

IAEA Board of Governors
Record of the 1116th Meeting
GOV/OR.1116

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[Medium Term Strategy 2006-2011\(Indonesia\)](#)

[Medium Term Strategy 2006-2011\(Malaysia\)](#)

Board of Governors

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Record of the 1116th Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 28 February 2005, at 10.35 a.m.

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¹ GOV/2005/2/Rev.1.

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.)

Ms. HALL		Chairperson (Canada)
Ms. FEROUKHI	_____	Algeria
Ms. KELLY		Argentina
Ms. STOKES		Australia
Mr. NIEUWENHUYS		Belgium
Mr. VIEIRA DE SOUZA		Brazil
Mr. PROUDFOOT		Canada
Mr. ZHANG Yan		} China
Mr. YANG Dazhu		
Mr. MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA		Ecuador
Mr. THIEBAUD		France
Mr. HONSOWITZ		Germany
Mr. BEKOE		Ghana
Mr. HORVÁTH		Hungary
Mr. SHARMA		India
Mr. DE CEGLIE		Italy
Mr. TAKASU		Japan
Mr. Chang-beom CHO		Korea, Republic of
Ms. ESPINOSA CANTELLANO		Mexico
Mr. DE VISSER		Netherlands
Mr. SAMBO		Nigeria
Mr. BUTT		Pakistan
Mr. BELEVAN MCBRIDE		Peru
Mr. NIEWODNICZAŃSKI		Poland
Mr. DA SILVA SENNFELT		Portugal
Mr. BERDENNIKOV		Russian Federation
Mr. GAFOOR		Singapore
Mr. MACHÁČ		Slovakia
Mr. MINTY		South Africa
Ms. WIJEWARDANE		Sri Lanka
Ms. MELIN		Sweden
Mr. DAOUAS		Tunisia
Mr. WRIGHT		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Ms. SANDERS		} United States of America
Mr. SEMMEL		
Ms. GARCÍA DE PÉRES		
Mr. NGUYEN TRUONG GIANG		
Mr. BAHRAN		Venezuela
		Vietnam
		Yemen
Mr. ELBARADEI	_____	Director General
Mr. ANING		Secretary of the Board

Representatives of the following Member States attended the meeting:

Albania, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Zimbabwe.

Abbreviations used in this record:

CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
Kyoto Protocol	Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MTS	Medium Term Strategy
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
R&D	research and development
SMART	System-Integrated Modular Advanced Reactor
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund

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

– Opening of the meeting

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the members of the Board to observe a minute of silence in memory of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Rafik Hariri, who had been tragically killed on 14 February 2005, and expressed the Board's condolences to the Government of Austria and the family of Dr. Fritz Schmidt from the Austrian delegation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

2. Mr. CHAMMA (Lebanon)* thanked the Board for its expression of sympathy.

3. The CHAIRPERSON welcomed the participants, including the new Governors (Mr. Sambo of Nigeria, Mr. Belevan McBride of Peru, Ms. Wijewardane of Sri Lanka and Ms. García de Peres of Venezuela) and the new Resident Representatives (Mr. Amehou of Benin, Mr. Tonda of Gabon, Mr. Padilla Menéndez of Guatemala, Mr. Aqrawi of Iraq, Ms. Hussain of Malaysia, Mr. Servansing of Mauritius, Ms. Miranda of Nicaragua, Mr. Johansen of Norway, Mr. da Silva Sennfelt of Portugal, Mr. Macháč of Slovakia, Mr. Panupong of Thailand, Mr. Ertay of Turkey and Ms. Mutandiro of Zimbabwe).

– Adoption of the agenda (GOV/2005/2/Rev.1)

4. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Board to adopt the revised provisional agenda contained in document GOV/2005/2/Rev.1.

5. The agenda was adopted.

1. Introductory statement by the Director General

6. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the agenda covered a broad range of issues touching on all three pillars of the Agency's work.

7. As the *Nuclear Technology Review — Update 2005* indicated, both the Agency and the OECD International Energy Agency had released new near-term projections for nuclear power in 2004 which differed from those of four years previously. The Agency's low projection, based on the most conservative assumptions, predicted 427 GW of global nuclear capacity in 2020, the equivalent of 127 more 1000 MW nuclear plants than Agency projections in 2000. The change in the projection was rooted in the specific plans and actions of a number of countries to expand nuclear power. The new and rising expectations regarding nuclear power, particularly in the longer term, had also been strengthened by the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. In the past, the virtual absence of restrictions or taxes on greenhouse gas emissions had meant that nuclear power's advantage — low

emissions — had had no tangible economic value. The widespread, coordinated emission restrictions of the Kyoto Protocol were likely to change that in the longer term.

8. China planned to raise its total installed nuclear electricity generating capacity from the current 6.5 GW to between 32 and 40 GW by 2020. India was proposing a ten-fold increase in its nuclear capacity by 2022. The Russian Federation planned to raise its nuclear capacity from the current 22 GW to 40–45 GW by 2020, and France and Finland had more moderate plans to expand their nuclear capacity in coming years. New nuclear power plants remained most attractive where growth in energy demand was rapid, alternative resources were scarce, energy supply security was a priority or nuclear power was important for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

9. An increasing number of developing countries were requesting the Agency's assistance with energy assessments to evaluate their energy needs and the relative suitability of various energy generation options. In many cases, despite the acute energy needs that were central to those countries' development, the prospects for using nuclear energy had been hampered by the large size of nuclear plants which made them unsuitable for lower-capacity electricity grids. For that reason, the Agency had maintained a focus on the potential for innovative small and medium-sized reactor designs and a few projects were moving towards implementation. The Republic of Korea had decided to construct by 2008 a one-fifth-scale demonstration plant of the 330 MW SMART pressurized water reactor. South Africa had recently approved initial funding for the development of a demonstration unit of the 110 MW gas-cooled pebble bed modular reactor, due to be commissioned around 2010.

