

# General Conference

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## Sixty-second regular session

# Plenary

## Record of the Fourth Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Tuesday, 18 September 2018, at 3 p.m.*

**President:** Ms ŽIAKOVÁ (Slovakia)

**Later:** Ms OKEKE (Nigeria)

Mr HAMMER (Australia)

## Contents

Item of the agenda <sup>1</sup>		Paragraphs
6	General debate and Annual Report for 2017 ( <i>continued</i> )	1–174
	Statements by the delegates of:	
	Poland	1–6
	Mozambique	7–9
	Albania	10–14
	Hungary	15–22
	Brazil	23–30
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	31–37
	Malta	38–44
	Oman	45–50

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<sup>1</sup> GC(62)/17.

**Contents (continued)**

	Paragraphs
Greece	51–62
Argentina	63–73
Chile	74–80
Paraguay	81–91
Libya	92–100
Ecuador	101–108
Yemen	109–119
Pakistan	120–125
Mongolia	126–133
Lebanon	134–140
Denmark	141–150
Slovakia	151–160
Norway	161–174

## Abbreviations used in this record

AdSec	Advisory Group on Nuclear Security
ABACC	Brazilian–Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials
ARASIA	Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia 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
ARTEMIS	Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation
Basic Safety Standards	Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CNS	Convention on Nuclear Safety
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CSS	Commission on Safety Standards
CT	computed tomography
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
EU	European Union
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community
FORO	Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HEU	high enriched uranium
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSARR	Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors
INSSP	Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan
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
LEU	low enriched uranium
MOSAIC	Modernization of Safeguards Information Technology
MW(e)	megawatt electrical
NDT	non-destructive testing
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review and Extension Conference	Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD/NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty
PUI	Peaceful Uses Initiative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEED	Site and External Events Design
SIT	sterile insect technique
SLA	State-level safeguards approach
SLC	State-level concept
SMRs	small and medium sized or modular reactors
SQP	small quantities protocol
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USA	United States of America
WMD	weapon of mass destruction

## **6. General debate and Annual Report for 2017 (continued)** (GC(62)/3 and Additional Information)

1. Mr PRZYBYCIN (Poland) expressed his country's support and appreciation for the Director General and the Secretariat in fulfilling its mission and for the Agency's continuous contribution to global development. As a country that had been undergoing dynamic development over the past three decades, Poland had benefited from various Agency support mechanisms and expertise in its efforts to attain sustainable development and prosperity.
2. Poland had extensively applied Agency safety standards in strengthening its national legal and regulatory framework for the protection of people and the environment, and its experts had participated in all of the Safety Standards Committees.
3. His country continuously improved its nuclear safety and radiation protection framework through Agency peer review missions. In the past year, Poland had hosted an ARTEMIS mission to strengthen radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management and an INSARR follow-up mission to support the safe operation of its Maria reactor. Given that the findings of peer review missions were constituted crucial incentives for continuous improvement, the use of those mechanisms by all Member States would support the safe and peaceful development of nuclear energy applications.
4. His country had made its annual TCF contributions in full as well as providing fellowships and hosting technical meetings and workshops. Many Polish organizations and institutes also recognized that both regional and national participation in TC projects made an important contribution to the development of nuclear applications.
5. As part of its national development strategy, Poland had approved a programme on building the country's first nuclear power plant and was currently focusing on updating the programme and establishing a new financing model. Aware of the long-term investment required for adequate infrastructure, the Government and national regulatory authority would continue to cooperate with the Secretariat to ensure a safe and beneficial nuclear power programme.
6. His country appreciated the Secretariat's assistance to the Regulatory Cooperation Forum, which was a good example of an initiative driven by Member States. Countries embarking on nuclear power programmes could benefit from cooperation with others who had extensive regulation and oversight experience.
7. Mr MAPHOSSA (Mozambique), having wished the Director General a quick recovery, said that, in addressing the promotion of safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy, his country remained determined to contribute to a world free of nuclear weapons. As an indication of its commitment to the Agency's objectives, Mozambique had acceded to international instruments such as the NPT, the Pelindaba Treaty and the CPPNM and had a safeguards agreement and an additional protocol in force. It needed to prepare for the implementation of those instruments as well as ratifying others.
8. His country had benefited from the peaceful uses of nuclear technology through the TC programme in such areas as human and animal health, agriculture, mineral resources, energy management and capacity building in those areas. Progress had been made towards strengthening the country's regulatory authority, the National Atomic Energy Agency, through the approval of the Atomic Energy Law in 2017 and of two decrees in 2018 on the regulation of radiation protection and on the establishment of licensing fees and the provision of services for activities and practices involving the

use of nuclear energy. The Council of Ministers planned to approve further legal instruments on the regulation of transport of radioactive material, the regulation of radioactive waste management and the national nuclear or radiological emergency plan.

9. Mozambique had benefited from the acquisition of radiation protection equipment and from human resources training in various areas of nuclear safety and security. The Agency's assistance with the launch of the radiotherapy service at Maputo Central Hospital and the radiotherapy training centre at Eduardo Mondlane University would allow access to specialized cancer treatment in Mozambique.

10. Mr HASANI (Albania) said that his country was proud to have been a founder member of the Agency. He also wished the Director General a quick recovery.

11. Albania welcomed the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges to be held in November 2018 and looked forward to discussions on the contribution, incorporation and use of nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful uses, as well as on the importance of the TC programme in that regard.

12. His country supported the Agency in its efforts to build capacity for Member States according to their national requirements. He invited all Member States in possession of nuclear power and radiation technology to make full use of the Agency safety standards and to accede to all relevant international nuclear safety conventions.

13. International cooperation in the field of nuclear security was essential in order to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. In that regard, his country appreciated the Agency's continuous support towards strengthening the nuclear security regime and improving radioactive monitoring capacities in his country. Albania had submitted its national report on the security of radioactive sources, which detailed management practices and regulatory inspections regarding the security of sealed radioactive sources. It was in the final stages of the review and approval of its INSSP. The objectives of the latest review meeting had included a review of the six functional areas of the INSSP so as to further implement nuclear security activities nationally, the identification of achievements and national needs together with assistance with prioritizing such needs, the proposal of an implementation plan for the coming three years, and increasing awareness of the Nuclear Security Information Management System.

14. Through the TC programme, Albania had significantly improved its diagnostic and therapeutic cancer services and had supported the establishment of the relevant radiation safety infrastructure. The Mother Teresa Hospital in Tirana now had a modern radiotherapy centre that provided radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services and was growing into a centre of excellence for the country. Albania's CPF for the period 2018–2023 reflected the priority areas of human health, natural resources, environmental protection and conservation, food production and agriculture, radiation protection, and safety and security. Albania had contributed regularly to the TCF as well as paying its Regular Budget contributions in full and on time and urged other Member States to do the same to ensure sustained and predictable resources for the Agency.

15. Ms KÁDÁR (Hungary) said that climate change was an issue of critical importance that must be addressed by all nations at the multilateral level. In order to meet the growing demand for reliable, affordable and clean energy, it was important to ensure a diverse energy mix that included low-carbon energy sources, including nuclear energy. Her country appreciated the Agency's efforts to assist countries in using nuclear technology to mitigate climate change and commended it for dedicating the 2018 Scientific Forum to that topic.

16. Nuclear energy accounted for 50% of Hungary's electricity production, and the Government was committed to maintaining the existing nuclear capacity in the long term. The four currently operating

nuclear power units of the Paks nuclear power plant had received a 20-year operating licence extension upon completion of the life extension programme in 2017. Under the Paks II project, her country was planning the construction of a two new units, and she thanked the Agency for its assistance during the implementation phase.

