

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1182nd Meeting
GOV/OR.1182

Applications for membership of the Agency

The Annual Report for 2006

Board of Governors

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Record of the 1182nd Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 11 June 2007, at 10.40 a.m.

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¹ GOV/2007/33

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. STELZER	Austria
Mr. SYCHOV	Belarus
Mr. BAZOBERRY	Bolivia
Mr. VALLIM GUERREIRO	Brazil
Ms. GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE	Canada
Mr. SKOKNIC	Chile
Mr. SUN Qin	China
Ms. QUINTERO CORREA	Colombia
Mr. HORVATIĆ	Croatia
Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ	Cuba
Mr. RAMZY	Egypt
Mr. KEBEDE	Ethiopia
Ms. KAUPPI	Finland
Mr. CARON	France
Mr. GOTTWALD	Germany
Mr. SOTIROPOULOS	Greece
Mr. SHARMA	India
Ms. LISTYOWATI	Indonesia
Mr. AMANO	Japan
Mr. KIM Sung-Hwan	Korea, Republic of
Mr. EL-WAFI	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Mr. ZNIBER	Morocco
Mr. OSAISAI	Nigeria
Mr. JOHANSEN	Norway
Mr. SHAHBAZ	Pakistan
Mr. BERDENNIKOV	Russian Federation
Mr. KRIŽ	Slovenia
Mr. WRIGHT	South Africa
Mr. PETTERSSON	Sweden
Mr. OTHMAN	Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. PANUPONG	Thailand
Mr. MACGREGOR	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr. SCHULTE	United States of America
Mr. ELBARADEI	Director General
Mr. ANING	Secretary of the Board

Representatives of the following Member States also attended the meeting:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Georgia, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abbreviations used in this record:

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CPF	Country Programme Framework
CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CRP	coordinated research project
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INLEX	International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
LWR	light-water reactor
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

PCMF	Programme Cycle Management Framework
PHWR	pressurized heavy water reactor
SCART	Safety Culture Assessment Review Team
SIT	sterile insect technique
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
TECDOC	IAEA Technical Document
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WANO	World Association of Nuclear Operators
WHO	World Health Organization

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

– Opening of the meeting

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed participants, including the new Resident Representatives Ms. Interiano Tobar of El Salvador, Mr. Grima of Malta, Mr. Duarte of Portugal and Mr. Shamsov of Tajikistan.

– Adoption of the agenda (GOV/2007/18/Rev.1)

2. The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt the revised provisional agenda contained in document GOV/2007/18/Rev.1.

3. The agenda was adopted.

4. The CHAIRMAN, referring to item 5, the report of the Programme and Budget Committee, said that the Committee had been unable to reach agreement on the draft programme and budget for 2008–2009. Accordingly, an open-ended working group chaired by Ambassador Skoknic, the Governor from Chile, and one of the two Vice-Chairmen had been established to attempt to reach an agreement in that regard. During the extensive discussions in the working group, the Secretariat had provided further information and clarifications. It had also provided modified budgetary scenarios, the latest of which was contained in Note by the Secretariat 2007/Note 29 along with other information.

5. In spite of all the efforts of the working group, consensus had still not been reached on the budget. Accordingly, the Secretariat was continuing to refine the previously presented scenarios for consideration by the Board at its current series of meetings, at which it was hoped that agreement could be reached on the draft programme and budget. He suggested that the Chairman of the working group continue his consultations during the meetings and, in light of the above, proposed that the Board not take up item 5 until just before the last item on the agenda.

6. It was so agreed.

1. Introductory statement by the Director General

7. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the agenda for the current series of meetings covered issues related to a broad variety of Agency activities.

8. The Annual Report for 2006 served as the Board's report to the General Conference and as the Agency's report to the United Nations General Assembly and the general public. The draft Annual Report before the Board described the results of Agency activities throughout the year. Many Agency Member States were facing important development and security challenges, including the need to improve health care, to increase agricultural production, and to secure water and energy supplies.

Vulnerabilities remained in nuclear and radiological safety and security, and the nuclear arms control regime needed to be reinforced. In all those areas, as the report illustrated, the Agency's activities could and did make a difference.

9. The current year marked the 50th anniversary of the IAEA. In 1957, only a limited number of countries had been able to enjoy the benefits of nuclear science and technology. The Agency's technical cooperation programme had consisted of a collection of relatively small projects. In 1960, for example, the Board of Governors had approved 28 projects in 16 Member States. At present, the technical cooperation programme comprised over 1000 projects covering more than 50 fields of activity in 115 Member States.

10. Technical cooperation programme resources and delivery had both shown robust growth in 2006. Contributions to the TCF had reached a record level. The rate of attainment had reached its highest level ever, exceeding 93% by the end of the year. That demonstrated increased commitment by a growing number of Member States to pay their full share of the TCF target.

11. The technical cooperation programme for the 2007–2008 cycle had been developed and finalized using the PCMF, an interactive online system for planning and managing national and regional technical cooperation projects which facilitated real-time collaboration between all relevant parts of the Secretariat and stakeholders in Member States. That had allowed the development of better screened, higher quality projects.

12. The development of the technical cooperation programme for 2007–2008 had been closely linked to the planning priorities identified in CPFs, which detailed areas of national priority that had been mutually agreed between the Agency and Member States. Currently, more than 100 Member States used that medium to plan their technical cooperation programme, although some of those CPFs remained in the draft stage. The aim was to have CPFs for all countries to ensure that projects were aligned to national priorities, and that they were in areas where nuclear technology would make a difference.

13. Human health continued to be the largest single area of technical cooperation, accounting for more than a quarter of the programme in financial terms. Principal areas of focus included the evaluation of nutrition regimens and diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Other important programme sectors included food and agriculture, water resources management and nuclear and radiation safety.

14. The IAEA Nobel Peace Prize special events on cancer and nutrition had been concluded in April. Those six events, held in six countries around the world, had focused the attention of policymakers, health experts and the public at large on the challenges of cancer and nutrition in the developing world. They had highlighted the potential for nuclear techniques and Agency-supported capacity building to help address those concerns.

15. The Agency had also collaborated in May with the University of Oxford in its Africa Consortium. Cancer experts, policymakers and donors had discussed strategies for assisting African countries with the development of sustainable models for comprehensive national cancer control planning.