10. In March 2005, in cooperation with the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, the Agency would be organizing a conference in Paris, hosted by the French Government, on the future of nuclear power. That conference would examine the expansion of world energy demands in relation to resources, consider the environmental challenges of the coming century and focus on the driving factors for energy strategies and choices, contrasting nuclear power with other energy sources.

11. In the area of human health, the use of short-lived radionuclides in nuclear medicine techniques was helping clinicians examine metabolic processes in patients. The early detection of metabolism changes could provide a better basis for medical or surgical intervention, thus optimizing the management of cancers, heart disease and other illnesses. The Agency had also progressed in planning its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy under which it hoped to mobilize additional resources to assist developing Member States in enhancing their capacity to deliver radiotherapy.

12. The increasing demand for food worldwide had placed enormous pressure on the sustainability of farmland and water resources, prompting the Agency to make efforts to identify and develop crops that used soil and water nutrients efficiently and were adaptable to harsh environments. On the broader scale of ecosystem management, the use of nuclear techniques to diagnose and manage farming practices was being explored, employing isotopic tracers to evaluate, for example, the influence of water irrigation on fertilizer use and the efficient re-use of agricultural waste water as a source of water and nutrients.

13. Nanotechnology was one of the fastest growing areas in science and engineering with implications for advances in human health, food production, energy utilization and many other technologies. The ability to fabricate precision structures with nanometre dimensions was a key to using that technology. The use of radiation-based technologies, such as X-rays, electron beams and ion beams, was emerging as an effective tool, for example in the precision treatment of controlled-release drug delivery systems or in synthesizing nanoparticles for use in photoelectric and solar cells.

14. The overall objective of the Agency's work in those areas of nuclear technology, as defined in the Medium Term Strategy, was to be able to provide Member States with the best technical and

scientific support as they developed their nuclear capacity and infrastructure so that those nuclear applications could be of tangible benefit in improving quality of life.

15. The *Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 2004* provided an overview of current and emerging nuclear safety trends and issues. Nuclear power plant safety, as well as radiation, waste and transport safety in both power and non-power nuclear activities, had continued to show strong performance worldwide. However, challenges remained, including the avoidance of complacency, the need to maintain the necessary safety infrastructure and regulatory oversight, the management of equipment ageing issues during longer-term nuclear power plant operation and the need to ensure an appropriate safety focus at research reactors. An area of emerging Agency emphasis was the adaptation of existing safety regimes to reactors of new design.

16. Occupational radiation protection performance, as assessed through key indicators, had continued to improve in 2004. Seventy countries were currently committed to working towards following the guidance contained in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. International initiatives by the Agency and others were continuing to help Member States strengthen their controls over radioactive sources.

17. The safety record for the transport of radioactive material continued to be excellent, although difficulties were still encountered in the transport of such material, including medical radioisotopes. The International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability had met and had made good progress in its work on mechanisms to address potential gaps and ambiguities in the existing international nuclear liability regime.

18. In response to a request by a majority of the States party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, he had convened a diplomatic conference to be held in July to consider and adopt the proposed amendments which would extend the scope of the Convention to cover, inter alia, the physical protection of nuclear material used for peaceful purposes in domestic use, storage and transport and the physical protection of nuclear material and peaceful nuclear facilities against sabotage. A meeting to prepare for that conference was scheduled for early April 2005.

19. Nuclear non-proliferation continued to present a number of challenges, including the continuing failure of some countries to fulfil their legal obligations to conclude and bring into force safeguards agreements and slow progress on the conclusion and entry into force of additional protocols. Since the Board had last met, comprehensive safeguards agreements had entered into force with Cameroon, Tajikistan and the United Republic of Tanzania, and additional protocols with Nicaragua, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Tanzania. The Board also had before it comprehensive safeguards agreements for the Marshall Islands, Palau and Turkmenistan, and additional protocols for Afghanistan, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkmenistan. When approved, those protocols would bring the total number of States with additional protocols approved to 102.

20. Despite those welcome developments, 39 States party to the NPT had not yet fulfilled their obligation under Article III to bring into force comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency, and more than 100 States had no additional protocol in force. He expressed the hope that the 2005 NPT Review Conference in May would encourage those States to conclude and bring into force their respective safeguards agreements and additional protocols.

21. As he had made clear on several occasions, the effectiveness of Agency safeguards was to a great extent a dependent on the Agency's authority to verify a State's nuclear activities. In that connection, the additional protocol, which conferred on the Agency greater rights of access to relevant information and locations, had been of great help to Agency safeguards activities. The Secretariat had recently drawn Member States' attention to a remaining weakness in the safeguards system: the problems posed by small quantities protocols to comprehensive safeguards agreements. It had begun

informal consultations with States on that issue and he intended to report to the Board on the results of those consultations and propose possible remedies.

22. The Secretariat had been re-engineering the IAEA Safeguards Information System to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of information analysis and to reduce the risk of failure of the antiquated safeguards computer system, much of which was more than 20 years old. The re-engineering project was moving into its implementation phase and, while he was grateful to the United States and the United Kingdom for their generous support of the project thus far, it was clear that additional funding would still be required. He appealed to other States to lend their financial support to that important effort.

23. The nuclear activities of the DPRK, which remained outside international verification, continued to constitute a serious challenge to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Since 31 December 2002, when the Agency's verification activities had been terminated at the request of the DPRK, the Agency had been unable to draw any conclusions regarding that country's nuclear activities. The recent declaration by the DPRK that it possessed nuclear weapons was a matter of the utmost concern, had serious security implications and highlighted yet again the importance and the urgency of finding a diplomatic solution through dialogue. The Agency stood ready to work with the DPRK, and all others, to find a solution that addressed both the security needs of the DPRK and the needs of the international community to ensure that all nuclear activities in the that country were exclusively for peaceful purposes.