17. Hungary demonstrated its commitment to meeting international standards regarding spent fuel and radioactive waste management by presenting its national report at the Sixth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention. Furthermore, a follow-up IRRS mission was due to be conducted in Hungary, which had incorporated the Agency's recommendations and suggestions from the 2015 mission into its national action plan and, where possible, into its domestic legislation.

18. It was essential to provide the Agency with the resources it required to maintain its central role in nuclear security. During the current General Conference session, Hungary would take over the role of convening the Nuclear Security Contact Group for a period of one year. It intended to support the Agency's activities aimed at strengthening nuclear security and to underpin its central coordinating role. Hungary had also hosted a workshop in 2018 under the auspices of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism on the security of radioactive sources, their unlawful theft and immediate response actions.

19. Hungary welcomed the promising developments on the Korean Peninsula, which had been supported by the united and resolute stance of the international community. In spite of the positive attitude shown by the DPRK, its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes remained gravely concerning, and the international community should take a cautious approach. The irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was imperative, and the DPRK was urged to return to the NPT and Agency safeguards.

20. Given the need to ensure that nuclear disarmament agreements could be verified effectively and reliably, Hungary was proud to have contributed to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts in that regard. It had also been invited to participate in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

21. To ensure that the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran remained exclusively peaceful while complying with the highest nuclear safety standards, the JCPOA was an essential component of international non-proliferation efforts. While the plan might not be perfect, it was imperative that Member States continued implementing its provisions. Her country welcomed the conclusions drawn in the Director General's report on the status of Iran's nuclear programme. In addition, the Agency's verification activities were essential throughout the implementation of the JCPOA.

22. Hungary recognized the importance of research, development and innovation. As a result of the development of improved fuel assemblies, the operating cycle of the Paks nuclear power plant had been extended from 12 months to 15 months. As Paks was the first and only nuclear power plant of its kind to operate in a 15-month fuel cycle, its operating company had received an international quality innovation award.

23. Mr FORTUNA BIATO (Brazil) said that his country, which was a founder member of the Agency, benefited from the undeniable economic, social and technological advantages of a diversified nuclear sector. Always both legally and politically committed to using atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, Brazil was equally dedicated to helping to forge a world free of the scourge of nuclear weapons and military doctrines based thereon.

24. Brazil was laying the groundwork for an ambitious agenda to strengthen its nuclear industry, in line with growing social and economic demands. A high-level governmental committee had proposed measures to improve governance, clarify institutional attributions, eliminate redundancies and encourage

complementarity between agencies and processes. That policy review would establish long term guidelines for Brazil's nuclear sector, with clear goals and defined objectives in organizational, scientific and technological matters. It would address major challenges facing the country in the field of nuclear power generation, as well as in promoting nuclear medicine, agricultural pest control and environmental monitoring. The most crucial aspects were measures to improve uranium mining and processing activities in the nuclear fuel industry, expand industrial capacity for nuclear fuel production, finish the construction of a third nuclear power unit and design and build the country's multipurpose reactor.

25. Ground-breaking for that 30 MW research reactor had taken place in June 2018. The project also included several facilities and laboratories that would provide the country with an essential science, technology and innovation infrastructure. The reactor would make Brazil self-sufficient in the production of radiopharmaceuticals currently imported at high cost, thereby ensuring timely diagnosis and radiotherapy for various diseases. By reducing the costs of imaging tests, it would make X-rays and CT scans more widely available. That ambitious project for improving health care in Brazil was being developed in cooperation with Argentina, fully in line with the Director General's promotion of atoms for peace and development in developing countries. The SIT had also significantly contributed to increasing food productivity, and was now being used to combat insect-transmitted diseases, which demonstrated the versatility of nuclear technology.

26. Work towards commissioning the country's third nuclear power plant unit was ongoing; nuclear generation would continue to be a major component of its energy mix in the foreseeable future. Brazil had steadily expanded its capacity for isotopic enrichment of uranium with the aim of achieving self-sufficiency. Its enrichment facility was bringing on stream additional cascades of ultracentrifuges to meet the increasing fuel requirements. The higher production also enabled Brazil to become a reliable supplier — its technological capacity and trustworthiness had been demonstrated recently through its first shipment of enriched uranium to Argentina.

27. Brazil's focus on developing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy went hand in hand with its unequivocal commitment to the highest levels of nuclear safety and security. His country supported all nuclear safety conventions and instruments, and the nuclear installations in its national facilities and activities continued to meet all CNS requirements.

28. In addition to regular domestic nuclear safety and security exercises, Brazil took part in Agency emergency preparedness and response activities. The 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, held in Rio de Janeiro, had helped to expand Brazil's experience in dealing with nuclear security issues. It looked forward to collaborating further with other States and the Agency.

29. The country's side events on the margins of the General Conference attested to the renewed dynamism of the Brazilian nuclear sector and to its commitment to full transparency and open engagement on nuclear matters. The Brazilian delegation included the chief executive officers of major nuclear sector agencies in recognition of the Agency's central role as a forum for dialogue and as a facilitator in the introduction of new technologies and best practices.

30. While it was imperative that the world should rid itself of all non-peaceful uses of nuclear energy, unfortunately, the implementation of nuclear disarmament obligations under the NPT remained unsatisfactory. Existing commitments had not been fulfilled and were being called into question by the words and actions of some States. It was more urgent than ever to strengthen the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was not only consistent with the NPT, but an active catalyst to encourage States to fulfil the nuclear disarmament obligations enshrined therein. Efforts to promote the universal acceptance not only of that Treaty, but also of the NPT and the CTBT, would promote progress towards the shared goal of a world free of nuclear arsenals.



31. Mr CHACÓN ESCAMILLO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his country was unquestionably pacifist and committed to upholding the principles of general, complete and non-discriminatory disarmament. Part of the first densely populated NWFZ pursuant to the Tlatelolco Treaty, Venezuela supported the declaration of Latin America as a zone of peace by UNASUR in 2012 and the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean by CELAC as a zone of peace in 2014. His country also reaffirmed its strict adherence to the NPT, the CTBT and the Agency's Statute.

32. Committed to supporting the Agency's statutory activities, Venezuela was currently implementing 4 national TC projects and 15 regional projects under ARCAL. It had recently signed a CPF for the period 2018–2025, which would play a strategic role in the planning of projects and programmes in the areas of health, agricultural productivity and food security, water resources management, radiation technologies, environmental protection, development of sustainable energy, and safety. Agency technical assistance must not be subject to political, economic, military or any other conditions incompatible with the provisions of the Statute. In addition, as technical assistance was one of the Agency's statutory activities, it should be supported with sufficient, secure and predictable funding, to which end the TC programme should be financed from the Regular Budget.

33. Venezuela had made progress in the area of authorizations for the import and repatriation of radioactive sources and the handling, storage and safe use of radioactive material and inspections, in line with the monitoring and control programme run by the regulatory authority for the industrial and research sector. The management of the regulatory authority had also been strengthened through staff training in such areas as safeguards, radiological emergencies and the safe transport of nuclear and radioactive material.

