

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1207<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
GOV/OR.1207

Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities

# Board of Governors

**GOV/OR.1207**

Issued: June 2008

**Restricted Distribution**

Original: English

---

**For official use only**

## Record of the 1207<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 2 June 2008, at 3.15 p.m.*

### Contents

Item of the agenda <sup>1</sup>	Paragraphs
3 The Annual Report for 2007 ( <i>continued</i> )	1–96
4 Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities	97–178
(a) Technical Cooperation Report for 2007	
(b) Application of the due account mechanism and its effectiveness	

---

<sup>1</sup> GOV/2008/23.



## 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 HORVATIĆ		Vice-Chairman (Croatia)
Mr THERECKA	_____	Albania
Mr KHELIFI		Algeria
Mr CURIA		Argentina
Mr KRUSE		Australia
Ms SELLNER		Austria
Mr BAZOBERRY		Bolivia
Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO		Brazil
Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE		Canada
Mr LAGOS KOLLER		Chile
Mr LIU Yongde		China
Mr ZEBIĆ		Croatia
Mr MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA		Ecuador
Ms SINEGIORGIS		Ethiopia
Ms KAUPPI		Finland
Mr CARON		France
Mr GOTTWALD	}	Germany
Mr SANDTNER		
Ms AMOAH		Ghana
Mr KUMAR		India
Mr ALSHARIA		Iraq
Mr CONLON		Ireland
Mr GHISI		Italy
Mr AMANO		Japan
Ms GREIČIUVIENĖ		Lithuania
Mr JUAREZ		Mexico
Mr ZNIBER		Morocco
Mr OSAISAI		Nigeria
Mr ALI	}	Pakistan
Mr SHAHBAZ		
Mr MONTEALEGRE		Philippines
Mr ZHGUTOV		Russian Federation
Mr AL-TAIFI		Saudi Arabia
Mr WRIGHT		South Africa
Mr STEINMANN		Switzerland
Mr PANUPONG		Thailand
Mr SMITH	}	United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Mr DRAPER		Northern Ireland
Mr SCHULTE		United States of America

---

**Attendance** (continued)

Mr ELBARADEI

Ms CETTO

Mr CZERVENY

Mr ANING

Director General

Deputy Director General, Department  
of Technical Cooperation

Director, Office of External Relations  
and Policy Coordination

Secretary of the Board

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

Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARASIA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
Assistance Convention	Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
AU-PATTEC	African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
BSS	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
CPF	Country Programme Framework
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Early Notification Convention	Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIF	Generation IV International Forum
GNEP	Global Nuclear Energy Partnership
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HEU	high-enriched uranium
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IPF	indicative planning figure
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
IT	information technology
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
LDC	least developed country

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

LEU	low-enriched uranium
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NPCs	national participation costs
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PATTEC	Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign
PCMF	Programme Cycle Management Framework
R&D	research and development
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SIT	sterile insect technique
SMR	small and medium-sized reactor
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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

## **1. The Annual Report for 2007 (continued)** (GOV/2008/10, plus additional information available on GovAtom)

1. Mr DRAPER (United Kingdom) said that for the Agency 2007 had been a momentous year in which there had been progress in many areas, and the Director General and his staff were to be congratulated on their achievements.
2. The United Kingdom was pleased with the Agency's record in assisting Member States in the area of nuclear security, which was clearly continuing to be recognized as a very important area. His country was also pleased that in 2007 voluntary contributions made to the Nuclear Security Fund had reached an all-time high for a single year — over US \$20 million, of which about 20% had been accounted for by the United Kingdom.
3. Although such support for the Fund was commendable, there was a long-term need to find a more predictable means of funding a much greater part of what had become a core task of the Agency. Meanwhile, his country would like to see Member States' support for the Fund increasing further.
4. Mr SANDTNER (Germany) said that, in the context of the steadily expanding assistance being provided by the Secretariat to Member States in the area of energy planning, his country welcomed the completion of a pilot project for distance learning using an Internet training package, which would facilitate the dissemination of knowledge in a cost-effective manner.
5. Germany, which attached great importance to nuclear knowledge management, intended to host further Agency-organized workshops on that subject. It was grateful to the Agency for having produced a German version of the INIS Thesaurus.
6. His delegation welcomed the start of work on the establishment, within the Agency, of an international seismic safety centre. The recent tragedy in China was a reminder of the necessity of intensive international efforts to address the issue of safety in the event of severe earthquakes.
7. Germany, which had carried out extensive remediation work following the discontinuation of uranium mining activities, welcomed the start of efforts to draft a code of best practices covering the ionizing radiation-related aspects of uranium mining. Such a set of best practices would be especially helpful for States wishing to establish a uranium mining industry.
8. Germany, which attached great importance to cooperation between the Agency and FAO, would like to see the fruitful partnership between the two organizations continue.
9. Mr KRUSE (Australia) said that, while the quality of the draft Annual Report for 2007 was generally excellent, the Overview did not everywhere accurately reflect the balance in the main part of the document. It made no reference to the Agency's waste management and decommissioning activities under "Safety and Security" even though, in the main part of the document, considerable space was devoted to those activities; conversely, the Technology section of the Overview included a summary of waste management and decommissioning developments, but those developments had occurred mainly outside the Agency framework and were not covered in the main part of the document. In the Agency's Annual Reports, it was important that the Overview be consistent with the main text and that the emphasis be placed primarily on activities undertaken within the Agency framework, with due recognition of the technology-related developments occurring outside that framework.

10. Regarding the June 2007 meeting of technical and legal experts on experience in implementing the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, referred to in paragraph 50 of the Overview, his delegation considered that the sentence “The meeting recognized that differences in the level of implementation of the Code’s provisions among Member States were largely dependent on the availability of resources and expertise.” overstated the view of the meeting participants as summarized in the chairman’s report.

11. Mr AMANO (Japan), having expressed condolences with the victims of the earthquakes that had occurred recently in China, said that his country considered enhancement of the seismic safety of nuclear installations to be an important international issue. Following the earthquake in the area of the Kashiwaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in July 2007, it had shared its latest seismic safety-related knowledge with two Agency teams and, in fora like the Senior Regulators’ Meeting held during the General Conference’s 2007 session, with the international community. During the current month, it would be hosting an Agency workshop on international experience and lessons learned with regard to seismic safety. Also, it had decided to make an extrabudgetary contribution in support of the Agency’s seismic safety-related activities.

12. More and more countries wished to extend their nuclear power programmes or to embark on nuclear power generation and, in that connection, had high expectations of the Agency, which was supporting studies such as those being conducted within the INPRO, GIF and GNEP frameworks — studies in which Japan was participating very actively. Recognizing the importance of adequate national infrastructures for safe and reliable nuclear power generation, his country had decided to make an extrabudgetary contribution in support of the relevant Agency activities.

