

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1215th Meeting
GOV/OR.1215

Programme Performance Report for 2006-2007

Board of Governors

GOV/OR.1215

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Record of the 1215th Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 22 September 2008, at 10.45 a.m.

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¹ GOV/2008/50.

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 SKOKNIC		Chairman (Chile)
Mr HOXHA	_____	Albania
Ms FEROUKHI		Algeria
Mr CURIA		Argentina
Mr SHANNON	}	Australia
Mr CAMERON		
Ms BÖCK		Austria
Ms ESPINOZA PATIÑO		Bolivia
Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO		Brazil
Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE		Canada
Mr LAGOS KOLLER		Chile
Mr TANG Guoqiang	}	China
Mr YANG Dazhu		
Mr ZEBIĆ		Croatia
Mr STACEY MORENO		Ecuador
Mr KEBEDE		Ethiopia
Ms KAUPPI		Finland
Mr CARON		France
Mr LÜDEKING	}	Germany
Mr SANDTNER		
Ms BAAH-DUODU		Ghana
Mr KUMAR		India
Mr ALSHARIA		Iraq
Mr COGAN		Ireland
Mr GHISI		Italy
Mr AMANO		Japan
Mr MAKSIMOVAS		Lithuania
Mr DÍAZ		Mexico
Mr ZNIBER		Morocco
Mr OSAISAI		Nigeria
Mr SHAHBAZ		Pakistan
Ms LACANLALE		Philippines
Mr SERGEEV		Russian Federation
Mr AL-SUWAYIEL		Saudi Arabia
Mr GUMBI		South Africa
Mr STEINMANN		Switzerland
Mr PANUPONG		Thailand
Mr SMITH		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr SCHULTE	_____	United States of America

Attendance (continued)

Mr ELBARADEI	Director General
Mr LIENGSRIRIWAT	Special Assistant to the Director General for Management
Mr ANING	Secretary of the Board

Representatives of the following Member States also attended the meeting:

Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abbreviations used in this record:

AIPS	Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support
CAURB	core activity unfunded in the Regular Budget
CRP	coordinated research project
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
G-77	Group of Seventy-Seven
GIF	Generation IV International Forum
GNEP	Global Nuclear Energy Partnership
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
INSAG	International Nuclear Safety Group
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

IT	information technology
Joint Division	Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
LEU	low-enriched uranium
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
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
PCMF	Programme Cycle Management Framework
SIT	sterile insect technique
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
VIC	Vienna International Centre
WHO	World Health Organization

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

– Opening of the meeting

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the new Governor, Mr Stacey Moreno of Ecuador, and the new Resident Representatives, Mr Hovakimian of Armenia, Mr Madey of Croatia, Mr Lyssiotis of Cyprus, Mr Norkus of Lithuania, Mr Rajemison Rakotomaharo of Madagascar and Mr Hamer of the Netherlands.
2. He bade farewell to colleagues who had finished or would shortly be finishing their tours of duty in Vienna: one Governor — Mr Morejón-Almeida of Ecuador; four Resident Representatives — Mr Tabibian of Armenia, Mr Damiba of Burkina Faso, Mr de Visser of the Netherlands and Mr Daouas of Tunisia; and two senior members of the Secretariat, Mr Doherty, Director of the VIC Medical Service, and Mr Kim, Director of the Division for Europe in the Department of Technical Cooperation.

– Adoption of the agenda (GOV/2008/33/Rev.1)

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt the revised provisional agenda contained in document GOV/2008/33/Rev.1.
4. The agenda was adopted.

1. Introductory statement by the Director General

5. The DIRECTOR GENERAL said that the Agency's work in making nuclear applications available to developing countries to help boost food production and fight disease had become all the more important following the recent surge in global food prices. That had pushed millions of people deeper into poverty and hunger.
6. The work of the Joint Division had been of great value to Member States. The FAO had been considering ending its involvement in the Joint Division. However, he was hopeful that it would not do so and that that area of cooperation, which had brought considerable benefits to many countries, could continue.
7. The Agency assisted Member States in using isotope hydrology to manage their water resources. Following publication of the *Atlas of Isotope Hydrology — Africa* in 2007, a similar volume for the Asia and the Pacific region had been completed, with data from 16 countries.
8. Demand for technical cooperation from developing countries continued to grow. A new three-year technical cooperation programme had been finalized with an emphasis on food and agriculture,

human health and natural resources. It also reflected a growing interest from developing countries in the possible introduction of nuclear power.

9. The Agency was proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its safety standards programme. Safety and security both required continued vigilance and should always be considered as works in progress. In his annual letter to the Director General of the Agency, the Chairman of INSAG had said:

10. “[A] nuclear power plant is operated by people, and thus the achievement of safety requires qualified operating personnel with an appropriately embedded safety culture. Moreover, safe operation can only be ensured if there is a comprehensive infrastructure in place that is properly maintained and improved throughout the life of the nuclear power programme.”

11. Safety and security measures must be designed and implemented in an integrated manner, as the Commission on Safety Standards pointed out. In addition to the continued attention being paid to the safe and secure operation of nuclear power plants, there had been some significant achievements in other areas. For example, 92 Member States had committed themselves to apply the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while 46 had agreed to apply the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. The integration of safety and security measures in creating and strengthening regulatory infrastructures for the control of sources also represented important progress.

12. The possibility of terrorists obtaining nuclear or other radioactive material remained a grave threat. Through its Illicit Trafficking Database programme, the Agency collected information on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities involving nuclear and radioactive material. In the year to 30 June 2008, 243 such incidents had been reported to the Agency, 21 of which involved the theft or loss of material which had not been subsequently recovered. The Agency continued to provide assistance to States with a view to improving border controls, strengthening physical protection at nuclear facilities and enhancing nuclear security at major public events, such as the Beijing Olympic Games.

13. Funding for nuclear security remained a cause for concern. The Agency depended almost entirely on extrabudgetary contributions in that area, which made effective programme planning and prioritization difficult.