34. The Agency was the only competent authority for verification activities and safeguards, and its work in that area must be based exclusively on technical considerations and be objective and free of political and discriminatory elements that could be used against those countries that wished to exercise their right to develop peaceful nuclear programmes. In that context, in relation to monitoring and verification in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), his country noted with satisfaction that the Agency's verification work was proceeding smoothly and that Iran was strongly committed to complying with the JCPOA. A triumph of multilateralism, the JCPOA demonstrated that diplomacy, dialogue and negotiations could lead to agreements that benefited all parties, unlike unilateral interference that disregarded international law and could jeopardize international stability. It was important that the international community should continue fully to support the JCPOA and the Agency's verification work.

35. Venezuela had consistently supported the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East as an effective means of supporting peace and stability in the region that should be realized without further delay.

36. He recalled the reaffirmation by Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Fifth Summit of CELAC in 2017 of the urgent need to advance towards the main objective of general and complete disarmament under strict international control and achieve the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Venezuela therefore urged the nuclear powers to take decisive steps towards the elimination of those weapons and the achievement of general disarmament, in the spirit of the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, whose recent adoption it applauded.

37. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's defence of the inalienable right of developing countries to strengthen their technological resource base and acquire the knowledge that would enable them to use peaceful nuclear energy in their development plans and thus contribute to the welfare of their people.

38. Ms MELI DAUDEY (Malta) reiterated her country's absolute and unwavering support for the NPT, which was the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and essential to the efforts to increase cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology while striving to achieve nuclear disarmament. Malta thus welcomed the successful second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Malta continued to unequivocally call for the universalization of the NPT and invited States that were not yet parties to the Treaty to reassess their position and to ratify the Treaty without delay.

39. Her country regretted that a conference on the establishment of a zone free of WMDs and their delivery systems in the Middle East had not yet been convened. Despite the lack of substantive progress in that regard, the goals of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference remained as valid as ever.

40. The recent inter-Korean talks and the meeting between the USA and the DPRK in Singapore were positive steps forward. Malta supported all diplomatic efforts that would lead to the easing of tensions and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Her country called upon the DPRK to comply fully, unconditionally and without further delay with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and General Conference resolutions, and to return to the non-proliferation regime and Agency safeguards immediately. The Agency played an important role in the denuclearization process and Malta supported its efforts to enhance its readiness to fulfil that role.

41. The continuing non-compliance of the Syrian Arab Republic with its safeguards agreement remained a cause for concern. Her country called upon Syria to cooperate fully and promptly with the Agency to address all unresolved issues, and to bring an additional protocol into force without delay.

42. Malta continued to view the significant and historic JCPOA in a very favourable light. As long as the relevant parties continued to fulfil their commitments, Malta would continue to support the full and effective implementation of the Plan. Her country commended and fully supported the central role that the Agency continued to play in the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear activities.

43. As an island State and a leading maritime flag State, Malta retained a special interest in ensuring that the highest standards of preparation, communication and cooperation were followed at sea, to the same extent as on land. The consequences of an incident at sea could be devastating, with severe environmental risks.

44. The TC programme enabled the Agency to work closely with Member States in a safe and secure nuclear technology environment. Her country continued to attach great importance to the TC programme, since it had witnessed at first hand the tangible and important benefits it could bring. Over the past year, Malta had continued to implement national projects involving radiation therapy for medical purposes, further strengthening its radiation safety regulatory framework and enhancing its technical capabilities in scientific applications to cultural heritage. Malta thanked the Agency for its assistance, cooperation and technical support, and looked forward to participating in future programmes; a new CPF for the next six years would be signed in the coming days.

45. Mr AL JABRI (Oman) said that his country was taking vigorous action to combat climate change and participated in international efforts to mitigate diverse categories of pollution, including radioactive contamination. The Scientific Forum on Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation would present an overview of the latest developments and the progress achieved to date. Oman was grateful to the Agency for its assistance in organizing a national workshop in February 2018 on radiation technology and the environment, in which more than 100 national experts had participated.

46. The TC programme was a cornerstone of the Agency's support for national capacity building in developing countries and for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in pursuit of

development goals. Since joining the Agency, Oman had attached special importance to TC activities. Its TC programmes for 2018–2019 focused on strengthening its nuclear and radiation safety and security infrastructure by drafting regulations and training inspectors under a national programme and a number of regional projects. Oman had concentrated, in preparing its TC programme for 2020–2021, on safe management of radioactive waste and naturally occurring radioactive substances, assessment and monitoring of radioactive and non-radioactive contaminants in the marine environment and coastal areas, and safety of food from harmful or toxic substances.

47. In December 2018, Oman would host a regional coordination meeting and a scientific symposium on the use of nuclear technology to combat marine algal toxins, known as ‘red tide’. Participants would discuss the results achieved through the regional TC project, and the relevant strategies and effective responses to address the needs of Member States engaged in combating the red tide.

48. Oman had participated for the second time in the Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention, which had been held in May 2018. It had ratified the Convention on 26 August 2013. Oman attached great importance to the safety of radioactive sources and nuclear material, and was committed to the safe management of all types of radioactive waste with a view to achieving the SDGs. All Contracting Parties to the Convention should take vigorous action to meet the challenges of safety enhancement and harmonization of emergency response plans.

49. In April 2018 Oman had organized, in cooperation with the Agency, a national workshop on procedures for implementing the Agency’s radiation safety requirements in order to guarantee the safety of radioactive sources. The workshop had reviewed key differences between the Agency’s International Basic Safety Standards document issued in 1996 and the updated version issued in 2014. It had also studied the outcome of the setting of new thresholds for exposure of the eye lens to radioactive doses and for surgical interventions. Oman was extremely grateful to the Agency for its assistance in organizing the workshop and ensuring its success.

50. The elimination of nuclear weapons was the sole means of ensuring that they were never used by States or non-State actors. Oman also underscored the importance of establishing a zone free of WMDs, especially nuclear weapons, in the Middle East and of placing all nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards. Israel was the only State in the region that refused to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear programmes and facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards. It should be borne in mind that safety and security in the Middle East would never be achieved while the nuclear threat still existed. It was therefore necessary to work jointly, diligently and persistently to eliminate that threat, thereby promoting peace and stability in the region and the world as a whole.

**Ms OKEKE (Nigeria), Vice-President, took the chair.**

51. Mr SAPOUNTZIS (Greece) having congratulated the Director General and the Secretariat for their excellent work during a challenging period, assured the Director General of his country’s continuing support and wished him a speedy recovery.

52. Greece strongly supported the universality of the NPT and urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to that Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States. The current NPT review cycle was more important than ever — it was regrettable that no progress had been made in the past year towards convening a conference on establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons. Greece encouraged all parties to reinvigorate their efforts in that regard, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region.

53. As the entry into force of the CTBT was a prerequisite for strengthening the effectiveness of safeguards, his country called upon all States that had not yet done so to sign and ratify that Treaty.

54. Greece had welcomed the JCPOA as a historic agreement and a successful multilateral endeavour unanimously endorsed by a United Nations Security Council resolution. While regretting the withdrawal of the USA, his country supported the ongoing implementation of the JCPOA and commended the Agency on its professional and impartial work in verifying the nuclear commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

55. Greece supported the current diplomatic efforts aimed at attaining a political agreement with regard to the situation on the Korean Peninsula. His country called on the DPRK to comply with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions, to maintain its declared suspension of tests on nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles and to cooperate with the Agency. His country also acknowledged the Agency's readiness to fulfil, if so requested, its role in verifying the complete, irreversible and prompt return of the DPRK to the application of a comprehensive safeguards agreement.

56. His country supported the Agency's efforts to further develop and successfully implement the SLA in States under integrated safeguards and welcomed the periodic reporting by the Director General on that matter.