13. Japan attached great importance to the Agency’s safeguards activities, which were at present particularly in the focus of public attention in connection with the nuclear programmes of the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it would continue to cooperate closely with other Member States and the Secretariat in increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of those activities.

14. Japan, which had made both financial and human resources available for PACT, would like the Secretariat to carry out an interim appraisal of — and report to Member States on — the results achieved by PACT so far, the financial status of PACT, and the plans for PACT’s future.

15. Mr CARON (France) said that, as made clear by the draft Annual Report, there were growing expectations regarding nuclear power as a safe and competitive energy source that would help in meeting the ever greater demand for energy worldwide and in combating climate change. In that context, the Agency had a major role to play, under its Statute, in promoting international cooperation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. For its part, France stood ready, in accordance with its NPT obligations, to share its recognized expertise with all countries that in good faith honoured their non-proliferation commitments and pursued their nuclear activities exclusively for peaceful purposes.

16. France had been participating in the efforts under way within the Agency to identify the milestones that needed to be attained by countries wishing to establish infrastructures for safe and reliable nuclear power generation, and it intended to contribute further to related activities of the Agency at the regional and the national level. Appropriate legislative frameworks were an essential element of such infrastructures, and the Secretariat was to be commended for the efforts made by it during 2007 in helping countries to draft the necessary legal texts.

17. If nuclear power generation was to expand responsibly, in particular with full regard for non-proliferation requirements, further thought would have to be given to the establishment of credible nuclear fuel supply assurance mechanisms. France would continue to participate in the examination of proposals relating to multilateral assurances, and especially to the creation of a ‘fuel bank’. In its view,

all the proposals that had been made should be examined. In participating in their examination, it would aim for pragmatic solutions which could yield true added value, took account of industrial realities and met the highest safety requirements — all keys to acceptance by the public.

18. France, which was among the signatures of the agreement on R&D projects relating to sodium-cooled fast reactors mentioned in paragraph 8 of the Overview of the draft Annual Report, attached great importance to the work currently being done to develop innovative nuclear power technologies that were safer and more competitive, that were more economical as regards uranium use, that produced less long-lived radioactive waste and that — of course — were more proliferation-resistant. In that context, it welcomed the close coordination between GIF, which it was currently chairing, and INPRO.

19. Regarding paragraph 16 of the Nuclear Science section of the draft Annual Report, the administrative and technical elements of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization's programme were being put together rapidly. The headquarters agreement defining the modalities of joint programme implementation had been concluded with France, the host country, in November 2007.

20. France was pleased with the encouraging information provided in the draft Annual Report with regard to power reactor and research reactor safety and to safety in the transport of radioactive material.

21. France, the first country to host a full IRRS mission, had subsequently, together with the Secretariat, organized a seminar on the lessons learned, and recently it had requested the Secretariat to organize a follow-up audit for 2009.

22. Mr PANUPONG (Thailand) said that his country greatly appreciated the efforts of the Agency in support of the attainment of Millennium Development Goals and the advancement of human security.

23. As a country planning to introduce nuclear power, Thailand welcomed the Agency publications *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power* and *Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme*.

24. Thailand's National Power Development Plan for 2007–2021 called for the construction by 2020 of four nuclear power plants that would generate 4000 MW(e). A new governmental agency, the Nuclear Power Development Office, established earlier in 2008 by the Ministry of Energy, would be responsible for the overall management of nuclear power plant development in Thailand.

25. Thailand, which greatly appreciated the Agency's efforts in the area of nuclear safety, considered the Asian Nuclear Safety Network to be important for nuclear safety in its part of the world. On 16 and 17 June 2008 it would be hosting the ASEAN Plus Three Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety, the aim of which was to raise the level of awareness of the international nuclear safety and radioactive waste management standards in the ASEAN countries. It was grateful to the Secretariat for its support in that connection.

26. Thailand attached great importance to the joint activities of the Agency and FAO relating to applications of nuclear techniques in areas such as crop and livestock production, insect pest control and food quality and safety. It therefore wished the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture to be maintained.

27. Thailand, which attached great importance to the Agency's activities in the field of human health, welcomed the progress made within the framework of PACT. Its National Cancer Institute had

been collaborating closely with the Agency within the PACT framework and greatly appreciated the training activities supported from the IAEA Nobel Peace Prize Cancer and Nutrition Fund.

28. Mr JUAREZ (Mexico), welcoming the draft Annual Report, said that the Agency's activities continued to be vital in maximizing the benefits of using nuclear energy for economic and social development and preventing its non-peaceful utilization. The public was not well informed about those benefits, however, and it was therefore important that the Agency extend its efforts to bring them to the notice of the public, so as to help gain greater support and more financial resources for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. That was particularly important given the renewed interest in nuclear power due to growing energy shortages, higher fossil fuels prices and concern about greenhouse gas emissions. The dissemination of clearly understandable information about how nuclear power generation and other peaceful applications of nuclear energy could benefit humankind was essential.

29. In addition, it would be helpful if the Secretariat organized seminars on scientific and technical aspects of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for political and financial decision-makers in Member States. As scientific and technical aspects on one hand and political and financial aspects on the other were closely linked, a comprehensive understanding of all of them among such decision-makers would make for greater effectiveness within the Agency.

30. Mexico greatly appreciated what the Agency had done during the past 50 years with regard to the safety and security of nuclear materials and facilities, including its support for the development of relevant legislation.

31. With regard to the Agency's activities in the area of incident and emergency preparedness and response, in July 2008 a large-scale exercise would be taking place in Mexico to test the mechanisms for the exchange of information and the provision of assistance by States under the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention.

32. His country attached great importance to the Agency's verification activities, especially in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear programme and the DPRK nuclear issue.

33. His country would continue to support the activities of the Agency directed against nuclear and radiological terrorism, including its efforts to bring about universal application of the international legal instruments relating to the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities and of radioactive sources.

34. Mr MONTEALEGRE (Philippines) said that his Government, which was seriously considering the introduction of nuclear power as part of the country's energy mix, was at present placing the main emphasis on the creation of a core of nuclear professionals. In that connection, nuclear science was becoming a more prominent part of the curriculum at universities in the Philippines, which was participating very actively in the Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology (ANENT).

35. The Philippines, which would like to see the Agency doing more in the area of food security, had been participating in an RCA project for the identification of promising crop mutant varieties. Initial trials had been carried out in his country with mutant varieties of mung bean from Indonesia and Pakistan, and the results were encouraging. The Philippine National Seed Council was now conducting further trials in 11 different regions.

36. The Secretariat was to be congratulated on its efforts in support of PACT. The Director General's personal efforts to promote PACT were an illustration of the 'human face' of the Agency. The Philippines, which was interested in participating in regional arrangements for training in cancer radiotherapy, had requested the Secretariat to send an imPACT team to assess its national cancer plan.

