



IAEA

60 Years

Atoms for Peace and Development

General Conference

GC(60)/OR.2

Issued: November 2016

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixtieth regular session

Plenary

Record of the Second Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 26 September 2016, at 3.05 p.m.

President: Dato' Adnan OTHMAN (Malaysia)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹	Paragraphs
5	Arrangements for the Conference
	(a) Adoption of agenda, allocation of items for initial discussion
	(b) Closing date of session and opening date of the next session
	(c) Streamlining the work of the General Conference: changes to time limit on statements during the general debate
7	General debate and Annual Report for 2015 (<i>resumed</i>)
	Statements by the delegates of:
	Bangladesh
	Saudi Arabia

¹ GC(60)/1 and Add.1 and Add.2.

Contents (continued)

	Paragraphs
Kenya	24–33
Indonesia	34–45
Namibia	46–56
Malaysia	57–66
Paraguay	67–76
Nigeria	77–90
Tunisia	91–102
Albania	103–110
Jamaica	111–117
Madagascar	118–123
Cameroon	124–131
Sudan	132–142
Niger	143–154
Norway	155–163
Switzerland	164–170

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(60)/INF/6.

Abbreviations used in this record:

AAEA	Arab Atomic Energy Agency
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CNS	Convention on Nuclear Safety
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPR	emergency preparedness and response
EPREV	Emergency Preparedness Review
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
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FORO	Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies
HEU	high enriched uranium
ICSANT	International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
IPPAS	International Physical Protection Advisory Service
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

Joint Convention	Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
LDC	least developed country
LEU	low enriched uranium
NPP	nuclear power plant
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSSC	Nuclear Security Support Centre
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
RASIMS	Radiation Safety Information Management System
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIT	sterile insect technique
SMRs	small and medium-sized reactors
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USA	United States of America

5. Arrangements for the Conference (GC(60)/INF/7 and 8)

(a) Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items for initial discussion

1. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the agenda for the 60th session consist of all items listed in document GC(60)/1, except for item 20 entitled “Elections to the Agency’s Staff Pension Committee”, which would be deleted since there were no vacancies on the Agency’s Staff Pension Committee that year, and the supplementary items contained in documents GC(60)/1/Add.1 and Add.2. With regard to the allocation of items for initial discussion, it had recommended that all items be taken up for discussion as indicated in those documents. It had also recommended that the order of items set out in those documents be followed.

2. It was so decided.

(b) Closing date of the session and opening date of the next session

3. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the Conference set Friday, 30 September 2016, as the closing date of the 60th regular session, and Monday, 18 September 2017, as the opening date of the 61st regular session.

4. It was so decided.

(c) Streamlining the work of the General Conference: changes to the time limit on statements during the general debate (GC(60)/8)

5. The PRESIDENT said that the General Committee had recommended that the time limit on statements during the general debate be changed from 15 minutes to 7 minutes for representatives of all Member States and observers, as from the 61st regular session of the General Conference in 2017.

6. It was so decided.

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

7. Mr OSMAN (Bangladesh) said that his country appreciated cooperation with the Agency and was confident in the Agency’s pivotal role in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Bangladesh recognized that greater use of atomic energy in various sectors, with the Agency’s support, would help it to achieve its socioeconomic development goals.

8. Bangladesh had used nuclear energy for peaceful purposes successfully and efficiently for some time, but its nuclear power initiative was relatively new. As a late entrant, however, it could acquire the latest technology to ensure nuclear safety and security. It had chosen nuclear power as a safe, environmentally friendly and economically viable means of meeting its growing demand for electricity and thus unlocking its development potential through enhanced productivity and sustained growth. It

aimed to generate at least 4000 MW(e) from nuclear sources by 2030, which would constitute 10% of its total targeted electricity generation. To that end, it had taken action to build Rooppur, its first NPP, under bilateral cooperation arrangements with the Russian Federation.

9. It reported that the general contract between the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and Atomstroyexport, the Russian contractor, had been signed in December 2015 and that an intergovernmental credit agreement between Bangladesh and the Russian Federation had been signed in July 2016. The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority had issued the site licence in June 2016, following a year-long review and assessment of all mandatory regulatory documents, in accordance with Agency guidelines and with the assistance of the regulatory authority of the Russian Federation. Bangladesh had welcomed the Agency's TCP assistance in building the national regulatory authority's capacities and in developing a siting guide and regulations. A reference plant design concept had been selected for Rooppur NPP, in accordance with the Agency's guidelines for newcomer countries. The design and construction licences would be issued by June 2017 and the plant's first concrete would be poured on 1 August 2017. It would be a historic moment for Bangladesh, which the Agency was invited to attend.

10. A follow-up INIR mission to Bangladesh had concluded that the country had made significant progress in implementing the recommendations and suggestions of the previous mission. Bangladesh was implementing its integrated work plan for its national infrastructure, developed jointly with the Agency. It was grateful to India, which had assisted in training personnel and had shared its experience.

11. Bangladesh stressed that, in implementing the Rooppur NPP project, it had given high priority to radiation protection and nuclear safety and security. Its newly established Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority was independent and tasked with regulating and overseeing all aspects of the safety and physical protection of nuclear material and installations, radioactive waste safety, the safe transport of radioactive material and EPR. Furthermore, the Nuclear Power Plant Company had been established as the operating organization and it would ensure compliance with national and international obligations relating to NPP project implementation and plant operation and maintenance. The nuclear power generation programme would be underpinned by Bangladesh's firm national stance on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

12. Bangladesh had been assisted under the Agency's TCP in building its capacities for the introduction, development and peaceful use of nuclear techniques in sectors such as nuclear infrastructure, livestock, agriculture, health, industry, water resource management and human resource development.

13. Bangladesh considered the RCA to be a powerful tool for promoting and coordinating research and development activities to solve national problems, drawing on regional experience, expertise and resources in such areas as energy, health, agriculture, industry, the environment, research reactors, radioactive waste management, nuclear safety and radiation protection. It looked forward to hosting the 39th Meeting of the RCA National Representatives in 2017.

14. Mr YAMANI (Saudi Arabia) said that his country appreciated the vital role played by the many peaceful applications of nuclear energy and hoped that they would continue to yield benefits for humankind as a whole. Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of promoting best practices and safety measures, of abiding by nuclear non-proliferation principles and of ensuring transparency in the application of Agency safeguards measures. Accordingly, it was making steady progress towards meeting the requirements of its national nuclear power programme by developing a legal and regulatory infrastructure, training human resources and raising the necessary financial and economic resources on the basis of international and regional cooperation and in a fully transparent manner.

15. Saudi Arabia aspired was deeply committed to its strategic partnership agreement with Finland's Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, which had provided the technical support and expertise required to organize the Kingdom's nuclear energy sector and to develop the necessary human resources to establish a national nuclear regulatory authority. Saudi Arabia had thus completed a provisional structural concept and a guidance plan on nuclear safety and security and safeguards for all components of the regulatory authority, in addition to detailed regulations and guidelines for the launching of a fully independent authority.

