

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1195<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
GOV/OR.1195

(b) Resources for the technical cooperation programme

# Board of Governors

**GOV/OR.1195**

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## Record of the 1195<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Wednesday, 12 September 2007, at 3.15 p.m.*

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<sup>1</sup> GOV/2007/49.



## 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)
Ms. WILKINSON DE VEXINA	_____	Argentina
Mr. SHANNON	}	Australia
Mr. CAMERON		
Ms. GÖSTL		Austria
Mr. MACKAY		Belarus
Mr. MOLLINEDO CLAROS		Bolivia
Mr. VINHAS		Brazil
Ms. GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE		Canada
Mr. LAGOS KOLLER		Chile
Mr. LIU Yongde	}	China
Mr. LI Sen		
Ms. QUINTERO CORREA		Colombia
Mr. MATEK		Croatia
Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ	}	Cuba
Mr. CODORNIU PUJALS		
Mr. FAWZY	}	Egypt
Mr. KASSEM		
Ms. KAUPPI		Finland
Mr. CARON		France
Mr. GOTTWALD		Germany
Ms. BALANOU		Greece
Mr. SHARMA		India
Ms. LISTYOWATI		Indonesia
Mr. AMANO		Japan
Mr. PARK Chung-Taek		Korea, Republic of
Mr. GASHUT		Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Ms. EL ABDAOUI		Morocco
Mr. EDOKPA		Nigeria
Mr. JOHANSEN		Norway
Mr. SHAHBAZ		Pakistan
Mr. BERDENNIKOV	}	Russian Federation
Mr. KARASEV		
Mr. SERGEEV		
Mr. KRIŽ		Slovenia
Mr. MINTY	}	South Africa
Ms. MOLABA		
Mr. LUNDBORG		Sweden
Mr. OTHMAN		Syrian Arab Republic
Mr. ARTHAKAIVALVATEE		Thailand
Mr. SMITH	}	United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Mr. DRAPER		Northern Ireland
Mr. SCHULTE		United States of America

**Attendance** (continued)

Mr. ELBARADEI	Director General
Ms. CETTO	Deputy Director General, Department of Technical Cooperation
Mr. WALLER	Deputy Director General, Department of Management
Ms. NILSSON	Director, Office of Nuclear Security
Mr. ANING	Secretary of the Board

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

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Holy See, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
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
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

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

## **8. Other matters arising from the forty-ninth (2005) and fiftieth (2006) regular sessions of the General Conference**

### **(a) Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East (GOV/2007/40)**

1. Ms. GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba), speaking on behalf of NAM, said that the Movement was gravely concerned about a statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel on 11 December 2006 in which he had publicly admitted the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel.
2. NAM maintained principled positions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In the final document of the 14th NAM summit held in Havana, Cuba, from 15 to 16 September 2006, the Heads of State and Government had reiterated their support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To that end, they had reaffirmed the need for the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with Security Council resolution 487 (1981) and paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus.
3. They had called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the fulfilment of the proposal initiated by Iran in 1974 for the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, they had demanded that Israel, the only country in the region that had not joined the NPT or declared its intention to do so, renounce possession of nuclear weapons, accede to the NPT without delay, place promptly all its nuclear facilities under full-scope Agency safeguards according to Security Council resolution 487 and conduct its nuclear-related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime.
4. They had expressed great concern about the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel, which posed a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States, and had condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals.
5. They had expressed the view that stability could not be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities were maintained, particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons, which allowed one party to threaten its neighbours and the region.
6. Further, they had welcomed the initiative by Mr. Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and, in that context, they had taken into consideration the draft resolution tabled by the Syrian Arab Republic, on behalf of the Arab Group, before the Security Council on 29 December 2003 on the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.
7. They had stressed that necessary steps should be taken in different international forums for the establishment of such a zone.
8. Also, they had called for a total prohibition on the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and on the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In that regard, they had expressed their serious concern that Israeli scientists were still being provided access to the nuclear facilities of one nuclear-weapon State. That development had potentially serious negative implications for security in the region as well as for the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

9. Mr. FAWZY (Egypt) said that the resolutions of the Security Council, General Assembly and of the Agency's General Conference on the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East reflected an international consensus on the subject. The Agency, as the executive arm of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, was required to play a leading role in the NWFZ project, which in turn required Member States to assume their responsibilities in that regard impartially and without applying double standards and hence to ensure implementation of relevant Agency and United Nations resolutions.

10. Israel continued to ignore those resolutions and to develop its military nuclear capacity. The statement by the Israeli Prime Minister in December 2006 had implicitly confirmed his country's possession of nuclear weapons. Yet the international community had taken no practical action to counter that challenge to peace, security and stability in the Middle East. His delegation requested that a reference thereto be inserted in paragraph 11 of the Director General's report contained in document GOV/2007/40. Israel was clearly defying the will of the international community as reflected in the General Conference's resolutions on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East, the provisions of the NPT, Security Council resolutions 487(1981) and 687(1991) and the resolution of the 1995 NPT Review Conference concerning the Middle East. The five nuclear-weapons States had a special responsibility in that regard.

11. Some countries continued to provide political cover for Israel's conduct, applying double standards to the nuclear threat in the Middle East and thereby undermining the NPT regime and encouraging States that were not party to the Treaty to flaunt their defiance, relying on direct or indirect support for their military nuclear programmes. The nuclear-weapons States, especially the three NPT depositary States, were thus failing to live up to their commitment to rid the Middle East of nuclear weapons.

12. The achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East depended on the establishment of a balanced and stable security regime based on an NWFZ. It was unreasonable to demand a comprehensive peace as a prerequisite for nuclear disarmament. Such inverted logic was incompatible with the sequence of measures required to launch an NWFZ, beginning with the establishment of a system to assess existing nuclear capabilities, followed by the placing of such capabilities under international inspection and control and the destruction of any existing weapons and military nuclear facilities. That was a long-term process and could not await fulfilment of the conditions set out in the paper submitted by Israel to the General Conference at its forty-eighth session.

13. He called on Israel to act on its declared commitment to build an NWFZ in the Middle East. It should follow the example of all other countries in the region and place all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and accede unconditionally to the NPT. All Agency Member States should give priority to that goal, in keeping with the provisions of General Conference resolutions and of Security Council resolution 487(1981). Given Israel's determination to ignore General Conference resolutions and the failure of Member States to take any serious steps to implement them, it would be necessary to update and reinforce their content in the light of developments in the region in order to reactivate the peace process through confidence-building measures.

14. He urged the Director General to continue his consultations aimed at ensuring implementation of the relevant resolutions and assured him of Egypt's unstinting support in that regard. Moreover, his country was willing to cooperate with all Member States, including Israel, in taking the requisite steps to implement those resolutions.