37. The Philippines, which was a very active participant in the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN), had in December 2007 hosted an ANSN training seminar on emergency preparedness and response, and from 28 July to 1 August 2008 it would be hosting an ANSN training course on the control of effluent discharges. It considered the ANSN to be an important mechanism for fostering exchanges of nuclear safety-related information, experience, expertise and best practices in the Asian region as further States there became interested in nuclear power.

38. Mr WRIGHT (South Africa) said that among the Agency technical cooperation projects from which his country had benefited was one relating to application of the SIT together with other control techniques to combat the false codling moth. Through that project his country had in 2007 received rearing equipment and a cobalt-60 source for a mass rearing facility just constructed.

39. South Africa, which in December 2006 had hosted a special PACT event at which the Cape Town Declaration on Comprehensive Cancer Care in Africa had been adopted, was continuing to support PACT and had received an imPACT mission at a possible future centre of excellence. His country had benefited also from the know-how transferred and training provided through Agency technical cooperation projects on the preparation of fluorine-18-labelled fluorodeoxyglucose for clinical use in cancer patients and on the regular production of fluorine-18 in an accelerator.

40. Regarding the November 2007 break-in at the Pelindaba nuclear facility of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), on which his delegation had last reported to the Board in March 2008<sup>2</sup>, South Africa was in the process of implementing the proposals about security training and equipment made by the Agency team sent to Pelindaba after the incident at its invitation. In the opinion of his delegation, other Member States could benefit from South Africa's experience arising out of the incident.

41. Referring to paragraph 7 of the Management of Radioactive Waste section of the draft Annual Report, which dealt with the manufacture and successful testing by Necsa of a mobile hot cell for use in the conditioning of spent high-activity radioactive sources, he emphasized that the Necsa team in question was fully qualified to safely perform the conditioning operations.

42. Referring to paragraph 1 of that section, which dealt with an Agency workshop — held in Cape Town — on “the concept of a common framework linking radioactive waste types to disposal options in a manner that respects international safety standards and that takes into account local circumstances”, he said that his delegation was pleased that the conclusions from the workshop were to be used in the development of new safety standards publications.

43. Referring to paragraph 5 of that section, he said that South African experts had participated in the Demonstration of Safety Assessment during Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities (DeSa) project dealt with there.

44. Referring to paragraph 6 of the Nuclear Security section, which mentioned a subregional workshop on illicit nuclear trafficking information management and coordination held in South Africa in August 2007, he said that his delegation was of the view that the sharing with the Agency of information about illicit nuclear trafficking incidents could make a useful contribution to the global efforts to prevent non-State actors from obtaining access to nuclear material and equipment.

45. Mr KUMAR (India), welcoming the draft Annual Report, suggested that a reference to the Technical Cooperation Report for 2007 be inserted at the beginning of the Management of Technical Cooperation for Development section.

---

<sup>2</sup> See document GOV/OR.1201, para. 71.

46. India, which was a strong supporter of INPRO, hoped that the success of INPRO Phase One would be built on in Phase Two. It welcomed all Agency activities relating to advanced technologies such as accelerator-driven systems for the incineration of radioactive waste and high-temperature reactors for non-power applications like hydrogen production and, especially, nuclear desalination.

47. His country, which also welcomed the increasing interest of Member States in using thorium-based fuels, greatly appreciated the Secretariat's efforts relating to the exchange of information on thorium availability, the processing of thorium ores, and the manufacturing and proliferation-resistance aspects of the thorium fuel cycle.

48. In the context of the resurgence of nuclear power in many countries, it was heartening to learn from the Overview that the number of people trained by the Agency in energy system analysis had increased by more than 50% in 2007.

49. India, which believed that the Agency would have an important role to play in helping to realize the potential of nuclear power, welcomed the Secretariat's publications *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power* and *Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme* and would like to see the Secretariat issuing further such publications and also organizing related workshops and conferences. That would help to project a more balanced view of the Agency.

50. During 2007, India's nuclear power programme had continued to progress smoothly, maintaining its impeccable safety record. Unit 3 of the Kaiga Atomic Power Station had achieved criticality and begun commercial operation in May 2007, less than five and a half years from the date of the first pouring of concrete. Of the 19 reactors under construction in Asia in 2007, six were in India. Four of the six were in the SMR range, suitable for countries and regions with small electricity grids. His delegation would like the Secretariat to refer to them in its survey of the SMR scene in the final version of the Annual Report for 2007.

51. India attached great importance to the Agency's activities relating to nuclear applications, especially those conducted by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. The use of nuclear techniques to increase crop productivity under difficult conditions was assuming special importance with the recent surge in food prices and the widespread forecasts of persistent food shortages — and in the general context of the Agency's contribution to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

52. India, which attached great importance to the Agency's activities relating to nuclear fusion, welcomed the entry into force of the Agreement on the Establishment of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization for the Joint Implementation of the ITER Project. It also attached great importance to the Agency's activities relating to atomic and nuclear data, research reactors, accelerators, nuclear instrumentation, spectrometry, capacity-building, nuclear knowledge management, spent fuel and radioactive waste management, and the decommissioning of nuclear reactors.

53. As regards the safety of nuclear installations, India was pleased with the activities undertaken to promote safety culture in Member States and strengthen national regulatory infrastructures. In 2007, it had submitted its first national report for peer review by Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. The Secretariat was to be commended for initiating the current revision of the BSS.

54. In the area of nuclear security, India was continuing to host regional training courses and provide the services of experts.

55. India, which approved of the transparent and impartial nature of the Agency's nuclear verification activities, had participated very actively in the Advisory Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the Framework of the IAEA Statute.

56. Mr SHAHBAZ (Pakistan) said that his country attached great importance to the Agency's activities relating to nuclear technology transfer in the areas of power generation, food and agriculture, health, water resources management and industrial applications. Such promotional activities had made a significant contribution to socio-economic development in a large number of countries.

57. Pakistan, an energy-deficient country, considered that nuclear power had enormous potential for meeting its growing demand for electricity. The construction of its third nuclear power plant was progressing as planned, with the equipment installation phase already started.

58. Pakistan, which appreciated the Agency's efforts relating to the commercial application of irradiation as a quarantine treatment for agricultural commodities, had embarked on the construction of facilities for the irradiation of agricultural commodities intended for export, and the construction of such facility was in the final stages.

59. His Government had approved a national security action plan for developing a sustainable nuclear security system, and the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority was drawing up a programme for cooperation with the Agency in nuclear security training and the acquisition of detection equipment.

60. Mr ZNIBER (Morocco) said that his country welcomed the reported high levels of safety achieved in 2007 in the operation of nuclear power plants and research reactors and the transport of radioactive material. In order to maintain such high safety levels, it was essential that all parties engaged in the activities in question comply fully with the relevant international standards.

61. Morocco welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat to strengthen the corpus of Agency safety standards and facilitate the implementation of safety-related international instruments adopted under the auspices of the Agency. It also welcomed the IRRS and the other safety-related services provided by the Secretariat and would like to see more developing Member States benefiting from them.