16. Regulatory action was being taken to establish the first research reactor in Saudi Arabia, for which permission had been granted in 2015. The low-energy reactor would be located in the city of Riyadh and would be used primarily to train national human resources.

17. In 2016, Saudi Arabia had signed agreements and bilateral memoranda of understanding with many States. It commended the Agency's efforts to implement the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. While acknowledging that ultimate responsibility for nuclear safety lay with States, it hoped that more vigorous action would be taken to inculcate the principles of a high safety culture and to promote effective regulatory practices. It called on all States that operated nuclear reactors to accede to the nuclear safety conventions and to increase international cooperation and the sharing of expertise in that area.

18. Saudi Arabia had always met its financial obligations under the Regular Budget and had made voluntary contributions to the TCP for 2016, notwithstanding its well-known position on the TCF funding procedure.

19. Saudi Arabia supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen its safeguards system and regarded the Agency as the only international entity mandated to monitor States' compliance with their obligations. It called on the Agency, in the interests of transparency, to inform Member States of any changes in the scope of verification and the procedures adopted and to submit full details to the General Conference for approval.

20. It attached great importance to the Agency's pivotal role in the global nuclear security regime, and it therefore called on all Member States to enhance the Agency's technical and human resources by participating in the initiative taken by Saudi Arabia to establish a specialized centre to combat nuclear terrorism at the Agency's headquarters in Vienna. The initiative had been announced at the fourth Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington in 2016 and Saudi Arabia planned to donate US \$10 million for the project. It had also donated €500 000 to the ReNuAL project.

21. As Saudi Arabia's strategic vision was informed by the principle of maintaining a balance between States' nuclear security obligations and their right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, unwarranted constraints on the inalienable right to peaceful nuclear technology could have a negative impact on joint nuclear security cooperation programmes.

22. Voicing great concern at the delay in achieving global nuclear disarmament and about the existence and expansion of nuclear weapons programmes, Saudi Arabia called for agreement on a joint international strategy to contain sources of high-risk nuclear material, especially nuclear weapons, and to promote nuclear disarmament internationally, in particular in the Middle East. It also called for all NPT Parties to abide strictly by their Treaty obligations, in view of the vital importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

23. Saudi Arabia hoped that the goals to which the entire international community aspired could be achieved in a world in which security, stability and prosperity prevailed.

24. Mr KETER (Kenya) noted the Agency's central role in promoting international cooperation to strengthen the global regime for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

25. Kenya had considered energy, which had been recognized as an economic driver in its national development blueprint, to be crucial to the achievement of its long-term development agenda. Kenya commended the role played by the Agency in enabling countries to plan objectively to meet future energy requirements and had accordingly decided to include nuclear energy in its energy strategy. It had hosted a phase 1 INIR mission and had drawn up an in-depth action plan to implement the expert recommendations and suggestions contained in the mission report.

26. Kenya thanked the Agency for the invaluable assistance provided for its nuclear power programme through TCP workshops, fellowships, expert missions and scientific visits, enabling capacities to be built and a regulatory framework to be established.

27. His country held in high regard the support that it had received from the Agency in formulating an integrated work plan, under which it had received technical advice on site selection, reactor technology assessment and grid development.

28. Kenya had made steady progress in developing the legal and regulatory framework for its nuclear power programme. It had adopted a national energy policy formally including nuclear power in its energy mix in 2015, and the 2016 Energy Bill establishing the nuclear energy programme implementing organization had been passed by Parliament in 2016.

29. Kenya was actively considering its accession to the CNS. It was finalizing the draft nuclear regulatory bill for 2016 and would seek partnership with the Agency in order to establish a strong and effective regulatory framework for the national nuclear power programme. It was implementing the recommendations and suggestions of the July 2016 IRRS mission.

30. It commended the Agency for its efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases through the application of nuclear techniques and welcomed, in particular, the Director General's emphasis on cancer control in developing countries, as reaffirmed during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Nairobi in August 2016. Accordingly, Kenya thanked the Agency for its support in the area of radiation oncology and nuclear medicine, in particular its funding of state-of-the-art radiotherapy equipment at hospitals and medical facilities, stressing that it had strengthened its radiotherapy capacities and had improved its nuclear medicine services owing to various technical cooperation projects; it looked forward to continued partnership in those areas. Capacity had been built at the Bureau of Standards, at the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology and in isotope hydrology techniques used to assess water resources, with human capacity being built through fellowships, scientific visits and expert missions.

31. Kenya commended AFRA's contribution to infrastructure and capacity building in nuclear science and technology in the country. It was participating in 19 AFRA projects that promoted peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in food, agriculture, health, energy, industrial applications, water resources management, radiation protection and human resource development.

32. Agriculture remained a key sector in Kenya, but pests, in particular fruit flies that caused 30% to 70% of fruit and vegetable farm and post-harvest losses, continued to impede the optimization of agricultural production. Kenya had collaborated with the Agency since January 2016 in enhancing its national capacity to tackle the problem by including SIT in its area-wide fruit fly management and hoped to empower its national agricultural research organization to address the problem by enlisting more Kenyan trainees.

33. Kenya, which took climate change and its impact on food and agriculture seriously, had trained more than 300 farmers in small-scale drip irrigation technology and had continued to develop climate-smart water- and nutrient-efficient technologies, including water and nutrient information transmission to farmers through mobile telephony. It considered that the quality of life in many communities would be improved if problems faced by smallholder farmers could be resolved. Kenya commended the greening of the Agency for its 60th anniversary General Conference, which betokened its commitment to sustainability.

34. Mr NASIR (Indonesia) said that Indonesia appreciated the Agency's contribution to peace, health and prosperity worldwide but regretted that the Agency had been unable to carry out its safeguards mandate in some parts of the world, including the Middle East and the DPRK. It strongly supported that mandate which, if exercised, would contribute to world peace and security and it called on the DPRK to cooperate promptly with the Agency to ensure full and effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards.

35. Indonesia had noted that 13 of the 17 SDGs fell within the Agency's fields of competence and thus called on the Agency to expand its contribution to the achievement of those goals, in particular through its TCP, for the benefit of all people, stressing the crucial importance of TCF resources being sufficient, assured and predictable in order to meet the growing needs of Member States.

36. Indonesia, which had reaped the benefits of the Agency's TCP, stood ready to continue to work with the Agency, both as a beneficiary and as a provider of technical cooperation to other Member States. The Collaborating Centre at its National Nuclear Energy Agency had been established in part for that purpose and, to support the Agency's TCP in Asia and the Pacific, Indonesia had launched a regional capacity-building initiative to mobilize resources and optimize the use of regional resources for capacity building. It was grateful for Member States' and the Secretariat's support for the initiative, under which a pilot project had been initiated in 2016.

37. His country welcomed positive developments in nuclear applications, including ReNuAL and the inception of construction work on the new Insect Pest Control Laboratory and the Flexible Modular Laboratory. It appreciated the assistance provided by the Agency to Member States through training, education, research on infrastructure development and coordinated research activities, and was grateful to the Friends of ReNuAL for their significant contribution to the success of the ReNuAL project, from which developing countries stood to benefit.