14. Together with the WHO, the Agency had taken a leading role in training health professionals worldwide under the International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients. However, as newer medical imaging and complex radiation therapy techniques were introduced, there were new reports of unnecessary and unintended exposures. The Commission on Safety Standards had noted the crucial need to enhance the application of the safety standards to reduce the frequency of over- or under-exposure in nuclear medicine.

15. Every country had the right to introduce nuclear power, as well as the responsibility to do it right. Nuclear power had obvious attractions for both developing and developed countries. Developing countries needed access to electricity to help lift their people out of poverty and many were turning to the Agency for guidance on how to proceed. They were concerned about the fluctuating prices of oil and other fossil fuels and about uncertainty of supply, as well as about climate change.

16. Countries with rapidly growing economies, such as India and China, were poised to increase the share of nuclear power in their energy mix. Many others, with Agency assistance, were actively considering adding nuclear power to their energy mix. Embarking on nuclear power was a complex process requiring an appropriate regulatory and legal framework, an effective and independent regulatory body and the building of the necessary human capacity. The obligation to ensure safety and security rested primarily with the country concerned, but it also extended to the countries of vendors

supplying components and technical expertise. Recipient countries should adhere to international treaties and conventions on nuclear safety and security. The use of the Agency's systematic, integrated and tailored review services and compliance with the Agency's safety standards should be a prerequisite at every stage of a State's nuclear power development. Also, regulators must always put safety and security first, regardless of the pressure they might sometimes face to be guided by other considerations.

17. The Board had before it draft additional protocols for the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Lesotho. In the case of Iraq, provision of a draft additional protocol complied with a specific request of the Security Council in resolution 1762 (2007).

18. As explained in the report before the Board, the Agency had continued to verify the shutdown of the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and to implement the ad hoc monitoring and verification arrangement, with the cooperation of the DPRK. The Agency had not been asked to take part in the disablement activities, but had been able to observe and document them. In that context, Agency inspectors had observed, after the Agency's report had been distributed to members of the Board, that some equipment previously removed by the DPRK during the disablement process had been brought back. That had not changed the shutdown status of the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon. The DPRK authorities had, earlier in the morning, asked the Agency's inspectors to remove seals and surveillance equipment to enable them to carry out tests at the reprocessing plant, which they said would not involve nuclear material. He still hoped that conditions could be created for the DPRK to return to the NPT at the earliest possible date and for the resumption by the Agency of comprehensive safeguards.

19. The Agency had been able to continue to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Regrettably, the Agency had not been able to make substantive progress on the alleged studies and associated questions relevant to possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme. They remained of serious concern. Although Iran had acknowledged that some information in the relevant documentation, including names of individuals and organizations, was correct, it had reiterated that all the documents were fabricated or forged. Iran had also declared that it had not performed any of the activities described in the alleged studies and had reiterated its request to be provided with originals, or even copies, of the documentation. He called upon Member States which had provided the Agency with documentation related to the alleged studies to authorize the Agency to share it with Iran.

20. However, as mentioned in the report before the Board, Iran needed to clarify the extent to which information in the documentation was factually correct and where, as it asserted, such information might have been fabricated or related to non-nuclear purposes. In that context, Iran needed to give the Agency substantive information to support its statements and provide access to relevant documentation and individuals. Unless Iran provided such transparency, and implemented the additional protocol, the Agency would not be able to provide credible assurances about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran.

21. He noted that the Agency had not detected the actual use of nuclear material in connection with the alleged studies, nor did it have information — apart from the uranium metal document — on the actual design or manufacture by Iran of nuclear material components of a nuclear weapon. Contrary to the decisions of the Security Council, Iran had not suspended its enrichment related activities. Although Iran had so far produced only limited quantities of LEU, that was still a cause for concern for the international community in the absence of full clarity about Iran's past and present nuclear programme.

22. The Agency did not, he reiterated, in any way seek to 'pry' into Iran's conventional or missile-related military activities. Its focus was clearly on nuclear material and activities. It needed, however,

to make use of all relevant information to be able to confirm that no nuclear material was being used for nuclear weapons purposes. He was confident that arrangements could be developed that would enable the Agency to do its work while ensuring that Iran's legitimate right to protect the confidentiality of sensitive information and activities was respected. He again urged Iran to show full transparency and to implement all measures required to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme at the earliest possible date. Six years had passed since the Agency had begun intensive work to clarify Iran's nuclear activities. It was in everyone's interest that it should reach full clarity as soon as possible.

23. The Agency had been able to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear material in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Since December 2003, Libya had been implementing the additional protocol to its safeguards agreement, which had entered into force in August 2006. Libya had also provided the Agency unrestricted and prompt access, beyond that required under its safeguards agreement and additional protocol, to locations, information and individuals requested by the Agency. Libya had acknowledged that between the mid-1980s and 2003 its past nuclear programme had been aimed at the development of nuclear weapons. However, it had stated that it had not proceeded with the design of nuclear weapons, nor did it have a complete fissile material production capability. The Agency had not found any indications of actual work related to nuclear weapons development. With the cooperation and transparency shown by Libya, the Agency had concluded that Libya's statements concerning its nuclear programme were not inconsistent with the Agency's findings. He was pleased that the Agency was now able to implement safeguards in Libya in a routine manner. It would continue to work to reach a conclusion about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in the country.

24. In the course of its investigations, the Agency had observed that much of the sensitive information provided by the clandestine supply network existed in electronic form, enabling easier use and dissemination. That included information that related to uranium centrifuge enrichment and, more disturbingly, to nuclear weapon design. Clearly, that was a matter of serious concern. It made it all the more important for the Agency to have the legal authority, through the additional protocol, to provide assurance that there was no undeclared nuclear material in a country with a comprehensive safeguards agreement. The Secretariat would continue, in cooperation with Member States, to investigate the activities of the network insofar as they related to the Agency's mandate.