62. Morocco attached great importance to Agency-organized training and information exchange activities directed towards the establishment of robust safety infrastructures and the strengthening of safety culture. In cooperation with the Agency, it was continuing to provide radiation protection training for specialists from French-speaking African countries, in particular through postgraduate courses, and it would welcome increased technical and financial support from the Agency for those training activities.

63. Morocco, which encouraged all initiatives aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and freeing the world of such weapons, had supported the activities undertaken to establish a credible verification system under the auspices of the Agency. It was now supporting the strengthening of the verification system.

64. Nuclear techniques were helping to meet vital needs in developing countries, and Morocco would therefore not like to see the efforts being made to strengthen nuclear safety and security and prevent nuclear weapons proliferation creating obstacles to the transfer of such techniques for peaceful purposes.

65. Mr ZEBIĆ (Croatia) said that, with people using more and more energy worldwide, access to adequate and reliable energy sources was becoming increasingly important for development. It was therefore necessary to consider expanding the use of nuclear power. Although large power reactors benefited from economies of scale, they were not necessarily suitable for countries with very limited investment capacities or small electricity grids. For nuclear power to be a feasible option for such countries, safe and affordable SMRs would be essential. Hence the importance of the SMR-related studies being conducted within the framework of international initiatives like GIF.

66. With the nuclear power sector facing a shortage of qualified staff, Croatia endorsed the European Commission's recommendation that education and training in nuclear science and engineering be strengthened.

67. Croatia, which was very rich in high-quality water resources, would like to see isotope techniques being used by all Member States for groundwater dating.

68. For obvious reasons, Croatia was very interested in the preservation of the marine environment. It therefore attached great importance to the work of the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratory and welcomed the Agency's collaboration with FAO and WHO in making use of information obtained through studies conducted by the Laboratory.

69. Given the importance that it attached to the Agency's technical cooperation activities, Croatia welcomed the high rate of TCF target attainment reached in 2007. A high rate of attainment was particularly welcome as the number of countries requiring Agency technical assistance was steadily increasing.

70. In the view of Croatia, which attached great importance to the Agency's safeguards activities, the implementation of comprehensive safeguards agreements in conjunction with additional protocols was now the verification standard. In May 2008, the Croatian Parliament had adopted a modified SQP.

71. Mr OSAISAI (Nigeria) said that his country sympathized deeply with the people of Myanmar and China following the disasters that had befallen them.

72. Nigeria, which welcomed the Agency publications outlining the procedures that should be followed by countries wishing to introduce nuclear power into their energy mixes, wished to introduce nuclear power into its energy mix and — to that end — would continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Agency. It greatly appreciated the assistance provided to it by the Agency in the area of human capacity-building and hoped to embark, thanks to such assistance, on nuclear power generation in the not too distant future. It was already investing in human capacity-building for the introduction of nuclear power, and in that connection it agreed with the conclusion of the participants in the Scientific Forum held during the General Conference's 2007 session that the Agency was "well positioned to play an important role in expanding the capacity of colleges, universities and nuclear research institutes" in the areas of education and training in nuclear science and engineering.

73. Nigeria appreciated the Agency's assistance in using isotopic techniques to tackle its huge problem with soil degradation and thereby increase yields for farmers.

74. Given WHO's sad prediction that over 84 million people would die of cancer during the next ten years, 75% of them in developing countries, and the fact that over 40% of cancers could be prevented and 30% cured, Nigeria greatly appreciated the Agency's activities directed against cancer, particularly PACT. It would like to see WHO and other development partners continuing their support for those activities, and also an increase in the resources being made available for PACT.

75. Mr LAGOS KOLLER (Chile) said that, given the expected growth of the nuclear power sector, reflected by an increase in the number of requests for Agency assistance with energy assessments, it was important to continue research in the area of radioactive waste management. Also, given the expected growth in the demand for uranium, it was important to train more people to engage in uranium exploration, mining and production activities.

76. His delegation believed that the Agency publications *Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme* and *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power* would be very useful to Member States considering the initiation of nuclear power programmes.

77. Referring to paragraph 22 of the Overview, he said that Chile agreed that “any framework for the assurance of supply of nuclear fuel and fuel fabrication services, if established under the Agency’s auspices, should be open to participation by all Member States on the basis of uniform criteria decided in advance by the Board of Governors and applied in a consistent manner which would not prejudice any State’s future fuel cycle options.”

78. Chile was among the Member States that the Agency had assisted with the conversion of their research reactors from the use of HEU to LEU fuel. Its research reactor had been converted in 2005.

79. Also thanks to Agency assistance, Chile had mastered various nuclear techniques for use in areas such as food and agriculture, water resources management, human health and protection of the marine environment.

80. Chile welcomed the Agency’s activities relating to the safety and security of nuclear material and facilities.

81. Mr PARK Chung-Taek (Republic of Korea)\* said that his country sympathized deeply with the people of China following the catastrophic earthquake that had occurred there.

82. His delegation greatly appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat to make the draft Annual Report for 2007 more comprehensible. At the same time, it would have welcomed a section similar to the “Issues and Events in 2006” section of the Annual Report for 2006.

83. With the increasing worldwide demand for electricity and the revival of the nuclear power sector, more systematic efforts should be made to preserve and transfer the knowledge necessary for the design, construction and safe operation of nuclear facilities. The Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology (ANENT) and the World Nuclear University were important in that connection. With the support of the Department of Technical Cooperation, the Republic of Korea had in 2006 developed a web portal called the ANENT Cyber Platform, which had been demonstrated in June 2007 at the Agency’s International Conference on Knowledge Management in Nuclear Facilities.

84. In November 2007, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) had, in collaboration with the Agency, conducted a field test of e-training in energy planning within the Asia region.

85. Referring to paragraph 9 of the Radioisotope Production and Radiation Technology section of the draft Annual Report, which mentioned a radiotracer technique developed by KAERI that could enhance the operational efficiency of wastewater treatment plants, he said that the development of that technique was an example of the synergy achievable through cooperation between people working in the area of nuclear energy research and people working in the area of environmental protection. The Agency should continue to promote such interdisciplinary cooperation.

86. Mr CSERVENY (Director, Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination) said that the Secretariat had noted all comments made and would take them into account as appropriate when producing the final version of the Annual Report for 2007. The Secretariat would be in contact with the concerned Permanent Missions regarding the comments made.

87. It had been noted that the Overview did not completely match the structure as the draft Annual Report as a whole. The Secretariat would look into that matter.

88. As regards the list of facilities under Agency safeguards or containing safeguarded material on 31 December, the Secretariat would look into how best it might be made available — perhaps in the compact disk version of the Annual Report.

89. A reference to the Technical Cooperation Report for 2007 would be included at the beginning of the Management of Technical Cooperation for Development section in the final version of the Annual Report.

