

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 144<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation  
Committee  
GOV/COM.8/OR.144

(Click the link below to go directly to the G-77 statement)

Technical Cooperation: The Agency's proposed programme for 2007-2008  
(Bolivia)

(Click the link below to go directly to the NAM statement)

Technical Cooperation: The Agency's proposed programme for 2007-2008 (Cuba)

# Board of Governors

**GOV/COM.8/OR.144**

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## Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee

### Record of the 144<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 20 November 2006, at 3.15 p.m.*

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<sup>1</sup> GOV/COM.8/122.



## Attendance

(The list below gives the name of the senior member of each delegation who attended the meeting, as well as that of any other member whose statement is summarized in this record.)

Mr. PETRIČ		Chairman (Slovenia)
Mr. CURIA	_____	Argentina
Mr. SHANNON		Australia
Mr. EISINGERICH		Austria
Mr. MACKAY		Belarus
Mr. BAZOBERRY		Bolivia
Mr. VIEIRA DE SOUZA		Brazil
Ms. GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE		Canada
Mr. SKOKNIC	}	Chile
Mr. SCHOTT STOLZENBACH	}	China
Mr. TANG Guoqiang		Colombia
Mr. ARÉVALO YÉPES		Croatia
Mr. HORVATIĆ		Cuba
Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ		Egypt
Mr. RAMZY		Ethiopia
Ms. SINEGIORGIS		Finland
Ms. KAUPPI		France
Mr. DENIAU		Germany
Mr. GOTTWALD		Greece
Mr. SOTIROPOULOS		India
Mr. SHARMA		Indonesia
Mr. WIBOWO		Japan
Mr. AMANO		Korea, Republic of
Mr. KIM Sung-Hwan		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mr. TAJOURI		
Mr. ZNIBER	}	Morocco
Ms. EL ABDAOUI	}	Nigeria
Mr. OSAISAI		Norway
Mr. JOHANSEN		Pakistan
Mr. SHAHBAZ		Russian Federation
Mr. POPOV		Slovenia
Mr. KRIŽ		South Africa
Mr. MINTY		Sweden
Mr. LUNDBORG		Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. OTHMAN		Thailand
Mr. PANUPONG		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. MACGREGOR		United States of America
Mr. SCHULTE		
Mr. ELBARADEI	_____	Director General
Ms. CETTO		Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Cooperation
Mr. ANING		Secretary of the Board

**Representatives of the following Member States also attended the meeting:**

Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Holy See, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
CPF	Country Programme Framework
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EU	European Union
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
GTRI	Global Threat Reduction Initiative
HEU	high-enriched uranium
IPF	indicative planning figure
IT	information technology
LDC	least developed country
LEU	low-enriched uranium
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PCMF	Programme Cycle Management Framework
Pelindaba Treaty	African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty

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

RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Cooperation
SIT	sterile insect technique
STEP	Southern Rift Valley Tsetse Eradication Project
TACC	Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
WHO	World Health Organization

\* Speakers under Rule 50 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure are indicated by an asterisk.



## **2. Technical Cooperation: The Agency's proposed programme for 2007–2008 (continued)**

(GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, Add.1, and Add.1/Corr.1)

1. The representative of BOLIVIA, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities as they were the main statutory vehicle for transferring nuclear technology to developing countries for their socio-economic development. Promotion of the peaceful applications of atomic energy was a fundamental aspect of the Agency's statutory mission.

2. The Group would continue to make proposals aimed at ensuring that the Agency's technical cooperation activities were conducted efficiently and were effective in meeting developing countries' growing needs in key areas for sustainable development such as applications of nuclear techniques in food and agriculture, human health, industry, water resources management and environmental protection, nuclear knowledge management, and nuclear energy planning and power production. Also, it would continue to support initiatives aimed at meeting those needs.

3. However, those needs could not be met if the resources for the Agency's technical cooperation activities were not sufficient, assured and predictable, as stressed in numerous resolutions of the General Conference, which had, in operative paragraph 2 of resolution GC(50)/RES/12, requested the Secretariat "to explore means to ensure that resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme are sufficient, assured and predictable". The Group would cooperate fully with the Secretariat in the implementation of that resolution.

4. The Group welcomed the achievement of the 90% rate of attainment established by the Board as a further demonstration of Member States' commitment to technical cooperation. However, it was concerned about the US \$7.5 million of the TCF target for 2005 that had been neither paid nor pledged. It would like to see all Member States paying their TCF target shares in full and doing so in a timely manner. It looked forward to the review of the rate of attainment mechanism and to the achievement of a rate of 100% for all Member States in the near future.

5. Regarding the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008, the Group was confident that the Secretariat had developed it in a professional, impartial and non-discriminatory manner, following a well-established process based on Member States' needs and in line with the Statute and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Agency's policy-making organs. It was essential for the efficiency and credibility of the Agency that the technical assistance provided through it not be subject to any political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with the Statute.

6. Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered initially in the use of the Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF), the Group was of the view that the new programme development process would help to increase transparency. The Group considered it important that all programme development measures enhance the ownership of technical cooperation projects by developing countries.

7. The Group welcomed the fact that the proposed programme for 2007–2008 was demand-driven and thus focused on areas related to sustainable development and that it was in line with the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Summit.



8. The Group hoped that the Secretariat would extend further assistance to developing countries in response to their increasing interest in nuclear energy and to their growing energy needs, while according due consideration to the associated safety requirements.

9. The Group, which had noted the large number of footnote-a/ projects in the proposed programme, would like the Secretariat to establish a practical strategy for addressing the underlying challenge.

10. The representative of MOROCCO, speaking on behalf of the African Group, thanked the Secretariat for trying to ensure that the Agency's technical cooperation programmes met the expectations of Member States and for organizing briefings for Member States' representatives on issues related to the technical cooperation proposals for 2007 and 2008.

11. The African Group, which was mindful of Article II of the Statute and believed that the promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy was a basic objective of the Agency, considered technical assistance to be a key benefit of Agency membership.

12. The African Group welcomed the process of collaboration between the Secretariat and project counterparts in Member States that had evolved during the designing of the proposed 2007–2008 programme, particularly as it had resulted in more information being made available to all stakeholders about the efforts and resources needed for effective programme implementation. It hoped for a continuation of that collaboration.