57. Although Greece neither had nuclear power in its energy mix nor had any plans to embark on a nuclear power programme, it acknowledged the continued increase in the use of nuclear energy and the expansion of related sensitive technologies and materials. His country fully supported the Agency's vital role in strengthening States' capacity to ensure that the development and use of nuclear energy took place under the most rigorous safety and security conditions for the protection of people and the environment.

58. The development of nuclear energy infrastructure in volatile regions, such as the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, required vigilance. In addition, full cooperation with the Agency and ample and transparent international collaboration were required to minimize safety, security and proliferation risks. Thus, the stringent implementation of the Agency's safety standards and nuclear security guidance documents was of great importance. Confidence-building could be achieved through the use of the Agency's international assistance and peer review missions, like INIR and SEED, alongside transparency about the results and compliance with their recommendations. His country applauded the Agency for stressing in its Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021 the important elements of transparency and predictability, as well as for introducing the concept of nuclear security by design, similar to that of safety by design.

59. Since the last General Conference, his country had, through the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, continued to cooperate with the Agency in several areas. A November 2017 IRRS follow-up mission had found that Greece had been responsive to the recommendations and suggestions made in 2012. The new legislative and regulatory framework for radiation protection regulations according to Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom on basic safety standards was close to completion. In the area of nuclear safety, the upgrading and regulatory control of temporary storage facilities for radioactive sources and waste were ongoing. Greece had participated in the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention. Its national programme had been assessed positively as satisfying the Convention's requirements.

60. Through its regulatory authority, Greece, a maritime nation, chaired the Mediterranean Transport Safety Network. In the area of nuclear security, four new radiation portal detection systems had been installed at one customs post. His country looked forward to the International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material, to be held in December 2018. Greece was honoured by the Director General's decision to have a high-level Greek expert serve as a member of AdSec for a second three-year term.

61. Greece had also participated in 15 regional TC projects in 2018. The meeting of National Liaison Officers from the Europe region had been held in Athens in April 2018. Six scientists from five Agency Member States had been trained in Greece. About 40 Greek nationals had participated in science and

technology-related activities under the TC programme. The sixth cycle of the postgraduate educational course in radiation protection and the safety of radiation sources would begin in Athens in October 2018, and would be attended by 19 officials from regulatory authorities in 16 European Agency Member States.

62. Finally, Greece, which had performed international pioneering work on sterilization techniques in cooperation with the Agency, had begun implementing the SIT in a region near Athens. The comments received so far had been very positive, and strong public and media engagement and awareness were considered important to the success of that project.

63. Mr GROSSI (Argentina) said that constant innovation was essential in responding to the significant challenges facing the international community; the nuclear field represented a wellspring of such innovation and development. The Agency's fundamental role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology must be constantly consolidated and strengthened.

64. As national nuclear safety and security efforts must be underpinned by multilateralism, Argentina was actively involved in various mechanisms within the Agency and in other forums like the OECD/NEA and the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation, whose steering committee his country currently chaired. The progress made in that regard would not have been possible without Agency safeguards under the NPT.

65. Given the importance of ensuring that nuclear power could contribute to meeting future requirements for sustainable, clean, efficient and affordable energy, Argentina was investing in new reactor technology. It continued to work on expanding its nuclear fleet and was collaborating productively with Chinese companies.

66. Work on the lifetime extension of the Embalse nuclear power plant was nearing completion while construction of the domestically designed and developed CAREM-25 reactor prototype was at an advanced stage. That project represented Argentina's contribution in the area of SMRs, which could play a significant role in the future not only in power generation but also seawater desalination and district heating.

67. Argentina was conducting various projects related to its established role as a reliable global supplier in the nuclear sector. At the national level, it was completing construction of the RA-10 multipurpose reactor, which would become operational around 2021. In connection with the longstanding cooperation between the two countries, Argentina was contributing precision technology for the construction of Brazil's Multipurpose Research Reactor, a 'twin' of the RA-10.

68. The awarding of the contract for the Pallas research reactor in the Netherlands at the beginning of 2018 to the Argentine company INVAP represented a significant breakthrough into the competitive European nuclear technology market. Using only LEU, the Pallas reactor represented a contribution to proliferation-resistant technology.

69. His country was also carrying out projects aimed at ensuring that the most up-to-date nuclear medicine technology was available. In addition, commissioning of the centralized facility for storing the spent fuel from Argentina's research reactors had been finalized in 2017. The first Uranium Mining Environmental Restoration Project in Latin America was being successfully implemented.

70. In the area of nuclear safety, overseen by its independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Argentina was preparing to host an IRRS mission. It also continued to participate actively in FORO, and had contributed significantly to the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention held in 2018. The Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety represented one of the most important developments of recent years.

71. Given that political will and international cooperation were essential to nuclear security, his country supported initiatives like the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. It was also investing in relevant training for its federal security forces. As the chair of the G-20 in 2018, Argentina was working with authorities that dealt with nuclear and radiological security, as well as with the Agency.

72. With regard to nuclear security, Argentina welcomed the recent entry into force of both the Amended CPPNM and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. He also congratulated Norway on having held the third international symposium on HEU minimization in 2018. Argentina also remained committed to cooperating with Brazil through ABACC.

73. It was an honour for Argentina and GRULAC that he would chair the 2020 NPT Review Conference, a task he would undertake with great responsibility given the key role of the NPT that transcended economic differences and political circumstances. He looked forward to receiving support from all NPT States Parties that were Agency Member States in promoting increased international security and greater prosperity derived from the safe and proliferation-free use of nuclear energy.

74. Mr AGUILERA (Chile), expressing concern at the general deterioration in international security, said that it was vital to continue supporting collective efforts towards the general and complete disarmament of WMDs and their non-proliferation. In September 2017, Chile had signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, a legally binding instrument that would strengthen the Agency's verification regime and make an essential contribution to the global peace and security architecture. It complemented the NPT and should not be perceived to be in conflict with it in any way. Almost 50 years after its entry into force, it was concerning that equal progress had not been made with regard to the three NPT pillars of non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As the next Review Conference approached, States must seriously consider real and effective measures to promote nuclear disarmament, and seek to make verifiable commitments to achieve the Treaty's objectives.

75. Under his country's Energy 2050 policy, the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission was responsible for spearheading the studies required for considering nuclear power as one of the possible technologies in the energy mix. In that connection, the schedule for the next few years would include a law on upgrading the Commission so that it could provide technological support in the area of innovation, update its competencies and have a governing board that was able to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the peaceful uses of nuclear and radiation technologies for the country's development.

76. With regard to the DPRK nuclear programme, Chile welcomed the positive signs of dialogue and understanding apparent at the summits between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea and the USA. It was hoped that that new development would result in tangible steps towards the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK. That country would achieve security and development only when it could reliably meet its international obligations and commitments. The DPRK must return to implementation of the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon State and ratify the CTBT. He expressed appreciation for the Director General's willingness to work with the relevant parties towards a verification agreement.

77. He also noted that the Director General had reported that the Islamic Republic of Iran was in full compliance with the JCPOA, which made a substantial contribution to international nuclear safety.

78. Chile reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear security and valued the assistance provided by the Agency under the Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021. It would continue to contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's safeguards system by working to strengthen and ensure the universal application of additional protocols.

79. His country placed high priority on the safe transportation of nuclear material and the protection of coastal States from the possible adverse effects of an accident involving highly radioactive material.

Given the importance of ongoing cooperation and information exchange, he noted the informal Dialogue between Coastal and Shipping States, with Agency support, as an example of information exchange and confidence-building.