24. In November 2004, the Secretariat had provided to the Board a comprehensive report on the Agency's verification of Iran's compliance with its NPT safeguards obligations and its voluntary suspension of enrichment and reprocessing-related activities. Since that report, Iran had facilitated Agency access, under its safeguards agreement and additional protocol, to nuclear material and facilities and had provided access to other locations in the country, including a transparency visit to a military site. The Agency had continued to implement additional protocol measures, reviewing declarations made by Iran and conducting complementary access and other verification activities. It had also continued its verification of Iran's voluntary suspension of enrichment and reprocessing related activities.

25. The Agency had been making progress on two important issues: the origin of the contamination on equipment at various locations in Iran, in cooperation with the country concerned; and follow-up on information provided by Iran on its centrifuge programmes. More details on the Agency's verification activities in Iran would be provided under the relevant agenda item.

26. As the Agency continued to work towards completing its assessment of all outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear programme, he urged that country to ensure full transparency with respect to all its nuclear activities by providing in full detail and in a prompt manner all information that could shed light on some of the outstanding issues. In some cases, the receipt of information was still pending, which in turn delayed the Agency's work. Owing to the fact that significant aspects of Iran's nuclear programme had not been declared in the past, a confidence deficit had been created and it was therefore essential that Iran work closely with the Agency in a proactive manner to build the necessary confidence and achieve the required degree of assurance.

27. The Board had before it a report on the implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement with Egypt. The Agency had identified a number of reporting failures on Egypt's part related to certain nuclear material and facilities. The report noted that only small amounts of nuclear material had been involved in the R&D activities concerned and that Egyptian scientists had discussed those matters openly in the published scientific literature. Nevertheless, those failures to report nuclear material and facilities to the Agency in a timely manner were a matter of concern. Egypt had taken corrective action

to provide the required reports to the Agency and had indicated that it would report any such material and activity in future. He would continue to keep the Board informed of those matters as appropriate. In that context, he requested all governments to pay close attention to their reporting obligations and treat them with the seriousness they deserved.

28. In May 2005, the NPT Review Conference would have an opportunity to review the efficacy of the Treaty. In light of recent developments, particularly the dissemination of nuclear technology and the growing interest of extremist groups in acquiring nuclear and radiological material, he expressed the hope that the parties to the Treaty would make a start on defining specific courses of action that would strengthen the non-proliferation regime and accelerate the nuclear arms control and disarmament process. To that end, in 2004 he had convened a group of experts to study various options for establishing multilateral control or oversight over proliferation-sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle, in particular those related to the enrichment of uranium, the separation of plutonium and the disposition of spent fuel. That group had recently submitted a report, contained in document INFCIRC/640, in which it identified a number of approaches for further consideration. He would await the views of Member States and of the NPT Review Conference on the group's recommendations before proceeding further.

29. The report on the Agency's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2006–2011 reflected a successful process of interaction between the Secretariat and the working group that had been established by the Board for that purpose and ably chaired by Ambassador Jenkins of the United Kingdom. The lessons learned over the preceding five years, and the changes in the Agency's environment and the associated evolution in priorities, had been taken into account in the formulation of the new MTS. The strategy should serve as an important tool for guiding the development of the Agency's programme and budget proposals and should enable the Agency to respond dynamically to changing times and circumstances.

30. With regard to the new technical cooperation system of national participation costs (NPCs) he was pleased to be able to report that, out of 85 countries having to pay NPCs for new projects, 51 had given at least their minimum contributions, enabling the Agency to begin implementing new projects in those countries without delay. However, some Member States were experiencing difficulties with the payments: 24 Member States had made a partial payment or had engaged to pay in the near future, while the remaining 10 had not made any formal commitment or had said that they could only pay later in the year. The Secretariat had been contacting those States to seek solutions that would enable them to make their payments but, in the interim, the new projects in those States could not be implemented, which would result in a lower rate of implementation in 2005. Since, in some States, delays in payments were due to national financial regulations (for example, budget scheduling requirements), the Secretariat would make every effort to inform Member States well in advance of their NPC obligations for following years.

31. The recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change had had the following to say about the Agency: "As the institutional embodiment of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and of considerable long-term success in preventing widespread proliferation of nuclear weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — with its regular budget of less than \$275 million — stands out as an extraordinary bargain."² In his view, that was equally valid in terms of the Agency's activities in nuclear safety and nuclear technology transfer. The fact that the organization was held in such esteem was a testament to both the work of the Secretariat and to the support it received Member States. He was grateful for that support and trusted that it would continue.

² United Nations General Assembly document A/59/565, attachment, paragraph 37.

2. Medium Term Strategy 2006–2011 (GOV/2005/8)

32. Mr. SRIWIDJAJA (Indonesia)*, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that all members of the Group attached great importance to the fact that the MTS had been prepared jointly by Member States and the Secretariat. The proposal to that effect, which had been put forward by the Group, was an important element of the package proposal approved by the Board in 2003. The Group firmly believed that the document that had resulted from the working group's discussions would assist the Secretariat in carrying out its activities for the next three programme and budget cycles with due regard for the Agency's objectives and the interests of all Member States. It should facilitate the design of programmes and the calculation of resource requirements, and help address the challenges of the growing interest in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for sustainable development. However, the MTS was an evolving document and any major change in the needs and interests of Member States in the Group should be taken into account in its implementation.

33. Addressing specific points, he noted that the assertion, in the section of the introduction entitled "Approach", that "a key lesson learned from past experience is that clearer identification of absolute priorities among competing activities is essential to the optimum use of resources" should not be allowed to constitute an additional obstacle for developing Member States when presenting and implementing their technical cooperation projects.

34. On the other hand, the Group welcomed the statement, in the section of the introduction entitled "The Agency in 2011" that, in 2011, the Agency would be maintaining an appropriate balance between its promotional activities and other statutory activities. It also welcomed the positive response of the working group to requests for greater mention in the MTS of the technical cooperation programme in order to reflect its importance. It would prefer to see a whole section of the MTS devoted mainly to that programme. Noting the statement that the TCF would be adequately and appropriately funded, bearing in mind the shared responsibility of all Member States, he recalled the importance of giving due consideration to the financial difficulties faced by some developing Member States. The definition of adequate and appropriate funding should also reflect primarily the needs of developing Member States, since the Fund's very existence rested on that premise. He also expressed the hope that the self-reliance and self-sufficiency mentioned in Goal D would not translate into a reduction of the level of resources available to the TCF.