38. In 2015, Indonesia had established a national science and technology park and three agrotechnology parks to support activities that included a mutation breeding programme under which 22 rice varieties, 10 soy bean varieties and other mutant crops had been produced. A gamma irradiator facility, currently under construction, would begin operation early in 2018.

39. Indonesia had hosted training courses and fellowships for other Member States on mutation breeding, food irradiation programmes for relief management agencies and industrial applications. Its Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency would be involved in the Agency's efforts to mentor new Member States on radiation safety infrastructure matters.

40. In Indonesia's view, the March 2016 Nuclear Security Summit and the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security epitomised international commitment at the highest level to the strengthening of nuclear security. Indonesia continued to develop and strengthen its nuclear security infrastructure and had made significant progress in the conversion from HEU to LEU fuel and the installation of radiation portal monitors at its major ports. It welcomed the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM and was committed to the implementation of relevant international nuclear security instruments.

41. While sustaining its national progress, Indonesia strongly believed that a comprehensive approach, involving mutually-reinforcing efforts in disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, was required in order to achieve effective nuclear security. It was the fundamental responsibility of States to provide effectively for the security of all nuclear material, and it was important to make sure that nuclear safety and security did not limit the inalienable right of States to develop and use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

42. Stressing its support for the Agency's role in verifying the implementation of the JCPOA, Indonesia called on all of the Parties thereto to implement the plan faithfully and appealed to the international community to maintain a positive atmosphere conducive to JCPOA implementation.

43. Indonesia stressed that the Agency's support for the development of its nuclear energy programme and human resources had covered areas such as planning and economic studies, infrastructure, nuclear power, the fuel cycle and waste, advanced reactor technology, including SMRs, non-power applications and innovative approaches to nuclear energy systems. The regulatory aspect of its non-commercial power reactor project had been addressed during a Site and External Events Design mission conducted throughout 2015 and 2016.

44. Its experts' capacities and confidence had been built through an Agency expert mission, during which Category 3–5 disused sealed radioactive sources had been dismantled and conditioned in January 2016 and, in August 2016, Indonesia had hosted a hands-on training course on the subject for fellowship holders from the region.

45. Indonesia commended the Secretariat's efforts to increase the representation of under-represented States on the staff, in particular in the Professional and higher categories, and urged it to pursue those endeavour as a matter of priority, while striving to ensure gender balance in the Agency's staff and programmes.

46. Mr KANDJOZE (Namibia) said that his country greatly valued the Agency's efforts to meet basic human needs for health care, food security, participation in economic development and intellectual empowerment for a dignified self-sustaining way of life. Namibia highlighted the importance of addressing Member States' real needs by taking a results-based approach to safe investigation and the application of nuclear science and technology in national programmes; it had accordingly welcomed the progress achieved under the ReNuAL project and the roughly €13.2 million pledged by AFRA.

47. It hoped that each CPF would enhance collaboration on nuclear science and technology and would be a building block in the attainment of SDGs set within national development priorities.

48. Commending PACT, Namibia noted the progress achieved in cancer care capacity by integrating radiotherapy into a comprehensive cancer control programme. It, too, had faced a rise in cancer morbidity and mortality, and would draw on the Agency's expertise to develop a responsive strategic agenda to maximize therapeutic effectiveness in the public sector under its national cancer prevention and control strategy and its resource mobilization strategy.

49. Heartened by technological developments, such as crop mutation to create drought-resistant and high-yielding crops and improved nutrient efficiency in crops, Namibia urged the Agency to accelerate and expand its contribution in those areas. Faced with recurrent and severe droughts, it also urged the Agency to assist and to strengthen technologies to harness water resources, while welcoming nuclear techniques such as desalination and isotope hydrology applied to groundwater resources.

50. Namibia welcomed the Agency's proposed contribution to the attainment of the SDGs. It encouraged the Agency to assist Member States in achieving national SDG-related goals, trusting that their CPFs could be instrumental in deepening collaboration. Namibia strongly believed that the

Agency's TCP was a major driver of socioeconomic development and that it therefore required sustainable and assured funding, especially in view of the SDG-related efforts required.

51. As a Member of the African Union, Namibia fully supported Agenda 2063 as a blueprint for sustainable development, and specifically its first ten-year implementation plan, which focused on the consolidation of peace and security, infrastructure development, governance, education systems and food security.

52. As nuclear power was a viable option for ensuring energy security, Namibia welcomed the progress achieved in the development of SMRs which had the potential to enhance security of supply in countries embarking on or expanding nuclear power programmes.

53. Namibia, the fifth largest uranium producer in the world, would continue to exploit its uranium ore as a means of promoting industrial development, job creation, capacity building and foreign direct investment. It was therefore open to dialogue with the Agency and sought synergies with like-minded partners.

54. In its endeavour to apply nuclear technology to a greater extent to its development efforts, Namibia was committed to strengthening its legislative and regulatory infrastructure and had thus welcomed INIR and IRRS missions. It was finalizing its ratification of the Amendment to the CPPNM, which it regarded as a means of bolstering global nuclear security.

55. Namibia welcomed regular reporting on the JCPOA, which had attested to the potential accomplishments of diplomacy, but it considered that the budget adjustments required to accommodate the JCPOA must not impinge on the Agency's other promotional and non-promotional activities, and that JCPOA implementation must be consistent, in letter and in spirit, with the Agency's statutory objective.

56. Namibia looked forward to the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016.

57. Ms SHUKRI (Malaysia) said that *Atoms for Peace and Development*, the theme of the 60th session of the General Conference, fully reflected the Agency's central role in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technologies worldwide. Malaysia hoped that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would give greater impetus for action taken by the Agency to make peaceful nuclear energy available to Member States and thus assist them in achieving their development goals.

58. Malaysia acknowledged the Agency's many accomplishments under the stewardship of Director General Amano, in particular the development of nuclear safety standards and nuclear security guidance, the strengthening of safeguards implementation and the promotion of technology transfer. It therefore fully supported the Director General and his office.

59. Malaysia had been in a long-standing and mutually beneficial partnership with the Agency in the application of peaceful uses of nuclear technology to socioeconomic development. It had expanded its contribution to global peace, security and development by sharing its expertise and experience with others.

60. Malaysia reported that the mosquito-borne Zika virus disease had spread alarmingly in Malaysia and Singapore and, while commending the great coordination, capacity building, information exchange, advisory, vector control and public health guidance efforts made at all levels, called for collective responsibility to be taken by the entire international community and international organizations in order to mount an effective response. It had just hosted a SIT workshop, involving the Agency and FAO, for scientists and public health experts from Asia, Africa and the Americas, which

had demonstrated the importance of the Agency's assistance in the use of nuclear techniques to address global public health issues.

61. Malaysia commended the Agency for its success in securing full funding for the ReNuAL project and was fully confident that the project would strengthen the Agency's ability to provide training and support for scientific and research activities.

62. It acknowledged that the strengthening of nuclear safety was a continuous process and that collective will was required for the effective and timely implementation of projects and activities relating to the Action Plan. Malaysia appreciated the support that it had received for research reactor safety, radiological emergency response and environmental monitoring and for the national workshop held to promote the Joint Convention and the 15th year of the Malaysia-IAEA Post-Graduate Education Course in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radioactive Sources.