90. The CHAIRMAN, summing up, said that the Board had commended the Secretariat for the format and quality of the draft Annual Report contained in document GOV/2008/10 and the additional information provided by it, which highlighted the major issues and challenges faced by the Agency during 2007 (the year in which the Agency had celebrated its 50th anniversary) and contained an analysis of emerging trends under the three pillars of its activities — technology, safety and security, and verification.

91. Wide-ranging and diverse comments had been made on the Agency's activities and on matters relevant to the Agency's work — such as the promotion of nuclear energy; assurances of fuel supply; the provision of energy assessment services; innovative reactor and fuel cycle technologies; nuclear applications in the areas of food and agriculture, water resources management and human health (particularly the treatment of cancer); sustainable development; technology transfer; environmental protection and climate change; education and training; seismic safety; radiation safety; transport safety and denials of shipment of radioactive material; decommissioning and waste management; nuclear security; nuclear knowledge management and human capacity-building; nuclear verification; and personnel matters and the one-house approach.

92. Several members had reiterated their position in favour of the retention and strengthening of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division in order to enhance its efforts in supporting Member States. They had also expressed the view that it was within the Agency's mandate to contribute to the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

93. Some suggestions had been made for changes to or elaboration of the draft Annual Report.

94. The Board had taken note of the Secretariat's responses to several of the points raised, and he was sure that the Secretariat would, as was the usual practice, take due account of all comments and suggestions made when finalizing the document before its submission to the General Conference.

95. He took it that the Board wished to approve the draft Annual Report for 2007 contained in document GOV/2008/10 for transmission to the General Conference, as required by Article VI.J. of the Statute, with necessary changes made in the light of the Board's discussion and, where appropriate, in consultation with the delegations concerned.

96. It was so decided.

#### **4. Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities**

**(a) Technical Cooperation Report for 2007**  
(GOV/2008/11 plus Supplement)

**(b) Application of the due account mechanism and its effectiveness**  
(GOV/INF/2008/6)

97. The CHAIRMAN, drawing attention to the draft Technical Cooperation Report for 2007 and the report on application of the due account mechanism, recalled that they had been the subject of a briefing for Member States on 20 May 2008.

98. Ms CETTO (Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation), introducing the draft Technical Cooperation Report for 2007, said that in 2007 the Agency's technical cooperation programme had delivered support to 122 countries and territories. The financial implementation rate had been 74.9% (\$100 million in net new obligations), just below the 2006 rate of 75.2%. A slightly lower rate of implementation was usual in the first year of a technical cooperation cycle, as new projects could not start until the minimum NPCs had been paid. At the end of 2007, two Member States had not yet paid sufficient NPCs to make their new 2007 projects operational; the two necessary payments had been received early in 2008.

99. Payments into the TCF had totalled \$76.5 million, or 95.6% of the \$80.0 million target set for 2007 — the highest ever rate of attainment. New resources had stood at \$100.3 million, down slightly from the record 2006 level of \$101 million. Of the additional resources for technical cooperation, \$7.1 million had represented government cost-sharing, \$3.3 million had come in the form of NPCs, and \$6.2 million had been extrabudgetary funding from third parties.

100. The target of a 25% increase in extrabudgetary contributions by 2007, set in the Technical Cooperation Strategy, had already been greatly exceeded by 2006. However, the new extrabudgetary resources received in 2007 had been slightly down from the record level of 2006. Each year a large part of the footnote-a/ component of the technical cooperation programme remained unfunded, and the fluctuation between 2006 and 2007 underlined the unpredictability of extrabudgetary funding. To increase the reliability and the volume of extrabudgetary funding, the Secretariat was introducing a more systematic fund-raising approach aimed at leveraging the considerable potential in that area. However, if a substantial amount of such funds was mobilized, the Secretariat would clearly require additional resources in order to be able to manage them. Such resources could be provided as programme support costs, which would allow the Agency to greatly extend the range of support available to Member States.

101. In 2007 the Secretariat had continued its efforts to increase technical cooperation programme effectiveness. Standardized quality criteria had been introduced for project screening and design. Additional enhancements had been made to the PCMF. Factors affecting project delivery had been monitored and assessed, the assessment highlighting areas for improvement on the part of the Secretariat, such as clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the various programme participants and the need for more realistic work plans and budgets. The assessment had also highlighted areas where Member State actions could contribute significantly to implementation — for example, in relation to denials of shipment of radioactive materials, delays in customs and security clearance, the assignment of appropriate human resources to projects, and failures to inform the Agency when equipment did not meet specifications.

102. CPFs continued to be important for ensuring that projects were selected on the basis of national priorities. To date, 104 CPFs had been prepared, and a further six were being prepared. Revised Supplementary Agreements had been concluded by 108 Member States.

103. A range of enhancements to regional coordination efforts had occurred in 2007. In close collaboration with ARCAL, a regional strategic profile had been produced that defined priority areas for technical cooperation. A similar exercise had resulted in the European regional profile, and a regional strategic cooperation framework had been endorsed by AFRA member countries in November 2007. The RCA Medium Term Strategy and Implementation Plan for 2006–2011 had continued to demonstrate its usefulness, and ARASIA had started preparations for its medium-term strategy along the same lines.

104. The adoption of such regional planning mechanisms had been an important step forward in building regional collaboration and in maximizing technical cooperation programme impact through a

more focused approach that targeted the needs of LDCs. The economically and technically more advanced Member States were already supporting a move from national to regional projects in their regions. Member States in Europe, in particular, were voluntarily reducing the number of national projects, building on common strengths and taking advantage of economies of scale.

105. Human health had remained the most important area of technical cooperation programme activity in all regions in 2007, accounting for 28.3% of disbursements. Projects had ranged from feasibility studies for radiotherapy centres in Mali through training packages for the clinical training of medical physicists in Asia and the Pacific to bringing brachytherapy treatment services up to international standards in Serbia.

106. Combined disbursements in 2007 for activities related to nuclear safety and security had added up to 23.1%, making it the second-largest focus area. Activities had included enhancements to nuclear security capacities in Africa through an AFRA project that had trained law enforcement agencies in aspects of combating illicit trafficking, the physical protection of nuclear installations and the management of radioactive sources. In Asia and the Pacific, progress had been made in strengthening national regulatory infrastructures, and in Europe work had continued on the repatriation of HEU to the country of origin. In Latin America, a project in Colombia was helping in the development of a comprehensive radioactive waste management system.

107. Food security was an increasingly pressing issue worldwide, with the needs far outstripping the resources. In the 2007 technical cooperation programme, food and agriculture had accounted for the third-highest percentage of disbursements — 12.8%.

108. Activities relating to food and agriculture had included a project in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya under which drip irrigation and fertigation had been introduced with the aim of increasing crop yields while reducing water use and nitrogen fertilizer outlay. A project to increase the productivity of the indigenous crops kiwicha and quinoa in Peru had targeted the issue of food security, and an assessment of SIT projects in Israel, Jordan and the territories under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority had revealed higher productivity, more exports of high-value agricultural products and stronger regional cooperation among national plant protection authorities in combating insect pests.