35. Bearing in mind the importance of the effective application of Agency safeguards, the Group encouraged those States which had not yet fulfilled their obligations in that regard to bring a comprehensive safeguards agreement into force promptly. It also maintained its position of principle that a balance should be maintained between the Agency's verification and promotional activities.

36. With those comments, he took note of the document.

37. Ms. HUSSAIN (Malaysia)*, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), said that, in the working group on the MTS, the NAM had underscored its positions on issues related to nuclear security, verification and assurances to the international community of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

38. It 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, and the need for a balance to be maintained between the Agency's promotional and verification activities.

39. In conclusion, she took note of the MTS on the understanding that it was to be used by the Secretariat as a general framework for the formulation of programme and budget proposals and that

any new major developments or changes affecting NAM Member States would be taken into account in its implementation.

40. Mr. BAZOBERRY (Bolivia)*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the Group attached great importance to the elaboration and implementation of the MTS which addressed the main goals and challenges the Agency would have before it in the coming years. It also welcomed the statement that any new major development or changes in the needs and interests of Member States would be taken into account in the implementation of the MTS.

41. In GRULAC's view, the document's treatment of the Agency's technical cooperation programme did not fully reflect its vital importance. It would have been preferable to have specific paragraphs, both in the introduction and in the goals and objectives, which clearly underscored the importance of technical cooperation for the Agency and identified aspects thereof which needed to be improved.

42. In the section of the introduction entitled "The Agency in 2011", reference was made to the important aspect of funding. However, other vital aspects, such as efficiency and impact, where further improvements were still needed, were not mentioned. Furthermore, technical cooperation funding had to not only be adequate and appropriate but also assured.

43. The section entitled "Approach" indicated that not all priority activities in 2001–2005 had been implemented for lack of funding and stated that clearer identification of absolute priorities among competing activities was essential. That approach should in no way alter the essential balance between the Agency's various statutory activities or prejudice the proposal and implementation of technical cooperation projects.

44. The section entitled "Background: Changing times and opportunities" cited, as one factor that had prompted change vis-à-vis the preceding MTS, the realization that nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism posed significant threats to international security. However, no reference was made to the lack of progress with respect to disarmament or reduction of nuclear arsenals. In that connection, GRULAC supported the statement made at the end of the section on verification to the effect that the Agency should remain ready to assist, in accordance with its Statute, with the verification tasks that it could be called upon to carry out under nuclear arms reduction and disarmament initiatives.

45. The Group considered it unnecessary to treat nuclear safety and nuclear security separately, as was done in the introduction, since the latter constituted a subdivision of the former.

46. A number of matters mentioned in the introduction were not reflected in the goals. For example, reference was made to the contribution that nuclear energy applications such as seawater desalination and hydrogen production could make to sustainable development and the potential impact of new developments in areas such as biomolecular technology, gene sequencing and nanotechnology on nuclear applications. Those aspects could be incorporated in Goal A. With regard to Goal B, specific measures should be implemented concerning coordination with other international bodies on the transport of radioactive material. In connection with Action (i) under objective D.2, the Group stressed the importance of respecting the intergovernmental and non-commercial character of the Agency when developing new partnerships. With regard to Action (ii) under objective D.3, GRULAC fully endorsed the need to expand outreach to the general public, particularly through use of the Internet, but noted that more traditional means should also continue to be used since, in many countries, Internet access was limited. With respect to Action (i) under Objective E.2, it was of the view that funding should not only be adequate and predictable but also assured. In that connection it found Action (iii) particularly appropriate.

47. With those comments, he took note of the document.

48. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt)*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, urged the Secretariat to show flexibility in order to ensure that the change of policy on NPCs did not negatively affect the continuation or extension of projects during the initial phase of implementation and requested the Secretariat to provide information on the measures taken in that regard.

49. The African Group endorsed the priority assigned by the MTS to the role of nuclear energy in sustainable development, and the emphasis placed on the need for innovative nuclear techniques to address the major challenges of hunger, disease, poverty and management of natural resources facing Africa and the world today. It noted with concern the finding contained in the report of the Millennium Project that many African countries were not making adequate progress to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Strategy should enhance sustainable development, promote a cleaner and safer natural environment and contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. He urged the Agency to cooperate closely with the African Union with a view to incorporating the Agency's activities into the NEPAD agenda in order to ensure coherent and integrated approaches on common issues.

50. When implemented, the MTS should address energy needs for sustainable development and meet the challenges highlighted by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001 and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The Agency should devote more attention to assisting developing countries in meeting the development goals set by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Summit in 2000 in the areas of health, water, agriculture and the environment.

51. Nuclear technologies could only contribute to sustainable development if due consideration was given to technology transfer. The Group stressed the right of developing countries to have access to those technologies and to use them for peaceful purposes. It also underscored the importance of technical cooperation among developing countries and appreciated the emphasis on capacity building and self-reliance, as well as on regional cooperation.

52. The African Group noted the importance of improving the safety and security environment, especially through the establishment of sustainable safety and security infrastructures in Member States. It endorsed the objectives and actions aimed at enhancing the Agency capacity to give the international community assurances of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

53. The Group welcomed the efforts in the document to ensure a proper balance was maintained between promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency. That should also be taken into account during implementation. The MTS should improve technical cooperation delivery and he urged the Secretariat to continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery and assessment. He commended the Secretariat on its endeavours to translate the needs of Member States into effective regular technical cooperation programmes and urged the Secretariat to continue to secure adequate and predictable resources to fund promotional and other statutory activities.

