

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1216<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
GOV/OR.1216

Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear radiation and transport  
safety and waste management

# Board of Governors

**GOV/OR.1216**

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## Record of the 1216<sup>th</sup> Meeting

*Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 22 September 2008, at 3.15 p.m.*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 COGAN              |       | Vice-Chairman (Ireland)   |
| Mr HOXHA              | _____ | Albania   |
| Mr KHELIFI            |       | Algeria   |
| Mr CURIA              |       | Argentina   |
| Mr CAMERON            |       | Australia   |
| Mr HEISLER            |       | Austria   |
| Ms ESPINOZA PATIÑO    |       | Bolivia   |
| Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO   |       | Brazil  |
| Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE |       | Canada  |
| Mr LAGOS KOLLER       |       | Chile   |
| Mr YANG Dazhu         |       | China   |
| Mr HORVATÍĆ           |       | Croatia   |
| Mr STACEY MORENO      |       | Ecuador   |
| Mr KEBEDE             |       | Ethiopia  |
| Ms KAUPPI             |       | Finland   |
| Mr CARON              | }     | France  |
| Mr DENIAU             |       |   |
| Mr SANDTNER           |       | Germany   |
| Mr BAAH-DUODU         |       | Ghana   |
| Mr ACHAL              |       | India   |
| Mr ALSHARIA           |       | Iraq  |
| Mr CONLON             |       | Ireland   |
| Mr BAIANO             |       | Italy   |
| Mr AMANO              |       | Japan   |
| Mr MAKSIMOVAS         |       | Lithuania   |
| Mr FUENTES SANCHEZ    |       | Mexico  |
| Mr AIT SLIMANE        |       | Morocco   |
| Mr EDOKPA             |       | Nigeria   |
| Mr SHAHBAZ            |       | Pakistan  |
| Ms LACANLALE          |       | Philippines   |
| Mr BERDENNIKOV        | }     | Russian Federation  |
| Mr KUCHINOV           |       |   |
| Mr AL-TAIFI           |       | Saudi Arabia  |
| Mr GUMBI              |       | South Africa  |
| Mr STEINMANN          |       | Switzerland   |
| Mr PANUPONG           |       | Thailand  |
| Mr DRAPER             |       | United Kingdom of Great Britain and<br>Northern Ireland               |
| Mr SCHULTE            |       | United States of America  |
| Mr ELBARADEI          | _____ | Director General  |
| Mr TANIGUCHI          |       | Deputy Director General, Department<br>of Nuclear Safety and Security |
| Mr WALLER             |       | Deputy Director General, Department<br>of Management                  |
| Mr ANING              |       | Secretary of the Board  |

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

Angola, Belarus, Belgium, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Guatemala, Holy See, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uruguay, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

**Abbreviations used in this record:**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| AIPS   | Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support   |
| ASEAN  | Association of Southeast Asian Nations   |
| BSS    | International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources |
| CSS    | Commission on Safety Standards   |
| EFTA   | European Free Trade Association  |
| FAO    | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  |
| GRULAC | Latin American and Caribbean Group   |
| ICSC   | International Civil Service Commission   |
| INLEX  | International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability  |
| INSAG  | International Nuclear Safety Group   |
| INSARR | Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors  |
| IRPA   | International Radiation Protection Association   |
| IRRS   | Integrated Regulatory Review Service   |
| NEPAD  | New Partnership for Africa's Development   |
| NGO    | non-governmental organization  |
| OSART  | Operational Safety Review Team   |
| PBC    | Programme and Budget Committee   |
| PET    | positron emission tomography   |
| PSA    | probabilistic safety analysis/assessment   |

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

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| RASSC                 | Radiation Safety Standards Committee                       |
| TCF                   | Technical Cooperation Fund                                 |
| Transport Regulations | Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material |
| WASSC                 | Waste Safety Standards Committee                           |

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



#### **4. Personnel matters:**

##### **Survey of best prevailing conditions of service for staff in the General Service category**

(GOV/2008/19)

#### **5. The Agency's Budget Update for 2009**

(GOV/2008/1/Rev.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, as agreed, items 4 and 5 would be taken up together. Under item 4, the Board had before it document GOV/2008/19 which contained a proposal for changes to the current salary scale for staff members in the General Service category in Vienna based on a recommendation by the ICSC. Item 5 had been placed on the agenda of the current session because the draft budget had had to be revised to reflect a number of changes made since the June meetings of the Board. The revised draft budget was contained in document GOV/2008/1/Rev.1.