13. The African Group, which recognized that the introduction of the PCMF web-based platform had not been without technical difficulties, would like the Secretariat to provide national liaison officers with the training and the equipment — such as computers, photocopiers and scanners — necessary for strengthening the collaborative process.

14. Regarding the distribution of the proposed 2007–2008 programme, the African Group welcomed the high priority that was continuing to be given to human health, food and agriculture, water resources, radioisotope production and radiation technology, nuclear science, and radiation and transport safety. It was particularly interested in the provision of training, expertise and equipment for projects relating to the use of isotope hydrology in the preservation and management of groundwater resources.

15. The interest in projects relating to the assessment of energy needs and the use of nuclear power was increasing in many countries, including African countries facing industrialization difficulties due to energy shortages. The African Group would thus appreciate a strengthening of Agency technical cooperation in areas such as energy needs assessment, energy planning, regulatory infrastructure development and capacity-building.

16. The African Group, which welcomed the fact that Africa accounted for a large part of the programme proposed for 2007–2008, would like a greater portion of the experts component to be provided through centres of excellence and other specialized institutions in Africa. It would also like greater emphasis to be placed on regional projects for Africa, including regional projects conducted within the AFRA framework.

17. The African Group considered it important that the Secretariat continue to identify elements within the Agency's technical cooperation programmes that could be harmonized with the goals of NEPAD. Also, it believed that strong operational partnerships between the Agency and regional organizations, other international agencies and financial institutions could contribute substantially to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

18. The African Group welcomed the achievement of the 90% rate of attainment for 2005 and hoped that Member States would sustain the upward momentum by paying their full TCF target shares in a timely manner and thereby prevent project implementation delays due to cash shortages. It would like to see further consultations between the Secretariat and Member States on the possibility of establishing a mechanism for ensuring that the funding of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes was sufficient, assured and predictable.

19. Regarding the funding of a significant portion of the footnote-a/ projects in the proposed programme, the African Group shared the optimism of the Secretariat as there had been great stakeholder involvement in their development. In that connection, the African Group hoped that the Secretariat would spare no effort in seeking financial resources for footnote-a/ projects through a proactive approach to both traditional and non-traditional donors.

20. The representative of CUBA, speaking on behalf of NAM, said that technical cooperation was an important part of the Agency's work, complementing related development programmes in developing countries.

21. In the final document of the NAM Summit held in Havana, Cuba, from 11 to 16 September 2006, the Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in research on and the production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Also, they had emphasized the responsibility of developed countries to meet the legitimate needs of developing countries for nuclear power and permit them to participate to the greatest extent possible in the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and scientific and technical information for peaceful purposes. In addition, they had expressed strong opposition to attempts by any Member State to use the Agency's technical cooperation programmes for political purposes in violation of the Statute.

22. One of the statutory objectives of the Agency was "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world." The promotional activities carried out by the Agency pursuant to that objective constituted an important incentive for developing countries to join the Agency.

23. NAM attached great importance to the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267), which envisaged free access to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the related technology for all Member States, and to Article III C. of the Statute, which stated that, in carrying out its functions, "the Agency shall not make assistance to members subject to any political, economic, military, or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of this Statute."

24. Accordingly, NAM did not wish to see TACC politicized. The deliberations and recommendations of TACC should be based on technical considerations and the related financial requirements.

25. NAM welcomed the assurance given by the Secretariat that all the projects in the proposed programme for 2007–2008 were in conformity with the Statute and the principles contained in document INFCIRC/267 and that none of them violated Security Council or Board resolutions.

26. The representative of FINLAND, speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU), said that the acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, and Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova aligned themselves with the statement which she was about to make.

27. The EU continued to be a strong supporter of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, to which its Member States were the largest donor. As the EU attached great importance to the financial and human resources of the Agency being sufficient for it to meet its technical cooperation responsibilities effectively, it was pleased that the rate of attainment of the TCF target had — for the first time — reached 90%. It would like to see the recent positive trend sustained through the payments of more TCF target shares in full and in a timely manner.

28. As a matter of principle, the EU attached great importance to the timely provision of information on proposed technical cooperation programmes to Member States in order that they might make informed decisions about them.

29. The EU hoped that the Secretariat would continue improving technical cooperation activities in accordance with the Agency's Technical Cooperation Strategy. Strong government commitment, consistency with national development priorities and enhanced coordination among United Nations agencies were some of the key requirements for successful programme delivery in areas such as human health, food and agriculture and environmental protection and for strengthening nuclear safety and security and radiation protection.

30. The EU welcomed the increased number of CPFs in force and the new strategic partnerships established with other international organizations. In that context, it endorsed the recommendation of the External Auditor that the Agency embrace the objectives of the UNDAF so as to bring greater coherence to United Nations programmes at the country level, account being taken of the recent recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence.

31. Article IV of the NPT enshrined the inalienable right of all States Parties "to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination" and in conformity with NPT Articles I and II, as well as Article III. The conditions laid down by the NPT for exercising that right were: the observance of non-proliferation commitments, the implementation of Agency safeguards, and the pursuit, in accordance with the good-faith principle, of peaceful purposes. Similarly, Article II of the Statute stipulated that the Agency should "seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and required that the Agency ensure, as far as it was able, that assistance provided by it was not used to further any military purpose.

32. With respect to one project in the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008, the Secretariat had referred to resolutions in which the Board of Governors had stated that it deemed it necessary that the Islamic Republic of Iran reconsider the construction of a research reactor moderated by heavy water and to United Nations Security Council resolution 1696 of 31 July 2006, in which the Security Council had called upon Iran to take, without further delay, the steps required by the Board in its resolution GOV/2006/14, which were essential for building confidence in the exclusively peaceful purpose of its nuclear programme and resolving outstanding questions. Already in 2004, the Board had — in its resolutions GOV/2004/49 and GOV/2004/79 — unanimously requested Iran to reconsider the construction of the research reactor at Arak. The EU was concerned that such a reactor would in due course produce significant quantities of plutonium and constitute a significant proliferation risk.

33. It had been the practice in TACC to approve the Agency's proposed technical cooperation programmes in their entirety. However, Agency technical assistance had to be consistent with the decisions of the Board and the Security Council, and Iran had requested funding for a project that it had explicitly been asked to reconsider. Therefore, the EU could not support the provision of technical assistance for that project. It deeply regretted that fact and hoped that Iran would open the way for negotiations by complying with the aforementioned resolutions.