16. Mutation breeding of plants continued to play an important role in improving crop productivity. New agricultural techniques had been developed in several areas, such as methods to improve the efficiency of irrigation in rice farming and to enhance the selection of wheat varieties.

17. To address global water challenges, such as water shortages, groundwater contamination, over-exploitation and the impact of climate change on water resources, Member States needed precise information and isotope hydrology was increasingly becoming the tool of choice for getting that information. The Agency had projects on water resources development and management throughout

Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Workshops and training courses had been held in the preceding year to build capacity with local scientists and technicians. The Agency had developed a new isotope detection technique to permit more accurate groundwater dating. It had also helped Member State laboratories to improve their quality control and handling of data for water resources analysis.

18. Science was changing in the way it was both funded and managed. A technical cooperation project had been examining the effects of those changes on Central and Eastern European nuclear research and development institutes. At a recent Agency conference, representatives from governments and research institutes from 17 European countries had been brought together with representatives from relevant international organizations. Examples had been presented of countries and institutions that had successfully adapted to the current funding environment by focusing on meeting stakeholder needs and bridging the gap between the nuclear sector and mainstream science and technology. The Secretariat intended to examine the applicability of the lessons drawn from that project for other regions.

19. In the area of safety, the recent disclosure of criticality-related safety events at nuclear power plants not being reported and/or being covered up by operators had raised serious safety concerns. The Agency was following up on those and other similar events and planned to include a discussion of that topic during the senior regulators meeting to be held in September. In addition, a technical meeting would be organized by the Agency and hosted by Japan in October to discuss those events from a broad perspective, including safety management, safety culture and regulatory effectiveness.

20. The number of nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities reaching the end of their lifetime was continuously increasing. Decommissioning was evolving from a small-scale activity to a large-scale industry. Agency efforts in that field had included the development of a coherent set of safety standards. Its efforts were currently focused on the application of those standards and the passing on of experience from advanced decommissioning projects to new programmes. The Agency was also expanding its review services to Member States on their decommissioning strategies.

21. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism would enter into force on 7 July 2007. The Convention recognized important functions of the Agency and was an important step forward in global efforts to protect against nuclear terrorism. Taken together, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the amended CPPNM, when in force, would serve to strengthen further international efforts to improve physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear and other radioactive material.

22. The Board had before it comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols with the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Montenegro.

23. Ten years had now passed since the Board had approved the Model Additional Protocol in May 1997. However, there were still more than 100 States party to the NPT that did not yet have that key verification measure in force.

24. In 2006, the Agency had implemented comprehensive safeguards agreements in 153 States. For 32 of the 75 States with additional protocols in force, the Secretariat had been able to conclude that all nuclear material remained in peaceful activities. The Agency was working steadily to reach the same conclusion with respect to all other States with comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols in force. At the current stage, however, for those States, as well as for States without additional protocols in force, the Secretariat had only been able to conclude that declared nuclear material remained in peaceful activities.

25. As of the end of 2006, 31 non-nuclear-weapon States party to the NPT had not yet fulfilled their obligation to bring comprehensive safeguards agreements with the Agency into force. For those States, the Agency did not perform any verification measures.

26. At the March meetings of the Board, he had reported that he had received an invitation from the DPRK to visit that country in order to develop relations between it and the Agency and discuss problems of mutual concern. He had also reported at that time that China, as the country chairing the six-party talks, had notified the Secretariat of the initial actions for the implementation of the joint statement adopted in Beijing on 13 February. Those actions provided, inter alia, for the shutting down and sealing by the DPRK, for the purposes of eventual abandonment, of its Nyongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, as well as the return of Agency personnel to conduct the necessary monitoring and verification as agreed by the Agency and the DPRK.

27. Later in March, he had visited the DPRK. Discussions with DPRK officials had been forward-looking. They had focused on the potential for re-establishing the relationship between the DPRK and the Agency. The Agency remained ready to begin work with the DPRK as soon as it was notified of the DPRK's readiness to do so.

28. As could be seen from the report before the Board on the implementation of safeguards in the Islamic Republic of Iran, that country continued to provide the Agency access to its nuclear material and facilities, including the enrichment facility at Natanz, in accordance with its safeguards agreement. The Agency had been able to verify that no declared nuclear material in Iran had been diverted.

29. However, as the report also made clear, Iran had not taken the steps called for by the Board nor responded to the demands of the Security Council. The facts on the ground indicated that Iran continued steadily to perfect its knowledge relevant to enrichment, and to expand the capacity of its enrichment facility. It had also continued with the construction of its heavy water reactor at Arak. On the other hand, that was taking place without the Agency being able to make any progress in its efforts to resolve outstanding issues relevant to the nature and scope of Iran's nuclear programme, or implement the additional protocol that would enable the absence of undeclared nuclear activities to be verified. That dichotomy continued to be the Agency's key proliferation concern. Iran also continued to put additional restrictions and limitations on the Agency's verification activities, including on the Agency's right to reverify design information at Arak. The lack of progress on the Agency's verification mission, coupled with the additional limitations on its verification authority, had resulted in a deterioration of its level of knowledge regarding certain aspects of Iran's nuclear programme. That was disconcerting and regrettable.

30. Against the background of many years of undeclared activities, and taking into account the sensitivity of nuclear enrichment technology, it was incumbent on Iran to work urgently with the Agency, under a policy of full transparency and active cooperation, in order for the Agency to be able to provide assurances regarding the exclusively peaceful nature of all of Iran's nuclear activities. Those assurances were the ultimate purpose of the verification process. They would certainly help dispel the concerns of the international community regarding Iran's nuclear programme. Transparency and cooperation by Iran would, therefore, be in the interest not only of the international community but also of Iran.

31. The current stalemate and brewing confrontation — a stalemate that urgently needed to be broken and a confrontation that had to be defused — were increasingly disturbing. He continued to believe that dialogue and diplomacy were ultimately the only way to achieve the negotiated solution foreseen in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The earlier that conditions were created to move in that direction, the better.