63. Malaysia believed that nuclear security should be addressed in the wider context of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation because it contributed to the broader goal of international peace and security. The fourth Nuclear Security Summit had reflected the importance of strengthening nuclear security and efforts to free the world of nuclear weapons. The entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM in May and the Agency's International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 further reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen nuclear security.

64. Malaysia was gratified by its collaboration with the Agency on the integration of its Nuclear Security Detection Laboratory and its Physical Protection Laboratory into its NSSC, which would enhance the NSSC's role in supporting and strengthening nuclear security capacity-building programmes nationally and regionally. Under Malaysia's INSSP, the NSSC would act independently in hosting the Agency's regional training course, entitled Train the Trainers for Front Line Officers.

65. Malaysia looked forward to continued close collaboration with the Agency on phase I of the INIR mission scheduled for October 2016, which Malaysia would co-host in accordance with the established guidelines.

66. Malaysia called on all Member States give equal priority and consideration to the Agency's activities and programmes, particularly those relating to promotional activities, so that the Agency could achieve the objectives set in Article II of the Statute.

67. Mr CARDOZO ROMAN (Paraguay), noting the progress in nuclear technology worldwide and the Agency's work to improve and strengthen safeguards implementation, said that, following the establishment of the Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Authority, the effectiveness of the national legal and regulatory framework in the nuclear and radiological field had been improved by promoting regional and international exchanges. It had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Amendment to the CPPNM in December 2016.

68. As a Member of the Agency's Board of Governors from 2015 to 2017, Paraguay had supported every initiative that furthered the promotion of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and collaborated reliably to reach agreements on matters in the general interest and of benefit to all.

69. Paraguay had welcomed the Director General's visit in June 2016 as an opportunity for a variety of activities and exchanges of view on the Agency's work in the country and on Paraguay's cooperation with the Agency, mainly on health, food security and radiation protection.

70. The most noteworthy health-related activities were cancer control, the improvement of radiodiagnostic and radiation treatment services, training and the procurement of crucially important equipment.

71. Paraguay and the Agency had cooperated in improving the production of major food crops and animal products by strengthening the food safety network and enhancing the analytical capabilities of five conformity assessment laboratories. Those efforts had already raised the quality and safety of products for local consumption and for export.

72. As Paraguay's priorities included capacity building and greater national efforts to reduce poverty and promote socioeconomic development, it attached particular importance to cooperation with the Agency in capacity building, infrastructure development, training and human resource development, which would be instrumental in carrying out national plans and achieving the SDGs.

73. The transfer of practical nuclear technology information and knowledge to the relevant staff was yet another priority for Paraguay and its region. To maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of such transfers, Peru called on all States to facilitate the exchange of information, while observing international law and promoting good faith in the implementation of the various arrangements.

74. Paraguay supported flexible cooperation among States and interaction with civil society as the best means of arriving at effective solutions and of achieving transparency in the development of nuclear energy; it therefore urged all stakeholders to engage in the appropriate and timely exchange of information.

75. It highlighted FORO's accomplishments in promoting radiological and nuclear safety and security at the highest level in the Ibero-American region, noting that the Paraguayan Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Authority had become a full member of FORO in June 2016.

76. Paraguay asserted its commitment to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the Agency's international nuclear instruments so that the world would ultimately focus on socioeconomic and environmental development.

77. Mr OSAISAI (Nigeria) acknowledged the balanced reporting on the Agency's activities over the preceding year and its main thrusts for the following year, in particular the priority given to enhancing access to the safe and secure application of nuclear technology to assist Member States in harnessing nuclear power for electricity generation to meet and to develop appropriate mechanisms and innovative methods for improving human health.

78. Congratulating the Agency on its milestone 60th anniversary, Nigeria urged all Member States to remain committed to the Agency's tenets and to strive to expand the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

79. Nigeria acknowledged the Agency's responsibility for and central role in strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and in developing international guidance, and its leading role in facilitating and coordinating nuclear security activities among international organizations and initiatives, and in supporting States' efforts to fulfil their nuclear security responsibilities, as affirmed in the communiqué of the fourth Nuclear Security Summit. It was committed to the planned activities of the Nuclear Security Contact Group and welcomed the Agency's efforts to pursue the goals and priorities for 2015–2016 set out in the Nuclear Security Report 2015. It hoped that the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM and the expected outcomes of the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security would strengthen the nuclear security framework internationally and in individual Member States. It considered, however, that no measures taken to strengthen nuclear security should hamper international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy or undermine the established priorities of the Agency's TCP, particularly in regard to developing countries that required nuclear technology to fast track their development objectives.

80. Nigeria, which had validated and finalized its draft national regulations on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities in accordance with the amended CPPNM, called

on Member States to work together constructively to detect and prevent unauthorized access to nuclear material and facilities by non-State actors. It had finalized the institutional and technical framework for the establishment of a national nuclear security centre, currently under construction in Abuja, to facilitate sustainable human resource development to provide technical systems for effective and robust national nuclear security and to support both national and regional initiatives.

81. Nigeria was gratified by the Agency's approval of the establishment of an African Regional School on Nuclear Security, to be opened in Abuja, in order to strengthen the foundations for nuclear security education and training in the region and build the capacities of many Member States to deploy various nuclear technology applications for their socioeconomic development.

82. Nigeria was particularly interested in the theme of the Scientific Forum because its emphasis on the ways in which nuclear technology could contribute to the attainment of the SDGs was consistent with Nigeria's policy framework. The forum would afford an opportunity to discuss the potential role of nuclear technology in helping Member States to attain their socioeconomic development objectives.

83. Urging all Member States that used nuclear technology to take seriously their responsibility to ensure safety, Nigeria welcomed all action taken by the Agency to promote nuclear safety among Member States, noted the preparations under way for the Seventh Review Meeting of the CNS Contracting Parties and applauded the Agency's call on Member States to accede to the CNS if they had not yet done so. It commended the Secretariat for the Generic Safety Observations Report compiled for the Seventh Review Meeting, which it regarded as a valuable document providing practical guidance to Member States.

84. Nigeria appreciated the Agency's continued support to Member States in establishing their national nuclear safety infrastructure and in strengthening their national capacity for effective nuclear safety management. It called on the Agency to continue to maximize the support received by the neediest States, in particular through review missions. Nigeria had received INIR and EPREV missions in 2015 and had taken action to implement the resulting recommendations, leading to significant progress in improving the interface for collaboration among the key national institutions. Appropriate regulations and mechanisms had been developed to ensure compliance with, and implementation of, the relevant safety requirements, and the country's nuclear EPR capabilities had been strengthened.

85. Nigeria called on the Agency to fine-tune its framework for partnership with Member States, in particular developing countries, by intensifying its efforts to develop appropriate tools for education and training and nuclear knowledge management in order to build States' capacities to plan effectively and implement their own nuclear programmes. Under national technical cooperation projects consistent with its CPF, Nigeria had built its national capacity to support sustainable programme implementation through projects designed to increase human resources in the health sector and to educate and train professionals in nuclear medicine, radiation oncology and medical physics in order to implement the national cancer prevention, control and management programme.

