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Committee of the Whole

Record of the First Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna on Monday, 20 September 2021, at 3 p.m.¹

Chair: Mr BILODEAU (Canada)

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² GC(65)/25

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Abbreviations used in this record

AU-PATTEC	African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
COVID-19	coronavirus disease 2019
CSA	comprehensive safeguards agreement
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NPP	nuclear power plant
PBC	Programme and Budget Committee
ReNuAL	Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIT	sterile insect technique
SLC	State-level concept
SMR	small and medium sized or modular reactor
SQP	small quantities protocol
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UNSCEAR	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
USA	United States of America
ZODIAC	Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action

The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(65)/INF/14.

– Election of Vice-Chairs and organization of work (GC(65)/COM.5/1)

1. The CHAIR said that he had been informed that, following group consultations, the Group of 77 and China had nominated Ms Dye of South Africa to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole. No nominations had been received from any other group.
2. He took it that the Committee, pursuant to Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, wished to elect Ms Dye as Vice-Chair of the Committee.
3. It was so agreed.
4. Having drawn attention to document GC(65)/COM.5/1, which listed the agenda items referred to the Committee by the General Conference, he proposed that the Committee take up those items, as far as possible, in the order in which they were listed. He also proposed that, in line with past practice, the Chair report orally on the Committee's deliberations at a plenary meeting of the General Conference. In addition, he took it that the Committee wished to continue, to the extent practicable, the practice of clustering the draft resolutions to be recommended to the General Conference for adoption.
5. It was so agreed.

10. The Agency's Financial Statements for 2020 (GC(65)/4)

6. The CHAIR, noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution on page i of document GC(65)/4.
7. It was so decided.

11. The Agency's Programme and Budget for 2022–2023 (GC(65)/2)

8. The CHAIR drew attention to draft resolutions "A. Regular Budget Appropriations for 2022", "B. Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2022" and "C. The Working Capital Fund for 2022" contained in document GC(65)/2.
9. With regard to the draft resolution on Regular Budget appropriations for 2022, he recalled that the draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2023 had been issued on 29 January 2021. The Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2022–2023 had considered the document at a number of meetings and through intensive group and bilateral consultations. Following the recommendation of the PBC in May 2021, a proposal had been approved by the Board in June 2021. Accordingly, the Board

had recommended to the General Conference a regular budget for 2022 of €396.3 million, which represented a zero real growth budget and a price adjustment of 1.7% compared to the 2021 budget.

10. Noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, he took it that that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a total Regular Budget for 2022 of €393 323 122 for the operational portion and €6 102 000 for the capital portion, on the basis of an exchange rate of US \$1.00 to €1.00, and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution A contained in document GC(65)/2, entitled “Regular Budget Appropriations for 2022”.

11. It was so decided.

12. The CHAIR also took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a target for voluntary contributions to the TCF for 2022 of €91 075 000 and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution B contained in document GC(65)/2, entitled “Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2022”.

13. It was so decided.

14. The CHAIR further took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve a Working Capital Fund level of €15 210 000 for 2022 and, accordingly, that it adopt draft resolution C contained in document GC(65)/2, entitled “The Working Capital Fund for 2022”.

15. It was so decided.

13. Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute (GC(65)/13; GC(65)/COM.5/L.14)

16. The CHAIR, having drawn attention to document GC(65)/13, said that document GC(65)/COM.5/L.14 contained the text of the decision adopted by the Conference on the subject in 2020, updated for the current year. The Committee might wish to recommend the updated text as a decision to be adopted by the General Conference at its sixty-fifth regular session.

17. Noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft decision set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.14.

18. It was so decided.

14. Scale of assessment of Member States’ contributions towards the Regular Budget for 2022 (GC(65)/8)

19. The CHAIR, noting that no Committee members wished to take the floor, said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Conference adopt the draft resolution on page 3 of document GC(65)/8.