32. The increase in global energy demand was driving an expected expansion in the use of nuclear energy. That brought with it an increase in the demand for fuel cycle services and an increase in the potential proliferation risks created by the spread of sensitive nuclear technology, such as that used in uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel reprocessing. The convergence of those trends pointed clearly to the need for the development of a new, multilateral framework for the nuclear fuel cycle. Such a framework could best be achieved by establishing mechanisms that would assure the supply of fuel for nuclear power plants and, over time, by converting enrichment and reprocessing facilities from national to multilateral operations and by limiting future enrichment and reprocessing to multilateral operations.

33. Over the preceding two years, a number of proposals and ideas had been put forward. Some parties had proposed the creation of an actual or virtual reserve fuel bank of last resort, under Agency auspices, for assurance of supply of nuclear fuel. That bank would operate on the basis of apolitical and non-discriminatory non-proliferation criteria. Others were proposing to convert a national facility into an international enrichment centre. Still others were proposing the construction of a new, multinational enrichment facility under Agency control. The Secretariat had looked at those proposals and their associated legal, technical, financial and institutional aspects and, during the current week, the Board would receive the Secretariat's report on options for assurance of supply of nuclear fuel which he trusted would be of help to it in considering that important issue at a subsequent meeting.

34. Controlling nuclear material and the use of nuclear energy was a complex process, and it was clear that an incremental approach, with multiple assurances in place, was the way to move forward.

35. The Board had before it the report of the Programme and Budget Committee. Discussions on the 2008–2009 programme and budget had been ongoing since the Committee's meetings in May and, to date, remained inconclusive with differences of opinion on how to proceed. That was obviously disappointing.

36. In drawing up the programme and budget, the Secretariat had merely costed the activities the Board had requested, in the most effective and efficient way possible. The Agency's activities could not continue to expand at their current rate without corresponding increases in financial resources. The idea of doing more with less had its limits, particularly when the activities under discussion were so critical and where cutting corners was not an option. Even with the proposed budget, the Agency's financial situation remained vulnerable and it still did not have what was needed to carry out its mission in an effective manner. Significant additional resources were still sorely needed. The Agency's laboratories were full of equipment that was outdated, although it was vital to carry out essential verification, safety and development functions. Its nuclear security programme remained 90% funded through unpredictable and heavily conditioned voluntary contributions. Its safety activities continued to rely heavily on extrabudgetary staff. That dichotomy between increased high-priority activities and inadequate funding, if it continued, would lead to the failure of critical functions. Thus, a fundamental question that the Board needed to reflect on was the future of the Agency and its ability to achieve its mission.

37. The Secretariat continuously aimed to become more effective and transparent in its programme delivery. However, numerous external and internal audits had reached the same conclusion: that the Agency had reached the limit of what could be accomplished unless it overhauled its organizational processes and support systems. Over the preceding year the Secretariat had performed a comprehensive feasibility study in that area. The study made it clear that the Agency could not afford not to implement an integrated Agency-wide information system for all programme support areas based on commercial software and best practices in the public and private sector. In order to move forward with that initiative, it would need funding and, in the near future, the Secretariat would be contacting a number of Member States to seek their support in that important enterprise. The sooner

the organization made that investment, the sooner it and Member States would reap the benefits in terms of both effectiveness and efficiency.

38. On 29 July 2007, it would be fifty years since the concept of 'Atoms for Peace' had taken shape as the International Atomic Energy Agency. The mission with which the Agency had been entrusted at that time remained crucial to security and development. The Secretariat and he himself were proud to be a part of that mission. He trusted that all Member States shared that pride and that the Agency could continue to count on their support.

2. Applications for membership of the Agency (GOV/2007/28)

39. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the application for membership of the Agency submitted by the Kingdom of Nepal which was contained in document GOV/2007/28.

40. Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba), speaking on behalf of NAM, said that NAM welcomed the decision of the Government of Nepal to join the Agency and supported the recommended action set forth in document GOV/2007/28.

41. Mr. SHARMA (India) said that his delegation welcomed the decision of the Government of Nepal to join the Agency and supported the recommended action. India had a close relationship with Nepal, rooted in the two countries' long shared history, and there was a close and growing friendship between their two peoples and Governments. Nepal joining the Agency was of importance not only to India but to the South Asia region as a whole.

42. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the application for membership by the Government of the Kingdom of Nepal, and that it wished to submit to the General Conference the draft report attached to document GOV/2007/28.

43. It was so decided.

3. The Annual Report for 2006 (GOV/2007/19 and Corr 1, plus additional information available on GovAtom)

44. The CHAIRMAN, introducing document GOV/2007/19, urged wide dissemination of the Annual Report by Member States' representatives.

45. Mr. ELDIN ELAMIN (Sudan)*, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, emphasized the importance of ensuring a balance between promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency.

46. As the Annual Report clearly showed, the Agency had continued to carry out a wide range of activities related to the application of nuclear techniques in human health, food and agriculture, industry, water resources management, the environment, nuclear knowledge management and nuclear

energy planning and production, thereby contributing to sustainable development in Member States, especially developing countries.

47. Nuclear technology was a key driver for the Agency's activities. The Group took note of Agency activities that promoted the development and transfer of peaceful nuclear technologies to help address the socio-economic needs of developing countries.

48. Energy was a vital requirement for growth. At current consumption levels, global energy consumption was projected to increase by 53% by the year 2030 with 70% of that growth coming from developing countries. Nuclear power was poised to play a vital role in meeting that growing demand and many developing countries were considering including it in their energy mix. The Group therefore welcomed the establishment of the interdepartmental nuclear power support group to assist Member States interested in introducing or expanding nuclear power.

49. The Agency was to be commended for providing energy assessment services. A total of 112 Member States and six international and regional organizations were now using those tools. Another welcome initiative was the training provided through regional and national courses to 274 professionals from 51 States with a view to building capacity for sustainable energy development and planning. The Agency should continue providing such assistance in view of the increasing demand from Member States. The publication of technical documents related to nuclear power plant operating performance and life cycle management, and strengthening of national and regional nuclear power infrastructures, was also welcome.

50. The Group supported the work programmes of the Agency's technical working groups on technology development, commended the Agency for conducting training workshops on nuclear power plant simulators for education and regional training courses, and welcomed the publication of TECDOCs and the CRPs on a range of nuclear reactor technology issues. It also appreciated the Agency's databases supporting the operation of nuclear power plants which were easily accessible on the Internet.