2. Mr WALLER (Deputy Director General for Management) said that it was unusual for the Board to be considering budget estimates in September. The normal procedure for finalizing the budget for the second year of a biennium was that, in the spring of the first year, the Secretariat prepared a draft budget update document, the purpose of which was to reflect proposed changes, if any, in the biennial programme adopted earlier, and any corresponding or other changes to the budget estimates for the second year, as well as price adjustments to take account of inflation and preserve purchasing power. The update document was submitted to the PBC in May, which in turn reported to the Board in June. The Board's recommendation was then transmitted to the General Conference which, under the Agency's Statute, approved the budget.

3. In 2008, in accordance with that procedure, a draft budget update had been submitted to the PBC at its meetings in May. The PBC had made its report to the Board in June, which in turn had recommended a budget for 2009 to the General Conference. The document containing that recommendation had been duly issued in July. However, at the special meetings of the Board held on 1 August to consider and approve the new safeguards agreement with the Government of India, the Chairman had reminded the Board that the Secretariat had estimated that there would be costs of €1.2 million during 2009 to implement the agreement. Thus the Secretariat had had to modify the budgetary estimates for 2009 to include those anticipated costs and prepare a revised version of the budget update document.

4. There had been another, offsetting factor that had been taken into account in the revised budget now before the Board, which also explained why items 4 and 5 had been combined: the recommended reduction in the salary scale for Agency staff in the General Service category. That recommendation was the subject of document GOV/2008/19. In November 2007, the ICSC had carried out a survey of salaries paid by local businesses in Vienna. Thereafter, at its session held in March/April 2008, it had considered the findings of the survey and had made its recommendations on the salary scales for General Service staff working in Vienna. The recommended scales were 1.57% lower than those currently in effect.



5. When the original budget update document had been issued in March, the Secretariat had not yet received the ICSC recommendations, and thus its estimates of General Service salary requirements for 2009 had been formulated on the basis of the salaries then in effect. Normally, a correction for the new scales would have been made only in the following year (i.e. 2010) as part of the price adjustment calculations. However, since the Secretariat had been required to revise the budget estimates for 2009 in the light of the Indian safeguards agreement, it had exceptionally taken the opportunity to factor in the new General Service salary scales. That had resulted in an overall reduction of €1.08 million in the price adjustment for 2009 — an amount that, by chance, almost exactly offset the increase for the safeguards work.

6. Mr DENIAU (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, and the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, expressed pleasure at the agreement reached at the meetings of the Board of Governors on 1 August regarding outstanding budgetary questions for 2009.

7. With regard to funding for AIPS, the European Union supported the establishment of that essential tool for ensuring the effective functioning of the Agency and achieving management savings and welcomed the agreement reached on a funding mechanism. It hoped that the contributions received would enable the project to get off the ground. To date, several Member States of the European Union were planning to contribute a total of more than €1 million. Given the importance of that project, Plateaux 2–4 should be funded from the Regular Budget, and it was on that condition that the European Union had agreed to the exceptional funding modalities for Plateau 1.

8. The European Union took note of the revisions to the 2009 budget set out in document GOV/2008/1/Rev.1, in particular for the implementation of safeguards in India, which were a necessary consequence of the decisions taken by the Board on 1 August.

9. The current policy of applying programme support costs to extrabudgetary resources on a case-by-case basis should continue. Such costs should be applied in a fair and equitable manner.

10. The European Union encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in the area of management and priority setting, and to ensure the greatest possible transparency in the forecasting of expenditure and investments.

11. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland) said that his country had taken note of the findings of the survey of conditions of service, and the proposed changes to the current salary scale for General Service staff members. It approved the proposed salary scale and authorized the Director-General to implement it as of 2009.