20. It was so decided.

15. Nuclear and radiation safety

(GC(65)/7; GC(65)/INF/5 and 11; GC(65)/COM.5/L.1)

21. The representative of AUSTRALIA, introducing the draft resolution on nuclear and radiation safety contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.1, expressed appreciation to all Member States for their constructive and collaborative approach and to the Secretariat for its technical advice and logistical and administrative support. Although, for a second year, the negotiation process had been abbreviated, there had been no reduction in the effort being put into what was a critical area of the Agency's work: the situation merely reflected the continuing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the draft resolution had been submitted, Liechtenstein had requested that it be added to the list of sponsors and others had indicated their intention to follow suit. She was confident that the draft text before the Committee enjoyed wide support.

22. The representative of ARGENTINA said that, while his country was pleased with what had been achieved in the circumstances, future efforts would need to focus more on particular areas. Work on certain topics would need to be accelerated: the attributability of effects and the UNSCEAR report, mentioned indirectly in paragraphs 39 and 41, and the issue of natural radiation — a very serious problem, in particular for industries using naturally occurring radioactive material — mentioned in paragraphs 67 and 72. Regarding consumer goods, mentioned in paragraphs 73 and 74, a joint document with suggested solutions had been produced by Argentina and the Agency. Lastly, denials of and delays in shipment, mentioned in paragraph 80, had been occupying the General Conference for many years; Argentina reiterated its call for a solution to be found promptly. It was to be hoped that a return to full-scale negotiations in preparation for the General Conference's regular sessions would soon be possible, allowing challenging areas to be discussed in greater depth.

23. The CHAIR expressed the view that many delegations would welcome the resumption of usual conference procedures and the opportunities they gave for more substantive discussions.

24. The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES requested that his country be added to the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

25. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.1.

26. It was so decided.

16. Nuclear security

(GC(65)/10 and 24; GC(65)/COM.5/L.7)

27. The representative of SPAIN, speaking on behalf of the EU and introducing the draft resolution on nuclear security contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.7, expressed gratitude for the flexibility and spirit of consensus shown during preparatory negotiations, in the hope that there would be a swift return to normality and more substantive discussions. In view of the restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the draft resolution reproduced the text of General Conference resolution GC(64)/RES/10 with only technical updates, principally concerning the approval of the Nuclear Security Plan 2022–2025; he expressed appreciation for Member States' support for the approach taken. Since the draft resolution had been submitted, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein and North Macedonia had asked to be added to the list of sponsors.

28. The representative of ARMENIA said that his country had a number of proposals to help further strengthen the national, regional and international nuclear security regime by gradually improving norms and mechanisms to counteract existing and emerging nuclear security threats. It was determined to achieve that objective but, mindful of the need for Member States to restrict their input in the current circumstances, would reserve its proposals for the following year, when it hoped fully fledged debate would be possible.

29. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION said that, in negotiations on Agency documents in the field of nuclear security, his country had always upheld the principle of international cooperation on nuclear security that assigned States both the responsibility for ensuring the effectiveness and reliability of national nuclear security systems and the discretion to set optimal parameters. The Russian Federation supported the Agency's central role in international nuclear security collaboration, but Member States would remain primarily responsible for ensuring nuclear security on the ground.

30. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.7.

31. It was so decided.

17. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (GC(65)/INF/4 and Supplement and GC(65)/INF/10 and Corr.1; GC(65)/COM.5/L.3 and L.4)

32. The CHAIR drew attention to two draft resolutions on strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities, which would be clustered for transmission to the General Conference. The first was set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.3; the second, on the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, was set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.4.

33. The representative of EGYPT, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing the first draft resolution, said that the informal agreement among Member States to submit draft resolutions based on the analogous resolutions adopted by the General Conference at its sixty-fourth regular session, with only technical updates, had guided discussions on all the draft texts prepared by the Group. Consensus had been sought first among the members of the Group, then with other Member States; the constructive approach and flexibility shown had been vital. The draft text set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.3, based on resolution GC(64)/RES/11, dealt with an issue of major importance to all Member States in view of the Agency's indispensable TC activities.

34. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.3.