25. In April 2008, the Agency had received information claiming that an installation at Al Kibar in the Syrian Arab Republic destroyed by Israel in September 2007 had been a nuclear reactor. The Syrian authorities had repeatedly stated that the alleged site had not been involved in any nuclear activities. With Syria's cooperation, the Agency had been able to visit Al Kibar in June 2008. Samples taken from the site were still being analysed and evaluated by the Agency, but no indication of any nuclear material had been found so far. To assess the veracity of information available to it, in July the Agency had asked the Syrian authorities to provide access to additional information and locations. Syria had not yet responded to that request but had indicated that any further developments would depend on the results of the samples taken during the first visit. He trusted that Syria would show maximum cooperation and transparency and provide all the information needed by the Agency to complete its assessment.

26. In line with the mandate given to him by the General Conference, he had continued his consultations with the States of the Middle East on the application of full-scope safeguards to all nuclear activities in the region, and on the development of model safeguards agreements as a necessary step towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region. Once again, he regretted to say that it was not possible to report progress on either front. Following recent consultations with Member States in the Middle East, it seemed that a convergence of views was emerging on the convening of a forum on the experience of other regions with existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and on its relevance for the Middle East. However, there was still no consensus on the agenda and the

issues which such a forum would need to address. He would continue his consultations with Member States in the Middle East with a view to convening a productive forum as early as practicable.

27. The Board's agenda included a discussion on the Report of the Commission of Eminent Persons on the Future of the Agency. He hoped that members of the Board had been able to give serious consideration to the proposals made by President Ernesto Zedillo and his colleagues. The Commission members had brought together an unrivalled range and depth of experience of government, science and diplomacy, from both developed and developing countries. They understood the constraints under which governments and international organizations had to operate. The Commission's proposals deserved in-depth consideration and should lead to action. The Agency's work was of crucial importance for international peace and security and for addressing poverty, hunger and disease in the developing world through the use of nuclear technology. He therefore encouraged Board members to engage in a structured discussion of the Commission's report. That could perhaps involve the establishment of issue-specific focus groups, which would look into each area in which the Commission had made proposals and then make recommendations to the Board.

28. It was clear that the work of the Agency would be needed more and more in the decades to come. The decisions which Member States made in the coming months and years would determine how the Agency could respond to the challenges it continued to face. Those challenges were at the heart of the joint efforts being made to create a just, humane world at peace with itself.

2. Applications for membership of the Agency (GOV/2008/41 and 42)

29. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to documents GOV/2008/41 and 42 which contained applications for membership of the Agency by the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, respectively, and a draft report and resolution which the Board might wish to submit to the General Conference.

30. Ms GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba)*, speaking on behalf of NAM, welcomed and supported the applications by Lesotho and Papua New Guinea to become members of the Agency.

31. Mr SHANNON (Australia) also supported the applications for membership. While welcoming the recent growth in Pacific Island membership of the Agency, he noted that the region was still under-represented.

32. Australia, in collaboration with the United States of America and other partners, had been working closely with the authorities of Papua New Guinea to upgrade the safety and security of radioactive sources. Earlier in 2008, Australia had provided equipment and advice to promote the safe and secure operation of a new cobalt-60 radiotherapy unit at the Angau Hospital in Lae. He encouraged the Secretariat to discuss with Papua New Guinea opportunities for technical cooperation, especially in health, and to explore the scope for Agency nuclear security services.

33. Noting with satisfaction that an additional protocol for Lesotho was also before the Board for approval, he added that Australia had been cooperating with the Agency to provide training for Pacific Island countries in the implementation of safeguards and would continue to assist Papua New Guinea in working towards the early implementation of the additional protocol.

34. Mr GUMBI (South Africa) welcomed the decision by Lesotho and Papua New Guinea to seek membership of the Agency. Lesotho's membership would increase the number of southern African States recognizing the Agency as the only organization mandated to promote the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Lesotho and Papua New Guinea also stood to benefit from the Agency's technical cooperation programme, which could contribute to their achievement of the MDGs.

35. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the application by the Kingdom of Lesotho for membership and that it wished to submit to the General Conference the draft report attached to document GOV/2008/41.

36. It was so decided.

37. The CHAIRMAN then took it that the Board wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the application by the Independent State of Papua New Guinea for membership and that it wished to submit to the General Conference the draft report attached to document GOV/2008/42.

38. It was so decided.

3. Programme Performance Report for 2006–2007

(GOV/2008/31 plus additional information available on GovAtom)

39. Mr LIENGSRIRIWAT (Special Assistant to the Director General for Management) said that the Programme Performance Report for 2006–2007 contained in document GOV/2008/31, the third such report, provided information on the extent to which programme outcomes had been achieved and on lessons learned and follow-up action. It was an integral part of the results based approach to programme development and implementation introduced in 2000, which involved formulating biennial programmes on the basis of desired outcomes — effects brought about in Member States by Agency activities — and assessing performance at the end of the biennium on the basis of performance indicators. The Board's decision in 2004 to have the report submitted to it at its September meeting allowed more time for outputs to be presented as recordable outcomes.

40. The report highlighted significant achievements under the 7 major programmes, and provided information on the degree of achievement of outcomes under the 23 programmes as well as on lessons learned and follow-up action. Information on the achievement of outcomes under the 76 subprogrammes was provided as additional information on GovAtom.

41. The Agency was seeking to enhance the quality and usefulness of performance indicators. Recognizing the importance of risk management, accountability and the identification of potential areas for efficiency gains, it was addressing those issues through a policy framework and training programme and was integrating them into programme development for the 2010-2011 Programme and Budget cycle. Programme managers were taking a number of immediate proactive follow-up actions during the current cycle (2008–2009).

42. The report also indicated the amount of resources available, the scale of expenditure, and the financial implementation rate for the biennium in respect of the Regular Budget, the extrabudgetary programme and the Nuclear Security Fund.

43. Mr SHAHBAZ (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, commended the Secretariat on the achievements and encouraging outcomes under all the major programmes. The

Group looked forward to being informed about how areas for further improvement were being addressed.