109. A growth area for technical cooperation was the provision of support in energy planning through national and regional projects. In 2007, training had been provided in order to strengthen national energy planning teams in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. Also, the Agency was assisting Member States interested in pursuing the nuclear power option. A regional project had in 2007 provided support to several European countries wishing to embark on nuclear power programmes, and Egypt was being supported by the Agency in its plans to build a nuclear power plant.

110. Nuclear knowledge management was increasingly recognized as an essential component in building sustainable capacities at all levels. In 2007, the issue had been addressed through a regional project in Europe that was supporting the development of common approaches to nuclear technology knowledge management.

111. There would always be scope for improvements to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes. In 2007, the OIOS had conducted an evaluation of the fellowship programme for 2003-2004, with generally favourable findings. Some areas for improvement had included candidate selection and the timely identification and confirmation of suitable host institutes. The evaluation had pointed out that no mechanism existed to track former participants in the fellowship programme; as a result, steps were being taken to improve fellowship operations, including a biennial survey of former fellows.

112. In 2007, the Agency had reached out to partners ranging from other United Nations family organizations to development banks and from regional groups to theme-based institutions. At the regional level, a range of partnership efforts had been made. For example, in order to promote integrated coastal zone management in the wider Caribbean region, cooperation between the Agency and UNEP's Regional Coordinating Unit had been formalized. The Executive Council of Ministers at the 9th African Union Summit had endorsed the outcome of a high-level regional conference in Algiers entitled "Nuclear Energy: Contribution to Peace and Sustainable Development", while Agency support to NEPAD was continuing. Technical cooperation projects dealing with river basins and aquifers in Africa were leading to an important partnership with the GEF, and the partnership with PATTEC was continuing.

113. The Agency was monitoring the 'Delivering as One' initiative of the United Nations. In that connection, it had mapped its activities in six pilot countries and had participated in a United Nations evaluation group survey in the United Republic of Tanzania.

114. The Agency's technical cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued in accordance with a decision taken on the basis of document GOV/2007/7 by the Board on 8 March 2007.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the Secretariat had put mechanisms in place to ensure that all Agency cooperation with Iran was in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008). Thus, technical cooperation project activities had proceeded only where they fell within the exceptions specified in operative paragraph 16 of resolution 1737 (2006). Outside the technical cooperation programme, the Secretariat had procedures in place to ensure that technical assistance provided to Iran by the Agency or under its auspices did not contribute to enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water-related activities or to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems, or to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture or use of the prohibited items, materials, equipment, goods and technology mentioned in resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and 1803 (2008). Moreover, all Iranian participants in the Agency's technical cooperation assistance activities were vetted against the lists of persons and — where relevant — the lists of entities mentioned in the annexes to the aforementioned resolutions.

115. The Secretariat had periodically reported to the Security Council committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and the Member States of the Agency had been duly informed of the reports.

116. Regarding the due account mechanism, which had been established to encourage a high level of payments to the TCF, the application of that mechanism, among others, had had a positive result, as the rate of attainment of the TCF target had risen steadily in the years since the mechanism had been introduced. As to a more stringent application of the mechanism to procurement, in the report contained in document GOV/INF/2008/6 it was noted that the issue had so far not arisen, since all of the 'non-recipient' Member States from which the Agency procured a substantial amount of equipment or expert services for the technical cooperation programme were 'excellent' or 'moderate' contributors to the TCF. In considering a more stringent application of the mechanism, it would be necessary to weigh the potential advantages against the detrimental effects that it could have on programme impact.

117. In the present changing development environment, the Agency was striving to ensure that its technical cooperation activities remained at the forefront in responding to the needs and priorities of Member States, in line with the stipulation in the Statute that the Agency should allocate its resources "in such a manner as to secure efficient utilization and the greatest possible general benefit in all areas

---

<sup>3</sup> See document GOV/OR.1181, paras 40 and 41.

of the world, bearing in mind the special needs of the under-developed areas of the world". The Agency had a responsibility to ensure that the safety component of technical cooperation projects was supported all the way through the project and beyond — that all projects had safety at their core.

118. The next technical cooperation programme, for 2009–2011, would be presented to Member States in October 2008. Achievements and lessons learned during the present technical cooperation cycle were already shaping the programme for that triennium. The demands for technical cooperation support were rising, but the resources were falling. All Member States were aware of the importance of an agreed TCF target. Without an agreement, preparation of the 2009–2011 programme would be merely an academic exercise, although a very complex one. If the established deadlines were to be met, the proposed technical cooperation programme would have to be ready before the 2008 session of the General Conference. Timely contributions towards the next technical cooperation programme, both in financial terms and in substantive content, would be essential to the programme's visibility.

119. Mr SHAHBAZ (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the technical cooperation programmes of the Agency were its main statutory vehicle, and an efficient tool, for promoting nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic progress in developing countries in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

120. The Group considered it necessary for an adequate balance to be maintained between the technical cooperation activities of the Agency and its other statutory activities. It was important to strengthen the Agency's technical cooperation activities and to continuously increase technical cooperation programme effectiveness and efficiency in response to the needs of Member States. It was also important that all measures taken and policies adopted in that connection be such as to enhance developing Member States' ownership of technical cooperation projects.

121. The Group believed that the "Delivering as One" initiative of the United Nations could have a negative impact on Agency technical cooperation in many areas, including resource mobilization. The Agency belonged to the United Nations family, but at the same time it was an autonomous organization with a unique mandate and structure, and the "Delivering as One" initiative should not be allowed to reduce the volume or change the character of its highly specific technical cooperation programmes.

122. Regarding CPFs, they were non-legally-binding documents subject to revision as Member States' priorities evolved. Hence, the CPF should not be used as a basis for restricting the requests of a Member State for technical support or as a definitive reference in the project approval process.

123. The Secretariat was making progress in implementing the PCMF, but Member States still needed training in its use. Also, the difficulties experienced by Member States, including those due to lack of adequate IT equipment, should be addressed. The Secretariat should continue to regularly assess, in consultation with Member States, the effectiveness of the PCMF in terms of programme quality and delivery efficiency.

124. The procurement problems being encountered by the Department of Technical Cooperation and the continuing problems due to travel and visa restrictions imposed by a number of countries were having a negative impact on project implementation and sustainability. The Secretariat should address those problems in consultation with the Member States concerned and keep all other Member States informed of developments.

125. Without sufficient, assured and predictable financial resources, Agency technical cooperation could not achieve its objectives as mandated in Article II of the Statute. Accordingly, the Group, recalling document GOV/INF/2007/15 (TC Programme Resources: Sufficient, Assured and

Predictable) looked forward to receiving constructive Secretariat proposals for addressing the long-term funding issues.