34. The EU also needed full assurances that none of the other new technical cooperation projects would in any way contribute to activities that Iran had been asked by the Board or the Security Council to suspend or reconsider. It was important to remain vigilant so as to ensure that technical cooperation projects were fully consistent with the resolutions of the Board and the Security Council throughout their implementation. The EU had noted what had been stated in that connection by the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation during the Board's previous meeting, and it would like the Secretariat to keep the Board informed in that matter.

35. The EU attached great importance to the principle of consensus in the approving of Agency technical cooperation programmes, but it could join in a consensus in favour of the proposed 2007–2008 programme only if it received the aforementioned full assurances and on the understanding that project IRA/9/019 would be removed.

36. The representative of PARAGUAY\*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that GRULAC attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities, not only because of their contribution to its member countries' development but also because it was one of the pillars of the NPT, to which all of its member countries were parties. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean, the world's first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone, was making an effective contribution to the ongoing global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

37. As regards the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008, GRULAC believed that the national and regional projects for Latin America and the Caribbean would contribute to improvements in important areas such as human health, food and agriculture, radioisotope production and radiation technology, human resources development and technology support, as they were based on project concepts submitted by GRULAC member countries, were of high quality and were in line with government priorities. They reflected the usefulness of a number of project formulation meetings that had been held at the national and the regional level.

38. GRULAC welcomed the fact that the Secretariat intended to study the problems encountered and lessons learned during the development of the proposed 2007–2008 programme with a view to refining the PCMF.

39. GRULAC also welcomed the expected increase in the resources available for technical cooperation, due in part to greater government cost-sharing. A number of GRULAC member countries had demonstrated their commitment to and confidence in the Agency's technical cooperation activities by making significant extrabudgetary contributions in support of them.

40. GRULAC was grateful for the proposed 1% increase in the technical cooperation programme resource allocation for Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the increase was much smaller than what GRULAC had hoped for, and Latin America and the Caribbean was still the region with the smallest resource allocation. GRULAC would continue to work with the Secretariat in trying to resolve that issue.

41. GRULAC hoped that the Secretariat would not need to adjust the 2007–2008 programme during its implementation owing to a shortfall in funds. If the programme did have to be adjusted, it hoped that the Secretariat would hold the necessary consultations with the Member States concerned well before reducing the resources for specific projects.

42. The representative of NORWAY said that his country remained strongly committed to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, which it considered to be a vital part of the Agency's statutory mandate.

43. Sufficient, assured and predictable funding should be provided for the Agency's technical cooperation activities, and his country would like to see all Member States paying their full TCF target

shares and doing so in a timely manner. It was concerned that, as indicated in paragraph 18 of document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, some \$7.5 million of the TCF target for 2005 had been neither paid nor pledged, and it would welcome technical cooperation funding through the Regular Budget or other arrangements which might promote financial predictability. Norway hoped to engage in further dialogue with other Member States on that issue.

44. The contributions made by governments in support of projects approved for their countries reflected their commitment to the implementation of those projects. They were a reflection of national ownership, which should remain the principal factor in project selection, as it was the factor ensuring the long-term sustainability of projects.

45. In his delegation's view, CPFs should — where appropriate — be incorporated into comprehensive national development strategies. That would, inter alia, facilitate resource mobilization.

46. His delegation, which had noted that Agency technical assistance relating to nuclear power generation would probably be increasing during the 2007–2008 biennium, strongly believed that all countries — including developing ones — were entitled to embark on the nuclear power path. At the same time, it hoped that the associated standards of safety, environmental protection and emergency preparedness would be maintained. In that connection, it would like to see more emphasis being placed on the development of environmental protection standards in the technical cooperation field and attached great importance to implementation of the Plan of Activities on the Radiation Protection of the Environment.

47. Poverty alleviation was at the core of Norway's development policy, and his delegation was therefore pleased that the Agency's technical cooperation programmes had a strong focus on health, agriculture and water resources. It would like the Agency to work still more closely with LDCs, especially in Africa, contributing to the United Nations Programme for the Least Developed Countries and to NEPAD.

48. Gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all Agency technical cooperation programmes. The participation of women in project design, implementation and evaluation should be promoted to the maximum extent possible. In general, it was important that the Secretariat strengthen its efforts to recruit more women — not least from developing countries and from underrepresented countries.

49. The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION commended the Secretariat for the technical cooperation programme proposed for 2007–2008 and for its efforts to improve its approach to technical cooperation programme formulation using specially developed programming tools and on the basis of constant interactions with the Member States concerned. The proposed programme was formulated in such a way as to help, to the maximum extent possible, in resolving the most acute socio-economic problems faced by recipient countries. Also, his delegation was pleased that the regional distribution of the proposed programme took account of the particularities of each region and that efforts and resources were to be directed to resolving the basic problems of the various regions.

50. The documentation before TACC rightly drew attention to the shift in Member State priorities towards supporting an expansion of nuclear power generation through energy planning studies and the establishment of the necessary regulatory and other infrastructures. That shift should be reflected in the technical cooperation programmes of the Agency, which it implemented pursuant to one of its statutory functions.

51. The Russian Federation attached great importance to projects designed to increase safety in the operation of nuclear facilities and in the handling of nuclear material and radioactive waste.