35. It was so decided.

36. The representative of the PHILIPPINES, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the second draft resolution and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for supporting Member States in the area of cancer control by reviewing national capacities, supporting national cancer control planning, mobilizing resources and facilitating partnerships. The Group had received a request from the Secretariat to add the phrase "including resources mobilized by partners" in paragraph 16, after the figure "€18 651 942", in order to reflect accurately the sources of funding for various cancer-related TC projects. She thanked delegations for maintaining a spirit of consensus and flexibility and

encouraged others to sponsor what was a very important draft resolution, given the valuable contribution of nuclear science and technology to addressing the cancer burden.

37. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.4, as orally amended.

38. It was so decided.

18. Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

(GC(65)/3 and Mod.1; GC(65)/INF/2 and 6; GC(65)/COM.5/L.5, L.6, L.8, L.9, L.12 and L.13)

39. The CHAIR drew attention to a number of documents containing draft resolutions on various aspects of the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, including non-power nuclear applications in general (GC(65)/COM.5/L.5); support for AU-PATTEC (GC(65)/COM.5/L.6); the ZODIAC project (GC(65)/COM.5/L.8); the renovation of the Agency's nuclear application laboratories at Seibersdorf (GC(65)/COM.5/L.9); using isotope hydrology for water resources management, developing SIT, producing potable water economically using SMRs and strengthening support for Member States in food and agriculture (GC(65)/COM.5/L.13); and nuclear power applications and nuclear knowledge management (GC(65)/COM.5/L.12). In line with the Committee's earlier agreement, they would be clustered for transmission to the General Conference.

40. The representative of INDIA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and introducing the draft resolution on general aspects of non-power nuclear applications contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.5, thanked the members of the Group for their constructive and collaborative approach to the drafting process and expressed appreciation to other delegations for their flexibility during consultations. In keeping with the informal agreement reached among Member States, the draft resolution was based on part A.1 of resolution GC(64)/RES/12, with technical updates relating to e-learning tools and databases, which had become increasingly important in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; the opening of the new linear accelerator facility in Seibersdorf, which would significantly enhance the Agency's ability to provide dosimetry services; and the upgrading of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division to a centre.

41. The representative of EGYPT said that a request had been received from Portugal to sponsor the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.5.

42. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.5.

43. It was so decided.

44. The representative of GHANA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution on support for AU-PATTEC contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.6, which was based on part A.2 of resolution GC(64)/RES/12. While the Group would have liked to make more substantial changes with respect to the previous year's text, it acknowledged the exceptional circumstances and had therefore made only minor editorial updates and technical updates to reflect recent developments relating, inter alia, to capacity building activities, the designation of the Insectary of Bobo-Dioulasso as a Collaborating Centre and the upgrading of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division to a

centre. The draft resolution was of particular importance to Member States in Africa, given that trypanosomosis continued to represent one of the greatest constraints on the socioeconomic development of the African continent.

45. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.6.

46. It was so decided.

47. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution on the ZODIAC project contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.8. A resolution on that topic had first been adopted by the General Conference in 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and with a view to launching an initiative to help prevent future pandemics caused by bacteria, parasites, fungi or viruses that originated in animals and could be transmitted to humans. The text before the Committee was based on part A.4 of resolution GC(64)/RES/12, with only minor technical updates to reflect the off-cycle interregional TC project INT5157 approved by Member States in November 2020; the revised arrangements between the Agency and FAO, which were important to the success of ZODIAC; and Member States' request to the Secretariat to continue providing updated information on the project. The draft also encouraged the Agency to consult, collaborate and coordinate with relevant international organizations. Broad support for the draft resolution had been expressed informally by Member States.

48. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.8.

49. It was so decided.

50. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.9, on the renovation of the Agency's nuclear applications laboratories at Seibersdorf. While those facilities served all Member States, they were particularly important to developing countries, as the research and training carried out there assisted States in attaining the SDGs. The text, which had been discussed informally by all Member States in the true Vienna spirit, was based on part A.3 of resolution GC(64)/RES/12, with technical updates relating to the current number of Member State contributors to ReNuAL, the final elements of the ReNuAL 2 project and the financial resources allocated to that project. The draft resolution appeared to enjoy broad support, and she encouraged Member States that had supported or contributed to ReNuAL and ReNuAL 2 to consider sponsoring it.

51. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.9.