12. The draft budget update for 2009 contained in document GOV/2008/1/Rev.1 took into account both the consequences of the decisions taken by the Board at its meetings on 1 August, namely the increase in the TCF target and the start of verification activities in India, and the findings of the survey of conditions of service for staff in the General Service category. His delegation agreed to the submission of that document to the General Conference. However, at the next series of meetings on the budget, his country expected the Secretariat to provide it with information on the results of its efforts to incorporate extrabudgetary contributions into the Regular Budget, to establish a management committee on extrabudgetary contributions, and to come up with a funding mechanism for the TCF which took account of needs in dollars and euros so as to limit exchange rate risks.

13. Mr AMANO (Japan) said that his country endorsed the submission of the proposed budget estimate to the General Conference for its approval.

14. Japan supported the recommendations of the External Auditor that the Agency should adopt a common programme support cost mechanism to separate the cost of administering extrabudgetary programmes from the Regular Budget and enhance the transparency of reporting on extrabudgetary activities. However, any such mechanism should be applied in a fair, equal and non-discriminatory manner. His country appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat in that regard.

15. Mr ACHAL (India) endorsed document GOV/2008/1/Rev.1 and the recommended action set forth therein.

16. Mr GUMBI (South Africa) said that technical cooperation was an essential and integral part of the Agency's statutory mandate. The implementation of technical cooperation projects was of the utmost importance to developing countries, as such projects greatly contributed to meeting their socio-economic development goals. His country was deeply concerned over the lengthy discussions that had led to the marginal increase in the TCF target figures for the period 2009–2011.

17. South Africa had already voiced its concern over the huge negative effect on the poor of high food and fuel prices, which impacted on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of NEPAD programmes. It was important for Member States to recognize the importance of the Agency's technical cooperation programme and the need to increase its resources. Innovative ways would have to be identified soon to ensure that funding for that important area of the Agency's work was sufficient, assured and predictable. Finding a way of funding the programme through the Regular Budget was a matter which should be treated with the urgency it deserved. Furthermore, the increase in the TCF target should at least be consistent with the increases in the Agency's Regular Budget. The annual increase in funding for safeguards and verification and security costs should be balanced by a commensurate increase in funding for technical cooperation.

18. With those comments, his country joined the consensus on submitting the budgetary estimates to the General Conference for its approval and the adoption of the draft resolutions contained in the Annex thereto.

19. Mr KIM Sung-Hwan (Republic of Korea)\*, referring to the draft budget update for 2009, noted that the additional costs for verification activities in India were almost entirely offset by the reduction in the salary scale for staff members in the General Service category. His country greatly appreciated the Secretariat's efforts in that regard. It was also pleased that it had been possible to reduce the total Regular Budget for 2009 by €0.3 million by acting on a recommendation of the External Auditor. It expected the Secretariat to continue its efforts to reduce budget requirements further in the future in close consultation with the External Auditor.

20. The Republic of Korea noted with concern the negative impact of the potential termination of the cooperation arrangements with FAO. It appreciated the recent status report by the Director General on that issue.

21. With respect to the TCF target, his country greatly appreciated the level of flexibility shown by Member States during the negotiation process in reaching consensus on targets for the coming three years. The Agency's technical cooperation programme was a partnership between the Agency and Member States, and between developed countries and developing countries. Given the importance of the projects, the Republic of Korea reiterated its firm commitment to providing sufficient, predictable and assured resources for the TCF.

22. In conclusion, he joined the consensus on the item.

23. The CHAIRMAN, there being no further speakers, took it, with regard to item 4, that the Board: (a) approved the recommended salary scale shown in the Annex to document GOV/2008/19 and authorized the Director General to set the date of implementation of the new salary scale, after

consultation with the other Vienna-based United Nations system organizations; (b) approved the continuation of the current interim adjustment procedure and the current factor of 0.9% for application to the new salary scale contained in the Annex.

24. It was so decided.

25. With regard to item 5, he took it that the Board wished to submit the budgetary estimates contained in document GOV/2008/1/Rev.1 to the General Conference for its approval and the adoption of the draft resolutions set forth in the Annex.