44. With regard to Programme B on nuclear fuel cycle and materials technologies, the Group noted with concern the recommendation by OIOS that the Agency should collaborate with international initiatives to increase the coverage of Subprogramme B.4. Those initiatives had not been endorsed by a large number of the Agency's Member States, including the Group, which reiterated its long-standing position that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle called for an in-depth analysis by all States of their technical, legal, financial, economic and political aspects.

45. The Group noted with appreciation the positive outcomes of the Agency's collaboration with the FAO on Programme E on food and agriculture. The Joint Division had been providing Member States, particularly the least developed countries, with concrete benefits in the fields of crop enhancement, pest control, and food and environmental protection. The Group therefore agreed with the Agency that communication with stakeholders should be improved to raise awareness of the potential value and impact of the programme activities. It reiterated its support for the retention and strengthening of the Joint Division.

46. The assumptions about many Member States' preparedness to deal with food security crises were not necessarily valid and did not belong in the report.

47. The 'one United Nations' approach to the development, financing and delivery of country programmes could have a negative impact on the technical cooperation programme, including resource mobilization. Such a system should not impinge on the Agency's unique mandate and structure or in any way diminish the volume, character and specificity of the technical cooperation programme. Hence it should not be applied to the implementation of the technical cooperation programme in developing countries.

48. With regard to Programme F on human health, the Group noted with concern the conclusion that "high costs related to nuclear medicine procedures hampered their implementation in low-income countries". It believed that the technical cooperation programme could help to bridge gaps in the area of nuclear medicine through training, capacity building and the provision of equipment.

49. While supporting any efforts to encourage technical cooperation among developing countries, the Group requested further clarification of the statement in paragraph 48 of the report that it was increasingly difficult to place fellows within such countries for short-term training.

50. The Group noted that several tools had been developed under Major Programme 6 to assess how technical cooperation projects were linked to the MDGs and their environmental impact in the formulation of the 2009–2011 technical cooperation programme. The Group looked forward to receiving further information on those developments.

51. With regard to the PCMF, the Group agreed that further training in the logical framework approach and the PCMF system, as well as simplification of the system, were essential to assist Member States in technical cooperation programming.

52. The Group agreed with OIOS that a mechanism should be developed to mitigate the effect of currency fluctuations such as the decline in the United States dollar, which had reduced the purchasing power of the TCF. Its findings were corroborated by the External Auditor and supported by the Director General.

53. In view of the increasing use of radiation processing technologies in health care, agriculture and the environment, the Group noted with deep concern the continued shipping restrictions on deliveries of cobalt-60 sources and radioactive materials, which adversely affected the relevant project

implementation. It looked forward to the outcome of the action plan developed by the Agency's International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material.

54. Mr UZCÁTEGUI DUQUE (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, noted with satisfaction that the rate of utilization of resources by major programme, reflected in Table 1, had been close to 100%, especially in 2007.

55. GRULAC re-emphasized the need to achieve better balance between resources for programmes relating to the Agency's statutory activities. A greater effort should be made to increase the budget for the technical cooperation programme, which was one of the Agency's pillars and a vital means of transferring the nuclear technology required for development.

56. Under Major Programme 1, GRULAC welcomed the publication of documents on the development of a nuclear power infrastructure, the organization of workshops, activities under the INPRO project and the marked increase in training in the Agency's energy assessment and planning tools as well as in their use.

57. GRULAC warmly welcomed the results achieved under Major Programme 2, which had yielded substantial benefits for Member States in the areas of human health, agriculture, food, water resources management, the environment and industry. They included the training of over 1500 professionals in human health, a 200% increase in the number of laboratories using nuclear and isotopic technology in national nutrition programmes, and the launching of six PACT Model Demonstration Sites. The establishment of fruit-fly-free areas in five GRULAC countries using the SIT had led to an increase in exports, boosting employment and income. It was to be hoped that the scale of such activities in the region, which enhanced its capacity to use nuclear technology, would continue to increase. GRULAC welcomed efforts to identify obstacles to the wider application of such technology and urged the Agency to continue looking for appropriate solutions.

58. Referring to Major Programme 6, he said that GRULAC appreciated all efforts to enhance the efficiency and transparency of management procedures. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue providing Member States with technical advice on how to derive maximum benefit from the PCMF system.

59. The Group urged the Secretariat to investigate ways of addressing factors that had a negative impact on the project implementation rate.

60. GRULAC stressed the importance of adopting a more flexible approach to NPCs in order to avoid holding up the implementation of new technical cooperation projects, since some countries' administrative and financial timetables impeded the disbursement of the 2.5% contribution within the first few months of the year.

61. The Group welcomed the mobilization of resources through strategic alliances aimed at enhancing the response capacity of the technical cooperation programme and encouraged the Secretariat to develop effective coordination machinery to ensure that resources were exploited to the full in priority areas, especially in developing countries.

62. GRULAC reiterated its concern at the loss of purchasing power of the TCF owing to exchange rate fluctuations and stressed the need to find appropriate solutions. It also urged the Secretariat to continue exploring ways and means of guaranteeing sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the technical cooperation programme. The GRULAC region was particularly concerned about the current situation, since it received less resources under the programme, in percentage terms, than any other region.