86. Nigeria had highly appreciated the Agency's invaluable assistance in establishing the national infrastructure for the introduction of nuclear power, specifically by building a competent and experienced human resource base through undergraduate, professional and postgraduate nuclear science and engineering programmes in partnership with the Agency and in collaboration with selected educational institutions. It was currently implementing an integrated work plan for nuclear infrastructure support activities within a specified time frame. It was fully cognisant, as a newcomer country, of its need for the Agency's continuous support, the good will of the international community and collaboration with well-meaning development partners.

87. Nigeria appreciated the importance of ReNuAL to meeting Member States' changing needs, in particular for early detection and management of zoonotic diseases such as the Ebola and Zika virus diseases. It commended the skilful management of the project through effective prioritization of procurement and thanked Member States for their contribution to the funding target.

88. Nigeria acknowledged the success of the JCPOA in resolving safeguards issues in respect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which attested to the effectiveness of the Agency's partnership with Member States in the gainful and peaceful use of nuclear energy and in preventing non-peaceful applications. It called on the Agency to pursue its diplomatic efforts to settle disputes in other nuclear hotspots.

89. Voicing deep concern at the slow pace of global progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons, Nigeria appealed to all States to redouble their efforts to reinforce the Agency's key role in that regard and to renew their commitment to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones worldwide, which was achievable if all Member States displayed conviction, persistence and collective commitment.

90. Nigeria commended the Agency's continued commitment to, and pivotal role in, global efforts to harness cutting-edge research and innovation for the effective application of nuclear science and technology for development, while affirming its resolve to entrench and strengthen a global framework for nuclear safety and security.

91. Mr KHALBOUS (Tunisia) said that his country supported the Director General's candidacy for a third term in office, on account of his professionalism and managerial skills.

92. Tunisia, a founding Member, was gratified to be celebrating the Agency's 60th anniversary. Tunisia had abided by all of its obligations, it had supported the implementation of the Agency's programmes and it had ratified all amendments to the Statute, including the amendment to Article XIV.A.

93. Tunisia considered that the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM would enhance the security of nuclear facilities and material, and would ensure a vigorous response to any attack and international cooperation in support of deterrence. Highlighting the ever-present risk of nuclear terrorism, it urged the Agency to develop nuclear security programmes, on request, for Member States facing real terrorist threats in the Middle East, taking into account all local data and needs, and to maximize States' capacity to respond to and eliminate the risk of nuclear terrorism.

94. Tunisia ascribed high strategic importance to energy and water security because of its limited sources of fossil fuels and safe drinking water. It had sought for decades to harness nuclear power for electricity generation, and had been the very first State to propose that nuclear energy be used for seawater desalination and to request the Agency's assistance to that end, but had been unable to implement that option to date. Nuclear-powered seawater desalination had become a vitally sustainable and cost-effective solution in the context of climate change and the exacerbated dearth of potable and irrigation water. Various options, including SMRs, were currently under consideration based on the findings of recent feasibility studies on the use of nuclear power for electricity generation.

95. Tunisia had participated in the implementation of many technical cooperation projects on the use of nuclear cancer treatment techniques, which had enabled it to improve the quality of health care services and to open up new horizons for treatment. It regretted, however, that there had been a sharp fall in technical support received from the Agency in the previous five years, despite major socioeconomic and security challenges that it had faced after its democratic transition. Tunisia therefore requested the Agency to continue providing it with technical support in order to bolster its

efforts to achieve national development, particularly in priority areas. It was willing to boost cooperation with all parties, since technical cooperation was a fundamental pillar of the Agency's mandate to promote fair and sustainable development.

96. Tunisia's commitment to honouring its financial pledges matched its desire to seize opportunities for cooperation with the Agency. Accordingly, it undertook to pay its share of the Regular Budget, to meet its TCF pledge and to contribute to the costs of its technical cooperation projects.

97. Tunisia attached importance to scientific cooperation with fraternal States, particularly under the aegis of the AAEA, which had its headquarters in Tunisia. It appreciated the Agency's continued support for the AAEA, especially through the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators.

98. It supported all action taken by the Agency to establish and support international and regional networks, especially those of a regulatory nature, since they played a vital role in promoting nuclear safety and security. Since 2013, Tunisia had been a Member of the Mediterranean Network for the safe transport of radioactive material, which had been established by the Agency with EU funding to build the capacities of national regulatory authorities in the Mediterranean region and to promote partnership based on agreed guidelines concerning the regulations on the import, export and transit of radioactive material in the region. Tunisia would participate in the activities of other Agency networks.

99. Tunisia had taken steps to open up new areas of cooperation with several States, including the USA, through an agreement with the National Nuclear Security Administration, under which Tunisia had continued to receive assistance in bringing the additional protocol into force. It was grateful to the USA for its assistance in nuclear security, safeguards, radiation protection and quality assurance programmes.

100. Tunisia had just signed with the Government of the Russian Federation a cooperation agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which would serve both States' interests and would support Tunisia's vigorous efforts to achieve sustainable development.

101. Tunisia had continued to take constitutional steps to enact a framework law on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, providing for the establishment of a national regulatory authority to oversee all activities relating to safeguards and nuclear safety and security in order to ensure compliance with international conventions, in particular the CNS. The requisite legal and institutional framework would thus be in place for Tunisia to ratify the additional protocol. It intended to accede to the Joint Convention and to any conventions on civil liability for nuclear damage that were in its interests.

102. Tunisia commended the action taken by the Agency to enhance the effectiveness of the safeguards regime and hoped that it would be combined with genuine progress in the area of nuclear disarmament. It called on all Member States to accede to the NPT, as the basic prerequisite for building confidence and promoting peace of mind among the peoples of the world, and it called for the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, as demanded by most States in the region, and for the placement of all nuclear facilities in the region under Agency safeguards, including Israel's nuclear facilities, that continued to threaten regional security.

103. Mr BEQAJ (Albania) said that his country was proud to have been among the first States to sign and ratify the Agency's Statute and to have taken part in the very first session of the General Conference. As the Agency's 60th anniversary marked an important milestone, it was

appropriate to take stock of its most significant achievements and its contributions to peace, prosperity and development.

104. Albania considered that the Annual Report for 2015 clearly indicated that the Agency had continued to address the many challenges that it faced and to make balanced progress under the three main pillars of its statutory mandate. Furthermore, the Agency was contributing significantly to development by making nuclear science and technology available to Member States, and it was uniquely placed to assist Member States in achieving many SDGs. Accordingly, Albania welcomed the theme of the Scientific Forum and was grateful for the Agency's continuous and substantial contribution to various development sectors in the country, in particular human health, the environment, agriculture and the strengthening of regulatory authorities.

105. Albania reported that the Mother Theresa University Hospital Centre in Tirana had been equipped with a new radiotherapy centre providing a modern nuclear medicine service as a centre of excellence for the entire country, owing to the Agency's contribution and support for personnel training and the sustained commitment of the Albanian Government.

