by donating a new type of irradiation system worth US \$2.5 million as well as contributing €200 million towards the construction of laboratory infrastructure.

150. China would participate actively in the Agency's third International Conference on Nuclear Knowledge Management in 2016, the International Conference on Application of Radiation Science and Technology and the conference on the Agency's technical cooperation programme to be held in 2017.

151. China had fulfilled its commitments with respect to the implementation of the JCPOA and had contributed to the modernization of the Arak heavy water reactor. Having already provided RMB 4 million in extrabudgetary contributions in 2015 and 2016, China would continue to work with all parties to find a comprehensive, lasting and appropriate solution with regard to the Iranian nuclear programme.

152. Noting that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was both a challenge and an opportunity for the Agency to promote nuclear technology for sustainable development, he put forward the following proposals. In formulating the Medium Term Strategy 2018–2023, the Agency should focus on compatibility with Agenda 2030 to help Member States to use nuclear science and technology safely, reliably and sustainably, and to promote socioeconomic development. To strengthen the global nuclear safety system, the Agency should help Member States to improve nuclear safety through IRRS missions, the development of nuclear safety standards and guidelines, and personnel training. The Agency should continue to play a central role in international nuclear security cooperation and China looked forward to the Agency's upcoming International Conference on Nuclear Security. To ensure the effectiveness of safeguards, the Agency should improve the existing safeguards measures as necessary. In improving their efficiency, it should continue to ensure that they were effective, fair and objective, while continuing to consult with Member States.

153. China had recently launched Mozi, its first independently-developed quantum satellite, named after a philosopher who had believed in undifferentiated love as a way to prevent war. Humankind was eternally striving for peace and development. China called on all countries to work together to further the atoms for peace and development mission to increase the contribution of nuclear energy to peace and prosperity.

154. Mr MANUKYAN (Armenia) said that the future of nuclear energy depended on the observance of the non-proliferation regime and States' good-faith compliance with NPT and safeguards obligations. In line with the safeguards agreement concluded between his country and the Agency and the additional protocol thereto, Armenia's State Nuclear Safety Regulatory Committee regularly submitted accountancy reports and declarations to the Agency and took actions to ensure the implementation of safeguards in the country.

155. As part of an effort to develop its cooperation activities with other countries, Armenia had signed a cooperation agreement regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with Belarus in February 2016. In late 2015, it had signed an agreement on early notification of nuclear accidents and on the exchange of nuclear and radiation safety information with the Russian Federation, strengthening cooperation between Rosatom and nuclear and radiation safety organizations in Armenia.

156. In August 2015, Armenia had submitted a national report on a stress test conducted at the Armenian nuclear power plant, in line with the requirements of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group, and had submitted it for review to the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy. In June 2016, a group of independent European Commission experts had visited the site to review the safety systems in place and obtain further clarifications. The final expert assessment of the stress test had been published in September 2016 and a list of actions drawn up as a result of the test had been included in the programme for the life extension of Unit 2 of the plant. The conclusions of numerous internationally recognized experts showed that Turkey's concerns about the safety of the Armenian nuclear power plant were unfounded and politically-driven.

157. Also in connection with the safety of the plant, the Presidential Council for Nuclear Energy Safety, which included internationally recognized experts, had held its 14th meeting in October 2015 to consider reports by the power plant management and the State Nuclear Safety Regulatory Committee and discuss the implementation of the programme to improve design and operational safety, the life extension programme for Unit 2 and an update on the construction of a new power reactor. The Council had also highlighted that all of the Agency's previous recommendations on conducting a seismic hazard assessment and improving seismic safety had been implemented in full, as had been reflected in the Agency's final mission report.

158. Armenia continued to implement the recommendations and suggestions from the IRRS and IPPAS missions it had received, in line with approved work plans.

159. In November 2015, with the Agency's support, Armenia had organized a regional training course on cybersecurity and nuclear power in Yerevan. The unprecedented pace of development of information technology made it imperative to enhance cybersecurity. Thirty-six experts from ten countries in the region had participated in the course. He thanked the Division of Nuclear Security of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for its support.

160. His Government's new long-term national energy development programme had called for a new 600 MW power reactor to become operational by 2027, reflecting the view that maintaining nuclear power in Armenia's energy mix was the only way to ensure the country's energy security and independence.

161. With EU support, Armenia had revised its radioactive waste and spent fuel management strategy from 2010, submitting the updated version to the President for review. Armenia had also submitted its national report to the Agency in August 2016 in line with Article 5 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, demonstrating its compliance with its obligations and readiness to engage in constructive dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation.

162. Noting that the Agency's Department of Nuclear Energy played a key role in organizing and implementing a variety of programmes on developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he reiterated Armenia's interest, as an INPRO member itself, in participating in a number of projects relating to the development of small and medium-sized reactors.

163. Since proclaiming its independence nearly 25 years earlier, Armenia had joined the UN and other international organizations and partnered with friendly States, and had been a strong proponent of nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Having worked closely with the Agency on a broad range of issues relating to nuclear safety and security, Armenia greatly valued that relationship and considered nuclear energy essential to its energy policy and national security.

**The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.**