The Conference, under agenda item 1 of the provisional agenda, “Election of officers and appointment of the General Committee,” elected by acclamation HE Mr Alessandro Cortese, Ambassador and Resident Representative of Italy to the IAEA, as President of the General Conference at its sixty-sixth regular session.

In line with a proposal by the President, the Conference elected: the delegates of Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Romania, Sweden and Yemen as Vice-Presidents of the Conference; the delegates of Montenegro, Paraguay, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates as additional members of the General Committee, and Mr Mandlenkosi Lunga Bengu, Minister Plenipotentiary from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the IAEA, as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Item 2 of the provisional agenda, “Applications for membership of the Agency”, was not taken up, as there were no new applications.

Under agenda item 3 of the provisional agenda, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr António Guterres, was delivered to the General Conference by Ms Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

Under agenda item 4 of the provisional agenda, Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA, gave a statement to the Conference.

Under agenda item 6 of the provisional agenda, “Contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2023”, the President made a statement regarding the early pledging and payment of contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2023, which greatly helps the Secretariat in planning the Agency’s technical cooperation programme.

The Conference took up agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda, “General debate and Annual Report for 2021”, and statements were made by the delegates of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the Czech Republic (on behalf of the European Union), Austria, the Russian Federation, Japan, Hungary, the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Poland, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Holy See, Montenegro and France.

The General Committee adopted the agenda of the meeting as set forth in document GC(66)/GEN/1 and recommended to the Conference that:

— the agenda for the current session of the General Conference consist of all the items on the provisional agenda set forth in document GC(66)/1, and the supplementary items in GC(66)/1/Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4 and Add.5;
— the allocation of items for initial discussion listed in documents GC(66)/1, Add.1, Add.2, Add. 3, Add.4 and Add.5 be taken up for discussion as indicated in these documents;
— the order of items be as set out in documents GC(66)/1, Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4 and Add.5; and
— Friday, 30 September 2022 be set as the closing date of this session; and the General Conference start its next regular session on Monday, 25 September 2023.

Meeting as Credentials Committee, the General Committee took up the item on “Examination of delegates’ credentials” and recommended to the Conference to adopt the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5 of the first report of the General Committee contained in document GC(66)/18.

Under item 5, “Arrangements for the Conference,” the Conference accepted the General Committee’s recommendations that the agenda for the current session consist of all the items on the provisional agenda set forth in document GC(66)/1 and of all the supplementary items set forth in documents GC(66)/1/Add.1, Add.2, Add.3, Add.4 and Add 5 and that they be taken up for discussion in the order and according to the respective allocations as set out in these documents.

The Conference accepted the General Committee’s recommendation to close this current session on Friday, 30 September 2022.

The Conference accepted the General Committee’s recommendation to start its next regular session on Monday, 25 September 2023.

The Conference took up item 25 of the agenda, “Examination of delegates’ credentials”, and considered the first report of the General Committee contained in document GC(66)/18. The Conference adopted the draft resolution contained in paragraph 5 of the first report of the General Committee contained in document GC(66)/18.

The Conference resumed agenda item 7 of the provisional agenda, “General debate and Annual Report for 2021”. Statements were made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Peru, Belgium, San Marino, Slovenia, Algeria, Jordan, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Argentina, Egypt, Estonia, Guatemala, Philippines, Morocco, Denmark, Ghana, Bangladesh, Slovakia, Namibia, Nepal and Zimbabwe. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Russian Federation exercised their right of reply.

The Committee agreed to take the items referred to it, as far as possible, in the order in which they appear in the agenda of the Conference, published as document GC(66)/17.

The Committee also agreed to continue the practice, successfully implemented in recent years, of clustering, to the extent practicable, the draft resolutions submitted to the Plenary by the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee elected Ms Louise Fluger Callesen, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the IAEA as Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

The Committee agreed to recommend the following to the Conference for adoption:

— under agenda item 9, “The Agency’s Financial Statements for 2021”, the draft resolution on page i of document GC(66)/3.
The Committee began consideration of agenda item 10, “The Agency’s Budget Update for 2023” and the Committee agreed to suspend discussion on this item:

- a draft resolution entitled “A. Regular Budget Appropriations for 2023”, contained in document GC(66)/6, with further information on price adjustment contained in document GC(66)/INF/13, as well as a draft resolution contained in GC(66)/COM.5/L.1;
- a draft resolution entitled “B. Technical Cooperation Fund Allocation for 2023”, contained in document GC(66)/6; and

The Committee also agreed to recommend the following to the Conference for adoption:

- under agenda item 11, “Amendment to Article XIV.A of the Statute”, the draft decision contained in document GC(66)/COM.5/L.16;
- under agenda item 12, “Scale of assessment of Member States’ contributions towards the Regular Budget for 2023”, the draft resolution contained on page 3 of document GC(66)/11; and
- under agenda item 15, “Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities”,
  - a draft resolution entitled “A. Strengthening the Agency’s technical cooperation activities” contained in document GC(66)/COM.5/L.3, as amended in the discussion during the session; and
  - a draft resolution entitled “B. Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT)” contained in GC(66)/COM.5/L.4.

The Committee also began consideration of draft resolution GC(66)/COM.5/L.6 under agenda item 16, “Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications”.