52. Also, it was continuing to pursue the return of fresh and spent HEU fuel from research reactors of Russian construction located in other countries — in particular, the return of spent HEU fuel from the research reactor of the Vinča Research Institute, Serbia. To that end it would continue to coordinate closely with the Agency.
53. His country, which welcomed the fact that as of 30 September 2006 the rate of attainment of the 2005 TCF target had stood at 90.1%, was paying its full TCF target shares and would like to see all other Member States doing likewise.
54. The representative of BRAZIL said that his country, as both a recipient and a provider of technical assistance through the Agency, attached great importance to the Agency's activities in promoting all peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In its view, the Agency's technical cooperation activities were an important means of implementing the mandate derived from Article IV of the NPT, especially as regards the Agency's developing Member States. In that connection, it continued to believe that an adequate balance should be maintained among the statutory activities of the Agency.
55. As regards the PCMF and its web-based IT platform, his delegation, which believed that they could greatly help to strengthen the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, was pleased that the Secretariat intended to thoroughly examine the lessons learned and problems encountered in using them during the preparation of the technical cooperation programme proposed for 2007–2008.
56. Referring to Figure 1 in document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, he said that, in his delegation's view, the strong concentration on human health, food and agriculture, and radioisotope production and radiation technology — all three areas closely associated with the final user — was a good indicator of adherence to the central criterion in the formulation of Agency technical cooperation projects.
57. Brazil continued to attach great importance to regional projects for Latin America and the Caribbean implemented both within and outside the framework of ARCAL as they contributed to development in several fields and to real integration among the countries of the region.
58. The representative of BELARUS said that Agency technical cooperation was helping his country in a number of areas — from public health to the prevention of illicit trafficking in nuclear materials.
59. In accordance with its CPF, a major purpose of the technical assistance being provided to Belarus was to overcome the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. The Agency technical cooperation projects aimed at the comprehensive rehabilitation of the affected areas in Belarus were extremely important.
60. A major result of Agency technical cooperation projects implemented in Belarus had been the establishment and strengthening of infrastructures for ensuring high levels of radiation protection in the public health and other areas. Through close collaboration with the Agency in those areas, Belarus had developed significant capabilities and was now training fellowship holders from other countries.
61. His delegation, which greatly appreciated the professionalism displayed by the Secretariat in formulating the proposed 2007–2008 technical cooperation programme, hoped that Member States would ensure that the resources of the TCF were sufficient for the implementation of that programme.
62. The representative of CHINA commended the Department of Technical Cooperation on the extensive consultations that it had conducted with Member States during the formulation of the proposed 2007–2008 technical cooperation programme and on the coordinating role that it was playing in the management of regional technical cooperation projects, which were responding to needs in areas such as nuclear power development and nuclear security. In that connection, he recalled that in June 2006 his Government had hosted, in Beijing, a meeting of national coordinators of regional

projects proposed for 2007–2008 and said that the meeting had been very important for strengthening the coordination of such projects.

63. He also commended the Department of Technical Cooperation on the way in which it consulted regularly with Member States during the implementation of technical cooperation projects.

64. The size of the proposed 2007–2008 programme was an indication of the needs of Member States for technical assistance provided through the Agency, while the number of footnote-a/ projects suggested that the financial resources available for meeting those needs were far from sufficient.

65. China was not only benefiting from the Agency's technical cooperation activities but also doing its best to support them. It was both paying its full TCF target shares in a timely manner and making extrabudgetary contributions. His delegation, which was pleased that the rate of attainment of the TCF target had — for the first time — passed the 90% mark, would like to see all Member States helping to ensure that the resources of the TCF were sufficient.

66. His delegation, which understood that some Member States were unhappy about certain projects in the proposed 2007–2008 programme, hoped that the parties concerned would, together with the Secretariat, arrive at an appropriate solution through consultations.

67. His delegation also hoped that the Secretariat would resolve the problems encountered by it in using the PCMF and its web-based IT platform in the preparation of the programme proposed for 2007–2008.

68. It also hoped that the Secretariat would continue to consult with the vast majority of Member States for the purpose of improving project design, implementation and evaluation.

69. The representative of CANADA, having expressed appreciation for the briefings on the proposed 2007–2008 programme that the Department of Technical Cooperation had given, said that it would have been helpful if some of the documentation now before TACC had been made available at an earlier date.

70. Her country, which considered technical cooperation to be one of the three pillars of the Agency, remained a major donor to the TCF and was now paying its full TCF target share. It welcomed the fact that the rate of attainment of the TCF target had — for the first time — passed the 90% mark.

71. Canada attached great importance to the 'due account' mechanism and to the payment by recipient countries of the NPCs due from them.

72. As regards the proposed 2007–2008 programme, Canada welcomed the strong emphasis on human health, food and agriculture, and the assessment and management of marine and terrestrial environments. It also welcomed the fact that Africa accounted for the largest share of the programme, which was in line with the Millennium Development Goals and with Canada's development assistance priorities.

73. However, the programme included six new projects proposed for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those projects, which — if approved and implemented — would represent a significant increase in the technical assistance being provided to that country through the Agency, required very careful scrutiny given the lack of confidence of the Board and the Security Council as regards the Iranian nuclear programme.

74. In September 2005, the Board had arrived at a finding of non-compliance in terms of Article XII.C of the Statute, which provided the Board with the authority to — inter alia — curtail technical assistance to a State in non-compliance. The Board had called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to

reconsider the construction of the Arak heavy-water research reactor, which was the focus of proposed project IRA/9/019 — a call subsequently made mandatory by Security Council resolution 1696. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued work on the construction of that reactor. Agency technical assistance in support of the reactor's construction, through project IRA/9/019 or any other project, would be inconsistent with the reservations expressed by the Board and the Security Council. The Arak research reactor was a matter of particular concern to Canada, which was not prepared to approve a technical cooperation package that included support for its construction.

75. Besides project IRA/9/019, Canada was concerned about the possibility that other projects proposed for the Islamic Republic of Iran would contribute to its capabilities in the areas of enrichment and reprocessing or support work on constructing the Arak research reactor. Her delegation, which welcomed the assurance given by the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation that none of the projects proposed for the Islamic Republic of Iran would contribute to its enrichment and reprocessing capabilities and that the implementation of those projects would be closely monitored, expected any issues likely to impact that assurance to be brought to the Board's attention - including issues relating to the possible implications of other technical cooperation projects for the Arak research reactor.

76. The provision of technical assistance through the Agency should remain free from political judgements inconsistent with the Statute. However, the Board should be especially wary when the prospective recipient country had disregarded decisions of the Board and the Security Council and when many important questions about the scope and nature of that country's nuclear programme were still unanswered. In that connection, it should be recalled that subparagraph E.7 of Article XI of the Statute provided that, before approving a project under that article, the Board should give due consideration to "Such other matters as may be relevant".

77. Canada, which was prepared to support without qualification all other new projects proposed for 2007–2008, hoped that TACC would arrive at an agreement on recommending the proposed 2007–2008 programme for adoption by consensus in the Board.