63. Ms MUTANDIRO (Zimbabwe)*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, welcomed the Agency's achievements under Major Programme 2, which played a pivotal role in promoting attainment of the MDGs by enhancing food security, developing agriculture, improving human and livestock health, and promoting water resources management. In the area of food security, she said that collaboration between the Agency and the FAO had increased the number of officially released plant mutant varieties by 10%. The African Group therefore supported the recommendation aimed at improving communication and raising awareness of the programme's potential value and impact.
64. The Group welcomed the publication in 2007 of the *Atlas of Isotope Hydrology – Africa*, a reference source that would significantly enhance Member States' analytical capabilities. It took note of the Agency's initiatives in that regard and welcomed the indications that such activities would be expanded.
65. The Group noted with satisfaction that the rate of attainment for the TCF had reached 94.7% in 2006 and 95.6% in 2007. It agreed with the Group of 77 and China that resources for the Fund should be sufficient, assured and predictable. Member States should take cognizance of the steady decline in the value of the United States dollar and of its negative impact on the resources available under the TCF.
66. Mr CURIA (Argentina), referring to Major Programme 1, noted that the global interest in nuclear power was creating increased demand for Agency assistance. He also noted with satisfaction that: the number of States participating in the INPRO project had grown from 24 to 28; training in the use of energy assessment tools had increased from 272 trainees in 2005 to 429 in 2007; the number of users of the main fuel cycle databases had risen by 68%; and the number of organizations using the nuclear knowledge management methodology and INIS had increased by about 25%.
67. Turning to Major Programme 2, he noted with satisfaction that: the use of nuclear techniques in human health had been enhanced through the participation of 1500 professionals in training events and conferences supported by the Agency; the PACT programme had demonstrated the need for comprehensive national cancer control programmes; and the use of the SIT had resulted in increased access to agricultural export markets, creating thousands of rural jobs and generating substantial investment. He also took note of the publication of the *Atlas of Isotope Hydrology – Africa* in support of water resource management efforts.
68. He noted that achievements under Major Programme 3 had strengthened the global nuclear safety and security regime; that the comprehensive IAEA Safety Standards Series had become the global reference for users of nuclear power and other nuclear applications, and that the international safety reviews carried out by the Agency had increased the transparency of safety actions and enhanced national and international nuclear safety. He further noted the improvement in the global security of radioactive materials, nuclear facilities, sites and transport.
69. In the case of Major Programme 5, he welcomed the fact that the Agency had been recognized as an international reference for unbiased nuclear information and that a secure Agency Computer Centre had consolidated IT infrastructure.
70. Lastly, with regard to Major Programme 6, he noted with satisfaction that project management, effectiveness and teamwork had been improved.
71. Mr CAMERON (Australia) welcomed evidence in the report of the move towards embedding a results based approach in the Agency's management framework. Further development of performance indicators was needed to facilitate clear assessment of outcomes, covering both tangible and intangible socio-economic benefits. Additional thought should be given to building performance assessment mechanisms into the management framework. Indicators such as "evidence of relevance" and "level of

use” made sense only if practical and efficient information-gathering tools were available for performance assessment.

72. He commended the Agency on its progress in identifying and sharing lessons learned, which helped to build a quality management culture. As there was still considerable room for improvement in articulating the lessons learned at the programme and subprogramme level, he encouraged the Agency to work towards early implementation of the useful findings set out in the “Lessons Learned of an Agency-wide Nature” section.

73. Mr SANDTNER (Germany) said that the resource utilization rates relating to the Agency’s major programmes indicated good planning and reflected the progress achieved. With regard to Programme U, his delegation welcomed the Secretariat’s decision to produce for Member States more firmly based predictions on the future direction of programme and funding requirements. The Agency’s short- and medium-term funding requirements, in particular, had a direct impact on national budget planning and the reliability of respective predictions played a crucial role for Member States’ ability to provide for the necessary financial means.

74. The report emphasized the importance of the introduction of AIPS to the further improvement of administrative processes relating to Programme V. Germany supported that step and had chosen to dedicate a substantial part of its share in the cash surplus to the funding of AIPS. The expected efficiency gains resulting from the implementation of the system should be reflected in the next Programme Performance Report.

75. His delegation strongly supported the goal formulated in paragraph 184 regarding improved performance indicators as the results based approach relied on the ability to measure the outcome of an individual activity. Germany also supported the goal set forth in paragraph 196. Given the broad range of Agency services funded through the Regular Budget and specific funds, coordination was crucial to avoiding duplication. That was particularly important against the background of the current debate about the future of the Agency.

76. Mr STACEY MORENO (Ecuador) acknowledged the growing importance of the energy issue and the relevance of the Agency’s activities under Major Programme 1 in that regard. Noting the reported increased demand for Agency assistance in assuring the effective and responsible use of nuclear power, his delegation welcomed its efforts in that area and its activities in the framework of INPRO, nuclear knowledge management and INIS.

77. Ecuador attached particular importance to the Agency's technical cooperation activities, especially those relating to the MDGs, and welcomed the achievements under Major Programme 2 in the area of training in the use of nuclear techniques in human health. Ecuador supported PACT and welcomed the Agency’s support for key partnerships to begin implementing six Model Demonstration Sites in order to demonstrate the need for comprehensive national cancer control programmes and their development. The Agency should further strengthen its activities relating to the use of the SIT, environmental assessment activities and water resource management.

78. His delegation had taken note of the further development and refinement of the PCMF IT platform under Major Programme 6 aimed at improving management, effectiveness and teamwork, and welcomed the new guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of National Liaison Officers and the establishment of regional programming profiles.

79. Drawing attention to the statement made by the Ambassador of Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC, he expressed concern over the reduced purchasing power of the TCF resulting from currency fluctuations. The situation was particularly serious in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which received fewer technical cooperation resources than any other in percentage terms. The

Secretariat must address the situation in such a way as to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding to meet the region's cooperation needs.

80. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland) welcomed the reduction in the number of person-days of inspection relating to the implementation of integrated safeguards under Major Programme 4, but was concerned that it had been offset by a substantial increase in activities and projects at Headquarters related to the State level evaluations. His delegation assumed that those activities and projects were of a temporary nature, and that activities were not simply being redistributed without a significant reduction in volume.

81. With regard to Major Programme 7, he invited the Secretariat to comment on the disappointing decrease in implementation rates for internal audit and programme evaluation recommendations issued by the OIOS as compared to the previous biennium.

82. Mr YANG Dazhu (China) expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Agency across all its major programmes and the efforts made by the Secretariat to that effect. The two principal documents published under Major Programme 1, *Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme* and *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power*, provided strong support to developing countries in planning their nuclear programmes. Atomic and nuclear data developed through CRPs had been adopted by key international data libraries. In the framework of Major Programme 3, the Agency had engaged in a range of activities to promote the wider use of its safety standards and the improvement of nuclear safety levels worldwide. Regional safety networks offered a platform for the exchange of nuclear knowledge and experience and were being adopted by a growing number of States. Under Major Programme 6, the Agency had improved project management effectiveness and teamwork by further developing and refining the PCMF IT platform, concluding CPFs with most Member States and publishing new guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of National Liaison Officers.