80. Chile greatly valued Agency's national and regional technical and scientific assistance and fully shared the view that nuclear energy should be developed for exclusively peaceful purposes.

81. Mr FACETTI (Paraguay), having wished the Director General a swift recovery, said that his country had closely monitored the progress of nuclear development throughout the world and the accompanying safety measures, including the Agency's efforts to strengthen compliance with and reinforce safeguards.

82. His Government was making progress in strengthening its nuclear legal and regulatory regime, which contributed to regional and global nuclear and radiological security.

83. International cooperation to expand the benefits of nuclear energy and its applications could make an important contribution to achieving the SDGs, which his country firmly supported. Moreover, the newly formed Government of President Abdo Benítez placed priority on steadily expanding the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Paraguay continued to develop and strengthen its capacities in nuclear applications in the areas of medicine, agriculture and industry, prioritizing the training of national human resources and promoting the use of nuclear analytical techniques in research. As the transfer of nuclear technology information and knowledge should be as effective and efficient as possible, Paraguay urged all States to facilitate information exchange in good faith and in accordance with international law.

84. As part of its commitment to promoting global nuclear security, Paraguay had acceded to the Amendment to the CPPNM and the Joint Convention, and concluded an SQP. A strong supporter of the Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021, Paraguay had promoted, at the last OAS General Assembly, efforts to address nuclear security within the Committee on Hemispheric Security. He encouraged the Agency to make use of the OAS to support global efforts to improve the security of nuclear and radioactive material by raising awareness of the current Nuclear Security Plan among countries in the region.

85. Paraguay appreciated the assistance provided by Canada through the Agency, which had enabled the removal of five cobalt-60 sources that had compromised security and radiation safety for over 40 years.

86. His country was concerned by moves to develop a new generation of nuclear weapons and modernize existing nuclear arsenals, which could trigger a new arms race. Such actions undermined peace, security, sustainable development and harmonious relations between States.

87. His Government, like others, supported the diplomatic negotiations between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK regarding the total, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula within the framework of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. He expressed appreciation to the States leading those efforts to promote peace.

88. Safeguards must be implemented in an efficient, effective and sustained manner and on a solid technical basis to ensure their non-discriminatory nature, and in full compliance with the obligations assumed by countries on the basis of their respective safeguards agreements.

89. It was essential to make progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons. The only truly effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons was complete and verifiable disarmament, and the Agency played a crucial role in that regard. In line with its foreign policy, Paraguay promoted initiatives that built trust between States. The creation of NWFZs in other regions should be a priority.

90. The Agency's TC programme had facilitated closer and ongoing cooperation in areas such as human health, radiation protection and food security.

91. He expressed hope that the synergy between FORO and the Agency would continue to disseminate its work on strengthening safety throughout the world.

92. Ms ENEMER (Libya) said that the Agency played an important role in ensuring nuclear safety and security, strengthening safeguards, supporting economic and environmental development, improving health and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Libya actively supported the Agency's efforts to build partnerships and capabilities in the area of technical cooperation, which had had a positive impact on economic and environmental development and on health. Libya greatly appreciated its cooperation with the Agency over the preceding years, in particular in the areas of human health, groundwater management and agricultural pest control, which were recognized as priority areas within its national socio-economic development plan. Despite the lack of political stability and the fragile security situation in the country, Libya sought to strengthen its partnerships with the Agency and Member States by participating actively in national and regional projects in those fields with a view to achieving the best results from the TC programme. Following the general trend in the Agency, Libya sought to promote quality over quantity and to focus on its priorities in its TC activities; it had therefore submitted only seven project proposals for the 2020–2021 cycle, six of which had been approved.

93. The Agency played a valuable role in developing human and institutional capabilities in the area of human health, by supporting national and regional projects to develop centres for radiotherapy, radiodiagnosis and nuclear medicine and improve national cancer control policies. The Agency had also helped Libya draw up a plan to develop and modernize its national infrastructure with a view to introducing nuclear power into its energy mix.

94. Libya welcomed the Agency's efforts to promote international cooperation on nuclear and radiological safety. As Libya attached great importance to that issue, it had established a national nuclear regulatory authority with the mandate and competencies to act as a completely independent regulator in accordance with international standards and treaties. It had also acceded to a number of conventions on nuclear safety, including the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, pursuant to which it had established a committee on nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness, to which the Agency provided support through the regional project on strengthening and harmonizing national capabilities for response to radiation emergencies. It was also important that Libya received assistance in consolidating its national nuclear regulatory infrastructure, developed its technical capabilities in order to protect the community, the environment and workers exposed to radiation and provided training for individuals that worked with radiation.

95. As Libya attached great importance to nuclear safety and security, it valued the role played by the Office of Legal Affairs in evaluating Libya's nuclear bill and the implementing regulations. Libya encouraged the Agency and developed Member States to provide nuclear technology training to professionals in Libya, in particular as it was undergoing a difficult period of transition in which it needed to build its capacities.

96. With regard to nuclear security, Libya was grateful to the USA and the United Kingdom for their support in strengthening its physical protection measures for nuclear facilities, including health care and research centres, under the supervision of the Agency within the context of its INSSP, which had been finalized in 2015. Libya was currently developing and implementing a physical protection system for nuclear and radiological facilities.

97. Libya welcomed the Agency's efforts to boost its activities related to nuclear science and technology and their various applications, in particular the use of radioisotopes to manage water resources and the economic production of drinking water using SMRs, especially as Libya was situated



in a region where water was scarce. As water desalination using nuclear energy was another important method of producing drinking water, Libya wished to participate in the Agency's coordinated research project on nuclear desalination and in INPRO.

98. While welcoming the Agency's efforts to increase the representation of staff members from developing countries, such as Libya, he noted that no noticeable progress had been made in that regard. Libya urged the Agency to employ more persons from developing countries in high-level positions, especially as many such countries had developed the technical expertise required to help ensure that the Agency achieved the best possible results.

99. Underscoring the importance of the Agency's non-proliferation work, Libya reaffirmed that the effective implementation of the NPT would strengthen international peace and security and bolster efforts to achieve its universalization and prevent nuclear proliferation. Such efforts should not prevent States Parties to the NPT from using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, however.

100. Emphasizing the importance of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, Libya urged the sponsors to fulfil their responsibility to ensure its implementation. Libya called on the international community to increase its efforts to achieve the universalization of the NPT and urged all States that had not yet acceded to it to do so to prove their credibility and good intentions.

101. Mr JÁTIVA NARANJO (Ecuador) expressed appreciation to the Director General and wished him a speedy and full recovery.

102. Proud of its contribution to the establishment of the Agency, Ecuador could also vouch for the significant contribution of nuclear technology to its development in various sectors. It encouraged the Agency to continue to play a leading role in that regard and to support efforts in line with national development plans to attain the SDGs. It was essential that the TC programme should have sufficient human and financial resources to support Member States' priorities.

103. The implementation of technical cooperation in Ecuador had reached record levels, reflecting an increased interest in the Agency and close cooperation that had ventured into new areas like food security and strengthening the government, regulatory and safety infrastructure.

104. Ecuador was located in an area of high seismic activity, and the devastating earthquake of 2016 had particularly highlighted the need to improve its NDT capacities. Thanks to the Agency, a project had been launched on establishing two regional centres to train NDT experts for his country and others in the region. He thanked the Government of Japan for its support under the PUI that had made the project possible.