78. The representative of AUSTRALIA said that his country continued to be a strong advocate of extending the benefits of nuclear science and technology to developing countries through effective technical cooperation programmes, as reflected by its contribution of two million Australian dollars to the TCF for 2006 - a contribution corresponding to a rate of attainment of over 120%. His country's commitment to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes was also reflected by the fact that an Australian expert was participating in the work of SAGTAC. In addition, Australia was continuing to make significant financial and in-kind contributions in support of RCA activities, and Australian agencies were contributing to capacity-building in the Asia-Pacific region.

79. His delegation, which welcomed the progress made in implementing the PCMF, greatly appreciated the Secretariat's efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Agency technical cooperation activities through — inter alia — the continuous involvement of all stakeholders and the pursuit of greater transparency.

80. While recognizing the importance of the central criterion, his delegation considered that the central criterion was not the only factor which should be taken into account.

81. Given the size of the proposed 2007–2008 programme, his delegation would have appreciated more time to study the relevant documentation. In its view, the Secretariat should ensure that the time between the issuing of such documentation and the TACC session at which the documentation was to be considered was sufficient for well-considered assessments to be made by TACC members. Also, the Secretariat should structure the consultation process before the issuing of documentation in such a way that all stakeholders had an adequate opportunity to be involved.



82. Noting that many technical cooperation projects had core and footnote-a/ components, he said that it was not clear to his delegation how projects could meet their objectives when part of their funding was not assured. In the interests of effective and efficient project management, there should perhaps be a clear distinction between projects with assured full funding and projects for which funds are being sought.

83. Referring to Figure 2 in document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, he requested an explanation of the figures of 12.2%, 15.2% and 46.3% for “Management of Technical Cooperation for Development” in the case of Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Interregional respectively. They suggested relatively large overheads associated with project delivery — overheads that could perhaps be reduced.

84. Referring to Table I in document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1 and to the figure of 32.8% under Regional Projects for Asia and the Pacific, he said that in 2005 the corresponding figure had been 37% and expressed the hope that the decrease did not reflect an intentional downward trend. The issue was one in which the Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific had expressed an interest.

85. Given the statement in paragraph 5 of document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1 that “programme formulation was closely linked to the planning opportunities and priorities identified in Country Programme Frameworks”, it was rather surprising that for all prospective recipient countries in the Asia and Pacific region except one a project entitled “Human Resource Development and Nuclear Technology Support” was proposed. It was even more surprising that, in addition, regional projects with that title were proposed for Europe and Africa and a regional project and 16 national projects with that title were proposed for Latin America. Was the large number of such projects consistent with the claim that the Agency’s technical cooperation programmes derived from project concepts submitted by Member States, and did those programmes truly focus on high-priority issues identified by Member States?

86. In the resolution adopted by it on 24 September 2005, the Board had stated that “Iran’s many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with its NPT Safeguards Agreement ... constitute non compliance in the context of Article XII.C of the Agency’s Statute”. Until investigations of the nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran were satisfactorily completed, it was appropriate to take a cautious approach regarding technical cooperation with that country, and particularly regarding all technical assistance related to the nuclear fuel cycle. Certainly, TACC, the Board and the Secretariat should avoid acting in a manner inconsistent with resolutions adopted by the Board.

87. In resolution 1696, the Security Council had called upon “all States ... to exercise vigilance and prevent the transfer of any items, materials, goods and technology that could contribute to Iran’s enrichment-related and reprocessing activities” and had reinforced the authority of the Agency. TACC and the Board should not endorse activities that would run counter to the requirements of Security Council resolutions.

88. Under the terms of Security Council resolution 1696 and of the relevant Board resolutions, the Agency was entitled to suspend or terminate all assistance that was or might be related to uranium enrichment or to reprocessing, or to the Arak research reactor, and to defer any decision if the information available to it was inadequate. In that connection, his delegation had taken note of the assurances given by the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation during TACC’s previous meeting.

89. Projects approved for the Islamic Republic of Iran should be monitored by the Secretariat on a one-house basis, and his delegation welcomed the assurance given that during project delivery the Secretariat would remain alert to issues which might arise relevant to decisions of the Board and the Security Council and bring them to the Board’s attention.

90. The representative of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA said that nuclear technology could make the world better by improving the quality of life and reducing human suffering. That was why the United States had in 2006 contributed over \$19 million to the TCF and over \$7 million in extrabudgetary resources. In addition, his country was each year sending approximately 500 experts to participate in Agency technical meetings on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

91. The United States had been a consistent financial and technical supporter of the Southern Rift Valley Tsetse Eradication Project (STEP) in Ethiopia, contributing \$1.6 million in 2006 and providing the services of a cost-free expert with extensive experience of the technical and managerial aspects of large-scale SIT projects. STEP was the largest and most advanced tsetse eradication effort in Africa and would serve as a model for other projects.

92. As regards the PCMF, the Secretariat should review how useful it had been in the planning of the technical cooperation programme proposed for 2007–2008 and brief Member States on its findings. His delegation would like to know how the PCMF had improved management effectiveness and project selection, with special account taken of any contradictions between the Agency's safeguards and technical cooperation mandates.

93. His delegation was concerned about the high percentage of the proposed core programme budget to be devoted to the management of technical cooperation for development, both overall and in two particular regions.

94. The United States applauded the contribution being made by Agency technical cooperation to minimization of the civilian use of HEU — an important non-proliferation goal. Within the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), so far 46 research reactors in 24 countries — including the United States of America — had been fully or partially converted from HEU to LEU fuel. The United States Department of Energy was currently supporting research reactor conversion projects in Poland and Portugal, and it intended to continue supporting — through the GTRI — projects for the conversion of research reactors to LEU fuel and the repatriation of the HEU fuel.

95. Noting the increased interest in nuclear power-related projects, he recalled that the United States had in February 2006 announced the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, whose goal was to expand the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes worldwide in a manner that reduced the challenges of waste management and the risk of nuclear proliferation.

96. The United States regarded nuclear power as an important source of energy for both developed and developing countries. However, the successful development of nuclear power would require investment in the institutions and infrastructures necessary for its safe, secure and efficient use. The Agency's technical cooperation programmes reflected the importance of such institutions and infrastructures, with projects relating to subjects such as energy planning, infrastructure development and legal and regulatory frameworks.

97. In tackling the problems of sustainable development with the help of the atom, there was a need for vigilance, so as to ensure that nuclear technology was transferred in a manner consistent with States' mutual obligations and responsibilities. It was essential that there be transparency and accountability, with non-proliferation as a precondition.