83. In the past year, China had participated actively in various programme activities. In the area of nuclear energy, China and other countries had promoted the holding of Agency seminars and workshops, the preparation of technical documents and the development of a national nuclear power programme. To enhance the Agency's capacity to provide guidance and assistance to countries with nuclear programmes, China had participated in collaborative INPRO projects, provided relevant information to the 'Red Book', and organized, in cooperation with the Agency, the Second International Symposium on Nuclear Power Plant Life Management. Furthermore, China had made extrabudgetary contributions to technical cooperation projects in Africa and organized a number of relevant training courses and seminars in China, thus contributing to the application of nuclear technology in developing countries.

84. Despite the progress achieved, the implementation of projects and major programmes must be improved further. The Secretariat should promote wider use of the PCMF IT platform, pay due attention to the decline in purchasing power of the TCF and create effective remedial mechanisms, and intensify its cooperation with the FAO, including through the Joint Division, in order to facilitate the use of nuclear technology in food and agriculture.

85. Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE (Canada) said that the biennial Programme Performance Reports were a valuable tool for self-assessment by the Secretariat of its own performance. The Report for 2006–2007 confirmed that the Agency had generally achieved the established outcomes, goals and objectives, and highlighted its important contributions across the broad spectrum of activities. Particularly noteworthy was the increased rate of utilization of resources by all major programmes, notably Major Programme 4. Taking note of the eight-fold increase in resources utilized for CAURBs, she said her delegation would welcome additional information on the matter.

86. Despite the Agency's overall good performance, results were mixed in some important areas. While PACT had successfully strengthened partnerships with other key organizations, which had helped mobilize significant new resources, less had been achieved in that area under Major Programme 1, for example. The Agency must step up its efforts to strengthen collaboration with other stakeholders in the nuclear sector in order to address the growing interest in nuclear power and the fuel cycle and to leverage additional resources.

87. Measuring performance was crucial to the success of a results based approach which, in turn, was essential for the success of the Agency. While improvements had been made, that approach and the design of performance parameters must be further refined. Her delegation was concerned that, at least in one case, under the nuclear security programme, the performance indicators had been considered invalid as a direct measurement of Agency performance. Improvements to performance indicators should include the establishment of targets at the programme level, identification of potential areas for efficiency gains throughout the programme and project cycle, implementation of an accountability framework, and the establishment of a feedback system, which was particularly crucial for follow-up on the implementation of corrective actions.

88. The 'one-house' approach must also remain a core principle to ensure effective and efficient performance and results across the Agency's broad range of activities. Her delegation welcomed the continued efforts to enhance that approach and the efforts by management to provide leadership and guidance. However, as stated in paragraph 196, more should be done to improve coordination.

89. As in the past, much of the report remained highly descriptive and some information, especially in the case of Major Programmes 4 and 6, was already reflected elsewhere. Future reports should be more analytical in nature and place greater emphasis on Major Programme 7 and the lessons learned of an Agency-wide nature. The latter section, in particular was disappointingly brief.

90. Mr AMANO (Japan) noted with satisfaction that, compared with the preceding report, the 2006–2007 report provided a more detailed analysis of the lessons learned and follow-up actions. Japan was looking forward to the 2010–2011 Programme and Budget, which should reflect clearly the lessons learned and actions detailed in the Programme Performance Report for 2006–2007 and take account of the needs and requirements of each programme using the results based approach.

91. Notwithstanding the complexity of the task, the Secretariat should review and examine current and future programmes continuously and in depth in a cost-efficient manner. Lower priority programmes should be identified and reviewed in order to determine whether they should be preserved. Greater efficiency and procedural improvements were required so as to make the best use of the Agency's limited financial resources. The Secretariat should explain to the Board, in due course, the links between the Programme Performance Report, the OIOS reports and the Report of the External Auditors, among others. Greater synergy among those reports could further improve and facilitate results based management.

92. Mr DÍAZ (Mexico), speaking with reference to the implementation of Major Programme 1, said that his Government valued Agency support on plant life management and evolutionary and innovative reactors and fuel cycles, in particular. He noted with satisfaction that the increase in requests for the Agency's guidance and assistance in that area.

93. His delegation was pleased that the achievements in the implementation of Major Programme 3 had helped strengthen the global nuclear safety and security regime. Mexico had received an IRRS mission in February 2008, which had been tasked to review the practices of its nuclear regulatory body and the effectiveness of the national regulatory infrastructure for the use of nuclear energy and other nuclear applications. Mexico had also contributed in various ways to the Agency's review of safety guides.

94. His delegation was also pleased that the report highlighted the preparations for the full-scale international emergency response exercise ConvEx-3 (2008). In coordination with the National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission, the Agency had held three preparatory meetings in 2006 and 2007. The exercise itself had been held in July 2008 at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant, with the participation of international observers and the competent national institutions.

95. With regard to the safety of research reactors, Mexico continued to apply the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors and in 2007 had participated in the relevant regional meeting, which had facilitated information exchange between representatives of participating regulatory and operating bodies.

96. The National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission was the point of contact for the purpose of facilitating the export and import of radioactive sources in accordance with the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. The Commission cooperated with its counterparts in the follow-up of radioactive materials sent or received by Mexico. In that context, the procedures for notification and confirmation of shipment of radioactive sources was being reviewed jointly with the United States of America and Canada and a relevant interinstitutional agreement was currently being negotiated with the Canadian Government.

97. In the area of radioactive waste management, Mexico was participating in DIRATA (Database on Discharges of Radionuclides to the Atmosphere and Aquatic Environment), mainly by way of follow-up meetings that served to establish long-term cooperation and data exchange procedures. Mexico was also participating in the NEWMDB (Net Enabled Waste Management Database) by keeping up to date information about radioactive waste management in Mexico.