105. The Agency, and the Director General in particular, had pledged support for the conservation of the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. His country looked forward to the results of research on the possible application of nuclear techniques including the SIT to control the *Philornis downsi* fly that was a threat to endangered bird species. Ecuador also welcomed the Agency's interest in studying plastic contamination with a view to making the archipelago a key partner in the research carried out by the Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory in Monaco.

106. He also thanked the Agency for selecting Ecuador as a pilot country for developing a strategic tool for project design, which had enabled 12 national experts to participate in the development of a methodology that would be applied throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

107. Ecuador was concerned about moves to include the use of nuclear weapons in security policies and doctrines, and programmes to upgrade nuclear arsenals. His country remained firmly committed to disarmament and non-proliferation, and particularly the total elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with Article VI of the NPT. It was proud to have been involved in the negotiation and

adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which it would ratify soon. That new Treaty strengthened the Agency safeguards system under the NPT, obliging those States that already had high levels of safeguards to maintain them and encouraging all States Parties to increase their commitment to safeguards.

108. Dialogue was the only means of peaceful international coexistence, and his country deplored unilateral actions that called into question multilateralism and jeopardized not only agreements reached but also the international security system as a whole. Having always supported the right of all States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes under the NPT, his country noted the commitment of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue to meet its JCPOA obligations and encouraged it to strengthen its cooperation with the Agency. Ecuador continued to have full confidence in the Agency's essential and independent work to verify compliance with safeguards and the full implementation of that plan. The experience and training of Agency officials amounted to a guarantee that the agreement would be fully honoured.

109. Mr SHOJA'AADIN (Yemen) urged all Member States to take advantage of peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the umbrella of the non-proliferation regime and associated regulations, in particular the Agency's comprehensive safeguards agreements, whose role should be strengthened to ensure equality among all States in the interests of international peace and security.

110. Yemen attached great importance to the TC programme and continued to benefit therefrom in line with its national priorities. Its current TC projects focused on nuclear medicine, radiation treatment, agriculture, livestock production, the environment, and strengthening the capacities and infrastructure of the country's regulatory authorities.

111. Yemen aspired to continue cooperating with the Agency in the area of nuclear security and in the implementation of TC projects, notwithstanding the exceptional and demanding circumstances prevailing in the country as a result of the overthrow by Houthi militias, supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran, of the legitimate political leadership represented by President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Their assault had resulted in an unprecedented humanitarian disaster. Furthermore, Iran continued to supply the Houthi militias with advanced weapons, drones, landmines, naval mines, explosive boats and ballistic missiles in order to target the country's neighbours in Saudi Arabia. Its continued support for the militias prolonged the war, undermined efforts to bring peace to Yemen and threatened international navigation in the Red Sea and the strait of Bab al Mandab.

112. His country was grateful to the Agency for its sustained cooperation with the Yemeni Government and its support for TC projects. It encouraged the Agency to continue seeking alternative procedures and facilities that would enable countries such as Yemen, which were experiencing exceptional circumstances, to continue implementing such projects.

113. Yemen was also grateful to ARASIA for its efforts to coordinate action by Member States in the area of technical cooperation and to provide training opportunities under Agency supervision.

114. Yemen looked forward to participating in the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology to be held in Vienna from 28 to 30 November 2018. It would provide a unique opportunity for a high-level dialogue on the application of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. Yemen hoped that it would adopt decisions and recommendations conducive to the achievement of the SDGs.

115. Yemen supported the Agency's measures to strengthen the nuclear security regime, to prevent terrorist groups from gaining access to nuclear material, and to combat illegal trafficking in radioactive nuclear material. Joint and coordinated action among Member States was essential to enhance security throughout the world and to combat terrorism.

116. Yemen underscored the right of all countries to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the NPT and without being subjected to political restrictions. It was also essential to ensure full compliance with comprehensive Agency safeguards and to strengthen the Agency's role as the mainstay of the NPT. Yemen welcomed in that context Palestine's request to sign a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the Agency.

117. Yemen supported all non-proliferation initiatives and the establishment of NWFZs, especially in the Middle East, a region fraught with instability and a sense of insecurity owing to military imbalance and the existence of nuclear activities that were not subject to the NPT regime.

118. While all Arab States had acceded to the NPT and proclaimed their steadfast willingness to proceed with the establishment of a zone free of WMDs in the Middle East, Israel persistently declined to accede to the NPT and to place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Agency safeguards. It also rejected all international initiatives aimed at universalizing the NPT and achieving nuclear disarmament in the Middle East, thereby fomenting instability in the region.

119. Action should be taken to implement the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East. Yemen was also committed to the action plan set forth in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Persistent stalling and procrastination in that regard would have a major negative impact on the Middle East, since peace and security in the region depended on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

**Mr HAMMER (Australia), Vice-President, took the chair.**

120. Mr MUHAMMAD (Pakistan), having wished the Director General a quick recovery, said that his country had been realizing the enormous potential of nuclear technology for socio-economic development since becoming a founder member of the Agency. Given that one of the greatest challenges faced by Pakistan and other developing countries was global warming, his country welcomed the 2018 Scientific Forum.

121. Nuclear power was a promising option in the era of climate change, and the Karachi nuclear power plant had now been in operation for over four decades. With five nuclear power reactors in operation and two under construction, his country aimed to attain an electrical capacity of up to 8800 MW(e) by 2030 and 40 000 MW(e) by 2050. Given that goal and its commitment to placing all civil nuclear power plants under Agency safeguards, it looked forward to the removal of barriers to equitable and non-discriminatory access to cooperation and membership of technology control regimes to further enhance its civil nuclear programme.

122. The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, whose regulations were based on Agency safety standards, enjoyed complete independence from the promoters of nuclear energy. His country appreciated the Agency's assistance in strengthening nuclear safety and security capabilities. The Pakistan Centre of Excellence for Nuclear Security, the National Institute of Safety and Security and the Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences also cooperated closely with the Agency. National and international participants received training in the areas of nuclear safety, security, material accounting, cyber security and human reliability. Pakistan was also committed to continuing to provide cost-free experts to various Agency departments.

123. In the area of nuclear medicine, 18 cancer hospitals were working under the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and 2 more were under construction. Those hospitals served more than 900 000 patients each year, and the Commission planned to set up further nuclear medical centres and to upgrade the facilities at the existing centres. The choice of nuclear technology rested with Member States.

124. The current comprehensive TC projects would greatly enhance the capability of Pakistan's institutions to use nuclear technology for safe and sustainable development and contribute to socio-

economic development. As a statutory function of the Agency, technical cooperation should be strengthened and expanded. It would facilitate the achievement of many of the SDGs.

125. He expressed appreciation for the Director General's visit to Pakistan in March 2018. He had visited the Nuclear Medicine Oncology and Radiotherapy Institute, the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology, the National Institute for Biotechnology Genetic Engineering and the National Centre for Non-Destructive Testing — a regional Collaborating Centre — as well as nuclear power reactors under construction. His positive remarks on the robust nuclear safety and security measures in place had been encouraging.

126. Mr MANLAIJAV (Mongolia) said that the Agency had demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the effective implementation of its mandate by promoting nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses, enhancing national and international nuclear safety and security and strengthening nuclear verification and non-proliferation. It had adapted its programmes to better meet the needs of Member States in the light of current global challenges, particularly with regard to the contribution of the peaceful uses of the atom to attaining the SDGs and implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change. In that connection, the 2018 Scientific Forum was timely.