51. Given the increased interest in uranium production, the Group supported all Agency activities related to various aspects of uranium exploration and production. It endorsed the initiation of CRPs aimed at improving the utilization of nuclear fuel through increased fuel burnup, and at understanding the mechanism of reactor core materials degradation and failures. It encouraged the Agency to maintain databases and simulation systems to provide Member States with reliable and up-to-date information on worldwide nuclear fuel cycle activities.

52. With regard to capacity building and nuclear knowledge management for sustainable energy development, the Group welcomed all activities executed, initiated and planned. It expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the 19 new technical cooperation projects involving 63 countries, and for publishing TECDOCS related to energy, economics and environment analysis, nuclear infrastructure and knowledge management. It noted with satisfaction the continued growth in the membership of INIS and the increase in the system's bibliographic database records and electronic full text documents.

53. The Group reiterated its support for all activities related to atomic and nuclear data, research reactors, accelerators, nuclear instrumentation and spectrometry and nuclear fusion and requested the Secretariat to keep Member States informed on progress in those areas.

54. With reference to the section of the report on new approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, assurance of fuel supply was a complex issue that required a phased approach while the associated technical, legal and economic aspects were addressed in depth. It was premature for the Board to consider the issue before the various aspects and concerns had been adequately addressed. The issue

had been unduly highlighted and the Annual Report should be modified to reflect the concerns expressed, restricting it to the Agency's statutory activities.

55. The Group commended the Secretariat on its efforts related to the early prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer through the development and application of nuclear techniques within a framework of quality assurance. In particular, it welcomed, the initiation of a CRP with the aim of comparing radiotherapy techniques for breast cancer. Within the next decade or so, more than 50% of cancer cases would occur in developing countries, which lacked adequate resources to address the problem. The Group welcomed the voluntary contributions from Member States, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the United States National Cancer Institute and private corporations to PACT. All Member States should continue contributing to PACT to enable it to function in accordance with its goals and mandate, and the Agency should continue its fund-raising activities for the programme.

56. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the Schools for Nutrition held in Latin America and Africa with the support of the IAEA Nobel Cancer and Nutrition Fund. The Fund would strengthen the Agency's contribution to combating malnutrition in children in developing countries, and to human resources development in the field of cancer management and radiation oncology. Millions of children died throughout the developing world owing to poor nutrition. The Agency provided valuable assistance to developing countries with capacity building for the application of nuclear techniques to determine the role of nutrition in helping ensure the healthy development of children, and with the use of stable isotope techniques as part of nutrition intervention programmes to combat malnutrition in children.

57. The Group reiterated its serious concern over the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, which required cooperation by all governments, international organizations and civil society. In 2006, the Agency had initiated a regional technical cooperation project for Africa which was evaluating the efficacy of supplementary food for people living with HIV/AIDS.

58. Safety constituted an important element of any nuclear programme. The Group commended the efforts made by the Agency over 50 years to establish, strengthen and maintain the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the action plan for the development of Agency safety standards had improved safety standards in terms of quality and utilization by Member States.

59. The Secretariat's continuing efforts to improve its recruitment practices with regard to staff members from developing countries and from other Member States that were unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat were welcome.

60. Mr. HIGUERAS RAMOS (Peru)*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the positive results reflected in the Annual Report would contribute towards achieving the Agency's goal of facilitating the use of nuclear science to meet, in a sustainable manner, the socio-economic needs of Member States.

61. In view of the new medium-term projections of substantial expansion in the use of nuclear power, and the fact that access to reliable and adequate sources of energy was essential to development, GRULAC urged the Agency to continue to provide support to Member States, including those from Latin America and the Caribbean, that were considering the introduction or expansion of nuclear power. As the report indicated, scientific and technical research should focus on new designs for reactors of different sizes, with higher efficiency and greater availability, shorter construction times and lower capital costs. The Group noted the start of Phase 2 of INPRO, which would further improve the assessment methodology, address infrastructure issues and include collaborative projects on technical issues to be addressed for improved economics, safety and proliferation resistance.

62. The long-term management and disposal of spent fuel continued to be a challenge in view of the rising expectations of nuclear power and the increasing spent fuel inventories around the world. GRULAC acknowledged the Secretariat's continued work on options for deep geological disposal of high-level waste, long-lived waste or spent fuel. The conference organized in June 2007 in Vienna to discuss recent trends and initiatives in the area of spent fuel management had illustrated the importance of that issue.

63. With regard to applications of nuclear science and technology, GRULAC noted the progress made towards achieving sustainable food security and welcomed the fact that, in Peru, nine mutant varieties of barley, developed with Agency support, now covered 90% of the barley-producing area. It welcomed the increase in the capacity to produce and export fruit and vegetables throughout Central America thanks to the use of the SIT as part of an environmentally friendly programme for controlling fruit flies.

64. It likewise noted the application of nuclear science and technology to address needs related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human health problems, in particular the regional activities carried out in support of PACT and the Schools for Nutrition, one of which had been held in Guatemala. The activities related to quality assurance in radiation medicine, and in the fields of nuclear medicine, medical physics and dosimetry, and radiotherapy, were likewise noteworthy. PACT's work on building relationships with leading organizations in the field of cancer control and research was important, as was the preparation of training syllabuses for doctors and nurses working in radiation oncology and the establishment of PACT model demonstration sites in Nicaragua, in collaboration with WHO and other partners.

65. In the area of water resources management, at the 4th World Water Forum held in Mexico City in March 2006, a major theme of which had been water for growth and development, the Agency's role in promoting the use of isotope techniques to provide information for understanding the atmospheric water cycle and for managing groundwater resources had been recognized. Agency assistance to Member States in 2006 had included regional technical cooperation projects on management of groundwater resources in Latin America covering Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay.

66. GRULAC appreciated the Agency's work on the safety and security of nuclear facilities and material and the improvements it had made in that area. It noted the approval, in September 2006, of the publication of the Fundamental Safety Principles, a set of ten new principles that constituted the basis for the establishment of requirements for the safety of facilities and activities in order to protect people and the environment against exposure to ionizing radiation. It emphasized the importance of the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material and the need for all those involved in the transport of such material to apply the Agency's safety standards. It would be useful to continue the dialogue and consultations among coastal and shipping States in order to improve communication regarding the safe maritime shipment of radioactive material.