126. The Group was concerned about the significant loss in purchasing power of the TCF due to currency exchange rate fluctuations. Measures should be taken to protect the TCF.

127. The Group, which had noted the decision of 14 Member States belonging to the European Union to participate thenceforth in the Agency's technical cooperation programmes as net contributors, believed that the financial resources becoming available as a result of implementation of their decision should be used for the benefit of LDCs.

128. The staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation were to be commended for their efforts to achieve greater programme delivery efficiency despite a growing workload and severe resource constraints. The Group, which considered that the lapse factor should not be applied in the case of Professional staff appointments in the Department of Technical Cooperation, would like to see the increasing burden of the Department alleviated through the allocation to it of adequate Regular Budget resources.

129. In the Group's opinion, the functioning of the due account mechanism should be examined with a view to increasing the mechanism's effectiveness in increasing the resources of the TCF, account being taken of the concerns of developing Member States. The Group would therefore like comprehensive and transparent consultations to be initiated as soon as possible on ways of enabling the Secretariat to apply the mechanism in an equitable and effective manner.

130. The Group greatly appreciated the Agency's support for the AFRA High Level Policy Review Seminar hosted by the Government of Egypt in Aswan in November 2007, which was referred to in paragraph 38 of the draft Technical Cooperation Report for 2007. It hoped that the adoption, following the Seminar, of the Aswan Declaration and Plan of Action and an AFRA regional strategic cooperative framework would lead to strengthening of the cooperation between the Agency and African Member States.

131. The Group was pleased with the support that had been provided under the 2007 technical cooperation programme to 30 countries, including four LDCs, in the Asia and the Pacific region.

132. The Group welcomed the capacity-building activities carried out within the frameworks of RCA and ARASIA in the areas of human health, agriculture, environmental protection and industry and the assistance rendered to some Member States in enhancing their technical capabilities in the area of cancer diagnosis and therapy and the area of major disease management.

133. The Group greatly appreciated the support being provided to Member States in the areas of energy planning and nuclear power development and welcomed the efforts of the Agency to develop appropriate analytical tools for use by Member States in planning sustainable energy strategies that took account of climate change.

134. The Group welcomed the formal adoption by ARCAL and the Agency in September 2007 of the regional strategic profile for Latin America and the Caribbean described in paragraph 180 of the draft Technical Cooperation Report.

135. Mr ELDIN ELAMIN (Sudan)\*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that, although the rate of attainment of the TCF target had in 2007 reached 95.8%, achieving a 100% rate of attainment remained the real objective. Further measures should be taken, collectively, to make the resources available for Agency technical cooperation sufficient, assured and predictable.

136. The African Group welcomed the further progress made in the area of results-based programme management, the introduction of standardized quality criteria for project screening and design, and the additional enhancements made to the PCMF.

137. The African Group, which greatly appreciated the support provided by the Agency for the High-level African Regional Conference on the Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development held in Algiers in January 2007, would like to see the Agency further strengthening its support for NEPAD.

138. The Group welcomed the support provided by the Agency for the AFRA High Level Policy Review Seminar held in Aswan, Egypt late in 2007, which had been followed by the adoption of the Aswan Declaration and Plan of Action and an AFRA regional strategic cooperative framework.

139. Noting that in 2007 Agency technical assistance had been provided to 37 African countries, of which 20 were LDCs, the African Group was pleased with the volume of delivery.

140. The African Group, which considered that the attainment of Millennium Development Goals should remain a key area of focus, was pleased with the way in which the Agency was helping to fight poverty, hunger and disease. Africa remained the region most in need of the Agency's help, and projects in Africa for improving animal health and increasing crop productivity were good examples of the potential of Agency technical cooperation.

141. The African Group was pleased that in Africa human health had remained the area receiving the greatest technical cooperation project support and welcomed the continuation of the Agency's activities relating to the creation and maintenance of tsetse-free zones in Africa.

142. The African Group attached great importance to the technical cooperation projects dealing with river basins and aquifers in Africa and welcomed the partnership between the Agency and AU-PATTEC. The African Group would like to see the Agency continuing its collaboration with national, regional and other international organizations in the implementation of PACT.

143. The African Group welcomed the hands-on training in national energy planning provided through the Agency to Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Niger, and it would like to see more assistance being provided through the Agency in areas such as overall project management, site evaluation, safety, human resources development and public communication to Member States interested in embarking on nuclear power programmes. It strongly believed that the Agency could help to significantly increase the awareness of the benefits of nuclear power in Africa.

144. The Secretariat was doing a good job in the technical cooperation field within the limits of the available resources, but the African Group believed that there was great potential for strengthening the Agency's role in the areas of human resources development and nuclear science and technology, in improving animal health and promoting higher livestock productivity, in improving crop productivity and combating agricultural pests, and in raising capabilities in industrial applications. The prerequisite was stronger mechanisms for encouraging Member States to pay their full TCF target shares.

145. The African Group had therefore studied with great interest the report on application of the due account mechanism contained in document GOV/INF/2008/6. In its view, the alternative options presented in section G of that report and possibly other options merited serious consideration. Also, perhaps thought should be given to changing the threshold percentage (50%) used for defining 'poor contributors'. At all events, it believed that the time had come for serious consultations.

146. Mr CURIA (Argentina), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that the Agency's technical cooperation activities were essential if developing Member States were to benefit from the many applications of nuclear energy in areas important for their socio-economic development.

147. The fact that Member States had paid the NPCs due from them for the period covered by the draft Technical Cooperation Report for 2007 was evidence of the importance attached to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes. However, GRULAC would like to see the NPC mechanism applied more flexibly, as, for legal and administrative reasons, some GRULAC member countries were unable to pay right at the beginning of the year half of the 5% NPCs due from them (2.5% of the value of the new technical cooperation projects approved for them), so that without some flexibility the start of project implementation was delayed.

148. GRULAC was concerned about the decline in the purchasing power of the TCF due to the weakening of the US dollar. It was essential that a solution to that problem be found, and the Secretariat should continue to seek ways of ensuring that the resources for the Agency's technical cooperation programmes were sufficient, assured and predictable. Only if they were could the growing demands of Member States for Agency technical assistance be met.

149. GRULAC was also concerned about the fact that the financial implementation rate had been lower in 2007 than in 2006, particularly in the case of Latin America. In its opinion, there was scope for improvement and the Secretariat should step up its efforts to improve matters.

150. GRULAC welcomed the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in 2007 to increase technical cooperation programme efficiency — for example, the review of project performance monitoring mechanisms and the review and standardization of performance indicators. It would like the Secretariat to continue with such activities, bearing in mind not only financial and management questions but also the impact in terms of technology and knowledge transfer that projects had in recipient countries.

151. GRULAC welcomed the improvements achieved in the application of the PCMF through, in particular, the provision of comprehensive guidance for users. At the same time, it would like the Secretariat to continue providing the technical advice necessary for optimum use of the PCMF, particularly through periodic workshops.