127. As a country free of nuclear weapons and a party to the NPT and the CTBT, Mongolia was committed to nuclear non-proliferation and fully met its obligations under its safeguards agreement and additional protocol. The successful completion of the MOSAIC project would undoubtedly contribute to the improvement of the safeguards system. In the context of the Agency's efforts to strengthen safeguards implementation, safeguards inspectors had recently received complementary access to his country.

128. Mongolia remained strongly committed to nuclear safety. Pursuant to a resolution adopted on strengthening its nuclear-weapon-free status, the country would continue to progress towards acceding to the Amendment to the CPPNM, the CNS and the Joint Convention as well as concluding a modified SQP. It attached great importance to implementing and improving regulatory procedures and standards and had received valuable support from Agency peer review missions.

129. Work was under way to strengthen and amend the law on nuclear energy with a view to enhancing the regulation of radiation safety and protection and the safe management of radioactive sources. As the mineral resources sector, including uranium resources, was a crucial part of Mongolia's economy, an important code of conduct on radiation protection in mining and processing radioactive sources had been approved. Training workshops and exercises had been organized in connection with the development of a national action plan on incident and emergency preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies. Mongolia also continued to participate in the Agency's Convention Exercises, which had helped to build capacity.

130. Mongolia's Nuclear Energy Commission had been implementing a cooperation project with the European Commission on strengthening regulatory standards in accordance with international best practices. The Nuclear Energy Commission of Mongolia had also recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" on implementing a project on establishing a centre for nuclear science and technology in Mongolia. The country was also collaborating with the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan on exchanging experience in the field of nuclear energy.

131. His country valued the contribution of the TC programme to its development efforts. Thanks to TC projects, medical imaging systems had been upgraded and installed, which allowed for better health care outreach and diagnosis as well as improved cancer control and treatment. In agriculture, improved research and diagnostic capabilities based on nuclear techniques had helped to contain transboundary animal diseases.

132. It was important to foster an interest in nuclear science and technology among young learners and to create relevant study opportunities. In that regard, Mongolia had joined the Internet Reactor Laboratory project, which contributed to the training of future nuclear sector professionals. The regional project on Educating Secondary Students and Science Teachers on Nuclear Science and Technology would facilitate the incorporation of nuclear education into school curriculums. His country's development agenda had received essential support through TC and RCA projects, and its CPF for 2016–2021 would also make a major contribution.

133. In the context of his country's contribution to the Agency's various programme and infrastructure activities, it fully supported the modernization of the Seibersdorf laboratories and looked forward to the inauguration of the Flexible Modular Laboratory.

134. Mr ASSAF (Lebanon) said that a primary goal of the Charter of the United Nations was to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and a primary goal of the Agency's Statute was to achieve prosperity throughout the world through peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

135. The Agency played a vital role in facilitating access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in medicine, agriculture, industry and other areas. To that end, sufficient financial resources should be made available to the TCF. He drew attention in that connection to the constructive cooperation between the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission and the Agency's Department of Technical Cooperation. Lebanon was grateful for the Agency's organization of a workshop, capacity-building programmes and projects in a variety of areas. The competent authorities were tackling the remaining challenges, such as updating of legislation, ratification of a number of conventions and human resource capacity building. Lebanon hoped that the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology to be held in Vienna in November 2018 would facilitate the incorporation of nuclear technology into national development strategies with a view to achieving the SDGs.

136. Turning to nuclear security, he said that the Agency was cooperating with the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission in implementing the provisions of the INSSP aimed at combating illegal trafficking of nuclear material. Action was also being taken to enhance the physical protection of the Commission's premises and the orphan source store, to train staff and build their capacity, and to repatriate hazardous and disused radioactive material to the State of origin. Lebanon highly appreciated the Agency's support and looked forward to further cooperation in the future.

137. While responsibility for nuclear security rested entirely with States, the Agency played a vital role in promoting global nuclear security. Lebanon was currently cooperating with the Agency on the organization of a workshop in Beirut to build the capacity of national authorities to identify sources and locations of nuclear terrorist threats and to elaborate appropriate responses to such threats.

138. With regard to the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, Lebanon noted that the Director General had been unable to make further progress in fulfilling his mandate pursuant to resolution GC(61)/RES/14. All States in the Middle East had undertaken to apply the Agency's safeguards except for Israel, which should be compelled to place its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards.

139. Lebanon had taken note of the Director General's report on the implementation of SLAs and welcomed dialogue between the Agency and Member States with a view to clarifying the SLC. It was essential to ensure the effective implementation of safeguards, observance of the principles of transparency and clarity, and rejection of politicization and the application of double standards.

140. Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, Lebanon called on the international community to redouble its efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMDs in the Middle East, especially since all States in the region

except Israel had ratified the NPT. Notwithstanding all the resolutions adopted by the NPT Review Conferences, no progress had been made towards the convening of a conference that would pave the way for the establishment of such a zone. Lebanon was open to any serious initiative that would revive international efforts to convene the conference, in accordance with the terms of reference of the action plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

141. Mr ROSAGER DINESEN (Denmark) said that strong, effective and efficient multilateral organizations were essential in upholding the international rules-based order. The Agency played a decisive role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, and his country fully supported the safeguards system, including the implementation of SLAs. Denmark was pleased that a broader conclusion had now been drawn for Greenland, and the Governments of Denmark and Greenland had been happy to invite the Agency to conduct additional verification activities in Greenland in August 2018. Denmark recommended the practice of inviting an Agency verification team as a proactive way to enhance confidence.

142. In 2018, his Government had made a voluntary contribution to the DPRK team. Denmark hoped that the positive developments in relation to the DPRK nuclear issue might mean that prospects were improving for the Agency to play an essential verification role. Meanwhile, it repeated its strong call on the DPRK to abandon its nuclear programme, honour all its international obligations and commitments and take tangible steps towards attaining complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. Until the DPRK took such actions, his country would continue with the strict enforcement of existing sanctions.

143. With regard to the Agency's verification and monitoring of the implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, sustained, strict, and full compliance by Iran was essential and included providing the Agency with access to all sites deemed necessary. All Member States should receive sufficient and regular information on Iran's implementation of all nuclear-related commitments and, as necessary, any other safeguards-relevant information available to the Agency. The Director General had his country's full support in that regard.

144. The integrity of the Agency's safeguards system was vital, and it was essential to uphold the regime based on the NPT, rectifying any cases of non-compliance. That also applied to the matter of the Dair Alzour site in the Syrian Arab Republic.

145. He thanked the Agency for its excellent cooperation with Denmark during its preparations for possible uranium extraction in Greenland, which would be fully in line with the highest international standards, most notably the Agency's.

146. His country looked forward to receiving the latest information on the Agency's work on nuclear safety and security standards and guidance, including for new technologies such as transportable nuclear power plants. The development of technologies must go hand in hand with the development of safety and security. As any accident or incident could have cross-border effects, nuclear safety and security must be promoted worldwide, as well as transparency about cross-border impacts. Furthermore, high standards of safety and security were fundamental to the responsible peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. That called for a balance among the Agency's statutory activities and the application of the one-house approach.

147. Denmark was a significant contributor to the NSF and had been pleased to make an additional, non-earmarked contribution in December 2017. At the same time, it was concerned by the heavy reliance on voluntary contributions in nuclear security work and called for adequate resources to be made available from the Regular Budget.

148. His country had welcomed the entry into force in 2016 of the Amendment to the CPPNM. It was important to ensure that the Review Conference to be held in 2021 would provide an opportunity to identify, assess and address any gaps in the international nuclear security architecture, given that threats and technologies continued to evolve.