106. Albania's CPF was robust and it covered the need to implement a comprehensive national cancer strategy. As a PACT Model Demonstration Site, Albania had benefited from the Agency's TCP and was ready to share its experience with other countries.

107. It valued the Agency's continuous support for action taken to strengthen its national nuclear security regime and to improve its radiological monitoring capacities. It had begun to implement its INSSP; standard operating procedures for customs services had been drawn up and an adequate regulatory framework consistent with the relevant international standards had been put in place.

108. The Albanian Government was fully committed to strengthening international cooperation in the field of nuclear security. Its first IPPAS mission had been conducted in May 2016 and Albania was eager to work with the Agency to address the findings. Moreover, it would participate at ministerial level in the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security.

109. Albania appreciated the Agency's achievements in the preceding 12 months, in particular its response to the Zika virus disease outbreak, and the Director General's efforts to improve the gender balance.

110. Albania contributed regularly to the TCF and always paid its Regular Budget contributions on time and in full. It urged all Member States to follow suit to ensure that the Agency's resources were sustained and predictable.

111. Mr WHEATLEY (Jamaica) said that Jamaica's commitment to the attainment of the SDGs had been reaffirmed a few days previously at the UN General Assembly, with emphasis on the necessity of global partnerships to complement national efforts. Jamaica called on the international community to sharpen its focus on the effective implementation of the goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and on the Agency to play a critical role by using nuclear and isotopic techniques to support countries to those ends.

112. Jamaica announced that it had established a Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority to regulate activities, practices and facilities involving ionizing radiation and nuclear technology in order to protect people, property and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation. Its Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology and the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences were liaising closely with the Agency to strengthen the region's regulatory infrastructure for an effective cradle-to-grave approach to the control of radioactive sources. The Director General's participation in the first coordination meeting on the project in Kingston in April 2016 had attested to the country's long-standing and fruitful partnership with the Agency.

113. Jamaica had benefited significantly from the Agency's technical cooperation activities and it supported action to synergize national development priorities and Agency assistance within the broader UNDAFs. It appreciated the ongoing projects on the re-establishment of nuclear medicine capacity, optimization of irrigation water management to improve crop output and water quality control, and building capacity for potable water supply, quality monitoring and management. It welcomed the Agency's continued focus on technology transfer and peaceful uses of nuclear energy for development in areas such as food and agriculture, human health and water resource management.

114. Owing to the Agency's continued support for the only research reactor in the Caribbean, housed at the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences, it had been possible to accommodate additional regional research needs stemming from the rise in the number of Caribbean States Members of the Agency.

115. Jamaica was committed to finalizing procedures for its accession to the ARCAL Extension Agreement, for it considered ARCAL to be an important mechanism for technical cooperation in the region.

116. Jamaica gave high priority to the three NPT pillars and encouraged States that had not yet done so to accede to legally binding international conventions and to engage seriously in negotiations on the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Jamaica adhered to the terms of the Tlatelolco Treaty and looked forward to the celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2017.

117. Jamaica had reaffirmed its commitment to international peace and security, as enshrined in the Declaration made by CELAC Heads of State and Government in January 2016. CELAC was committed to the region's consolidation as a zone of peace, and Jamaica had accordingly supported the call to hold a conference in 2017 to begin negotiations on a universal legally binding instrument proscribing nuclear weapons; it encouraged other regions to pursue that goal.

118. Ms RASOAZANANERA (Madagascar) said that her country planned to organize, through its National Liaison Office, an event on nuclear science and technology for sustainable development in March 2017.

119. The Parliament and Senate of Madagascar had voted to accede to and ratify the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM, the 1997 Joint Convention, the 1986 Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the 1986 Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the 1994 Convention on Nuclear Safety and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Awareness of nuclear issues among national decision-makers had increased as a result.

120. The National Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology planned to highlight Madagascar's involvement in nanoscience and nanotechnology by holding an international symposium on the subject in November 2017, which the Agency would be invited to attend and at which the Institute's Director General would share the country's experience in nanotechnology.

121. Madagascar, which shared the Agency's aspirations to channel research findings towards Member States' socioeconomic development, had just drawn up four research management plans based on new guidelines. Nuclear science and technology and nanotechnology would be integral to its research efforts in biodiversity, human health, renewable energy, agriculture, food security, nutrition, and the environment in association with climate change.

122. Madagascar considered that the support provided by the Agency under the TCP in public health, energy planning, animal reproduction, mining, agriculture in association with climate change, water resources and environmental conservation had contributed considerably to scientific research and to the pooling of human and material resources nationally, thus enhancing performance. The related

multidisciplinary projects had supported economic and social development activities and had included effective implementation of PACT.

123. Madagascar appreciated the Agency's assistance under the joint action plan in enhancing nuclear security measures to be taken for the forthcoming 16th Francophonie Summit in Antananarivo in November 2016. Madagascar was committed to nuclear non-proliferation and to the use of nuclear energy for development.

124. Ms TCHUINTE (Cameroon) commended the quality of the Annual Report for 2015. Against the backdrop of the Agency's 60th anniversary celebrations, Cameroon considered that the Agency had gradually and effectively implemented all components of its mandate and it congratulated the managerial staff on ensuring that the Agency served the goals of peace and progress throughout the world.

125. Cameroon was gratified that the Agency had given the utmost priority to safety and security in its 2015 TCP expenditure, in view of the risk of accidents at ageing nuclear power plants and persistent terrorist threats.

126. Cameroon supported the action taken by the Agency to build national capacities to diagnose and eradicate animal diseases, in particular new and re-emerging zoonotic diseases. Cameroon had hosted a regional training course in Yaoundé in 2015 in order to boost national monitoring teams' capacity to diagnose Ebola virus disease under high bio-safety conditions and was grateful to the Agency for the technical assistance that it had provided to the National Veterinary Laboratory during the outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in Cameroon in May 2016.

127. Cameroon announced that it had approved the recommendations of the 2014 IRRS mission and had accordingly drafted several regulatory documents on emergency response, radioactive waste management and protection of persons from radiation emitted by naturally occurring radioactive materials.

128. Cameroon urged the Agency to focus on improving African Member States' RASIMS profiles inasmuch as scrupulous compliance with safety and security norms was a prerequisite for the development of nuclear programmes in Africa.

129. His country welcomed the Agency's efforts to assist Member States in maintaining and improving their nuclear security regimes. It had hosted an Agency mission in June 2015 to assess the country's implementation of the INSSP approved in 2013 and had subsequently deposited its instrument of ratification of the Amendment to the CPPNM; it called on the Agency to ensure the effective implementation of that international legal instrument by all States Parties.

130. Cameroon thanked the Agency for offering to provide technical assistance in implementing nuclear security measures during the 2016 and 2019 Africa Cup of Nations football championships in Cameroon. It announced that disused sources inventoried by its National Radiation Protection Agency had been effectively repatriated under a contract signed in 2015.