152. In GRULAC's opinion, it was important to continue trying to identify and remedy the factors that had a negative influence on the implementation of projects, particularly those relating to the procurement, supply and transport of equipment.

153. GRULAC greatly appreciated the activities undertaken in 2007 to strengthen developing Member State capacities with a view to the achievement of greater self-reliance and sustainability in the use of nuclear techniques, particularly the activities undertaken within the framework of the Agency's fellowship programme. Such activities were important for the attainment of seven of the eight Millennium Development Goals.

154. GRULAC welcomed the progress made in 2007 in creating strategic partnerships and the collaboration that was taking place between the Agency and UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit, the Ibero-American Programme of Science and Technology Development (CYTED), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) and PAHO.

155. GRULAC had greatly appreciated the exhibition on 50 years of technical cooperation achievements that had been staged during the 51st session of the General Conference, and it hoped that the Secretariat would organize similar exhibitions in various forums and countries so as to enhance the visibility of the Agency's technical cooperation activities and publicize more widely the role they were playing in support of the attainment of Millennium Development Goals.

156. GRULAC, which greatly appreciated the technical assistance provided in 2007 to 22 countries in Latin America, was sure that the regional strategic profile for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared within the framework of the strategic alliance between ARCAL and the Agency would

facilitate the selection of projects matching the region's needs as regards available and cost-effective nuclear techniques for use in the areas of food safety, human health, environmental protection, energy and industry, and radiation safety.

157. GRULAC, which welcomed the ratification of ARCAL by Uruguay, greatly appreciated the assistance provided by the Agency in connection with the strengthening of ARCAL, the subject of an extraordinary meeting of the ARCAL Technical Coordination Board (OCTA) held in Salta, Argentina, in May 2008, and the assistance provided by it in connection with the 9th ordinary meeting of OCTA, held in Salta immediately afterwards.

158. GRULAC welcomed the progress made within the ARCAL framework through regional projects relating to — inter alia — uranium exploration and exploitation and yellowcake production, nuclear engineering and technology, the improvement of agricultural output, quality assurance in radiation therapy, the sustainability and quality of water resources and the strengthening of national regulatory infrastructures.

159. GRULAC greatly appreciated the regional workshops on project management organized for project counterparts, National Liaison Officers and National Liaison Assistants.

160. GRULAC was disappointed that in 2007, once again, Latin America and the Caribbean had been the region receiving the lowest share of the technical cooperation programme resources. It hoped that the Secretariat would succeed in achieving a more equitable resource distribution in the future.

161. Mr ZHGUTOV (Russian Federation) said that in his delegation's view the Secretariat was on the right path in its efforts to increase technical cooperation effectiveness and quality.

162. The fact that new resources for the TCF had in 2007 reached an all-time high (\$6.8 million more than in 2006) was undoubtedly evidence of the growing interest of Member States in the Agency's technical cooperation activities.

163. His country, which considered technical cooperation to be one of the top-priority areas of Agency work, consistently paid its full TCF target shares and successfully collaborated with the Secretariat in the implementation of projects financed from its contributions. It would like to see all other Member States paying their full TCF target shares.

164. Regarding the TCF targets for 2009–2011, his delegation — like a number of other delegations — believed that the process of setting them should be a realistic one based on the agreed IPFs and on Regular Budget changes. The problem of protecting the TCF from the effects of the declining value of the US dollar needed to be approached very carefully. Simply calling for increased US dollar payments into the TCF would not be the right solution, as currency exchange rate fluctuations could lead not only to a decrease in the purchasing power of the US dollar but also to an increase.

165. The Agency's activities relating to areas such as human health (in particular cancer diagnosis and therapy), food and agriculture, radioactive waste management, radioisotope production, radiation safety and transport safety were helping to strengthen the scientific, technical and economic potential of Member States in response to the call for universal access to the benefits of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

166. His country greatly appreciated the way in which the Agency, within the framework of its technical cooperation programmes, was assisting with the return of HEU research reactor fuel to the country of origin and with the conversion of research reactors from HEU to LEU fuel. In 2007, fresh HEU fuel from Poland and Vietnam and spent HEU fuel from the Czech Republic had been returned to Russia. Such activities were undoubtedly helping to reduce the threat of nuclear proliferation and ensure the sustainable use of research reactors.

167. The technical cooperation project for decommissioning of the Vinča research reactor in Serbia and the return of the spent fuel to Russia was continuing, and his country was looking forward to further fruitful cooperation with the Agency in that connection.

168. Given Russia's vast experience and knowledge in the field of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, his delegation would like to see a further expansion of cooperation between the Secretariat and Russian organizations and institutes — for example, in the holding of regional courses on various technical subjects.

169. Mr MOREJÓN-ALMEIDA (Ecuador) said that his Government attached great importance to technical cooperation in the nuclear field for the purpose of achieving sustainable development and enabling the population to benefit from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It would therefore like to see an appropriate balance maintained between the technical cooperation activities and the other statutory activities of the Agency, with more financial resources devoted to the Agency's technical cooperation programmes.

170. The Secretariat was making great efforts to mobilize financial resources for the Agency's technical cooperation activities, and his delegation would like to see donor countries and organizations being more open-minded about providing financial resources without conditions attached.

171. His delegation shared the concern about the decrease in the TCF's purchasing power due to the depreciation of the US dollar. A solution to that problem must be found, and the Secretariat should continue seeking ways of ensuring that the resources for Agency technical cooperation were sufficient, assured and predictable.

172. His country welcomed the Agency's capacity-building activities, which were important for the achievement of greater self-reliance and sustainability in the application of nuclear techniques, and in that connection it greatly appreciated the Agency's fellowship programme.

173. His delegation was pleased with the Secretariat's efforts in 2007 to create further partnerships between the Agency and other international organizations.

174. Ecuador, which welcomed the prominence of human health-related activities in the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, would like to see a further increase in the efforts devoted to disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment using nuclear techniques. It greatly appreciated the assistance — especially in the form of training — that it had received in the field of nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. It remained a strong supporter of PACT.

175. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean was continuing to be allocated less technical cooperation resources than the other regions. However, his delegation was optimistic; it was sure that the Secretariat would step up its efforts to remedy the present situation in an equitable manner.

176. Ecuador attached great importance to regional project RLA/5/050, relating to agricultural practices in his country's Guyas river basin and other river basins in Latin America where crops were grown for export.

177. Ecuador also attached great importance to the Agency's efforts in assisting Member States with the establishment and strengthening of regulatory infrastructures for the control of radioactive sources.

178. Regarding technical cooperation project ECU/8/026, entitled "Characterization of coastal aquifers on the Santa Elena peninsula" and referred to in paragraph 208 of the draft Technical Cooperation Report, its success would be important in solving the problem of the shortage of water for human consumption in a semi-arid part of Ecuador.

**The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.**