52. It was so decided.

53. The representative of EGYPT, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced document GC(65)/COM.5/L.13, which contained one draft operative paragraph under each of the headings "Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management", "Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue- and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes", "Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors" and "Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture" for inclusion under the general heading of "Non-power nuclear applications". Informal negotiations had resulted in an agreement to delay substantive consideration of the four issues covered in the document for a second year. Accordingly, the draft resolution requested the Director General to report to the Board of Governors, and to the General Conference at its sixty-sixth regular session, in 2022, on progress made in those areas.

54. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.13.

55. It was so decided.

56. The representative of FRANCE, introducing the draft resolution on nuclear power applications and nuclear knowledge management contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.12, said that it had been submitted by the Friends of Nuclear Energy — Canada, China, France, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the UK and the USA — along with Australia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Iceland, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

57. The draft resolution had been discussed informally with all Member States, with due consideration for the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Part B of the text was based on part B of resolution GC(64)/RES/12, with minor technical updates and the addition of references to the new Agency-wide platform on SMRs and the 28th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference. Part C, on nuclear knowledge management, was included in the resolution every other year, but the subject had not been discussed by the General Conference at its sixty-fourth regular session. The draft before the Committee was therefore largely based on part C of resolution GC(62)/RES/9, with technical updates to reflect developments in the intervening period.

58. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, emphasizing that that the greenhouse gas emissions produced by an NPP were comparable to those produced by hydroelectric, wind and solar power plants and considerably lower than those produced by coal-fired power stations, said that nuclear energy was an important tool for combating climate change. Its usefulness could not be overstated. It was important to note, however, that every country had the right to decide whether or not to embark on a nuclear power programme. For its part, the Russian Federation had no doubt that contemporary nuclear power was a vector for clean and sustainable development and it was therefore pleased to sponsor the draft resolution.

59. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.12.

60. It was so decided.

19. Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards (GC(65)/16; GC(65)/COM.5/L.2)

61. The representative of AUSTRIA, speaking on behalf of the EU and introducing the draft resolution on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of Agency safeguards contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.2, said that, since the document had been issued, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein and North Macedonia had requested to be added to the list of sponsors .

62. The draft text was based on resolution GC(64)/RES/13 and included only technical updates, an approach that had received strong support from Member States in view of the continuing restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Open-ended consultations, including one in-person meeting, had been held in preparation for the General Conference's session. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft text included figures in square brackets relating to the number of countries that had accepted modified SQPs and the number of additional protocols in force; those figures might need to be updated before the

end of the current session of the General Conference. Thanking all Member States for their flexibility, she expressed confidence that the text enjoyed broad support.

63. The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that, given the frequent observations made by the Director General concerning the implementation of Agency safeguards in States with SQPs, his country welcomed the Director General's intention to monitor that issue more attentively. States with unmodified SQPs should rescind them without further delay or preconditions, while Member States working with States with unmodified SQPs should ensure that necessary safeguards obligations were in place before any action was taken.

64. In that regard, he stressed that Saudi Arabia was not implementing its CSA in full and that the Agency was not being provided with even the minimum necessary verification authority there. The Secretariat had requested the country to rescind its current SQP several times. Failure to implement Agency safeguards by rescinding the SQP could allow Saudi Arabia to hide certain nuclear activities without being subject to Agency inspections, thereby undermining the entire safeguards regime. Iran requested the Director General to report on progress made in that regard.

65. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, noting that paragraph 28 of the draft resolution referred to the Secretariat's ongoing open dialogue with States on safeguards matters, said that such dialogue had recently been stepped up, thanks mainly to a technical meeting held on 3 September on the State-level approach improvement project. The views expressed by States during that meeting should be duly taken into account as the project progressed. The project touched on only one of the four elements of the so-called 'SLC wheel'; it was to be hoped that, in future, the other elements would be addressed in a similar manner. The Russian Federation welcomed the intention to prepare a substantial report on the 'rules of the game' for SLC implementation, as alluded to in paragraphs 28 and 30 of the draft resolution, and hoped that past and future technical meetings on the topic would form the basis of such a report.

66. The CHAIR said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Conference that it adopt the draft resolution contained in document GC(65)/COM.5/L.2.

67. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.