131. Cameroon commended the Agency's efforts to apply comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols. It strongly supported the Agency's development of nuclear security measures aimed at limiting the impact of incidents or acts involving nuclear material and radioactive substances. It encouraged the Agency to muster the expertise required to strengthen the international nuclear safety and security regime and thus ensure that the atom served to promote world peace and development.

132. Mr SALIM (Sudan) highlighted the Agency's fundamental role in using atoms for peace through the TCP, which had created sustainable development opportunities and underscored the

importance of resolution GC(58)/RES/12, in which the Director General had been requested to ensure that the TCP contributed to the implementation of the principles enshrined in the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

133. The Sudan prized its close cooperation with the Agency on capacity building and human resource development and looked forward to working with the Agency in its priority areas, which included the health and agriculture sectors, with emphasis on crop productivity gains, seasonal pest control, livestock productivity gains and nuclear power to boost its electricity generation capacity, which would contribute to poverty reduction and attainment of the SDGs. It welcomed the Agency's constructive cooperation on SIT for malaria-bearing mosquito control and reported considerable progress in the establishment of the world's first sterile insect rearing facility, which would become operational once the necessary administrative and legal procedures had been completed. The Islamic Development Bank, the Government of Japan and the Sudanese Government had provided the necessary support for the construction of the facility, and the Agency had supported the project. The Sudan would cooperate fully with the Agency to address all remaining administrative issues and ensure the project's success.

134. The Sudan welcomed the Agency's support for human resource development in all fields relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including through AFRA projects. The Sudan had hosted a regional AFRA meeting in 2015 and would host another in November 2016.

135. A non-invasive diagnostic centre had been established and equipped and had recently been deemed ready by Agency experts to provide training and conduct examinations.

136. The Sudan gave high priority to PACT and had been one of the first African States to use radiotherapy at a centre in Khartoum established in 1967, which continued to treat patients from all parts of the Sudan and neighbouring States. Although the Sudan had established other radiotherapy centres, it could not keep pace with the exponential rise in the number of patients. It hoped to continue to expand existing centres and build new ones in cooperation with the Agency to meet the rising demand. Its national cancer control strategy provided for the establishment of three new centres in the country's outlying states and the enhancement of services provided by the national tumour treatment centre. The Sudan trusted that the Agency would support that initiative, particularly since it was providing its share of funding and, as part of those efforts, had earmarked more than €6 million for the establishment of a fourth centre. The Sudan was, moreover, working with the Agency to establish a plant in the city of Wad Madani to produce chemotherapy kits, for which it had earmarked approximately US \$3 million.

137. A number of Agency missions to the Sudan between 1997 and 1999 had concluded that the inclusion of nuclear power in the country's energy mix was the most appropriate means of meeting its energy requirements, which were increasing in tandem with population growth. The Sudan had conducted preliminary surveys to identify the most appropriate site for an NPP, and a feasibility study had confirmed that construction of the country's first NPP was viable. It was therefore considering the 19 nuclear infrastructure issues relating to the milestones approach to the first phase in a nuclear power infrastructure development programme and would submit a self-evaluation report to the Agency in October 2016.

138. The Sudan was continuing to collaborate with China on the construction of its first NPP and the two States had signed an agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, a memorandum of understanding and many other agreements. Two framework agreements had been signed in Khartoum in May 2016, one on the implementation of a field study and the other on human resource capacity building. The Sudan looked forward to greater collaboration with the Agency on infrastructure and capacity building.

139. The Sudan commended the Agency's efforts to foster a culture of nuclear safety and security by conducting a range of relevant activities and by publishing reports and other documents stressing the importance of standards and their application. The Sudan looked forward to coordinated efforts in that regard and the establishment of internationally agreed standards for the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It called for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons at the earliest opportunity, particularly in view of that region's unique security challenges and for efforts to be redoubled to that end. It urged all States to accede to the NPT if they had not yet done so.

140. Sudan had passed a law regulating nuclear and radiological activities in March 2015 and had drawn up an Agency-approved comprehensive action plan on nuclear security and a national strategy for the detection of radioactive sources and nuclear material that were not under regulatory control. The Agency was contributing financially to a project to equip the country's border crossing points.

141. The recently established National Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Authority had provided training for members of the police, security, military intelligence and other forces in workshops held as part of its EPR efforts. It was drawing up a national EPR plan, and it called on the Agency to provide the necessary technical and capacity-building support to maximize the effectiveness of the Sudan's authorities in nuclear security efforts nationally, regionally and internationally. It was fully committed to meeting all of its obligations and commitments under the relevant agreements and conventions that it had ratified and it would participate in the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security.

142. The Sudan believed that the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy could facilitate the achievement of SDGs and, accordingly, hoped that, in its recommendations and resolutions, the General Conference would underscore the right of States, and particularly LDCs, to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy with a view to combating poverty, hunger and disease and achieving sustainable development.

143. Mr YACOUBOU (Niger) said that the Agency's work had become even more relevant following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development because most of the SDGs had a direct bearing on nuclear science and technology and reflected the international community's desire to help to eradicate insecurity, reduce poverty and ensure access to universal social services.

144. The Niger supported the Agency's invaluable efforts to promote peace, security and development worldwide. It was determined to pursue and consolidate its dynamic partnership with the Agency and it welcomed and encouraged the development of nuclear techniques that would have a positive impact on its development. It had decided to take advantage of nuclear applications in order to tackle poverty, food insecurity, and health and energy challenges by incorporating them into its programmes, including a subregional nuclear power programme. In support of its policies, it had established the Niger High Authority for Atomic Energy within the President's Office to supervise and coordinate nuclear activities nationally, implement all applicable international legal instruments and serve as a contact for national and international nuclear institutions.

145. The Niger was committed to full transparency and responsibility in carrying out nuclear activities, in strict accordance with all instruments to which it had acceded. It would work closely with the Agency for the benefit of its people, particularly in the sustainable socioeconomic development areas prioritized in its CPF for 2016–2021.

146. The Niger, the world's fourth largest producer of uranium, had conducted intensive mining research activities between 2005 and 2015, uncovering major additional thorium and uranium potential. Despite falling uranium prices, many research projects were under way and the country's nuclear potential would continue to be assessed.

147. The Niger faced a major energy shortage characterized by limited access to high-cost electricity. Such problems were of great concern to the region as a whole inasmuch as high quality, abundant energy was critical to development. The Niger had sought to remedy the deficit and ensure access to sustainable energy services by launching a nuclear power programme based on Agency guidelines. It had ratified a number of nuclear safety and security laws and conventions, and would decide, after implementing the 2004 nuclear power programme feasibility study on the most promising scenario for the inclusion of nuclear power in its energy mix.

148. The Niger had convened the first meeting of the West African Integrated Nuclear Power Group in July 2014 with a view to developing a joint programme for ECOWAS Member States.

149. Priority had been given under the new national health-care policy and the fourth health-care development plan (2017–2021) to combating diseases such as malaria, cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular and nutritional diseases. The Niger would continue to use nuclear techniques to prevent, diagnose and treat such diseases, and requested the Agency's invaluable support for the development of its technical facilities and human resources. PACT was of vital importance and the Niger fully subscribed to the AFRA plan (2016–2030) to build nuclear medical service capacities in Africa.