15. Mr. JOHANSEN (Norway) said that, despite the general consensus on the desirability of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, progress had been difficult. Norway supported the efforts undertaken so far to promote the concept of a zone free of

nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Agency. His country was fully committed to the 1995 resolution on the Middle East adopted by the States Party to the NPT and had contributed financially to analytical studies of how to move the process forward.

16. To achieve a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, his delegation encouraged all countries in the region to join the NPT without preconditions and apply full-scope safeguards. That, together with implementation of the additional protocol, would go a long way towards promoting confidence and fulfilling the obligations for setting up such a zone. Dialogue and confidence building, sadly lacking to date, were important in that process.

17. Despite the difficulties of achieving an NWFZ in the Middle East, the consultative process should start. As a first step, the countries of the region could study the experiences of the existing zones. Norway appreciated the efforts the Secretariat had made in that regard and regretted that it had not yet been possible to convene the forum mandated in decision GC(44)/DEC/12.

18. In the current climate, it was essential not only that all parties refrain from taking any actions which might undermine the purpose of the NPT but also that outstanding proliferation concerns be resolved politically.

19. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic) noted with deep regret from the report contained in document GOV/2007/40 that the Director General had been unable to achieve progress in the implementation of full-scope Agency safeguards in the tense and unstable Middle East region.

20. All States in the region except Israel were parties to the NPT and had accepted Agency safeguards. Some had also signed additional protocols with the Agency. Israel, on the other hand, had still not taken any steps in that regard, citing alleged security concerns. The deplorable fact was that Israel itself possessed a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and advanced military technology and was in continuous breach of relevant international resolutions. The latest episode in the annals of Israeli aggression had been the July 2006 war on Lebanon, during which it had committed crimes against humanity. Moreover, it continued to commit human rights violations against the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and to violate Lebanese sovereignty by air, land and sea. A country that waged expansionist wars should not be placed in the same category as those which feared for their security and sovereignty.

21. Israel's pretexts for obstructing the creation of an NWFZ in the Middle East were equivalent to putting the cart before the horse. The Syrian Arab Republic supported the Agency and the international community in their efforts to create such a zone and encouraged the Agency to establish model safeguards agreements with the States of the region. It was pointless, however, to engage in consultations with those States on the material obligations they were prepared to assume under such agreements until Israel acceded, speedily and unconditionally, to the NPT.

22. The section of the report on the Multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security should be omitted from future reports since no plenary meeting of the Group had been held for more than a decade. Moreover, it was a distortion of the facts to confine the ongoing conflict in the Middle East to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and also to refer to 'arms control' rather than to 'nuclear disarmament'.

23. The Syrian Arab Republic had joined in the consultations with the Secretariat regarding implementation of decision GC(44)/DEC/12 with respect to arrangements to convene a forum in which participants from the Middle East and other interested parties could learn from the experience of other regions, including in the area of confidence building, relevant to the establishment of an NWFZ. He reiterated his country's position that the convening of such a forum under the current



circumstances would be a waste of time and resources. It would be worth while only if a sincere desire to establish an NWFZ was attested through accession to the relevant agreements.

24. Referring to paragraph 16 of the report, he stressed the need for transparency and objectivity in addressing the question of NWFZs. The paragraph reflected a tendency to acquiesce in the policy of double standards and of adherence to the status quo, which constituted a flagrant breach of the NPT regime. There was no point in establishing NWFZs if some States continued to possess nuclear weapons while others were prevented from acquiring them. That would merely fuel a nuclear arms race in the region and the world as a whole.

25. He called on the international community to look seriously at the unbalanced situation in the Middle East and to bring pressure to bear on Israel to implement relevant resolutions in keeping with principles of fairness and credibility. There could be no question of establishing an NWFZ in the Middle East until Israel acceded to the NPT and opened up its nuclear facilities to Agency inspectors.

26. Mr. SCHULTE (United States of America) said that the item on the Middle East reflected the enduring importance of addressing fully the concerns of all parties in the region about ensuring that nuclear programmes in the Middle East were dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes.

27. His delegation noted with disappointment the lack of any reference in the Director General's report to the multiple questions surrounding Iran's adherence to its safeguards agreement with the Agency. Discussions of the issue should not focus solely on the existence of safeguards agreements in the Middle East but also, as the title of report stated, on how those safeguards agreements were applied. It would therefore have been appropriate for the report to have addressed the negative effect of Iran's nuclear activities on the broader Middle East and on hopes of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

28. Calling on all parties concerned to work constructively together, he expressed the hope that they would again return to a consensus approach at the General Conference on the resolution on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East. It was only through patient negotiation and confidence building that the difficult challenges in the Middle East would be successfully addressed.

29. Mr. KARASEV (Russian Federation) commended the Agency's efforts to apply safeguards to nuclear activities in the Middle East. In the preceding year, a comprehensive safeguards agreement had entered into force for one more State in the region, but it was unfortunate that seven States party to the NPT were still outside the safeguards regime. He urged them to take the necessary steps to fulfil their treaty obligations.

30. Russia was a consistent supporter of universal application of the NPT, strengthening of the non-proliferation regime through the creation of NWFZs, particularly in the Middle East, and application of comprehensive safeguards in all States in that region. He encouraged the Director General to continue his consultations with States in the Middle East in that regard.

31. Ms. EL ABADOUI (Morocco) said that the credibility of the Agency safeguards system and of the non-proliferation regime depended not only on technical reliability but also, and more especially, on fair and universal application.

32. The existence of countries with significant nuclear capabilities which were not subject to comprehensive Agency safeguards represented a weakness in the non-proliferation regime that needed to be addressed. The international community should therefore discharge its responsibilities with respect to Israel's nuclear capabilities, which had been the subject of General Conference resolutions.

33. Recent declarations increased fears concerning the existence of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and made Israel's accession to the NPT and submission of its entire nuclear infrastructure and

capabilities to comprehensive Agency safeguards more pressing. That would facilitate the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East, in line with international decisions and resolutions.

34. In conclusion, she warned that any delays in the important process of reviewing the NPT could have serious consequences.

35. Mr. GASHUT (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the concern expressed in the Director General's report on the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East reflected the ongoing concern of Member States in the region about the development of Israel's military nuclear capabilities and its possession of a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons, which had led to an arms race that threatened peace and security not only in the region but in the world as a whole.

36. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had supported General Assembly resolutions since resolution 3263(XXIX) of 1974 urging all parties concerned to take steps to establish an NWFZ in the Middle East, to comply with the NPT and to refrain from acquiring the means to produce, test or store nuclear weapons or from allowing any foreign party to place nuclear weapons in the territory of the countries of the region. He emphasized the need to rid the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, to place all nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards in accordance with the NPT and to implement relevant General Assembly resolutions, Security Council resolution 487(1981) and the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, which urged all parties to take practical steps to establish an NWFZ in the Middle East.

37. His country's recent close cooperation with the Agency would help to prepare the ground for an NWFZ in the region and he urged other States in the Middle East to eliminate weapons of mass destruction because of the region's important strategic location. In particular, he called on Israel to conclude a safeguards agreement with the Agency and to accede to the NPT, since the continuation of the current situation posed a threat to regional and international peace and undermined the credibility of the NPT.

38. In general, he urged States to spend their resources on improving their population's standard of living and on combating poverty and disease instead of on the production of weapons of mass destruction.

39. Mr. CODORNIU PUJALS (Cuba) said that the desire of the overwhelming majority of States in the Middle East to establish an NWFZ in the region remained unfulfilled despite the numerous resolutions and decisions adopted within the framework of the Agency, the NPT Review Conferences and other bodies in the United Nations system.

40. Israel was the only country in the region not to have joined the NPT. Nor had it expressed any intention of doing so. Israel's accession to the NPT without delay and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards would significantly contribute towards the objective of achieving nuclear disarmament and the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East. It would also constitute a milestone in the peace process.

41. The statement by the Israeli Prime Minister on 12 December 2006 admitting that his country possessed nuclear weapons was a cause for great concern and highlighted the threat posed by Israel to its neighbouring countries and to peace in the Middle East.

42. In the interests of the countries in the region and in order to eliminate an important area of instability in the world, steps should be taken to stop the transfer to Israel of any nuclear related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the provision of nuclear related scientific and technical assistance. Political will was required to take those steps so that the Middle East would become a zone of peace and security for all.

43. Ms. MOLABA (South Africa) said that participation in an NWFZ not only contributed to enhanced national security and strategic interests, but also fostered a stable geopolitical environment conducive to economic and social development. Her delegation welcomed all endeavours aimed at the establishment of NWFZs as a means of promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The convening of a forum relating to the creation of a NWFZ in the Middle East was long overdue, and South Africa encouraged the Secretariat to continue consultations with the States concerned to that end. At the same time, South Africa urged all the States concerned to demonstrate the necessary political will to work towards the promotion of safety and security in that volatile region.

44. Mr. SOLTANIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)\*, having associated himself with the statement made on behalf of NAM, expressed profound regret that, for decades, no progress had been made on the issue of the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East. The reason was Israel's non-compliance with international laws and norms, and its violation of over 30 United Nations and General Conference resolutions calling on it to accede promptly to the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon party and to place all its nuclear installations under full-scope safeguards.

45. Israel's acknowledgement that it possessed nuclear weapons was a serious setback to the non-proliferation regime and showed that the NPT had failed to prevent horizontal and vertical proliferation. The deafening silence of western countries which claimed to be proponents of the NPT, in particular the European countries and the United States of America, was regrettable, as was their reluctance to express concern about the lack of progress regarding resolution GC(50)/RES/16. That discriminatory approach and the policy of double standards were a cause for concern.

46. Mr. MICHAELI (Israel)\* said that the Prime Minister of Israel had not said what some States claimed and that continued repetition of a false accusation would not make it true.

47. Israel was deeply disappointed with the report contained in document GOV/2007/40 failed adequately to reflect Israel's position and overlooked negative developments in the region over the previous two decades. It ignored relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Board of Governors demanding compliance by States of the region with their obligations in the nuclear domain and with international law as a prerequisite for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. More specifically, the report disregarded at least three cases of blatant non-compliance by Member States in the region with their NPT obligations, which had greatly undermined peace, stability and security in the region.

48. Iran's policy and practices of non-compliance were even more disturbing and, together with its manifest hatred towards the State of Israel, constituted a huge obstacle for the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Again, those facts had been ignored in the report.

49. The State of Israel was situated in a conflict-ridden region where terrorism was perpetrated by State and non-State actors. The report did not provide the slightest hint of the volatility of the regional environment which Israel had to take seriously into consideration.

50. The report, and many of the statements made in discussion of it, cast heavy doubt on the Agency's will, ability and competence to deal with the complex issue of the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.

51. Mr. SOLTANIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)\* said that the subject under discussion was not the Iran nuclear issue; now was not the time to make accusations against Iran or to refer to its policies. If the statement made by the Israeli Prime Minister had been untrue, Israel should show no hesitation in acceding to the NPT and placing all its nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards.

52. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that he wished to set the record straight. He had been mandated by the General Conference under resolution GC(50)/RES/16, which had been adopted by

consensus and which had affirmed the urgent need for all States in the Middle East to accept the application of full-scope safeguards, to continue consultations with the States of the Middle East to facilitate the early application of full-scope safeguards. That resolution had not addressed compliance, which was a completely separate issue, and so neither had his report.

53. The underlying thinking of the resolution was that the universal application of full-scope safeguards would help to establish peace and security. The Israeli position, which to his knowledge had not changed over the previous 15 years, was that the application of safeguards was linked to the establishment of peace and security in the region. In his report, he had sought to summarize the views of Israel and those of the other Middle Eastern countries in a fair, balanced and objective manner. If the need was felt to talk about additional details, that would be reflected in the record of the Board's discussions.

54. The resolution had addressed the application of safeguards, the importance of the universality of safeguards and the universality of the non-proliferation regime. In his view, the Middle East constituted a major gap as regards the universality of the NPT. The sooner efforts were made to establish an NWFZ in the region, the better it would be for all concerned — Israel and the Arab countries alike. To that end, a security dialogue should be initiated along with the peace process. The purpose of the forum was to launch a dialogue on a security structure that was sorely needed in the Middle East.

55. In his report, he had simply fulfilled his mandate. If that mandate had changed, then he should be informed.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that several members had expressed their support for the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. In that regard, several members had called on Israel, being the only country in the region which had not yet done so, to accede to the NPT and place all its nuclear material and facilities under the Agency's comprehensive safeguards.

57. A view had been expressed that the establishment of an NWFZ could not be achieved in isolation but as an integral part of a regional comprehensive peace settlement.

58. Some members had expressed regret and concern on the inadequate progress achieved on the implementation of the relevant General Conference resolutions.

59. They had expressed the view that the continued application of double standards in addressing the nuclear threat in the Middle East was not acceptable and undermined the credibility of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

60. A call had been made for all countries in the region to conclude safeguards agreements and additional protocols to promote confidence in the region.