54. Given the changed non-proliferation environment, the African Group stressed the importance of making the NPT universal. The effectiveness of the Agency's safeguards system should be further strengthened. All States should promptly bring a comprehensive safeguards agreement into force. Furthermore, it should be recognized that the full potential of the safeguards system could only be realized when comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols were in force in all States.

55. Mr. TAKASU (Japan) said that his country supported the MTS since it clearly identified the goals and objectives which the Agency intended to achieve over the coming six years, taking into

consideration activities over the preceding five years, lessons learned during that period and changes in the international environment.

56. The MTS set out a wide range of objectives for Agency activities in the areas of nuclear technology, safety and security, and verification. It was important for all Member States and the Secretariat to take the necessary steps to further those objectives, with a strong sense of shared responsibility and cooperation.

57. The most pressing challenge for the Agency was to promote the benefits of nuclear technologies and to support those countries, particularly in Asia, which were developing nuclear power to meet substantial increases in energy demand. Another challenge was to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system and its capacity to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

58. He stressed the need for flexibility in adjusting priorities and orientation to meet changing needs and situations. Programme planning should be dynamic. The importance of a one-house approach could not be overemphasized, since an international organization like the Agency functioned as an organic whole. The MTS would provide guidance for the preparation of the Agency's programme and budget, which would have to incorporate the many important goals and objectives contained in the Strategy. Japan would make every effort to ensure that the Agency's future activities had an optimal impact and enjoyed even greater support from the international community.

59. Ms. STOKES (Australia) said that the MTS highlighted the need for the Agency to continue to be responsive to changing times and circumstances.

60. The introduction to the document was especially valuable as it described the context for the implementation of the Strategy. She welcomed, in particular, the incorporation of lessons learned from the previous MTS, including the need for clearer identification of absolute priorities among competing activities to facilitate the optimal use of resources, the need for the planned outputs and objectives of the Agency's biennial programmes to be linked to the strategic goals and objectives identified in the MTS, and the need to build on the one-house approach. The Strategy also described the expected capabilities and position of the Agency at the end of its six-year implementation cycle and those reference points were an important element as they served as a reminder of common goals.

61. With regard to nuclear applications, Australia welcomed the broad recognition given to the potential contribution of nuclear and isotope techniques in meeting sustainable development goals in all Member States. It was also pleased that the MTS recognized that the emergence of non-nuclear alternatives could have a significant impact on the comparative advantage of nuclear technology in a range of areas, such as agriculture and food production. Exit strategies were needed where emerging non-nuclear technologies began to supersede those with a nuclear basis.

62. In relation to verification objectives, she noted with satisfaction that the MTS made it clear that the safeguards system would need to evolve continually to take account of new challenges and technologies.

63. Her country attached great importance to efforts on the part of the Agency to enhance public perception of nuclear safety, especially with regard to the transport of nuclear and radioactive material. Finally, there was scope for significant overlap between the objectives relating to strengthening of emergency response and those relating to response to malicious acts and it was important to ensure that implementation was well coordinated.

64. Mr. SHARMA (India) commended Ambassador Paulinich of Peru and Ambassador Jenkins of the United Kingdom who had chaired the working group.

65. The MTS for 2006-2011 was the fourth such document brought out by the Secretariat. The document had evolved over the years from being a plan into a strategy which was meant to provide an overarching framework of guidance for the programmatic work of the Agency. It had to be seen in close conjunction with the programme and budget documents which set out the Agency's priorities in a concrete and actionable form. Thus, it was appropriate that, while broadly following the three pillars of technology, safety and verification, the document adopted a cross-cutting approach. His country remained convinced that technology was the key to achieving the Agency's objectives, providing as it did the organic link between promotional activities, safety, security, safeguards or technical cooperation.

66. Many recent international studies had concluded that nuclear power would continue to play an important role in meeting the world's energy needs and that there was an imperative need to address satisfactorily, through innovation and improvement, anxieties and concerns about nuclear power generation. Technological solutions were needed to address not only the economics of nuclear power but also safety, sustainability, proliferation resistance and long-term waste management. There were several technological solutions which could address all those issues simultaneously. INPRO therefore needed to be given due importance in the MTS, since such programmes, if well supported, would not only help in facilitate greater exploitation of nuclear power but would also provide a more effective approach to enhancing safety worldwide and minimizing proliferation risks. That was a cost-effective strategy that could help fulfil the Agency's mandate in the long run without eroding the balance between its promotional and safeguards activities. It was gratifying to see that the importance of INPRO was recognized in the document. It should also be adequately reflected in Regular Budget allocations.

67. When the Kyoto Protocol was being negotiated, the nuclear community had missed the opportunity to highlight the unique role that nuclear power could play in reducing greenhouse gases, a fact which should be stressed at the next meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2006-2007 in order to ensure that nuclear power was accepted as an inevitable option for sustainable development and that the word 'nuclear' was included in the CDM. India fully supported the increased emphasis on preservation and management of nuclear knowledge on all innovative aspects of nuclear power from exploration to decommissioning.

68. The Agency should focus on questions of social and economic development to serve human needs, as emphasized by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Nuclear technology could provide solutions for sustainable development and India valued the Agency's efforts to adapt new nuclear, radiation and isotope technologies to meet the challenges facing developing countries in the areas of food, agriculture, health, hygiene, medicine, water resources management, industrial development and, in particular, the development of cost-effective solutions employing the latest advances in biotechnology, nanotechnology and gene sequencing. Developmental gains in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy would act as a catalyst and provide the impetus for accelerated national development. As the document correctly reflected, the main thrust of the MTS should be technological empowerment of developing societies to meet human needs.

69. India strongly endorsed the view that the Agency's safety standards should become the global frame of reference for nuclear applications. It therefore supported the Agency's efforts to develop cost-effective solutions for managing and networking nuclear and radiation safety knowledge and for promoting exchange of expertise among Member States. Equally, it appreciated the document's focus on measures to be taken to prevent, detect and respond to security risks in order to foster a global security culture.