98. The projects proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the 2007–2008 technical cooperation programme required close scrutiny in the light of United Nations Security Council resolution 1696 and the continuing inability of the Director General to confirm the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme. The United States welcomed the assurance given by the Secretariat that the projects would be implemented in conformity with the relevant Board and Security Council resolutions, and it was his country's understanding that the training provided through them would not further Iran's

efforts relating to enrichment, reprocessing or heavy water production. Implementation of the projects should proceed only if the Secretariat kept them under continuous review, until it arrived at a positive conclusion about the Iranian nuclear programme.

99. Project IRA/9/019 pertained to a heavy water-moderated research reactor of continuing concern to the Board and the Security Council. Once completed, the reactor would be capable of producing enough plutonium for one or more nuclear weapons each year. Given past Board decisions, the outstanding questions about the Iranian nuclear programme, and the risk of plutonium being diverted to use in a weapon, his country was joining with other Member States in not approving that project.

100. The United States would like the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008 to be approved by consensus, and it was prepared to join a consensus in favour of it if project IRA/9/019 was removed — given the Secretariat's assurances regarding the other projects. Approval of those projects by his country did not constitute acceptance of Iran's stated goal of achieving 20 000 MW of nuclear capacity by 2020. Iran had cited that goal in an attempt to justify certain activities, once conducted in secret and now in violation of Security Council resolution 1696. That goal was not credible.

101. The representative of EGYPT thanked the Secretariat for the briefings which it had given on the details of the proposed programme for 2007–2008 and on the principles applied by it in designing that programme. His country greatly appreciated the professionalism and impartiality displayed by the Secretariat.

102. Egypt welcomed the introduction of the PCMF, which deepened the sense of project ownership among beneficiary States. It also welcomed the proposed 10% increase in programme volume and the continuing high priority accorded to human health, food and agriculture, water resources management, radioisotope production and nuclear safety.

103. The increased number of projects relating to the assessment of energy needs and the feasibility of using nuclear power reflected changes in the priorities of many Member States which wanted to use nuclear power in order to meet expected shortfalls in conventional energy supplies and reduce the environmental impact of electricity generation. Africa's share of such projects was lower than those of the other regions, however, and Egypt would therefore like the Secretariat to pay greater attention to disseminating knowledge about energy needs and nuclear power in Africa.

104. As regards financing, Egypt was pleased that the rate of attainment of the TCF target for 2005 had passed the 90% mark and hoped that Member States — especially the large donors — would ensure that the current positive trend was maintained and that the Secretariat would continue to seek innovative ways of financing footnote-a/ projects, which represented a large part of the proposed 2007–2008 programme.

105. Egypt welcomed the rise in government cost-sharing and the continuing use by the Secretariat of over-programming.

106. Egypt had been one of the first developing countries to realize the potential of peaceful applications of nuclear energy for sustainable development, and it had benefited from a number of Agency technical cooperation projects in areas such as human health, environmental protection, water resources management, pest control, agriculture and nuclear safety. Together with the Secretariat, it had drawn up a plan for the operation of its second research reactor at full capacity, which would increase its ability to produce radioisotopes for various purposes.

107. His country continued to believe in the approval of Agency technical cooperation programmes by consensus once the technical and financial feasibility of the projects constituting them had been examined by the Secretariat in accordance with agreed rules and principles. Care should be taken to

avoid the politicization of technical cooperation activities, as it could have a negative effect on the image of the Agency and its ability to achieve its goals. Attempts by donor countries to exploit the voluntary nature of technical cooperation funding would threaten the credibility of the Agency.

108. The credibility of the non-proliferation regime was already threatened by the application of double standards, and it was important that double standards not be applied in the field of technical cooperation. The proposed 2007–2008 programme included nine projects for a country whose nuclear programme aroused many suspicions and which had not acceded to the NPT or placed all its nuclear installations under Agency safeguards, in contravention of binding United Nations Security Council resolutions going back 25 years, including resolution 487 of 1981 relating to an action by that country which had threatened international peace and security and the Agency's safeguards system. Why were donor countries not questioning the projects proposed for that country? Technical cooperation with that country had been halted in 1981, pursuant to decisions by the Board and the General Conference, and it had been resumed in 1994 only in the light of circumstances suggesting an intention on the part of that country to abide by the non-proliferation regime — an intention that had still not been acted upon by that country.

109. The representative of COLOMBIA expressed appreciation for the support that his country and its national liaison officers had received from the Department of Technical Cooperation.

110. Through its technical cooperation programmes the Agency had for 50 years been accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world, and thanks to those programmes the international community had enjoyed many benefits of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. With the enormous possibilities of nuclear applications in key areas of development, the Agency was becoming increasingly important as a vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technologies and as an organization for ensuring safety in their use.

111. With immense development challenges facing much of the world's population, every effort should be made — in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals — to solve the problems of poverty, hunger, disease and shortages of energy and safe water. Colombia hoped that nuclear science and technology would come to be widely accepted by the general public thanks to the benefits of peaceful nuclear applications. That was why it had always been a firm supporter of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes.

112. It was important to continue mobilizing resources for technical cooperation and to ensure their predictability with a view to increasing the impact of the Agency's programmes.

113. The proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008 was the first programme prepared using the PCMF. Naturally, there was room for improvement in the PCMF, but Colombia was sure that the Department of Technical Cooperation, together with national liaison officers, would overcome the 'teething troubles'.

114. His delegation was pleased that the proposed 2007–2008 programme was almost 10% larger than the 2005–2006 programme and hoped for further programme growth in the future, particularly with regard to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was receiving a much lower percentage of programme resources than the other regions.

115. Colombia was benefiting from the Agency's technical cooperation programmes and also supporting them through contributions to the TCF in accordance with the rate of attainment. In addition, it was paying the NPCs due from it on time and contributing resources under a cost-sharing arrangement with the Agency.

116. Colombia was complying fully with the central criterion and, in close collaboration with the Secretariat, updating its CPF, the latest version of which would be signed soon.

117. As regards the projects for Colombia in the proposed 2007–2008 programme, the one entitled “Design and Development of an Integral Radioactive Waste Management Plan” was particularly important. Among its objectives was strengthening the safety and security of radioactive sources.