61. Some members had called on all parties concerned to work constructively towards ensuring that nuclear programmes in the Middle East were dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes in accordance with relevant international resolutions and decisions.

62. Some members had emphasized the importance of dialogue and confidence building in addressing the challenges facing the Middle East in that regard.

63. Support had been expressed for the Director General's efforts to carry out his mandate to implement the relevant General Conference resolutions. The relevance of convening a forum on experiences relevant to the creation of an NWFZ in the Middle East, mandated by the 44th regular session of the General Conference, had been highlighted.

64. With those comments, he assumed that the Board wished to take note of the Director General's report contained in document GOV/2007/40, which would also be before the General Conference pursuant to the request made of the Director General in resolution GC(50)/RES/16.

65. It was so decided.

**(b) Resources for the technical cooperation programme**  
(GOV/INF/2007/15, plus additional information available on GovAtom)

66. The CHAIRMAN said that document GOV/INF/2007/15 contained a report by the Director General in response to the request in resolution GC(50)/RES/12 that the Secretariat explore means to ensure that resources for the technical cooperation programme were sufficient, assured and predictable. Additional information was available on the GovAtom website.

67. Ms. CETTO (Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation), having apologised for the late submission of the documentation which she hoped had been offset by the information briefings held by the Secretariat, said the question of sufficient, assured and reliable funding for technical cooperation had been a source of lively debate for fifty years. The report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15 set forth the historical background of the issue in order to draw from experience and benefit from lessons learnt. Also, since efforts to ensure funding for technical cooperation would be influenced by contemporary events, it included information on the current context, including the United Nations 'delivering as one' reform initiative, the role played by science and technology in achieving development goals, the expansion of new funding sources and the evolving roles of Member States in the programme.

68. The report offered three approaches to ensure that technical cooperation programme resources were sufficient, assured and predictable. The first approach, namely incorporating the TCF into the Regular Budget had been suggested many times over the years, and the background document available on GovAtom provided an extensive overview of the related discussions.

69. The second approach, concerning possible measures for strengthening the TCF, offered several options, such as building on existing mechanisms including the due account and the rate of attainment mechanisms. It also highlighted how Member States' actions to honour their commitments would have a positive effect on ensuring TCF resources were sufficient, assured and predictable.

70. The third approach, mobilizing complementary extrabudgetary resources, complemented the second and recognized the strength of the programme's theme-based approach and the importance of non-traditional sources of funding and partnerships.

71. She recalled that the Secretariat was preparing a study on the future programmatic and budgetary requirements of the Agency. That study would also address the financing of the technical cooperation programme and make recommendations in that regard. The documentation now before the Board should therefore be seen as part of that broader, longer term process.

72. The Agency's technical cooperation was in high demand. The number of Member States was growing, as were the requests for technical cooperation activities. Nuclear science and technology played an essential role in solving development problems identified by Member States themselves, and the programme had a long record of concrete success at the national and regional levels. It was encouraging that the General Conference had requested the review, attesting to the importance of technical cooperation activities and to the support the technical cooperation programme enjoyed.

73. Mr. MINTY (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said the Group attached great importance to the establishment of a mechanism to guarantee assured, predictable and sufficient funding for the technical cooperation programme. Having studied the recommendations contained in the Director General's report, the Group urged that intensive consultations be held among Member States and the Secretariat in that regard with a view to the 52nd General Conference taking an appropriate decision.

74. Mr. ELDIN ELAMIN (Sudan)\*, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that more time was needed to study and analyse the report since it had been released only a few days previously.

75. A basic political commitment underlying the creation of the Agency was that the interests of all Member States should be taken into account through a balanced approach in its various activities. The promotion of the peaceful applications of atomic energy, a fundamental element of the Agency's core activities, was of utmost importance to the developing countries. Technical cooperation activities were a major instrument for development of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and improving the socio-economic conditions of Member States. To ensure that promotional activities were not adversely affected, the technical cooperation programme must receive sufficient, assured and predictable funding.

76. The Statute did not make a distinction between technical cooperation and other activities. Accordingly, technical cooperation activities should be funded and implemented in the same way as all the Agency's other activities. If contributions to the TCF were made mandatory instead of voluntary, resources would be more assured and predictable.

77. The Group reiterated its concern that the United Nations 'delivering as one' reform initiative might have a negative impact on the technical cooperation programme of the Agency, which was an autonomous international organization within the United Nations system. The Group called on the Secretariat to look into any potential negative effect that such an approach might have on technical cooperation programme delivery and resource mobilization.

78. The Group of 77 and China welcomed any proposal and options for strengthening the technical cooperation activities of the Agency. It requested the Secretariat to continue its work, in consultation with Member States, to ensure that resources for the technical cooperation programme were sufficient, assured and predictable and hoped that an acceptable solution could be found.

79. Mr. QUIÑONES (Dominican Republic)\*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, reiterated the importance the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region attached to the Agency's technical cooperation activities, not simply because of the contribution they made to their development but also because technical assistance was one of the pillars of the NPT, an instrument to which all the States in the region were party.

80. It was essential to ensure that the resources for the technical cooperation programme were sufficient, assured and predictable. GRULAC welcomed the report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15 but required more time to study it before making its comments. The Group hoped that a process of consultation involving the broad participation of Member States would be initiated before the preparation of further documentation on the issue.

81. Mr. KASSEM (Egypt) said that his country attached great importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities and to its statutory development role.

82. Those activities were assuming greater importance than ever before because of the growth in interest by Member States, especially the developing countries, in Agency technical cooperation aimed at the use of nuclear energy for electricity generation and other peaceful applications. The increase in

demand was coming at a time when the financial resources of the Agency were under unprecedented pressure; activities in the field of safeguards, nuclear safety and security were expanding although the Agency's budget continued to be based on the principle of zero real growth.

83. Technical cooperation activities were the only one of the Agency's three pillars to be funded from voluntary contributions outside the Regular Budget. There was an urgent need to rectify that imbalance and the report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15 was an important first step. Egypt hoped it would be followed by practical action to launch serious consultations with a view to finding an acceptable solution as soon as possible.

84. Mr. AMANO (Japan) said that his country placed great value on the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy through the Agency's technical cooperation activities because they offered significant socio-economic benefits for sustainable development, especially in the areas of food and agriculture, human health and nuclear safety and security. Thus, Japan had made consistent efforts to pay its full share of the TCF on time, contributing more than 20% of the entire TCF in 2006.

85. Japan was grateful to the Secretariat for its efforts to explore ways of ensuring that resources for the technical cooperation programme were sufficient, assured and predictable. To that end, and in line with the concept of shared responsibility as stipulated in resolution GC(50)/RES/12, all Member States should promote effective use of the due account and the rate of attainment mechanisms as well as implementation of the NPCs.