67. Related to the subject of transport was that of civil liability for nuclear damage. GRULAC supported the work of INLEX and noted the holding of the second Regional Workshop on Liability for Nuclear Damage in Lima, Peru, from 11 to 13 December 2006. Efforts should continue to establish an effective and truly universal regime of compensation for the effects of possible accidents or radiological incidents.

68. Lastly, GRULAC supported the Agency's efforts to combat nuclear and radiological terrorism, and its activities aimed at promoting universal application of international legal instruments relating to the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities and radiation sources.

69. Ms. ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI (Namibia)*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, expressed appreciation for the activities carried out by the Agency under the three pillars of technical cooperation, safety and security, and verification, and reaffirmed the need to maintain a balance between the Agency's promotional and other statutory activities.

70. At the end of 2006, there had been 435 nuclear power reactors in operation worldwide, representing approximately 370 GW(e) of generating capacity and supplying about 16% of the world's electricity. The demand for energy around the world continued to increase rapidly, with the latest projections estimating that, at current consumption levels, global energy consumption would increase by 53% by the year 2030, approximately 70% of that growth coming from developing countries. The Agency had established an interdepartmental nuclear power support group to provide coordinated support to interested Member States considering the introduction or expansion of nuclear power, and that would certainly assist those African countries wishing to pursue the peaceful application of nuclear technology.

71. The Agency's continued efforts in connection with the planning and implementation of nuclear power programmes and strengthening Member States' national power infrastructures were welcome. The year 2006 had been a challenging one for the Agency, yet the demands for nuclear power would continue to grow. The availability of nuclear energy was central to improving living standards in developing countries, especially in Africa. The Agency was to be commended for its ongoing efforts to train professionals from Africa and other developing countries in the nuclear energy field.

72. The Agency continued to do research on innovative and advanced reactor designs. While welcoming those endeavours, the Group was of the view that they should not place any unwarranted restrictions on the rights of Member States to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

73. Millions of children were now dying throughout the developing world owing to poor nutrition. The African Group commended the assistance the Agency provided to Member States with the use of stable isotope techniques as part of programmes to combat malnutrition in children. The United Kingdom deserved thanks for providing training to participants from 13 African countries, in collaboration with the Agency, at the Centre for Human Nutrition Research at the University of Cambridge.

74. The holding in 2006 of the Schools for Nutrition in Africa and Latin America had been a welcome development. The IAEA Nobel Cancer and Nutrition Fund would enhance and strengthen the Agency's efforts to combat malnutrition in children in developing countries and its efforts to expand human resources capacity in the field of cancer management and radiation oncology.

75. The Group commended the Agency's continued cooperation with the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme. The Agency should expand that programme to as many developing countries that were adversely affected by the disease as possible. In the southern Rift Valley, tsetse population suppression carried out by local farmers and the Ethiopian Government in preparation for sterile tsetse fly releases had already reduced the prevalence of nagana disease in livestock in certain areas. She thanked the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, funded by Japan and the United States, for its contribution.

76. The Group attached great importance to the Agency's main areas of work in 2006: human health, food and agriculture, radiation and transport safety, nuclear science, physical and chemical applications, water resources and the management of radioactive waste. In 2006, a total of US \$97 million of technical cooperation funding had been disbursed in over 115 countries, 172 training courses had been arranged for 2477 participants, 3041 expert missions had been organized, 1697 fellows and scientific visitors had been trained and \$51.8 million worth of equipment and supplies had been provided.

77. Nuclear energy played an important role in sustainable development and there was a need for innovative nuclear techniques to address the major challenges of hunger, disease, poverty and management of natural resources facing Africa, particularly when many African countries were not making adequate progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

78. It was important to continue to highlight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. HIV/AIDS was a global issue on which cooperation by all Governments, international organizations and civil society was required. The Agency's assistance to Africa was an example of such cooperation.

79. The acute water shortages that Africa faced were a source of concern. Member States needed precise information to enable them to make decisions about sustainable water resources management. With the help of the Agency, African countries in the Nile Basin had formulated a proposal for joint IAEA-UNDP/GEF funding to improve the understanding of groundwater in the Nile Basin and facilitate equitable sharing of water resources among countries in the region.

80. The Agency had done useful work in helping Member States achieve sustainable food security through the application of nuclear techniques, in particular the SIT. The ongoing project aimed at assessing the feasibility of using the SIT to control malaria-transmitting mosquitoes should be expanded to include the possible application of the technique to other destructive insects, such as locusts.

81. The African Group welcomed the assistance the Agency provided to Member States in respect of the safety of nuclear installations. The SCART mission carried out from 27 February to 10 March at Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (Pty) Limited in Pretoria, South Africa, had been the first such mission to review a design organization. The African Group supported South Africa's pebble bed modular reactor, which was a shining example of how Africa could promote the peaceful application of nuclear energy.

82. Mr. RAMZY (Egypt), noting the expected increase in the use of nuclear energy for electricity generation worldwide, stressed the potential nuclear technology had as a source of energy for development, especially as fossil fuels became increasingly scarce and energy consumption rose sharply. Egypt appreciated the energy assessment services offered by the Agency to developing countries to ensure that their nuclear energy programmes were placed on a sound scientific footing from the outset. In that context, he expressed the hope that the Agency would continue to promote the transfer of technology and the dissemination of best practices in the field of nuclear electricity generation, especially since the projects in that area were concentrated, according to the Annual Report, in a limited number of countries and were particularly rare in Africa and the Middle East. It was important to seek ways of addressing the continuing rise in the price of uranium ore and the Secretariat should make a detailed study of the world market.

83. Greater attention needed to be given to the spread of nuclear knowledge and expertise in order to ensure that future generations would be able to pursue research and development in nuclear science and its applications. He welcomed the Agency's increased assistance to Member States in the areas of food security and human health, especially control of epidemics and cancer and the improvement of child health. He also welcomed the enhancement of regional cooperation in water resources management. The Agency's cooperation with the GEF, UNDP and the four countries Egypt, Libya, Chad and Sudan on the formulation of an action programme for integrated management of the shared Nubian aquifer, as well as its cooperation with Egypt and the five other countries of the Nile Basin on the Nile water resources management project, was commendable.