26. It was so decided.

## **6. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management** (GOV/2008/34, 26 and 27; 2008/Note 26)

27. Mr TANIGUCHI (Deputy Director General for Nuclear Safety and Security) said that document GOV/2008/34 provided the Secretariat's response to General Conference resolution GC(51)/RES/11. Some of the events and achievements during the reporting period included the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety in April, an international workshop in July to discuss the roles and responsibilities of vendors and recipient countries embarking on nuclear power, planning for the creation of an international seismic safety centre, four regional workshops on denial of shipment of radioactive material, and a full-scale nuclear emergency exercise based on a simulated nuclear accident at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant in Mexico — ConvEx-3. The Board was being asked to consider and take note of the document. The supporting document 2008/Note 26, which was available electronically on GovAtom, provided the report of the Chairman of the Open-Ended Meeting of Technical and Legal Experts on the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Lessons Learned from Implementing the Supplementary Guidance on Import and Export Controls.

28. Document GOV/2008/26 contained draft Safety Requirements — proposed revisions to the 2005 edition of the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. Those revised regulations would ensure harmonization with other United Nations transport regulations and help reduce instances of delays and denials of shipment of radioactive material. With that revision, in line with Board policy, it was anticipated that the frequency of future revisions would decrease significantly.

29. Document GOV/2008/27 contained draft Safety Requirements on predisposal management of radioactive waste. The draft provided up-to-date safety requirements. It was a revision — based on the Safety Fundamentals — of Safety Standards Series No. WS-R-2.

30. The Board was being asked to approve the two draft Safety Requirements documents and to authorize the Director General to promulgate and issue them as Safety Requirements publications in the IAEA Safety Standards Series. The Agency appreciated the support and expertise provided by experts from Member States in preparing those draft Safety Requirements.

31. The current year marked the 50th anniversary of the IAEA Safety Standards, which coincided with new terms for the CSS and the four safety standards committees. Earlier in the year, the CSS Chairman had written to the Director General with an update on CSS activities and plans. At its

meeting in May 2008, the CSS had approved a roadmap for the long-term structure of the Safety Standards, which established a vision and a structure with a manageable number of user-friendly publications. The Chairman had also outlined the priorities for the current CSS term, which included, inter alia, guidance and assistance to countries considering embarking on a nuclear programme, improvement in the coverage of human and organizational factors in the Safety Guides, and assistance and additional safety guidance to countries dealing with expanded uranium exploration and mining.

32. In line with the Safety Fundamentals, the Chairman stressed the need for a process to be established to verify that the application of safety-related recommendations did not compromise security, and that the recommendations from Nuclear Security Series publications did not compromise safety.

33. Several important events were scheduled during the General Conference. The annual Senior Regulators' Meeting would be held on Friday, 3 October, and would cover national nuclear safety infrastructure and the 50th Anniversary of the IAEA Safety Standards. On Monday, 29 September, INSAG would hold its annual forum, providing the perspective of five new entrants to the global nuclear safety regime on how to achieve a sustainable high level of nuclear safety. There would also be three round-table discussions during the General Conference on actively protecting patients, uranium mining revival, and denial of shipment of radioactive material.

34. Over the preceding year, the world nuclear community had continued to maintain a high level of safety performance. However, as the Director General frequently pointed out, safety would always be work in progress. In order to prevent another serious nuclear accident or a terrorist incident, which, should it occur, would erase the high expectations of nuclear power development worldwide, the Agency needed new thinking and a new approach adapted to the dynamically changing global situation. It had to build new capacity and new infrastructure for nuclear safety and security in many new places, and still needed to make further significant improvements in safety and security management and culture in existing facilities and organizations, in order better to meet the expanding and increasingly complex challenges of nuclear development. In those efforts, the Agency highly appreciated the continued support of its Member States.

35. Mr SHAHBAZ (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, commended the Secretariat for the work carried out in 2007 to strengthen nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management pursuant to the pertinent General Conference resolutions.

36. With regard to safety conventions and voluntary codes of conduct, the Group took note of the outcome of the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It noted that efforts were being made to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and that the Agency continued to promote the application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors. The Group reiterated its position that the provisions of the Code of Conduct were not legally binding.