86. Lastly, Japan attached importance to the Agency's continuing efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of technical cooperation activities through the establishment of strategic partnerships with international and regional development organizations.

87. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic ) said the Agency's technical cooperation programme was an important tool for promoting regional and interregional development activities for Member States, particularly the developing countries. A basic role of the Agency in accordance with its Statute was the transfer of peaceful nuclear knowledge and technology to Member States through the technical cooperation programme, and it was essential to ensure that resources for the programme were sufficient, assured and predictable. His delegation was confident that there was general agreement among Member States in that regard, although differences might exist regarding the ways and means of achieving that objective.

88. The information contained in the report was valuable, but there was a need to know the true impact of zero real growth on the budget as well as the implications of incorporating the TCF into the Regular Budget and of any amendments that might be needed to the Statute and the Financial Regulations.

89. The suggested possible measures for strengthening the TCF should be discussed in an open-ended committee established by the Board of Governors in coordination with the Secretariat.

90. Syria welcomed the suggestion to release funding within the TCF by focusing on less technologically advanced Member States. Such a step would be consistent with Article III.A.2 of the Statute provided that it did not reduce the benefits from the technical cooperation programme.

91. Aware of the difficulties in addressing the issue and noting that previous efforts to find a solution had not met with success, his delegation considered that more consultations were required. Syria, for its part, would cooperate with the Secretariat and Member States to achieve the goal of sufficient, assured and predictable resources for technical cooperation. His delegation called on the Secretariat to keep the matter on the Board's agenda until a solution was found.

92. Mr. JOHANSEN (Norway) said that the Agency had an important role to play in promoting sustainable development and in contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

93. Commending the Agency's work in various fields of technical cooperation, he noted that development assistance had to be recipient-driven and integrated in development plans. Agency assistance had to be well coordinated with the assistance of other development institutions, such as WHO and FAO, and Norway was pleased with progress along those lines.

94. Norway placed particular emphasis on the need to focus on the least developed countries.

95. It was essential that the technical cooperation programme received adequate and predictable funding. Norway was pleased to note that the rate of attainment was higher than ever before and would welcome a debate on whether it should be raised still further.

96. Mr. LI Sen (China) said that technical cooperation was an important statutory activity of the Agency and for many years had played a positive role in human health, agriculture, water resource management and social and economic development.

97. The TCF, which guaranteed the proper delivery of technical assistance, should be based on sufficient, assured and predictable resources. China noted that, in conformity with the relevant General Conference resolutions, the Secretariat had taken a number of steps to ensure such resources. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue along those lines and consult with Member States in seeking new solutions. Also, China called on Member States to support the Agency's technical cooperation work by making their TCF contributions in full and on time.

98. Mr. SERGEEV (Russian Federation) expressed his country's reservations about abandoning the current system of voluntary contributions to the TCF. Experience showed that making such contributions compulsory would not guarantee their payment in full and on time. Also, many donors might lose interest in making additional voluntary resources available for projects included in the Regular Budget. The result might be a negative impact on the liquidity of the TCF.

99. Russia believed that the TCF was functioning satisfactorily as it was; its method of funding did not require any radical changes, only fine tuning. Document GOV/INF/2007/15 contained a number of interesting recommendations in that regard. There was no need to take hasty decisions — all the ideas had to be carefully analysed in terms of their effectiveness. His delegation was prepared to take an active part in discussions on the topic.

100. Ms. QUINTERO CORREA (Colombia) said that her delegation needed more time to analyse and study the report in view of its late issuance. Technical cooperation was not only one of the objectives and principles stipulated in the United Nations Charter, but one of the pillars of the disarmament and non-proliferation regime established in the NPT and the Agency's Statute. It was therefore paradoxical that there were not sufficient, assured and predictable resources to implement the technical cooperation programme.

101. Technical cooperation was a vehicle for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The many applications of nuclear energy in fields essential to development gave the Agency an increasingly important role in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and in promoting the transfer of nuclear knowledge and technology for peaceful purposes.

102. Her delegation was keen to participate in discussions by the Board on ways of securing more resources for the technical cooperation programme.



103. Mr. DRAPER (United Kingdom) welcomed the Secretariat's achievements thus far in applying the rate of attainment and due account mechanisms and in implementing the NPCs, which had contributed towards increasing funding for the technical cooperation programme.

104. Regarding section C of the report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15, the United Kingdom particularly highlighted the impact of the United Nations 'delivering as one' reform initiative. It actively supported the establishment of coordinated funding mechanisms at country level as a means of ensuring multiyear resources for unified United Nations programmes. Together with the move towards expanding new funding sources for the United Nations, that could present new opportunities for TCF contributions. His delegation encouraged the Secretariat to explore fully all options in those areas.

105. Overall, the report was a good starting point for the consideration of technical cooperation and wider Agency funding issues under the so-called 20/20 review looking ahead to the nature and scope of the Agency's programme up to 2020.

106. Mr. CARON (France) said the Agency's technical cooperation activities should have the resources to implement an ambitious programme and those resources should allow the programme to be run efficiently and responsibly. France understood the concerns expressed in the report, and by many Member States, about ensuring sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TCF to ensure its optimal functioning.

107. Of the measures proposed by the Director General, France particularly supported those with proven effectiveness, such as full and timely payment of contribution to the TCF and increasing the rate of attainment. Focusing on less economically and technologically advanced countries also seemed an interesting proposal. He noted that the report failed to mention the possibility of improving management with a view to optimizing the use of available resources.

108. Mr. PARK Chung-Taek (Republic of Korea) said that incorporating the TCF into the Regular Budget, or making contributions to the TCF mandatory, was the least attractive of the options proposed in document GOV/INF/2007/15. His delegation was concerned about the appropriateness of changing the nature of TCF contributions from voluntary to mandatory and felt that there was still room to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the technical cooperation programme.

109. The Republic of Korea attached great importance to the technical cooperation programme which, as an integral part of the Agency's statutory mandate, aimed to contribute to the tangible social and economic development and scientific advancement of developing countries. In an effort to contribute to those goals, the Republic of Korea had increased its financial and non-financial contributions, including through the holding of seminars, workshops and training courses. He urged the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to promote in-kind contributions from traditional and non-traditional donors.

110. Mr. CAMERON (Australia) joined others in fully supporting technical cooperation as one of the three pillars upon which the Agency was based. It was essential to ensure that the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology were made available to meet the critical needs of developing countries. Also, the technical cooperation programme played a pivotal role in fulfilling the commitments made under Article IV of the NPT. Australia had demonstrated its commitment to the programme over the past 25 years by making its TCF contributions in full and on time and by providing extrabudgetary support to regional activities.