118. Colombia, which was currently chairing the Board of ARCAL Representatives, attached great importance to ARCAL, which had for 22 years been strengthening TCDC. It was grateful to the Secretariat and to all donor countries that had supported ARCAL activities and hoped for a continuation of their support.

119. The representative of MOROCCO, having thanked the Department of Technical Cooperation for the briefings held by it before the current session of TACC, said that her country attached great importance to Agency technical cooperation, which was an essential vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries in support of their sustainable socio-economic development. Morocco considered it essential that the Agency have the financial and human resources necessary for it to fulfil its technical cooperation mandate and the promotional role assigned to it by the NPT.

120. As regards the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008, her country welcomed the participatory approach made possible by the PCMF, which had increased the transparency of the programme formulation process and deepened the sense of project ownership among beneficiary States. It hoped that the Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States, would overcome the difficulties that had arisen during application of the PCMF.

121. Her delegation was pleased that the programme proposed for 2007–2008 was 10% larger than the 2005–2006 programme and that in it high priority was given to the areas of human health and food and agriculture. The Secretariat should continue its technical assistance efforts in those areas and strengthen them in areas such as water resources management and nuclear power.

122. Her delegation considered it important that particular attention be paid to the sustainability of projects through human resources development and the transfer of nuclear knowledge and technology. Project sustainability should be one of the indicators in the evaluation of technical cooperation, at least in the medium term.

123. Morocco was pleased that a 90% rate of attainment had been achieved for 2005, but the fact remained that some Member States were still not paying their full TCF target shares. An increase in financial resources was necessary in order to meet the growing technical cooperation needs of Member States, and the financial resources should be assured and predictable in the interests of sound programme planning. In that connection, it should be recalled that in resolution GC(50)/RES/12, which had been adopted by consensus, the General Conference had recently requested the Secretariat “to explore means to ensure that resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme are sufficient, assured and predictable, and to report to the Board of Governors on its findings”.

124. Morocco believed that it was time for all parties to join together in considering how to ensure that the Agency had sufficient and sustainable funding for technical cooperation and do so in a spirit of partnership. Her delegation stood ready to participate in that process.

125. The representative of NIGERIA said that his country, which attached great importance to the Agency’s technical cooperation programmes, welcomed the participatory approach that had evolved during the development of the proposed 2007–2008 programme. It hoped that that approach would contribute to successful and efficient project implementation.

126. Nigeria was pleased that high priority was still being accorded to projects in the areas of human health, food and agriculture, water resources, radioisotope production and radiation technology, nuclear science, and radiation and transport safety. However, it attached greatest importance to

projects relating to the assessment of energy needs and the use of nuclear power. Per capita electricity generation in Nigeria, with its population of about 150 million, stood at 30 W, which was sufficient only to power a small reading lamp. Although it had an installed electricity-generating capacity of 6000 MW, the maximum amount of electricity actually generated was only 3500 MW — about the amount provided by Wien Energie to the city of Vienna.

127. Nigeria had an installed electricity-generating capacity shortfall of about 17 000 MW, and in order to achieve the minimum electricity generation rate necessary for its sustainable development and industrialization it wished to embark on a nuclear power programme, as it considered nuclear power to be a viable option. At the same time, it remained firmly committed to the NPT and the Pelindaba Treaty and to use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes.

128. Drug-resistant malaria parasites posed a serious danger in Nigeria, where enormous resources were continuing to be expended on combating the scourge, which each year killed many people, mostly infants and pregnant women. WHO and other international organizations were continuing to provide valuable assistance, but that assistance — primarily drugs, mosquito repellents and insecticide-treated sleeping nets — represented only a short-term solution. Nigeria was therefore grateful to the Agency for expanding the scope of its SIT research to include malaria-transmitting mosquitoes, and it was confident that the research would lead to a solution in the longer term.

129. Nigeria attached great importance to the strengthening of AFRA, which was yielding immense education and training benefits, and to the Secretariat's efforts in identifying elements within the Agency's technical cooperation programmes that could be harmonized with the goals of NEPAD, which was the most viable socio-economic blueprint for bringing sustained economic growth to Africa while promoting good governance and the protection of human rights. It looked forward to the harmonization of AFRA and NEPAD goals.

130. Since the goals of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes could not be achieved without adequate resources, Nigeria would like to see all Member States demonstrating their commitment to those programmes by paying their full TCF target shares in a timely manner.

131. The representative of JAPAN said that his country attached great importance to the promotion of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy in a number of areas through Agency technical cooperation programmes. It therefore welcomed the restructuring of the Department of Technical Cooperation and the introduction of the PCMF as two of the measures taken by the Secretariat to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of programme implementation.

132. In the interests of effectiveness and efficiency, it was important that Board members — who were expected to take decisions on proposed technical cooperation projects in accordance with the Statute — and other Member States be provided with sufficient project information in a timely manner. Consequently, his delegation regretted that the documentation relating to the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008 had been made available late. His delegation did not understand the constraints preventing such documentation from being issued well before sessions of TACC. The Secretariat should look into ways of issuing it in a timely manner and to the possibility of issuing preliminary documentation.

133. As regards project selection criteria, reference was made in that documentation to compliance with the central criterion and with CPFs. If further criteria existed, they should be identified, in order to facilitate understanding of the selection process.

134. The question of partnerships with non-traditional donors was not mentioned in document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, although many Member States had in the past stressed the importance of

establishing such partnerships. His delegation would like to see references to such partnerships in future documents of that kind.

135. While welcoming the achievement of the 90% rate of attainment of the TCF target for 2005, his delegation had noted with concern that approximately \$7.5 million of that target had been neither paid nor pledged. Japan, which had consistently endeavoured to pay its full TCF target share, strongly believed that — as stated in General Conference resolution GC(50)/RES/12 — the financing of technical cooperation should be in line with the concept of ‘shared responsibility’ and improved burden-sharing was central to reconfirming the commitment of Member States to the Agency’s technical cooperation programmes. It would therefore like to see all Member States paying their full TCF target shares as soon as possible.

136. As regards the recommendation for action contained in document GOV/2006/59/Rev.1, Japan had some difficulty in accepting it in its present form since the Board and the Security Council had called upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to reconsider the construction of the research reactor to which one of the projects proposed for that country related. At the same time, Japan attached great importance to the Board’s approving Agency technical cooperation programmes by consensus. His delegation had full confidence in the ability of the Chairman to resolve the issue now before the Committee.