84. As an increasing number of countries announced plans to build nuclear power plants, it was essential to ensure compliance with nuclear safety standards, to promote the safe transport of nuclear material and the safe management of waste, and to enhance incident and emergency preparedness. He

therefore welcomed the technical assistance provided to regulatory authorities and the development of incident and emergency centres, and urged the Agency to step up its assistance to developing countries in drafting relevant legislation and upgrading their regulatory authorities.

85. Egypt attached particular importance to the safe transport of radioactive material because it was a coastal country, and because the heavy maritime traffic through the Suez Canal could present a serious threat to health, the environment and economic development. It was committed to the application of all transport regulations and guidelines and called on others, especially shipping countries, to abide by existing standards, to accede to relevant international treaties and to strengthen the international legal liability regime.

86. His country supported efforts to protect patients and workers from radiation and measures to protect the environment and living organisms.

87. The high operational safety levels recorded in 2006 should not lead to a relaxation of efforts in that area. The Agency should give greater attention to human resources development to enhance the safety of research reactors, especially since most accidents were attributable to a lack of proper training.

88. He reiterated the need to assess the risks posed by waste from old reactors in the Middle East that were not subject to Agency safeguards, since they constituted a threat to neighbouring countries. The Agency should address the issue in its regular reports on nuclear safety.

89. Egypt supported the views put forward in the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China concerning initiatives aimed at assuring the supply of nuclear fuel and stressed the importance of addressing all political, legal and economic aspects of such initiatives before submitting them to the Board. It was important to take into account the right of all countries to develop their nuclear capacities independently, provided that they complied with their non-proliferation obligations and applied comprehensive safeguards. Egypt urged countries engaged in the development of such initiatives to avoid setting preconditions that were incompatible with the NPT. It was also important to address commercial and economic obstacles related to the cost of nuclear fuel, so that any action taken resulted in a balanced mechanism that met the needs of countries aspiring to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and did not serve as another means of discriminating between Member States. The fact that the nuclear fuel supply issue was addressed in the section of the introductory chapter of the document that dealt with safeguards reflected the true objective of such initiatives, namely to prevent the proliferation of sensitive nuclear technology by ensuring that uranium enrichment technology remained under the control of a limited number of rich countries. Most of the initiatives had in fact been put forward by nuclear powers. Stressing the close link between non-proliferation and disarmament, he said that any new international mechanism aimed at assuring fuel supplies should be coupled with serious disarmament efforts and guarantees that the nuclear powers and States that had not acceded to the NPT would not benefit unduly from it.

90. Mr. SUN Qin (China) noted that the momentum of nuclear power development had been maintained over the preceding year and new patterns were discernible. Seventeen of the 29 reactors under construction were in developing countries. The Chinese Government had actively participated in, and provided human and financial support for such Agency activities as a workshop on the introduction of nuclear power, the preparation of a technical document on basic infrastructure for a nuclear power project, and the drafting of a document on milestones in the development of the infrastructure necessary for a country's first nuclear power plant. The Agency's INPRO project was attracting support from an increasing number of Member States. China had also taken part with other Member States in research and development on high-temperature gas-cooled reactors in the context of the Generation IV International Forum. Under the Chinese Government's medium- and long-term

nuclear development plan, China's total installed nuclear generating capacity would reach 40 GW by 2020. It was ready to strengthen its cooperation with the Agency in that area in order to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

91. He commended the Agency's assistance to Member States in applying nuclear technology in the areas of food and agriculture, human health, environmental protection and water resources management. Activities such as enhancement of the productivity of food crops, ensuring early diagnosis of animal diseases, and developing comprehensive cancer prevention programmes had contributed to sustainable socio-economic development and hence to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

92. The publication of the Fundamental Safety Principles constituted a milestone in the improvement of safety standards. Safety review services and technical training had also helped Member States establish and improve their nuclear safety regulatory infrastructures. China was cooperating closely with the Agency in the development of nuclear safety standards, the building of a regulatory system and the promotion of safety culture. It had also acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

93. In the area of nuclear security, the Agency had cooperated closely with Member States, including China, on strengthening security measures for large public events and significantly enhancing Member States' ability to protect nuclear installations and to secure nuclear material.

94. China had supported the Agency in 2006 by hosting a number of important academic research and training activities, including the 21st IAEA Fusion Energy Conference. It would continue to offer its support for the balanced development of the Agency's promotional and verification activities and to pay its contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF.

95. Mr. AMANO (Japan) said that the growth in nuclear energy meant that higher expectations were being placed on the Agency. Nuclear energy now accounted for some 16% of world electricity production. The increased interest in nuclear energy was due to the high priority attached to the need for cleaner forms of energy and for protection of the environment. Japan continued to contribute to Agency activities in that area and had decided to provide a cost-free expert for the INPRO project.

96. Attention had focused on safeguards and verification in recent years because of issues relating to the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The final report of the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute was to be submitted to the Board at its current series of meetings. Japan would continue to cooperate with the Agency and Member States to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards activities.

97. Considerable progress had been made in the areas of nuclear knowledge, technology transfer, innovative nuclear technology, nuclear science and applications and technical cooperation. Japan and other countries had deposited ITER agreement instruments with the Agency. In view of the importance of PACT, Japan had decided to make a cost-free expert available to that programme.

98. Mr. KIM Sung-Hwan (Republic of Korea), noting that the expected increase in the use of nuclear power could mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and save fossil energy resources, welcomed the establishment of an interdepartmental nuclear power support group to assist Member States that were contemplating the construction of a nuclear power plant.

99. The demand for multiple applications of nuclear power could be satisfied by the innovative reactors currently being developed, including the System-Integrated Modular Advanced Reactor (SMART) designed by his country. The Republic of Korea supported the Agency's efforts to develop common user criteria for Member States considering the introduction of nuclear power.

100. More systematic action was required to preserve and transfer nuclear knowledge. The Agency's support for the World Nuclear University Summer Institute would contribute significantly to knowledge management objectives and the Institute could serve as a forum in which nuclear leaders could share their knowledge and experience. During the July 2007 session of the Summer Institute to be held in his country, nuclear candidates would be able to share their vision with other participants through field training in nuclear facilities and related industries.