111. While appreciating the Secretariat's work in setting out the various options to ensure funding for technical cooperation, his delegation noted that many of the options implied that 'sufficient resources' were synonymous with 'continually increasing funds'. It was essential to study more

carefully the ways in which access to assistance through TCF-funded activities could be better prioritized to ensure that the Member States with the greatest need were targeted and that access to technical cooperation by other countries was based on their stage of development, including in nuclear technology.

112. Since document GOV/INF/2007/15 had only just been released, Australia encouraged the Secretariat to allow more time for further consultations on the issue.

113. Ms. MOLABA (South Africa) reiterated her country's concern that the resources available to technical cooperation were not sufficient. The matter under discussion was not new; developing countries had for many years stressed the need for the technical cooperation budget to be increased. The lack of adequate resources could be attributed to the low rate of pledges to the TCF, a situation that should be addressed without delay.

114. Technical cooperation projects were more than just political commitments; they constituted important building blocks to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Agency's projects addressed many of those Goals, especially in the areas of water, environmental sustainability, combating disease, hunger and poverty, maternal health and child health. To achieve the Goals on time, the Agency's technical assistance programme must continue to expand for the benefit of developing and, in particular, the least developed countries.

115. Member States should evaluate carefully the options outlined in the report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15 to ensure that resources for the technical cooperation programme were sufficient, assured and predictable. It was appropriate, indeed essential, that the options be considered within the context of the review of the Agency's future programmatic and budgetary requirements in the next decade for which the Director General had proposed to engage a high level panel of experts.

116. Ms. LISTYOWATI (Indonesia) stressed the great importance of technical cooperation as a basic instrument for promoting the peaceful uses of atomic energy for sustainable social and economic development in Member States. The Agency's budget should be distributed in a more balanced manner so as to reflect the equal importance of its three pillars and Indonesia underlined the importance of sufficient, assured and predictable resources for technical cooperation. It was important that efforts to that end did not impose any additional financial burden on Member States, especially developing countries.

117. The various approaches proposed in the report required in-depth study by Member States before they could be addressed adequately by the Board. The Secretariat needed to discuss those approaches carefully with Member States so as to receive more input and guidance on how the Agency should move forward. Indonesia looked forward to the Secretariat's 20/20 review of the Agency's future programmatic and budgetary requirements up to the year 2020 and felt that options for strengthening the financing of the technical cooperation programme should be included in it.

118. Ms. CETTO (Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation) thanked members for their renewed expressions of support for the technical cooperation programme, which were very reassuring. The Secretariat was committed to continue working on the issue of technical cooperation funding within the scope of the 20/20 review announced by the Director General.

119. Once members had had time to carefully analyse and consider the report contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15, their feedback would be very much appreciated.

120. The CHAIRMAN, summing up, said that several members had expressed their appreciation for the Secretariat's report on technical cooperation programme resources contained in document GOV/INF/2007/15 and had expressed the view that because of the late issuance of the report more time was needed to study and analyse the report.

121. Several members had stressed that technical cooperation activities were an integral component of the Agency's mandate under its Statute, a means for technology transfer and an efficient tool for accelerating sustainable development. They had emphasized that balance should be maintained among the three pillars of the Agency, and that technical cooperation activities should be funded and implemented in the same way as all other Agency activities. They had also emphasized that if resources for the technical cooperation activities were made mandatory those resources would be more assured and predictable.

122. Several members had expressed the view that a unified United Nations approach for development at the national level might have implications on the delivery of the Agency's technical cooperation programme and had requested the Secretariat to consider carefully any impact in that regard.

123. Some other members had expressed support for building up strategic partnerships with international and regional development organizations, and the move towards new funding sources for the United Nations, as promoting new opportunities for the funding of technical cooperation activities. Some members had stated that the report was a good starting point for the consideration of technical cooperation and wider Agency funding issues under the 20/20 review.

124. Some had expressed support for the application of existing mechanisms, such as the rate of attainment and due account mechanisms as well as the implementation of NPCs, which were seen as contributing towards increasing funding for the technical cooperation programme.

125. Several members had requested the Secretariat to continue its work in consultation with Member States to establish mechanisms that would ensure achieving the goal of making technical cooperation resources sufficient, assured and predictable. Some members had emphasized that the financing of technical cooperation activities should be in line with the concept of 'shared responsibility'.

126. The Chairman's summing-up was accepted.

**(c) Personnel matters**

**(i) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat**  
(GOV/2007/46)

**(ii) Women in the Secretariat**  
(GOV/2007/47)

127. The CHAIRMAN invited members to discuss the two issues under the agenda sub-item, both of which appeared on the agenda pursuant to General Conference resolution GC(49)/RES/16, together.

128. Ms. NILSSON (Director, Office of Nuclear Security), speaking as the Agency's focal point for gender concerns, said that the report contained in GOV/2007/47 described the progress made in pursuing a higher representation of women in the Professional and higher categories during the period July 2005 to July 2007. It was recommended that the Board take note of the report, call on all Member States which had not yet done so to appoint points of contact for the recruitment of women and submit the report to the General Conference for its consideration.

129. The Secretariat placed special emphasis on recruiting women for Professional and higher posts whilst maintaining the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence and integrity. Through those efforts, the representation of women in those categories was now 22.5%, an increase of 2.4% since July 2005 and 4% since July 2003.

130. An important contributing factor to that progress was the joint efforts of the Secretariat and Member States' points of contact for the recruitment of women. The low number of well-qualified females applying to vacant posts had earlier been identified as one of the main reasons for the low number of female Professional staff in the Secretariat. Now, the share of applications from well-qualified women had increased from 16.7% in July 2005 to 24.5% in July 2007.

131. The point of contact network included points of contact from 47 Member States, with whom five meetings had been held. Together with the Secretariat, they had been able to build up a network of 500 institutions from which suitably qualified women candidates could be encouraged to apply for vacant posts. Through the communication system established, information about vacancy notices was made available on a regular basis. The network had also helped to publicize the Agency's work in such a way as to show female professionals how interesting and attractive work at the Agency could be. The network had also been helpful in arranging recruitment missions.

132. Another important step forward had been the Director General's approval of an Agency gender equality and mainstreaming policy. The policy would be integrated step by step into the Agency's operations and programmes.

133. There was still a long way to go before achieving the goal of gender equality. The Secretariat would continue its efforts to increase the number of female staff in the Professional and higher categories. The continued support of Member States in that regard, which had shown that joint efforts could contribute positively towards those goals, was essential. The Secretariat strongly urged all States that had not done so to nominate a point of contact for the recruitment of women and to join forces with the Secretariat in reaching the Agency's equality goals.