149. Denmark had decided not to include nuclear power in its energy mix as its national long term energy production plans were based on more sustainable forms of energy, notably wind power. However, his country respected the choices of other Member States and the Agency's statutory obligations.

150. Nuclear technology could make a significant contribution to the attainment of the SDGs, and his country fully supported the Agency's technical cooperation in such crucial areas as human health, food security, water resources and the environment. Denmark had pledged its full share of the TCF target for 2019. In a world of rapid technological development, it wanted to contribute to the Agency's capacity to make the peaceful uses of nuclear technology available to foster development and growth.

151. Mr MIŠÍK (Slovakia) said that nuclear energy and its peaceful uses remained a long-term strategic priority for his country. Nuclear power remained important in its national energy mix and policy. With the finalization of the two new units at the Mochovce nuclear power plant, his country's nuclear power programme would provide sufficient generating capacity in the years to come, thus significantly enhancing energy security and security of supply.

152. Moreover, in order to combat climate change, Slovakia was fully committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the EU 2030 climate and energy framework and the EU's commitment under the Paris Agreement. Nuclear energy, as a clean source, provided a sustainable solution and was an indispensable tool for the attainment of those targets.

153. Slovakia commended the Agency's continuous efforts to identify interconnections and to align its statutory functions and main objectives with the SDGs where appropriate.

154. The use of nuclear energy went hand in hand with robust and rigorous application of nuclear safety. Although nuclear safety was the responsibility of each State, the Agency played a central role in promoting nuclear safety and coordinating international efforts, including through sharing experiences and best practices. Furthermore, Slovakia supported the Agency's efforts at the international level through networking, integrating safety-related activities, assisting Member States in the implementation of Agency safety standards and promoting adherence to the relevant conventions — in particular the CNS and the Joint Convention.

155. Slovakia had actively participated in the reporting and peer review process at the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention. Several good practices and Areas of Good Performance had been identified for his country.

156. He was pleased to announce that the national nuclear and radiation safety infrastructure had been further strengthened through the adoption of Act No. 87/2018 Coll. on radiation protection, which had fully transposed the provisions of the Euratom directives on basic safety standards. In practical terms, that Act had further enhanced the regulation of activities for the protection of health of the population and the environment in all areas of ionizing radiation use. The Act also represented a new approach to regulating and monitoring the use of different types of ionizing radiation sources, as well as providing for radiation protection services.

157. Slovakia benefited from Agency technical assistance and capacity building in areas such as the development of new research infrastructures, nuclear power programme expansion, decommissioning of nuclear power plants and improvement of research and analytical capabilities. The provision of know-how, experts, fellowships and training, and instrumentation through the TC programme was invaluable.

A good example was the construction of a modern Centre for Nuclear and Accelerator Technologies (CENTA) at the Comenius University in Bratislava, co-financed by European structural funds. Thanks to Agency support in the construction of a particle induced X-ray emission/proton induced gamma-ray emission (PIXE/PIGE) beam line at the CENTA tandem accelerator laboratory, the effects of mobile phones on rabbits' brains had been simulated in a study whose results could be significant for humans.

158. Given that the successful implementation of the TC programme depended on sufficient, assured and predictable resources, Member States should pay their TCF contributions on time and in full.

159. Slovakia reaffirmed its support for the work of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear in achieving the goals of strengthening the position and increasing the number of qualified female experts in the field of nuclear energy, including at all levels within the Secretariat.

160. The JCPOA, endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), was a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. Slovakia appreciated the Agency's thorough and impartial work in monitoring and verifying the nuclear-related commitments of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Full and effective implementation by all concerned parties should continue throughout the lifetime of the plan. He also called on Iran to cooperate fully and in a timely manner with the Agency. In that regard, the early ratification by Iran of an additional protocol was essential.

161. Ms ANDERSEN (Norway), having wished the Director General a prompt recovery and return, said that her country remained a firm supporter of the Agency's implementation of its statutory functions. The Agency also played a key role in the implementation of the NPT.

162. Norway based its active approach to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on the balanced, mutual, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons. It was currently chairing the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts that considered the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. A verification regime trusted by nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States alike was crucial in building confidence and achieving future reductions in nuclear arsenals.

163. Norway had contributed substantively to the implementation of the JCPOA and remained deeply committed to United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The USA's decision to withdraw had made the agreement vulnerable. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to maintain its full cooperation with the Agency.

164. The DPRK's nuclear weapons programme continued to represent an unacceptable violation of international law and NPT obligations. Norway stood firmly behind the relevant Security Council resolutions and had implemented further restrictive measures in line with the EU. It welcomed the Agency's continued readiness to play a role in nuclear verification in the DPRK.

165. The Agency's safeguards system was a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Her country called for universal accession to the NPT and for all Member States to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency, and to sign and ratify the additional protocol.

166. Norway commended the Agency on its implementation of its safeguards mandate. Given the ongoing challenge with regard to sufficient resources, her country welcomed new instruments allowing the Agency to make its verification efforts more focused. It particularly welcomed the work to develop and implement SLAs, which the Director General was fully mandated to do by virtue of the existing safeguards agreements.

167. Her country recognized all Member States' right to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, enabled by enforcing the highest standards of safety and security. Norway welcomed the pace and trend of the Agency's safety work, supported the principles of the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety, and remained a strong supporter of the CSS and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee. It also strongly



supported the CNS and the Joint Convention and encouraged all Member States to address the challenges identified during the Seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the CNS. Norway had long been assisting several Member States in improving their safety framework and culture and continued to cooperate on nuclear safety issues with its eastern and high north neighbours.

168. Her country valued the informal Dialogue between Coastal and Shipping States. Emergency preparedness needed to be further improved, and adherence to nuclear liability regimes and conventions should be strengthened. The need had recently become apparent for improved arrangements for reporting nuclear incidents and accidents, especially in cases leading to transboundary detection of elevated radiation levels.

169. Norway, which would receive an IRRS mission in 2019, encouraged all Member States to carry out regular self-assessments and host Agency peer review missions.

170. The Agency must step up its efforts to consider all aspects of the safety and security of floating and transportable nuclear power plants and SMRs. The scope and applicability of existing requirements and instruments needed to be clarified and developed, and her country requested the Secretariat to hold a comprehensive briefing in the fourth quarter of 2018 on all its work in that regard.

171. Nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation instruments were often mutually reinforcing. Norway commended the Agency's efforts aimed at promoting the universalization of the CPPNM Amendment ahead of the 2021 review conference.

172. Norway encouraged work to enhance international cooperation to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials. It encouraged the Agency, together with relevant international organizations and initiatives, to assist Member States in that regard. Norway had also been engaged in efforts to minimize and eliminate stocks and the use of HEU for more than a decade. In June, it had hosted the third international symposium on HEU minimization in cooperation with the Agency. It was pleased to note the significant progress made in HEU reduction. Further minimization required sustained technical, financial and political commitment, and Norway encouraged all Member States to subscribe to the Joint Statement on Minimizing and Eliminating the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Civilian Applications set out in INFCIRC/912.

173. As a member of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear, Norway noted with satisfaction the increasing share of women in the professional staff category of the Agency and encouraged continued efforts in that regard.

174. The Agency had an important role in the realization of the SDGs. Norway was fully committed to the Agency's TC programme and a strong supporter of the PUI. A robust safety, security and safeguards regime enabled the peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology. It was vital that all core activities of the Agency should continue to receive the necessary funding.

**The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.**