70. In the area of verification, India agreed with the goal that the Agency had to provide credible assurances to the international community that States were honouring their safeguard obligations pursuant to their treaty undertakings.

71. The establishment of a quality management system throughout the Agency to ensure synergy between all programmes, and in particular between the technical cooperation programme and the regular programme, enjoyed India's full support.

72. Mr. MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA (Ecuador) said that the MTS would serve as a guide for the Agency and set the necessary parameters for its activities in the years ahead. The fact that it was the product of collaboration between the Secretariat and a working group of the Board was important in view of the usefulness and desirability of obtaining the views and contributions of every Member State on key issues.

73. However, the document could have been more specific in addressing the question of technical cooperation. Although aspects of cooperation were covered in each section, because of the interrelatedness of the Agency's activities, the fact that cooperation was itself a pillar of the Agency should not be overlooked.

74. Ecuador agreed with the goals and objectives for the establishment of comprehensive and effective international frameworks for promoting nuclear safety and security, inter alia through strengthening of relevant international instruments and for the dissemination of international safety standards within an agreed international framework. It also supported the goal and actions for effective verification of nuclear arms control and reduction agreements, including nuclear disarmament, and hoped that more tangible progress would be made in that area in the future.

75. Mr. BELEVAN MCBRIDE (Peru) welcomed the fact that the MTS had been drawn up jointly by the Member States and the Secretariat, as envisaged in the 2003 package proposal. The same approach should be adopted if adjustments to the document became necessary, and in preparing future strategies.

76. He also noted with satisfaction that promotional activities, one of the main purposes for which the Agency had been established, were of such importance that relevant guidelines had been included not only in Goal A but in virtually all other sections of the document. Unfortunately, however, the resources assigned to those activities and to the technical cooperation programme were not sufficient to ensure full implementation of the Agency's statutory functions, which in turn adversely affected the attainment of other goals.

77. The Government of Peru attached special importance to Goals B and C, especially the strengthening of programmes on the safety and security of transport of radioactive material, radiological protection of patients and the environment, safety of research reactors, and the universal adoption of safeguards agreements and additional protocols in order to enhance the effectiveness of the Agency's verification regime.

78. Mr. PROUDFOOT (Canada) expressed appreciation for the efforts that all parties had put into the development of the MTS which was an important component of the results-based management approach. Full use should be made of the Strategy in preparing programme and budget documents, which should make explicit reference to it. The Secretariat should also report regularly to the Board and the General Conference on the implementation of Strategy objectives to ensure that the document remained relevant throughout its lifespan.

79. Mr. HONSOWITZ (Germany) said that the MTS document was well structured and outlined clearly the guiding principles and goals for the coming six years with the necessary flexibility.

80. An appropriate balance should be maintained between the three pillars of the Agency but adjustments were unavoidable in the light of changing needs.

81. Nuclear verification would continue to be of paramount importance. All States should ratify additional protocols. Efficient implementation of that instrument would enhance confidence in the peaceful nature of Member States' nuclear activities. More experience in the implementation of additional protocols and a greater degree of universality were required before discussion of a further strengthening of the integrated safeguards system could begin.

82. He welcomed the planned increase in activities related to illicit trafficking and nuclear trade analysis. Any confidential commercial information obtained in that context would have to be kept strictly classified.

83. With regard to nuclear safety and the handling of nuclear waste, his country shared the view that the Agency's safety standards should become the global frame of reference. As expertise and experience in all fields of nuclear energy use needed to be sustained and built up, it supported the adoption of an integrated approach to nuclear knowledge management and the promotion of new knowledge networks for sharing nuclear safety knowledge.

84. The application of nuclear methods in the areas of food and agriculture, health, industry, water resources and the environment would become increasingly important. The document rightly predicted that new developments in areas such as biomolecular technology, gene sequencing and nanotechnology would have a significant impact in the future.

85. As Goal D made clear, close cooperation between the Agency and Member States, development and funding organizations, scientific and technical institutions, other international organizations and the private sector was essential. The Agency should also present technical subjects clearly and convincingly to the general public and the media.

86. Finally, he expressed support for the points made under Goal E regarding Agency responsiveness and quality management. A comprehensive quality management system would be a useful tool in that regard.

87. Mr. DE CEGLIE (Italy) said his country fully supported the main criteria and structure of the MTS and the methodology used in it which took account of the three pillars of technology, safety and verification, applying a cross-cutting approach. However, as a dynamic instrument it had to be sufficiently flexible to take into account new factors such as globalization, nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

88. As the Strategy covered three entire programme and budget cycles, it could only present an overview of activities. The identification of absolute priorities among competing activities was essential for the optimal use of resources and the biennial programme objectives should be linked unambiguously to the strategic goals and objectives of the MTS. It was also essential to apply a one-house approach with an appropriate coordination mechanism for cross-cutting areas.

89. An unprecedented expansion of nuclear energy demand could be expected during the period 2006–2011 as a result of population growth, higher standards of living and the need to limit greenhouse gas emissions to curb climate change. Those developments would affect the Agency's behaviour in the areas of nuclear safety, nuclear security and verification.

90. Italy trusted that the Agency would continue to enhance its reputation as a professional, innovative, impartial and transparent organization through joint planning and priority-setting mechanisms and results-based management.

91. Mr. SEMMEL (United States of America) said that his country was prepared to join the consensus on MTS but with no great enthusiasm. The preceding MTS had been intended to aid planning and provide support for a results-based approach to programming and budgeting. The process of updating that Strategy had provided an opportunity to reinforce the results-based approach in the light of lessons learned. That opportunity had regrettably been missed. The elimination of performance indicators was a step backwards. For the most part, the new Strategy simply codified existing programme plans.

92. Mr. MACHÁČ (Slovakia) said that the emphasis in the future would be on meeting the growing energy demands of developing countries, safety and non-proliferation. Those three main pillars of the Agency's activities were interlinked and could not be viewed separately.