134. Mr. ELDIN ELAMIN (Sudan)\*, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noted the Secretariat's continuing efforts to improve its recruitment of women and of staff members from developing countries and from other Group of 77 States which were unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat.

135. While noting that, during the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007, 30.7% of all 163 appointments had come from developing Member States, the Group remained concerned that that proportion was still inadequate. It therefore encouraged the Secretariat to exert more effort to address the situation.

136. The Group of 77 and China noted the Secretariat's announcement that, as a result of staff retirement and application of the rotation policy, 52%, or 478, of the regular posts would become vacant by the year 2014. The Group urged the Secretariat to take advantage of that opportunity and work with Member States to implement fully the General Conference resolutions on recruitment and staffing.

137. As regards the recruitment of women, the Group noted the points of contact meetings and looked forward to their positive results. Also, the Group emphasized that implementation of the General Conference resolution on women in the Secretariat should not prejudice implementation of the resolution on staffing of the Agency's Secretariat (parts B and A, respectively, of resolution GC(49)/RES/16).

138. Mr. QUIÑONES (Dominican Republic)\*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the Group noted with satisfaction that the detailed implementation of General Conference resolution GC(49)/RES/16.A was regularly reviewed by senior management to ensure that appointments were in line with the policy of paying special attention to applicants from developing Member States and other unrepresented or under-represented Member States. It also welcomed the improvements in the

Agency's automated recruitment and selection procedures and the fact that the Secretariat had been able to conduct a greater number of interviews using videoconferencing facilities.

139. The Group noted with concern, however, that there had been only marginal changes in the representation of developing Member States. The level of representation of the Latin American and Caribbean region, for instance, had remained unchanged. GRULAC therefore urged the Secretariat to publicize the Agency's work and employment opportunities in developing countries, for example by organizing workshops, and to expand its fellowship programme for the Member States concerned.

140. Although the number of women in the Professional and higher categories had grown by 2.4% since July 2005, the Agency was still among the organizations of the United Nations system with the lowest representation of women in those categories. However, GRULAC was pleased to note that a comprehensive gender policy, aimed at achieving gender equality in staffing and at mainstreaming gender considerations in the Secretariat's programmes and operations, had been approved on 10 May 2007. It looked forward to receiving instructions and guidelines regarding the integrated implementation of that policy.

141. GRULAC noted with satisfaction that special attention continued to be paid to the assessment of women candidates in the pre-screening and selection process for posts throughout the Secretariat and that efforts were being made to give young professionals the opportunity to acquire work experience in nuclear technology and applications. It urged the Secretariat to continue publicizing the Agency's work and encouraging applications by well-qualified women candidates for Professional posts. In that context, it strongly supported the funding of fellowships and internships for young women from developing countries.

142. Ms. GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE (Canada) said that the Agency continued to face significant challenges in increasing the representation of women professionals. While Canada was pleased to note that the number of women in the Professional and higher categories had risen by 2.4% since July 2005, it remained concerned that the Agency was still among the organizations of the United Nations system with the lowest representation of women staff. Moreover, while it was encouraged by the steps taken by the Secretariat since 2005, for instance in the area of recruitment practices, and by efforts to raise awareness of the issue among Member States, her country felt that more needed to be done. It had established a point of contact for the recruitment of women and encouraged other Member States to follow suit and to support the Secretariat's efforts to expand the representation of women in the Agency.

143. Mr. JOHANSEN (Norway) said that women's influence in decision-making processes contributed to a fairer distribution of power in society and the world's democracies. Norway, which generally scored high on gender equality, recognized that affirmative action was necessary to promote change and that legislation and strategic campaigns were vital tools in that regard.

144. The Agency was still among the organizations of the United Nations system with the lowest representation of women staff. However, the Secretariat was now taking affirmative action and the increase of 2.4% in women in the Professional and higher categories since 2005 was a small step in the right direction. Although Member State involvement might be necessary to sustain the positive trend, responsibility for ensuring a demonstrable statistical increase in the number of women holding senior policy- and decision-making posts lay primarily with the Secretariat.

145. There was a widespread wasteful tendency to overlook women's qualifications and hence to deprive them of opportunities. Moreover, women were often expected to be the primary caregivers and housekeepers at home while pursuing their career. However, they continued to make great strides in the workplace, government and society in general, and Norway was pleased to see that the Agency was strongly supporting that important trend.

146. Mr. LAGOS KOLLER (Chile) said that Chile was particularly interested in the question of equal gender representation in the workplace. In recent years, it had enacted a series of laws aimed at protecting and promoting women's rights and facilitating their access to the labour market, thereby enhancing the country's performance in the area of gender equality. He therefore welcomed the positive trend discernible in the Agency and the adoption of a comprehensive gender policy in May 2007 aimed at achieving gender equality in staffing and at mainstreaming gender considerations in the Secretariat's programmes and activities. He hoped that the combined efforts of the Agency and its Member States would lead to equitable gender and geographical representation in the Secretariat. Better representation of women at all levels would make the Agency a more modern and balanced institution.

147. Mr. LI Sen (China) commended the Secretariat on its adoption of appropriate measures to implement the General Conference resolution regarding staffing and gender representation. It had taken steps to increase personnel from developing countries at senior and policy-making levels and in Professional posts requiring specific skills and had made progress in increasing the representation of women in the Secretariat. As the sole intergovernmental organization in the nuclear field, the Agency played a major role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries. Increasing personnel from developing countries was an important means of attaining that objective.

148. Mr. MINTY (South Africa) welcomed the Agency's efforts to encourage candidates from developing countries to apply for advertised posts and commended the Secretariat on its distribution of projections of expected vacancies. As there was still an imbalance in the regional distribution of posts in the Professional and higher categories, he called on African countries to establish a contact point for recruitment to assist the Agency in its outreach efforts.

149. South African candidates had benefited from the Agency's Junior Professional Office programme and young scientists had acquired expertise in all facets of nuclear science from the World Nuclear University.

150. He welcomed the Agency's efforts to achieve gender balance but remained concerned that the representation of women in the Secretariat was still the lowest in the United Nations system. The Agency should explore all avenues to identify qualified women candidates, especially for posts in the Professional and higher categories. He agreed, however, that the representation of women in certain branches of the natural sciences, engineering and technology was also low in the private sector and academia. The number of women graduates in nuclear-related areas would remain limited in the foreseeable future. Member States should therefore encourage women to pursue scientific careers, especially in the nuclear industry.