37. The Group commended the Agency for continuing its work on the revision of the BSS, in collaboration with co-sponsors and potential co-sponsors. It encouraged the Agency to pursue its efforts to promote education and training in nuclear safety in order to ensure the safe use of nuclear energy.

38. The Group took note of the IRRS, the Agency's legal and governmental infrastructure-related peer review service, which provided Member States with advice on and assistance in strengthening the effectiveness of their regulatory infrastructures.

39. Safety was an integral part of the use of nuclear energy. Establishing, maintaining and improving technical competence in regulatory bodies and technical support organizations was a major challenge facing Member States in the coming years. The Group looked forward to cooperating with the Agency in establishing comprehensive and multifaceted approaches to developing succession planning, educational and training programmes and quality management programmes, and maintaining a continuous process providing appropriate responses to the needs of developing Member States.

40. The Group welcomed both the steering committee that oversaw the implementation of the Agency's education and training activities in the area of radiation, transport and waste safety, and its Education and Training Appraisal missions.

41. It took note of the 8th meeting of INLEX and expressed its support for that group's work. It looked forward to discussing the lessons learned from the outreach activities related to fostering of and adherence to the international nuclear liability regime.

42. The Group welcomed the Agency's continuing outreach activities on promoting nuclear safety and also the results of the third Regional Workshop on Liability for Nuclear Damage held in South Africa.

43. It was pleased that the Agency continued to provide advice and support for Member States considering embarking on a nuclear power programme. It noted that the Agency had conducted a mission to the Philippines to help promote an understanding of infrastructure requirements to support a nuclear power programme, and make a preliminary assessment of the feasibility of rehabilitating the mothballed Bataan nuclear power plant.

44. The Group was very concerned at continued shipping restrictions on the delivery of radioactive sources, which adversely affected project implementation. It looked forward to the implementation of the action plan developed to address those problems by the International Steering Committee on Denial of Shipments of Radioactive Material.

45. In that connection, the Group noted that the Agency had organized several workshops in cooperation with concerned Member States and intergovernmental organizations and NGOs which had resulted in the creation of regional action plans and networks to address key issues.

46. With those comments, the Group agreed to the recommended action set forth in document GOV/2008/34.

47. With regard to document GOV/2008/26, the Group supported the Agency's efforts to promulgate transport regulations for nuclear safety. It therefore agreed with the Secretariat's proposed revisions to the 2005 edition of the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, which had been endorsed by the CSS.

48. With regard to document GOV/2008/27, the Group endorsed the Agency's efforts to promote the application of the principles for managing radioactive waste in a safe manner prior to disposal, and it endorsed the establishment, as an Agency safety standard, of the Safety Requirements contained in the document, and authorized the Director General to promulgate and issue them as a Safety Requirements publication in the IAEA Safety Standards Series.

49. In conclusion, he stressed that safety and security standards were recommendations and guidelines and should not be binding on Member States.

50. Mr CARON (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro,

the EFTA country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area, and the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, stressed the importance of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the first legally binding international treaty allowing a high level of nuclear safety to be ensured at nuclear facilities. The European Union, all of whose States were party to the Convention, was pleased that the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties held in April had been able to examine and approve several improvements to the review process, including provisions relating to ensuring continuity between review meetings, improving transparency, and expanding activities to promote the treaty. It called on all countries planning nuclear activities to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Safety and recalled that States were responsible for the safety of nuclear facilities in their territory. It again called upon Iran to accede to the Convention, since it was the only non-signatory country in the world which had a nuclear power reactor under construction.

51. Maintaining a high level of safety was a fundamental challenge for the responsible use of nuclear energy in Europe and the world. The European Union noted with satisfaction the encouraging results described in document GOV/2008/34, in particular those relating to the safety of nuclear power plants and research reactors, and transport. It also welcomed the Agency's efforts to organize peer review missions for regulatory authorities through the IRRS. The European Union would continue to support the Agency's activities to improve all aspects of safety and was studying the possibility of making a specific contribution.