98. The Secretariat's efforts with respect to the application of safeguards and optimizing inspection activities under Major Programme 4 were noteworthy. Mexico received Agency inspections in the framework of its safeguards agreement under both the Tlatelolco Treaty and the NPT.

99. Mr KUMAR (India) said that the report contained in document GOV/2008/31 provided assurance that in all the major programmes accomplishments had been of a very high order. Resource utilization had been almost 100%, and the lessons learned meticulously recorded. India trusted that those lessons would form important feedback in preparing plans for the next programme cycle and looked forward to even greater successes in technology transfer and capacity building and, through them, to progress in realization of the MDGs in the next cycle and beyond.

100. India commended the Secretariat for the progress reported in many areas of Major Programme 1 and found it particularly heartening that the use of Agency assessment tools had risen by almost 58% between 2005 and 2007. India also commended the Agency for the almost 100% utilization of funds for that programme. Although INPRO had been upgraded, its funding was largely through extrabudgetary resources; India considered that in view of its importance it merited funding through the Regular Budget, which would expedite and accelerate the successful implementation of its activities in Phase 2.

101. As regards Programme B, the recommendation of collaboration with other international initiatives, such as the GIF and GNEP, required more detailed discussions. The role played by the Agency in building a network of fusion energy professionals as part of Programme D augured well for long-term research and development in that area.

102. Turning to Programme E, he emphasized the good work done by the Joint Division, and said that its work in providing Member States, particularly the least developed countries, with concrete benefits by way of enhanced crop productivity, pest control and environmental protection should be

strengthened rather than discontinued. His delegation concurred with the Agency's view that communication with stakeholders should be improved to raise awareness about the activities and achievements of the programme and their potential value and impact, but it was for each country to decide on the ground the appropriate responses to individual crises.

103. As to Programme F, India was concerned at the finding in the report that high costs related to nuclear medicine procedures had hampered their implementation in low-income countries, and strongly believed that the Agency could contribute, under its various programmes, to bridging gaps in the field of nuclear medicine through training and the provision of equipment where needed. He commended PACT, which could form the subject of the next General Conference Scientific Forum, and noted that India was supplying a Bhabhatron-II teletherapy machine to Vietnam, and was working with the Agency to make arrangements to train Vietnamese personnel in handling the equipment.

104. Turning to Programme G, he noted with great satisfaction the publication in 2007 of *The Atlas of Isotope Hydrology — Africa* and the completion of work on a similar atlas for Asia and the Pacific. For its part, India had a vibrant isotope hydrology programme to assess water resources in different parts of the country.

105. His delegation also noted with appreciation that the contributions of Programme I were satisfactory in respect of all the indicators chosen for evaluation.

106. With regard to Programme X, India was pleased to note that improved national and international arrangements were in place for early warning and response to incidents and emergencies and supported the Agency in taking corrective action to ensure full funding through Regular Budget resources.

107. As regards Programme J, India had noted with satisfaction that there appeared to be an overall awareness of the need for nuclear safety, as was evident from the performance indicators.

108. His delegation had noted that all the outcomes expected from Programme K had been achieved with satisfactory results, but noted in respect of Programme M that although the performance indicators were very positive there were still some that required information on ratification of conventions by national legislation. The Agency should therefore identify more appropriate performance indicators.

109. As to Major Programme 5, India was pleased to note that the Agency was increasingly being recognized as the authoritative source for nuclear related issues.

110. In respect of Major Programme 6, India welcomed the increase in funding for various programmes and the fact that the rate of attainment had exceeded 95% in 2007. India supported the argument that the PCMF system had to be simplified so as to make it easier to use by more Member States. India agreed with the suggestions of OIOS that a mechanism needed to be developed to mitigate the effect of currency fluctuation and that more attention needed to be paid to financial monitoring.

111. Mr. SCHULTE (United States of America) said that his delegation strongly supported the Agency's results based approach to its programme and budget. Properly implemented, the approach was critical in maximizing the effectiveness of the Agency's programmes in meeting the needs of its Member States and making the most efficient use of the resources provided by them. The Programme Performance Report for 2006–2007 served the essential function of evaluating results obtained in comparison to the goals set forth in the Programme and Budget Document. Such evaluation was critical for full transparency and accountability in the Agency's programmes and, more important, provided essential feedback for the improvement of programmes and for refining the results based approach itself.

112. His delegation had noted that all the Major Programmes included performance indicators that were easily understood as objective measures, although there were also more subjective performance indicators without clear metrics which required refinement.

113. Finally, he appealed to the Secretariat to accelerate progress towards the adoption in full of United Nations system standards and practices with respect to professional ethics, financial disclosures and the internal reporting of waste, fraud or mismanagement, the so-called 'whistleblower protection'.

114. Ms LACANLALE (Philippines) said that the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), Bureau of Animal Industry and National Dairy Authority were cooperating with the Agency on appropriate feeds and technologies to mitigate the production of greenhouse gases that might arise from an intensive increase in the country's livestock production programme. The Philippines supported the participation of the Department of Technical Cooperation in the development of CRPs, in Subprogramme E.2 in particular and other Agency programmes in general.

115. In the field of radiopharmaceutical production under Programme I, which focused mainly on nuclear medicine diagnosis and treatment of cancer and lifestyle diseases, the Philippines was in favour of more studies on the use of radioisotopes for the diagnosis of tuberculosis and similar diseases. In the field of radioanalytical techniques, the Agency's initiative in assisting Member States with accreditation according to good laboratory practice (GLP) or ISO standards had benefited the Philippines in that her country aspired to be a regional resource unit for trace element analysis by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry. The Philippines was also in favour of reviving the International Dose Assurance Service (IDAS) in view of the prospects for expanding PNRI's irradiation services using the newly upgraded multipurpose cobalt-60 irradiation facility, as well as the private sector's interest in setting up a commercial irradiation facility. The Philippines further supported the use of radiation technology in the synthesis of nanomaterials and advanced composite materials.