151. In South Africa, women's involvement in science, engineering and technology was weakest at the critical research level. In 2003 the Government had launched the "Women in Nuclear South Africa" project to promote the availability of a pool of women experts in the nuclear field. Training and workshops for women were organized and global interaction with other women in the nuclear field was facilitated. The South African Department of Science and Technology had introduced special awards to celebrate women in science. In general, South Africa's entrenchment of gender equality in its bill of rights acknowledged that gender discrimination could and must be 'unlearned'.

152. In the declaration adopted by the extraordinary session of the Conference of African Ministers of Science and Technology in November 2006, the Ministers had committed themselves to promoting and facilitating greater participation of women in the advancement of science and technology, for example through networks of women scientists. The Ministers of Education of the African Union had also recognized the need to enhance the participation of girls and women in science and technology

and related careers by including gender as one of the seven areas of focus of the plan of action for the second decade of education for Africa (2006-2015).

153. Ms. NILSSON (Director, Office of Nuclear Security) assured the Board that the Secretariat would continue to reach out to well-qualified women through the network of points of contact and would carefully consider all proposals aimed at reaching the goal of gender equality more quickly.

154. Mr. WALLER (Deputy Director General for Management) said that, according to the Secretariat's statistics, a woman was appointed in 84% of cases where the pool of candidates for a post included well-qualified external women candidates. When women who were appointed were asked how they had heard of the vacancy, 70% replied that they had seen it on the Agency website and only 6% that they had learned about it from their government. The points of contact mechanism was therefore very important. To date a total of 47 Member States had joined the initiative, including 25 States that were members of the Board. Their points of contact had provided names of universities, organizations and institutes in the Member States that were potential sources of well-qualified women, and he attributed much of the 2.4% increase in the representation of women in the Secretariat to the impact of the mechanism. He therefore urged Member States that had not yet done so to join the initiative.

155. The CHAIRMAN, summing up, said that several members had expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for its continuing efforts to improve the recruitment of women and of staff members from developing countries and from other Member States that were unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat.

156. Several Member States had expressed concern at the level of representation of developing countries and under-represented countries in the staff of the Secretariat, and at the slow pace of achieving gender balance, and had asked that efforts be reinforced.

157. While there had been an encouraging increase in the proportion of female staff in the Professional and higher categories in the Secretariat, involving an increase of 2.4% since July 2005 to a current total proportion of 22.5%, concern had been expressed that the proportion remained relatively low.

158. Member States had emphasized the importance of increasing outreach activities funded from the Regular Budget and aimed at young female professionals, the provision of fellowships and the Junior Professional Officer programme.

159. Several members had noted the introduction by the Secretariat of a gender equality and mainstreaming policy and also the meetings of points of contact for the recruitment of women and the building up of a network of institutions from which suitably qualified female candidates could be attracted. They looked forward to positive results from that joint effort by the Secretariat and Member States.

160. The Secretariat had emphasized that increasing the number of well-qualified female applicants was key to improving gender balance in the short term. It had stressed the importance of the active engagement of Member States both with regard to the recruitment of staff from developing Member States and in identifying suitable female candidates.

161. The Secretariat had also drawn attention to its practice, in cases of comparable qualifications for a post, of giving special consideration to female candidates and, in cases where external female applicants were among those candidates rated 'well qualified' and an external candidate selected, of selecting a woman for the position in a very high percentage of cases.

162. He took it that the Board wished to take note of the information contained in documents GOV/2007/46 and GOV/2007/47, which would also be before the General Conference.

163. It was so decided.

## 9. Any other business

164. Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom was keen to see the ideas set out in document GOV/INF/2007/11 entitled “Possible New Framework for the Utilization of Nuclear Energy: Options for Assurance of Supply of Nuclear Fuel” further developed in a constructive discussion at a future meeting of the Board. It was an area of work with the potential to deliver benefits in terms of both energy security and non-proliferation. The United Kingdom continued to develop ideas for the enrichment bonds described in Annex 12 to the document and would warmly welcome contributions, particularly from countries that were considering the possibility of embarking on a nuclear power programme.

165. The British Government was about to introduce changes to the immigration rules applicable to students applying to study in the country. From 1 November 2007 applicants from non-residents of the European Economic Area for postgraduate studies in specific limited subject areas relating to sensitive counter-proliferation studies would be required to apply for a certificate under the new Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). The overriding aim was to prevent access to sensitive technology and not to bar genuine students. It would be a ‘light-touch’ transparent scheme entailing a minimum administrative burden and there were no plans to introduce charges. His country remained committed to providing access to high-quality education for all nationalities.

166. The United Kingdom encouraged other Member States to take similar measures and would be happy to provide them with further details on request.

167. Mr. OTHMAN (Syrian Arab Republic) thanked the Secretariat for its preparation of Board documents and the Chairman for his wise stewardship of the proceedings which had promoted a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding.

168. It had been a pleasure for the Syrian Arab Republic to serve with other Board members for the past two years, during which it had sought to advance the Agency’s aims as set forth in its Statute and, in particular, to promote the interests and priorities of the developing Member States of the Agency.

169. Mr. AMANO (Japan) said that the report on the nuclear fuel supply assurance concept (document GOV/INF/2007/11) highlighted a number of issues that required further consideration. It was important to establish an effective framework for nuclear fuel supply assurance that was acceptable to as many States as possible. Japan looked forward to hearing the views of States that were interested in benefiting from such a framework and to making a positive contribution to the discussion.

170. Mr. JOHANSEN (Norway) expressed strong support for plans to strengthen the Agency’s management by enhancing the leadership skills of the Secretariat’s executive team. Norway intended to contribute 50 000 euros to the leadership training programme and was particularly pleased to note that the programme would be broadened to encompass section heads, who had a crucial role to play in relation to both staff and senior management. It hoped that the financial contribution would give the Agency the means to become one of the most modern, service-oriented, competent and knowledge-based organizations in the United Nations system and that it would help to build a



mentality based on team spirit and cooperation between departments so that the Agency could carry out its threefold mandate in a truly balanced way.

171. Norway's membership of the Board was coming to an end. It had been a pleasure and a privilege to work with other members and the Secretariat to find solutions to some of the world's most pressing nuclear issues. Norway had been particularly pleased to witness the presentation to the Director General in Oslo of the Nobel Peace Prize which he had shared with the Agency.

## – Tributes

172. The CHAIRMAN bade farewell to colleagues who were due to leave Vienna or who had recently departed: the Governor Mr. John Malcolm Macgregor of the United Kingdom and the Resident Representatives Mr. Toufiq Ali of Bangladesh, Mr. Christian-Claude Beke-Dassys of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Christian Braun of Luxembourg and Mr. Nguyen Truong Giang of Vietnam.

**The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.**