101. He acknowledged the Agency's efforts to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear fusion and plasma physics and its crucial role as the depositary for ITER agreement instruments. The Republic of Korea's tokamak would be completed by the end of the current year and was expected to contribute to the production of large-scale fusion technology through its use as a test bed for ITER. In that context, he welcomed the technical meeting on steady-state operation of magnetic fusion devices held in May 2007. That meeting had provided a forum for discussion of current issues and forecasting of ITER's performance.

102. Commending the Agency's efforts in the field of radioisotope and radiation applications, he said that his country had begun to operate an industrial-scale electron beam waste water treatment system in 2006 based on an earlier technical cooperation programme with the Agency. Thanks to that partnership, the Republic of Korea was now a leader in the development and application of cutting-edge and environmentally friendly radiation technology. It was operating an IAEA collaborating centre for radiation technology which should be complete in 2007. The centre's facilities and human resources would be made available for the development of radiation technology in the Asia and Pacific region.

103. As the IRRS covered a variety of areas and there were differences between Member States' regulatory systems, the Agency should take those differences into account in managing the service. His country hoped for the successful completion of the scheduled missions in Member States and expected a mission to be undertaken in the Republic of Korea in the near future.

104. Mr. GOTTWALD (Germany) highlighted the assistance the Agency had provided to a number of Member States with the repatriation of highly enriched uranium fuel. Its assistance with the management of the safe return of such fuel from the former German research centre in Rossendorf to the Russian Federation had been greatly appreciated. He also commended the Agency for its scientific efforts relating to climate change. To predict the magnitude and consequences of that phenomenon, a sound understanding the basic mechanisms affecting the world's climate was needed. By investigating the way in which carbon dioxide was absorbed by the oceans, the Agency had made an important contribution to such understanding.

105. With regard to the promotion of nuclear safety and security, Germany particularly welcomed the Agency's new website providing health professionals with information on radiological protection of patients receiving X-ray examinations and medical treatments involving radionuclides. In the field of nuclear security, the conclusion of the first CRP on improvement of technical measures to detect and respond to illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material had been an important milestone. In that context, he noted the adoption of the third Joint Action in support of the IAEA by the Council of the European Union which extended support for the provision by the Agency of nuclear security assistance. With respect to nuclear verification, Germany welcomed the signing of additional protocols by four more Member States in 2006.

106. Finally, he commended the Agency for establishing the new IAEA International Law Series in 2006. Although the goal of an all-embracing compilation of relevant legal texts was not pursued within the Series, the efforts to bring the texts together in a clear and well organized form was appreciated.

107. Mr. SHARMA (India) said that, in the light of the continuing increase in the demand for energy, the fact that 70% of the projected growth was expected to come from developing countries, and the positive impact expanded use of nuclear power could have on carbon emissions, his country supported all activities related to the promotion of nuclear power. India believed that the Agency had a crucial role to play in allaying misapprehensions among the public and in Member States themselves about the safe design, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, as well as waste disposal and environmental aspects. It encouraged the publication of TECDOCs, the organization of training workshops and technical conferences, and the maintenance and dissemination of nuclear knowledge. India's nuclear power programme continued to grow and enjoyed an impeccable safety record.

108. His country supported all Agency activities related to advanced technologies, such as accelerator-driven systems and high-temperature reactors. It attached great importance to INPRO and was pleased to note the continued growth in its membership. It had noted with approval the activities in the materials technology field aimed at improving utilization of nuclear fuel for both LWRs and PHWRs. In cooperation with the Agency, it had hosted conferences on related issues in Mumbai in December 2006.

109. He commended the Agency for its activities related to capacity building and nuclear knowledge maintenance for sustainable energy development, which aimed at providing training to Member States in the use of analytical tools and databases.

110. India appreciated the Agency's work and achievements in the area of nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, PACT, water resources management, protection of the environment, and industry.

111. With regard to safety, his country noted with approval the round-the-clock operation of the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre, the ConvEx exercises undertaken and the emergency preparedness review conducted. It also noted the progress made in expanding the use of the International Nuclear Event Scale and appreciated the document that had been produced providing additional guidance for the rating of radiation source and transport events. He commended the Agency on the establishment of the Centre for Advanced Safety Analysis Tools. Furthermore, his country noted the Agency's activities related to radiation and transport safety, in particular on the revision of the Basic Safety Standards, recovery of radioactive sources and management of radioactive waste. In the context of the safety of nuclear installations, India noted with satisfaction the Agency's efforts to promote safety culture in Member States. WANO had completed peer reviews of five atomic power stations in India and had indicated that conditions and performance at those stations matched those at world level. India had offered Unit 3 of the Tarapur atomic power station for pre-startup peer review by a WANO expert team. Similar reviews were planned for 2007 for Unit 5 of the Rajasthan atomic power station and Unit 4 of the Kaiga atomic power station.

112. The nuclear security activities detailed in the Annual Report encompassed all those envisaged under the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006–2009 and showed that the programme had evolved satisfactorily over the preceding five years, which was a very commendable achievement.

113. India attached high priority to nuclear verification, and noted with approval all the activities undertaken by the Agency in a transparent and impartial manner. His delegation had participated in the work of the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute.

114. Mr. SYCHOV (Belarus) said that the Annual Report confirmed the growing interest of the world community in the development of peaceful nuclear technologies in various areas. In particular, interest in nuclear power was growing, as was the number of Member States considering introducing

and developing nuclear power. It was very important that the latest advances in the nuclear field were accessible to all countries. It was the statutory objective of the Agency to seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Perhaps the most important instrument for achieving that was technical cooperation and Belarus called on the Secretariat and Member States to concentrate on the effective implementation of that programme over the coming two years.

115. Over the preceding year considerable work had been done in the area of nuclear and radiation safety and security, in particular with a view to achieving universal implementation of relevant international legal instruments. Special attention had been paid to promoting the work of national infrastructures and the world expert community in the fields of radiation protection and safety of nuclear facilities, research reactors, radioactive waste management and transport. Belarus fully supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen international cooperation in the safety field and had done a good deal in the preceding year to improve its own safety infrastructure.