116. Finally, she said that the Philippines commended the Agency's achievements under Programme M to combat the risk of nuclear terrorism and to assist Member States in strengthening their nuclear security.

117. Mr GUMBI (South Africa) considered that the Agency publications *Considerations to Launch a Nuclear Power Programme* and *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power* would greatly assist Member States, particularly developing countries, in their plans to embark upon nuclear energy production. South Africa noted with appreciation the increasing membership of INPRO and welcomed the collaborative projects proposed within its framework. South Africa set great store by knowledge management and appreciated the multilayered data and information system the Agency made available to Member States. Countries looking to develop their own nuclear activities were strongly encouraged to draw on the Agency's knowledge base and assessment tools.

118. He welcomed the Agency's activities on Major Programme 2 and, with respect to Major Programme 3, having noted the great importance his delegation attached to the nuclear security situation in South Africa, he reiterated his country's commitment to voluntary adherence to the framework of international instruments concerned. South Africa looked forward to the new approach to be developed in the Nuclear Security Plan for 2010–2014 ensuring the sustainability of improvements in individual States relating to nuclear security.

119. Turning to Major Programme 4, he said that South Africa was concerned that there were still 30 non-nuclear-weapon States that needed to bring comprehensive safeguards agreements into force. About 80 countries still had no additional protocols in force. His delegation called upon all countries that had not yet done so to fulfil their commitments under the NPT and encouraged the Agency to

continue to implement its Plan of Action to Promote the Conclusion of Safeguards Agreements and Additional Protocols.

120. As to Major Programme 6, his delegation welcomed the increasing rate of attainment for the TCF and called upon Member States to make the resources for the Fund sufficient, assured and predictable. Bearing in mind the steady decline in the value of the United States dollar, which had reduced the purchasing power of the Fund, South Africa shared the External Auditor's view that a mechanism would need to be developed to mitigate the effect of currency fluctuations.

121. Mr. ALSHARIA (Iraq) said that the enhanced performance figures reported in document GOV/2008/31 highlighted the efficiency of the new approach to programme development enshrined in document GOV/2000/13. That gave grounds for optimism regarding the Agency's future achievements. In all the major programmes there had been an almost full level of achievement, which met the increasing needs of developing countries for nuclear energy, especially for power production, therapeutic purposes, agricultural development and the production of potable water. The Agency should enhance regional and bilateral programmes, which would have consequent savings in terms of time, effort and resources. Iraq expressed appreciation for the Agency's efforts and hoped that it would reduce the obstacles involved in the transfer of nuclear technology.

122. Mr. KIM Sung-Hwan (Republic of Korea)* said that the process represented by the report was not only a transparency measure but also an important tool in better understanding major outcomes and assessing objectively the performance of individual programmes. It was to be hoped that the lessons learned from the programme performance assessment would be duly reflected in the budget formulation process. His delegation welcomed, in particular, the provision of more information on financial aspects by adding tables and explanations of resource utilization for each programme and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in that direction and to include more budget related aspects in future reports in order to facilitate the comparison between resource and outcome.

123. Most performance indicators were still quantitative, and his delegation called on the Secretariat to make efforts to develop relevant parameters in order to evaluate the qualitative aspects of programmes as well. The Secretariat had achieved a high level of resource utilization in both the years covered by the report and had made many significant achievements across all major programmes in a balanced manner. His delegation encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide an in-depth and comprehensive biennial performance report.

124. Mr. LIENGSRIWAT (Special Assistant to the Director General for Management), replying to some points raised in the debate, responded first to the request made by the Governor from Switzerland for the Secretariat's opinion regarding the fact that the implementation rates for OIOS internal audit and programme evaluation recommendations had decreased from the previous biennium. He said that the action that had been taken had been that the Agency was linking implementation rate on OIOS recommendations to the performance assessment of the individual programme managers.

125. As to the question from the Governor from Japan regarding the coordination and synergy between the Programme Performance Report, the OIOS reports and the External Auditor's Report, he said that they were all coordinated and synchronized. The Programme Performance Report was an assessment of the programme performed by the individual responsible managers, while the OIOS evaluation was an in-depth, independent evaluation of the programme itself; the External Auditor's Report provided a certified financial statement on compliance with rules and regulations. The OIOS and the External Auditor both took the programme performance reports into consideration in their work plan before undertaking their own evaluations.

126. He thanked the Board members for the confidence they had expressed in the Agency's results based approach and said that the Secretariat had noted all comments and suggestions made, which would be taken into consideration when preparing the 2010–2011 Programme and Budget.

127. The CHAIRMAN, summing up the debate, said that the Board had welcomed the Programme Performance Report for 2006-2007, contained in document GOV/2008/31. Several suggestions had been made for improvement to both its content and its structure. Several members had noted with appreciation the Secretariat's results based approach to programme development, the measurement of achievements based on performance indicators and the reporting of lessons learned therefrom. They had commended the Secretariat for the various achievements and encouraging outcomes in all the major programmes and looked forward to being informed on how areas for further improvement were being addressed.

128. Diverse views had been expressed regarding different aspects of the Agency's major programmes.

129. The presentation of the outcomes of each subprogramme, together with the performance indicators, had been welcomed. Some had stated that they found such an approach to the objective assessment of programme performance to be conducive to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme cycle. Some had noted that further work was needed to improve the nature of performance indicators both qualitatively and quantitatively.

130. Several members had emphasized the importance of maintaining balance between the activities of the three pillars of the Agency and the resources allocated to them.

131. Some members had expressed the view that the Sections of the report on lessons learned had identified areas for improvement in programme delivery, including better coordination and synergies among the major programmes.

132. A view had been expressed that the Secretariat should move forward on measures currently being considered to strengthen transparency and accountability, including adoption of the United Nations' approach to ethics, financial disclosures and 'whistleblower protection'.

133. The Board had noted the Secretariat's responses to some of the points raised, such as the associations between the various assessment reports.

134. With those comments, he took it that the Board wished to take note of the Programme Performance Report for 2006-2007 contained in document GOV/2008/31.

135. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.