52. With regard to collaboration on nuclear safety, the European Union noted with satisfaction the joint statement of the IAEA and the European Commission signed in Brussels on 7 May 2008. It invited the Secretariat to identify opportunities for synergy and cooperation in the safety area modelled on existing collaboration (such as the Commission's support for the Agency's programme to improve safety in several European Union or neighbouring countries, the participation of the Agency as an observer in the high-level group on nuclear safety, or the European Commission-IAEA-Ukraine joint safety project). In that connection, he recalled the importance the European Union attached to waste management and safety of decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

53. With regard to the revision of the 2005 Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material and its approval as an IAEA Safety Standard, he stressed that the document showed several improvements over the previous edition. The European Union was pleased by its consistency with other international regulations, including the United Nations Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods. Those new transport regulations would come into force in Europe on 1 January 2011, demonstrating the European Union's commitment to strict application of transport safety regulations.

54. The European Union welcomed the progress made in implementing the action plan for radiation protection of patients. Medical exposure to ionizing radiation was a worldwide priority in the radiation protection field, since it was the most significant source of artificial exposure for the public. Together with the Agency and the European Commission, the European Union would be organizing a special event on the subject during the General Conference.

55. Ms MUTANDIRO (Zimbabwe)\*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, commended the Secretariat for its initiatives undertaken during 2007 to strengthen nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management pursuant to the relevant General Conference resolutions.

56. Establishing, maintaining and improving the technical capabilities of regulatory institutions and related technical support were major challenges facing Member States. Safety was an integral component of the use of nuclear energy and the African Group reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with the Agency to establish comprehensive strategies to address the aforementioned challenges.

57. The Group recommended the approval of the draft Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27.

58. Mr UZCÁTEGUI DUQUE (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)\*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, highlighted the importance of the Agency's nuclear safety work in 2007 pursuant to the relevant General Conference resolutions.

59. GRULAC was convinced of the importance of increasing assistance to developing countries to strengthen national regulatory infrastructures, and of the need to expand programmes to help Member States develop human resources through organizing international, regional, subregional and national training courses in the areas of radiation protection, waste safety and nuclear safety and security.

60. The Group was pleased to see that the Agency's safety standards had become a world reference where the high level of safety required in nuclear power and other nuclear applications was concerned.

61. It continued to believe that education and training were fundamental mechanisms for promoting the application of safety standards and it therefore welcomed the treatment of that aspect in document GOV/2008/34.

62. The Group noted with satisfaction that regional safety networks had helped improve exchange of knowledge and experience. In that connection, he highlighted the progress made in the work of the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network, which had been created through an extrabudgetary programme of the Agency and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies and was now fully operational. GRULAC acknowledged the ongoing support provided by the Agency.

63. GRULAC recognized the importance of response to radiological incidents and emergencies, noted with appreciation the large-scale nuclear emergency exercise had been carried out in July 2008 at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant in Mexico, and hoped that the conclusions and lessons learned would help improve the international nuclear emergency response system.

64. The Group also attached importance to radiation protection of patients undergoing diagnosis and treatment involving the use of ionizing radiation, given that such practices were widespread in its member countries. It requested that the Agency maintain its efforts to improve patient safety and continue to support related technical cooperation activities.

65. The issue of control of radiation sources was of particular interest for the Group, which greatly valued the assistance provided by the Agency in that regard.

66. With regard to safety of radioactive waste management, GRULAC welcomed the important contributions made by the technical meeting held in Brazil 20 years after the Goiânia accident on rehabilitation strategies and long-term management of radioactive waste following accidental radioactivity emissions into the environment. The Group reaffirmed the importance of establishing a safety culture.

67. With reference to denials of shipment of radioactive material, the Group noted with satisfaction the Agency's activities in that field and shared the view that the establishment of regional networks would be an important step towards solving such problems.

68. Finally, GRULAC commended the Secretariat's efforts to promote wide participation by developing countries in the 12th International Congress of IRPA which was to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October 2008. It requested the Agency to ensure the publication and wide dissemination of the proceedings of that event, for the benefit of scientists from the region and from other countries who would not be able to participate.