93. To meet the growing demand for advanced nuclear technology in the areas of health, industry, food and agriculture, the Agency should concentrate on helping countries build their own planning, research and development capabilities in a sustainable way through regional and interregional instruments.

94. In the area of nuclear energy, activities should focus on knowledge management and exchange of information. Inadequate attention was given in the document to the problem of spent fuel and radioactive waste management, a problem which all countries using nuclear energy would be confronted with sooner or later and which had both safety and security dimensions. In that context, the acceptance and application of Agency safety standards should be a prerequisite for all nuclear applications.

95. In recent years, the international community, including the Agency, had made an unprecedented effort to ensure that countries honoured their non-proliferation-related commitments. The Agency should be more assertive in providing the international community with the necessary assurances and should exhaust all possibilities, including assistance in nuclear arms control and reduction efforts.

96. With regard to internal management, he welcomed the Agency's undertaking to enhance its reputation as a professional, innovative, impartial and transparent organization. The one-house approach should be further developed.

97. Finally, he sought clarification of the statement on page 2 of the document regarding discrepancies between the objectives of the Technical Cooperation Strategy and the MTS for 2001–2005.

98. Mr. THIEBAUD (France) commended the Secretariat's interactive approach to the development of the MTS. In particular, he noted with satisfaction that the French delegation's request for an explicit distinction between the approaches adopted to safety and security had been met.

99. He welcomed the continuing focus on the three pillars of technology, safety and verification and the adoption of a dynamic cross-cutting approach, which should evolve in the light of future challenges. The principal changes from the preceding Strategy consisted in placing greater emphasis on assessments and measures aimed at ensuring that the nuclear option was accessible to all interested Member States, that it adapted to changes in energy markets and consumer needs, and that it was competitive, profitable, safe, secure, clean and more proliferation-resistant.

100. Ms. MELIN (Sweden) noted that, while the new MTS continued to be based on the three pillars and a cross-cutting approach, the manner in which Strategy elements were introduced had changed. Performance indicators and priorities at the objective and goal levels had been omitted. While her country agreed to the omission of performance indicators in a strategy document, it believed in the usefulness of priority setting in such documents in order to uphold and develop the cross-cutting approach.

101. She warmly welcomed Objective E.3, the establishment of a quality management system throughout the Agency, which her country saw almost as a prerequisite for sustaining the one-house approach and using limited resources as effectively as possible.

102. Mr. NIEWODNICZAŃSKI (Poland) said that the MTS represented a compromise between the positions of the developing and developed countries. Poland supported the interactive approach adopted in developing the document and the proposed goals and objectives, based on a cross-cutting approach and the three pillars of technology, safety and verification. It was optimistic about the prospects of attaining the ambitious objectives set and about the Agency's role as a professional, innovative, impartial and transparent organization capable of anticipating new developments and responding promptly to new challenges.

103. Mr. VIEIRA DE SOUZA (Brazil) said that the elaboration of the MTS was a step forward towards reflecting the interests and concerns of the totality of the Agency's membership. That aim should be continuously pursued and he trusted that any major developments or changes in the needs and interests of Member States, especially developing countries, would be taken into account in the implementation of the Strategy.

104. Mention was made, in the section of the introduction entitled "Background: Changing times and opportunities", of a renewed interest in possible multilateral approaches to the front and back ends of the nuclear fuel cycle. He was concerned that such observations might prejudice a Member State's sovereign right to develop nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes with the Agency's full cooperation. Moreover, Brazil believed that nuclear energy had an important role to play in meeting the world's short- and medium-term energy needs in a sustainable way and without adding to greenhouse gas emissions.

105. Objective C listed several measures that would help the Agency provide credible assurances to the international community regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Brazil supported the safeguards system but maintained its position that any measures aimed at strengthening that system should not be detrimental to the inalienable right of all parties to the NPT to develop research on and the production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. His country firmly supported Objective C.2 that the Agency should contribute, as appropriate, to effective verification of nuclear arms control and reduction agreements, including nuclear disarmament.

106. He noted with satisfaction that the document mentioned, in both the introduction and in Objective E.1, the need for an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and other statutory activities. However, more emphasis should have been placed on technical cooperation as an important component of the Agency's activities.

107. Ms. WIJEWARDANE (Sri Lanka) said that the joint preparation of the MTS by Member States and the Secretariat was an important initiative. The document would need to evolve in the light of the changing global situation, and a balance needed to be maintained between the Agency's promotional and other statutory activities.

108. Her country welcomed the references to the technical cooperation programme in the document but felt that it could better reflect the benefits developing Member States such as Sri Lanka derived from that programme. The TCF should be adequately funded, notwithstanding the financial difficulties faced by some developing Member States.

109. She welcomed the emphasis placed on the Agency's work pertaining to the utilization of nuclear technology for sustainable development and addressing of the major challenges facing the developing world, and encouraged the organization to continue its efforts to ensure high safety levels in the nuclear sector.

110. Mr. BEKOE (Ghana) commended the fact that the MTS took account of the constantly changing economic and political climate and the threats posed by nuclear proliferation and terrorism, and that it gave due consideration to the unprecedented growth in energy supplies which would be needed to meet sustainable development goals. The document stressed the need for a clearly defined relationship between the planned outputs and objectives of the Agency's biennial programmes, including with respect to the Technical Cooperation Strategy. Ghana shared the view that the nuclear power option should be adapted to changing energy markets and customer needs, and that it should meet the requirement of remaining efficient, safe, secure and clean, and not contributing to proliferation. To that end, there should be increased emphasis on nuclear knowledge preservation and management, and on innovation.

111. If the goals set out in the MTS were realized, the Agency would fulfil its mandate to address the priority needs of most Member States. However, it should consider including under Objective A.1 use of the SIT to suppress or eradicate mosquitoes, as malaria remained one of the most fatal diseases in most tropical countries.