116. As a transit State, Belarus attached particular importance to combating illicit trafficking in radioactive material across the State border. It was a participant in the Agency's illicit trafficking database, had held a national seminar on the subject in 2006 in cooperation with the Agency and, in September 2007, would be hosting regional training courses.

117. Ms. QUINTERO CORREA (Colombia) said that, through its nuclear technology and technical cooperation activities, the Agency was acting in the spirit that had prompted its creation, namely turning the nuclear threat into the promise of benefits to be derived from the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the cause of sustainable socio-economic development. There was therefore a need for more resources for technical cooperation projects.

118. Colombia appreciated the energy evaluation services provided by the Agency. In the area of nuclear applications, it welcomed PACT, the implementation of a CRP on faster and more economical diagnosis of avian influenza, the use of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals in medicine, and nuclear applications to improve the quality and safety of foodstuffs and the management of water resources.

119. In the area of nuclear safety and security, she noted the completion of the review of the Basic Safety Standards and publication of the Fundamental Safety Principles, welcomed the assistance given to Member States with the improvement of their safety infrastructures and acknowledged the importance of efforts to recover radioactive sources.

120. Her country agreed with the Secretariat that there was a need to exchange information worldwide on the causes of incidents and emergencies and the lessons learned from them. It appreciated the Agency's efforts in that regard and, in particular, welcomed the upgrade in 2006 of the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre.

121. As a coastal State, Colombia attached great importance to the safety of maritime transport of radioactive material and waste and felt that there was a need to strengthen the legal framework in that area. It recognized the Agency's competence and achievements in that area and urged it to continue its efforts, in particular by supporting dialogue and consultation between coastal and shipping States. Her country supported the work of INLEX. The nuclear liability regime needed to be further developed to address the shortcomings and ambiguities in its scope and coverage, particularly in the area of maritime transport, where a binding legal instrument was needed with broad adherence by both coastal and shipping States.

122. With regard to nuclear security, she noted the Agency's efforts to build capacity in such areas as education, training, upgrading of equipment and technical support. Colombia welcomed the

publication of guidelines for Member States on that subject and the support for Member States that required assistance to meet their national responsibilities deriving from legal instruments relating to nuclear security. It also noted the cooperation agreement that had been concluded between the Agency and Interpol in 2006, which provided the framework for the establishment of a joint database on illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities. Colombia had been participating in the Agency's illicit trafficking database since 2004 which it greatly appreciated. It was concerned at the possibility of explosive nuclear devices being used by terrorist groups, or their possible misuse of radioactive sources. Additional efforts were needed to address that risk.

123. Mr. JOHANSEN (Norway) said that, as the Annual Report showed, the role of the Agency had continued to expand and it needed adequate resources to fulfil its mandate. His country supported the Agency and was pleased to see that it continued to forge partnerships with other intergovernmental institutions and with civil society. It was a key force in preserving the authority of the NPT and had a vital role to play in solving outstanding proliferation challenges such as those posed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK.

124. It also played a prominent role in the struggle against nuclear terrorism, in close cooperation with other mechanisms such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Norway appreciated the Agency's contribution to the implementation of global security norms and its assistance to countries that were converting their research reactors from highly enriched to low enriched uranium.

125. In view of the rising expectations with regard to the use of nuclear energy, Norway welcomed the adoption of the Fundamental Safety Principles and felt that it was very important that the Agency continue to assist developing countries with the implementation of safety standards and emergency preparedness. It welcomed the upgrading of the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre and emphasized the need for adequate funding thereof. It also hoped that there would be progress in the work on a code of conduct in that area.

126. Technical cooperation was an important activity which needed sufficient and predictable funding. Nuclear applications in the fields of health, nutrition, water management and the environment made important contributions to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

127. Ms. GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE (Canada) said that, in view of the increased interest in nuclear power, especially among developing countries, and the fact that promotion of nuclear energy was part of the Agency's statutory mandate, the Agency should continue to play an active role in any nuclear renaissance. Not only was there a need for the provision of timely and objective information to decision-makers, but also interested Member States needed help to address the key issues facing all stakeholders in the nuclear energy field. In that connection, Canada had been pleased to co-sponsor a workshop on the introduction of nuclear power in December 2006. Her country looked forward to participating in Phase 2 of INPRO in order to help to address infrastructure issues and contribute to the development of collaborative projects on technical issues to improve the economics, safety and the proliferation resistance of the next generation of reactors.

128. She welcomed the good progress the Agency had made in 2006 in the knowledge management area. There had been a very worthwhile and successful Agency knowledge management specialist assistance visit to Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power in 2006 in which senior management from those utilities had been heavily involved. Canada looked forward to the international conference on knowledge management in nuclear facilities which was being held in Vienna in June 2007 and which it would be co-chairing.

129. As a world leader in nuclear medicine and the development of new cancer radiotherapy techniques, Canada was a strong supporter of PACT, which was making impressive progress. It was pleased to see the recognition given in the Annual Report to the significant contribution of radiotherapy machines by the Canadian company MDS Nordion in support of PACT.

130. Her country was pleased to see the continuing high level of nuclear safety in 2006, and the fact that there had been no events at any power plants that had resulted in releases of radioactivity that would harm the environment. It welcomed the approach set out in the Fundamental Safety Principles and the new IRRS missions. Equally, it welcomed the increase in the number of contracting parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and had been pleased to see that support for the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and the accompanying Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, had continued to grow in 2006. It supported the introduction of a voluntary review mechanism for Member States that would help to facilitate exchange of information on the implementation of both those instruments. It also looked forward to the Agency technical meeting in June 2007 which would help to promote international consistency and harmonize practices in that area.

131. Canada welcomed the fact that the safety record for transport of nuclear material had remained good in 2006. However, as the Annual Report noted, there continued to be problems with denial of shipments. Her country therefore welcomed the establishment of the International Steering Committee on Denial of Shipments of Radioactive Material and looked forward to working with it, and with Member States and the Secretariat, to alleviate the denial of shipment issue in a timely manner.

132. Finally, she encouraged the Secretariat to explore ways in which the Annual Report could be broadly distributed.

The meeting rose at 1.05 pm.