150. Food security was a matter of great concern to the public authorities in the Niger. The outcomes of TC projects implemented with the Agency had been crucial, especially in the areas of animal husbandry, arable farming, water resource management and nutrition. With a view to promoting the use of nuclear techniques for food security and sustainable agricultural development, in accordance with the guiding principles on the 3N initiative, all positive initiatives would be integrated into combined projects in order to create the synergy that would maximize benefits for the population.

151. The Niger would align its legal and regulatory instruments with international requirements in order to forestall harmful consequences in the event of accidents or malicious acts. It had passed a law establishing the Nuclear Regulation and Safety Authority, which was totally independent functionally and financially. Moreover, it had ratified the Pelindaba Treaty and five nuclear safety and security conventions.

152. In view of the climate of insecurity in the Sahel and Saharan region, the Niger had supported regional and global security by building its capacity to detect trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material, manage radiological and nuclear emergencies, and increase activities under its INSSP.

153. Agency safeguards and technical cooperation played a major role in implementing the NPT, and the Niger–Japan initiative, under which a joint seminar had been convened, had sent a strong signal concerning the promotion of national peace and security.

154. Niger considered education and training to be the most effective mechanisms for the transfer of technology and the integration of qualified human resources into existing bodies and was therefore about to launch a human resource development programme that involved establishing a nuclear professorship, acquiring a research reactor, creating efficient training facilities and introducing new university curricula, for which the Agency's support would be much appreciated.

155. Ms BERGER RØSLAND (Norway) said that Norway had contributed actively and substantially to the successful and timely implementation of the JCPOA, and called on Iran to continue to cooperate fully with the Agency.

156. Norway condemned the recent nuclear tests in the DPRK, which had undermined the international norm against the testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons and had raised new obstacles to efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

157. Disarmament and non-proliferation remained high on Norway's foreign policy agenda. Its Parliament had given the Government a strong and unanimous mandate to work actively towards non-proliferation and disarmament. The Agency was an important partner in that endeavour and a cornerstone of the global non-proliferation architecture. Norway commended the Agency's readiness to conduct verification tasks under nuclear disarmament or arms control agreements, as set out in the Medium Term Strategy.

158. Considering the Agency's safeguards system to be crucial to the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a standardized, universal regime to be the best guarantee against proliferation, Norway called for universal access to the NPT and for all Member States to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency and to sign and ratify the additional protocol. It commended the Agency for its implementation of its safeguards mandate and for its endeavours to implement the State-level concept, and considered safeguards to be essential to boosting confidence and supporting nuclear disarmament.

159. Norway commended President Obama's leadership in placing nuclear security firmly on the international agenda through the NSS process, which had shown that collaboration among interested parties could lead to major improvements in nuclear security. Norway also commended the Agency for its role in coordinating nuclear security efforts, and considered the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM to be an important step forward.

160. Norway strongly advocated minimizing and eliminating the use and stockpiling of HEU by converting to non-HEU alternatives, and called for the security of high activity radioactive sources and emerging challenges to nuclear security to be addressed at the December 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security. It looked forward to a strong ministerial declaration that reaffirmed the Agency's crucial role in nuclear security.

161. Norway announced that the Nuclear Security Contact Group, a network of senior officials designed to facilitate cooperation and sustain engagement on nuclear security and to underpin governments' and leaders' efforts to move beyond Nuclear Security Summit achievements, had met for the first time a few days previously.

162. Norway stressed that the Agency's and its own capacities for safety and emergency preparedness must be reinforced and that coordination must be enhanced in order to make effective use of existing expertise. It called on the Agency to continue to promote universal accession to the nuclear safety conventions, update or revise them as necessary and improve implementation. It encouraged all interested Member States to participate in the informal dialogue between coastal and shipping States on transport, which had fostered mutual understanding, built confidence and enhanced communication; it looked forward to the finalization of the document on the safety of transport of radioactive material.

163. Considering that it was vital that the Agency continued to receive the necessary funding for its statutory activities and for the achievement of the SDGs, Norway called on all Member States to pay their contributions to the Agency on time and in full, stressing that it had contributed to the Agency's Regular Budget, the TCF, the Nuclear Security Fund and the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

164. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland) said that the Agency's 60th anniversary had unfortunately coincided with the DPRK's fifth nuclear test, which Switzerland strongly condemned, for it had undermined the international community's nuclear non-proliferation efforts. Switzerland called on the DPRK to comply with the relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions, to return to the NPT and to resume implementation of its safeguards agreement. The test had demonstrated the urgent need for the CTBT to enter into force as a legally binding instrument in order to prohibit nuclear tests once and for all.

Switzerland therefore called on all of the States listed in Annex 2 to the CTBT to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

165. Switzerland considered that the second International Conference on Nuclear Security, scheduled for December 2016, was crucial and that the resolution on nuclear security and the Ministerial Declaration should both demonstrate to the international community that the Agency attached importance to continuous action to strengthen nuclear security as comprehensively and inclusively as possible. It pointed to the sharp rise in the terrorist threat in recent months and considered that nuclear material and facilities of all kinds would in future be potential targets.

166. Significant progress in nuclear safety had been achieved owing to the implementation of the 2011 IAEA Action Plan, the publication of the report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration in February 2015. It was essential to translate the experience thus gained into practical action in order to consolidate nuclear safety further. Switzerland had supported the request to the Secretariat to develop a nuclear safety strategy in the resolution adopted at the previous session. That strategy had contained a political message that would convince the international community of the Agency's determination to strengthen nuclear safety throughout the world. Switzerland hoped that the Agency would be perceived as a driving force and that it would develop a strategic vision reflecting the efforts already made by Member States.

167. Switzerland supported the concept of evolution of the safeguards system and the implementation of the State-level concept. In view of future challenges stemming from the ever-increasing number of facilities, material and information to be verified in a context of budgetary restraint, Switzerland called on the Agency to give priority to the optimization of the safeguards system and of resources that could be channelled into issues of maximum sensitivity in terms of nuclear proliferation. Accordingly, the State-level concept should not imply preservation of the status quo under another label but should entail genuinely tangible, substantial and measurable benefits for the Agency and its Member States.

168. Switzerland announced that under the 2050 Energy Strategy, its NPPs would be decommissioned, in accordance with technical safety criteria, at the end of their service life and would not be replaced by new NPPs. Although no blanket limitation had been placed on NPP service life, the operators had decided to decommission Mühleberg NPP in December 2019 after a service life of 47 years, owing to economic and political factors and the major investment that would have been required for the NPP's long-term safe operation.

169. Switzerland was nevertheless still interested in developing the security and safety of existing facilities in the years ahead and in conducting nuclear research in close collaboration with the Agency.

170. Under Swiss nuclear energy law, nuclear facility operators were required to finance the cost of radioactive waste management and of NPP decommissioning. Two independent funds had been established for those purposes. With regard to the final storage of radioactive waste, the search for sites capable of housing a deep geological repository had been launched in 2008 under a three-stage programme. Two potentially suitable sites had been selected and the second stage of the process was currently under way.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.