112. Mr. BUTT (Pakistan) welcomed the fact that the MTS for 2006–2011 had been elaborated pursuant to an evaluation of the preceding Strategy and as a joint effort by the Secretariat and the working group. It adopted a cross-cutting approach to the three pillars of the Agency's work. While the one-house approach should enable the Agency to identify and respond quickly to changing priorities of Member States, it should not be allowed to affect the balance between the Agency's promotional and other statutory activities.

113. The Agency should spread technologies in the areas of health, agriculture and industry where nuclear techniques had the edge over conventional techniques, even if that meant resorting to capacity building. Once a basic infrastructure had been established, less developed Member States should be in a position to establish their own priorities within the range of beneficial applications of nuclear technology.

114. He commended the Agency's work on the development of nuclear, radiation and isotope techniques to address major challenges in the developing world in the areas of food, health, hydrology and the environment and expressed the hope that the transfer of the latest technologies in those areas would help meet the objective of substantial socio-economic development. The Agency should expand its role in promoting the development of nuclear power worldwide, in particular in countries like his own with a long record of safe nuclear power plant operation where the only alternative would be to burn coal or gas.

115. Extending the impact of the Agency's work through synergies with the United Nations and other international organizations and partners was a praiseworthy goal. Effective communication of the Agency's achievements to the general public was also highly important. Finally, Pakistan appreciated the adoption and implementation of the results-based management approach and looked forward to its further strengthening through the introduction of appropriate standards for quality management and through advances in information technology.

116. Mr. MINTY (South Africa) expressed the hope that the MTS would contribute to improving the Agency's delivery capacity in all its statutory functions. He welcomed the cross-cutting approach adopted in the document. Though it did not include programme details or resource requirements, the MTS did provide a general direction for the Agency's activities, thereby assuring greater predictability. He looked forward to developing, together with other members, specific programmes of action to address the needs of Member States, particularly developing countries.

117. The MTS recognized the potential role of nuclear energy in sustainable socio-economic development, which remained the top priority for developing countries. Most of the goals and targets

that had been set by the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development were in danger of not being reached in Africa by 2015, as was confirmed by the Millennium Project report released in January 2005. Many Agency projects had the potential to help developing countries reach the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of NEPAD.

118. The effective mobilization of existing and additional resources was central to the success of the Agency's programmes and he urged it to continue with its efforts to forge synergies with other bodies with a view to developing coherent and integrated approaches to common issues. In particular, it should strengthen cooperation with the African Union and NEPAD, and plan regional projects in cooperation with the African Regional Economic Communities. The need to accelerate the flow of resources would be addressed at the forthcoming G8 Summit, by the European Union under the Presidency of the United Kingdom, and at the next Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations Conference meeting.

119. He endorsed the comments made by the Governor from Ghana regarding malaria in tropical countries and encouraged the Agency to ensure the widest possible involvement of all members, particularly developing countries, in its research and development activities, the application of relevant technology, and the search for innovative nuclear techniques to address the ongoing challenges faced by developing countries, including hunger, disease, poverty and management of natural resources. Technology transfer was central to addressing those challenges and all countries had the right to have access to, and to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in conformity with their rights and obligations under the NPT. While South Africa recognized the importance of promoting international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities and the exchange of scientific information, it also held the view that ownership of capabilities that could be used to develop nuclear weapons placed a special responsibility on the States concerned to build trust with the international community.

120. His country supported the Agency's initiatives aimed at improving the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive material and radiation sources, especially through the establishment of sustainable safety and security infrastructures in Member States. It welcomed the progress made in the continuous improvement of Agency safety standards and their application, including the preparation of various guidance documents and the ongoing provision of training and technical assistance.

121. Finally, recalling the 2003 package proposal, he stressed the need to maintain an appropriate balance between all the Agency's statutory activities and emphasized the need for adequate, predictable and assured funding to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of activities.

122. Mr. YANG Dazhu (China) said that the MTS provided a framework for the next three programme and budget cycles based on the lessons learned from the preceding MTS and taking into account new trends which had emerged. The Strategy responded to sustainable development challenges in such areas as energy supply, environmental pollution, disease, poverty and water resource management, maintaining a balance between the Agency's promotional and other statutory activities and objectively reflecting the needs of developing countries with regard to technical cooperation and the peaceful development and use of nuclear energy and technology. He expressed the hope that future action plans would continue to take into account the real interests and needs of developing countries and maintain an appropriate balance between the Agency's main activities, thereby supporting the economic development of Member States.

123. Economic development in China, the world's largest developing country, was facing challenges in the areas of energy supply and environmental protection. As noted by the Director General, China was formulating active nuclear power development policies and plans, and it was promoting the safe and effective development and use of nuclear energy and technology.

124. Ms. ESPINOSA CANTELLANO (Mexico) expressed support for the general approach of the MTS.

125. In the section of the introduction entitled “Nuclear Power”, two main factors were mentioned as influencing the decisions of States on energy strategies: increase in demand and the need to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Two further factors should perhaps also be included: the instability of fossil fuel prices and the anticipated decrease in their availability, and public acceptance of nuclear power which had hampered nuclear programmes in various countries.

126. Under Objective A.1, in the section on environment, the emphasis continued to be placed on the marine environment and less mention was made of the terrestrial environment and the atmosphere. More attention should be given to those topics.

127. Finally, the Spanish translation of the document should be improved as in places it did not accurately reflect the English original.

128. Ms. KELLY (Argentina) commended the approach adopted in elaborating the MTS which would guide the programme and budget for the period 2006–2011 and should provide for a balanced approach to activities under the Agency’s three pillars, which had been the subject of much discussion in both the Board and the General Conference in recent years.

129. With regard to the sections on technical cooperation, she welcomed the inter-disciplinary approach and the emphasis on the potential of nuclear energy to contribute to clean energy policies, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing global warming and mitigating climate change, as required by the Kyoto Protocol.

130. The significant positive impact of nuclear energy on sustainable development should be communicated to the public and that goal should be included in the MTS, in particular because young people were becoming less interested in studying nuclear technologies and nuclear energy as a result of the negative image of the nuclear sector.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.