137. The Board had approved the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267) in 1979, since when there had been developments such as the adoption of the Technical Cooperation Strategy and the introduction of the PCMF. In his delegations view, thought should be given to updating that document.

138. Lastly, his delegation believed that the Secretariat should evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the PCMF-based programming process and report to Member States on its findings.

139. The representative of INDONESIA said that his country attached great importance to the Agency’s technical cooperation programmes as a means of promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy for sustainable socio-economic development and believed that the funding for those programmes should be sufficient, assured and predictable.

140. Recalling that in resolution GC(50)/RES/12 the General Conference had requested the Secretariat “to explore means to ensure that the resources for the Technical Cooperation programme are sufficient, assured and predictable”, he said that in his delegation’s view it was important that increasing the effectiveness of Agency cooperation activities not impose additional financial burdens on Member States, especially the developing ones.

141. His country also considered it important to maintain a balance between the technical cooperation and other statutory activities of the Agency.

142. His country welcomed the introduction of the PCMF and hoped that the difficulties encountered in using it would soon be overcome. It also welcomed the publication of CPF Operational Guidelines.

143. Many Member States were according greater priority to projects related to the assessment of energy needs and the introduction of nuclear power programmes, and his country welcomed that development. Its own nuclear power programme was just getting under way, and it hoped to have at least one nuclear power plant operational by 2016. It would be facing a number of technological and institutional challenges, but it hoped to meet them with assistance provided through the Agency.

144. His delegation was grateful for the 2007–2008 projects proposed for Indonesia and hoped that a project for Indonesia on improving the public acceptance of nuclear power would be included in a future Agency technical cooperation programme.

145. Indonesia had benefited greatly from the RCA and hoped that it would continue for many years to come.

146. In his country's view, the meeting of national coordinators of regional projects proposed for 2007–2008 that had been held in Beijing in June 2006 had achieved its purpose of consolidating efforts in support of the projects in question.

147. As regards the proposed 2007–2008 programme, his delegation believed that Member States were entitled to request any technical assistance which was in accordance with the Agency's Statute and that the Agency technical assistance should not be subject to political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with the Statute. Accordingly, it could accept that programme in its entirety.

148. The representative of CHILE said that the Agency's technical cooperation activities were important for socio-economic development and that promoting peaceful applications of nuclear energy should therefore be one of the Agency's principal objectives.

149. His delegation welcomed the proposed technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008, which included national and regional projects that would have a direct positive impact in areas such as health and food and agriculture. It also welcomed the participatory and transparent manner in which the programme had been formulated by the Secretariat and Member States.

150. As regards the allocation of resources for the programme, his delegation welcomed the increase — albeit small — in the share earmarked for Latin America and the Caribbean. His country hoped that the programme would be approved by consensus despite the doubts expressed by some representatives.

151. The representative of SOUTH AFRICA, having commended Ambassador Johansen of Norway and Ambassador Wijewardane of Sri Lanka for their efforts in bringing about an agreement on TCF targets for 2007–2008 and IPFs for 2009–2011, expressed concern about the low level to date of pledges of contributions to the TCF for 2007.

152. It was evident from the large number of footnote-a/ projects that the resources being made available for Agency technical cooperation activities were insufficient. All Member States should pay their full TCF target shares in a timely manner.

153. In 1953, United States President Eisenhower had, in his "Atoms for Peace" speech before the United Nations General Assembly, spoken of atomic energy being used in agriculture, medicine, electricity generation in power-starved areas of the world and other peaceful activities. Little progress had been made since then, however, and many people in the poor regions of the world had become still poorer, which had led to conflict. Agency technical cooperation projects reflected a political commitment, and they were important for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It was therefore essential that the technical cooperation programmes be expanded, especially for the benefit of LDCs.

154. Over the years, developing Member States had repeatedly stressed the need for the funding of the Agency's technical cooperation programmes to be sufficient, assured and predictable. At present providing resources for Agency technical cooperation through contributions to the TCF was a voluntary act, but in South Africa's view the time had now come to consider how technical cooperation projects might be funded from the Regular Budget. His delegation was looking forward to the report of the Secretariat on its response to the General Conference's request, made in resolution GC(50)/RES/12, that it explore "means to ensure that resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme are sufficient, assured and predictable". It hoped that the report would contain suggestions regarding how technical cooperation funding might be incorporated into the Regular Budget.



155. The new technical cooperation projects for South Africa had been developed in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders, were based on the country's CPF for 2005–2010 and were consistent with national policies and priorities relating to agriculture, public health, water resources, pollution control, waste management, science and technology, and energy.

156. His country, which greatly appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in seeking possibilities for cooperation between the Agency and NEPAD, was participating very actively in AFRA projects relating to — inter alia — clinical radiotherapy, medical physics, crop and livestock improvement and water resource management.

157. Member States should not only pay their full TCF target shares in a timely manner, but also do so without preconditions. They should not seek to micromanage the provision of technical assistance through the Agency. His delegation, which had noted the concerns expressed by some delegations regarding the technical assistance proposed for one particular Member State, had the fullest confidence in the ability of the Secretariat and the Director General to decide on technical cooperation matters in conformity with decisions of the Board and with international law. It would be inappropriate to question the Secretariat's integrity, since such a vote of no-confidence in the Secretariat on — for example — a safeguards-related issue in another forum would have serious repercussions. His delegation therefore endorsed the proposed technical cooperation programme and hoped that it would be approved by consensus.

158. The representative of BOLIVIA, recalling the comments made by the representative of Australia regarding technical cooperation projects proposed for Latin America, said that Bolivia attached great importance to technical cooperation within the Agency framework and would not like to see it politicized.

159. The technical cooperation programmes of the Agency were helping Member States to use nuclear technology more effectively and efficiently, and the technical assistance provided through the Agency was having a beneficial effect in the field of international relations, not least because it was being provided on an impartial basis. It was essential to maintain impartiality in the technical cooperation area. It was also essential to prevent the spread of extreme poverty, which had devastating effects on the victims and was a threat to global security. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy could help, and Member States should therefore be guided by the Director General's call for non-conventional approaches in nuclear matters in the interests of development and of peace and security.

**The meeting rose at 6 p.m.**