69. Ms GERVAIS-VIDRICAIRE (Canada) said that Agency safety standards and requirements played a particularly important role in ensuring consistent safety approaches and uniform nuclear regulation worldwide. Canada played an active part in developing and reviewing those standards and requirements prior to publication and it applied them in practice.

70. Her country supported the publication of the draft Safety Requirements contained in document GOV/2008/26 and the Agency's continued efforts to revise periodically safety requirements related to transport, including the helpful and useful Advisory Material for the IAEA Regulations for Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. Her country was pleased that the latest version of those regulations ensured harmonization with the United Nations Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods.

71. Canada also supported the publication of the draft Safety Requirements contained in document GOV/2008/27, in keeping with the review undertaken and approvals already given by Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission officials in RASSC, WASSC and the CSS.

72. The comprehensive report contained in document GOV/2008/34 was of significant value to all Member States as it highlighted the important work of the Agency throughout the preceding year. It would be carefully considered at the 52nd General Conference and would usefully inform discussions there.

73. Canada was pleased to note that the Agency had continued to conduct IRRS missions, to which her country regularly contributed experts. It looked forward to hosting a broad-scope mission in 2009.

74. Her country supported the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors and looked forward to the international meeting on its application in October 2008.

75. It was the important that all Member States commit to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the associated Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, even though there was no legally binding obligation to do so. For its part, Canada had implemented stronger regulatory controls on the use, movement and tracking of high-risk sealed sources and had established enhanced regulatory controls on their import and export. In order to increase the effectiveness of such instruments, Canada called on Member States to continue to work together in applying the aforementioned Code and Guidance in a harmonized manner. Her country had found the open-ended meeting in May 2008 on sharing of information and lessons learned in implementing the Guidance useful. It supported the holding of similar meetings in the future to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of information as more States began to implement the provisions of the Code. Canada had contributed substantial effort and resources to the May 2008 meeting, including \$120 000 in extrabudgetary funding to facilitate the participation of 41 experts from developing Member States. It looked forward to the report of the Chairman of the meeting being made available in all the Agency's official languages. Wider dissemination of the report would help encourage additional Member States to adhere to the aims of the Code and Guidance.

76. Mr LAGOS KOLLER (Chile) stressed the importance that his country attached to strengthening the assistance provided to Member States in improving their national regulatory infrastructures. Chile recognized the usefulness of the seminars and workshops organized to help Member States develop human resources and was of the opinion they should continue

77. He underlined the importance of the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network, which had been set up through an extrabudgetary programme of the Agency and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies. Chile had participated as an observer in the plenary meeting of the Forum in 2008 in Montevideo, Uruguay, and had been accepted as a member as of 15 May 2008. It intended to take advantage of its full participation in the Forum to exchange



experience in the fields of safety regulation, import and export of radioactive sources, training, and protection of patients.

78. In the field of radiation protection and safety, he drew attention to the assistance provided by the Agency in the area of response to incidents and emergencies, and in particular the important work of the Incident and Emergency Centre.

79. Chile supported the activities and initiatives of the Agency which contributed to the consolidation of a safety culture.

80. Mr KUCHINOV (Russian Federation) said that nuclear safety in all its aspects was an area where constant improvement was needed. He noted the important role of the Agency in that area, in particular in supporting the implementation of international legal instruments, developing and applying safety standards, and improving national safety infrastructures.

81. His country had no objections to the Board taking note of document GOV/2008/34 and approving the draft Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27.

82. Mr CURIA (Argentina) noted with satisfaction the progress made by the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies in developing technical projects and highlighted the important results achieved in the areas of radiation protection of patients and the use of PSA in radiotherapy. He also drew attention to the implementation of the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network, developed through an extrabudgetary programme of the Agency. In 2008, Chile had joined the Forum, which his country welcomed.

83. His country did not agree with the lumping together of both safety conventions and codes of conduct in section A.2 of document GOV/2008/34, since, while conventions imposed legally binding obligations on States, codes of conduct did not have the same legal nature, i.e. they were not binding, nor were they standards established by the Agency with the approval of the Board in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Statute. The Agency should avoid confusion of those two concepts.

84. With respect to the establishment of international safety standards dealt with in section A.3 of the document, his country welcomed the news of the strengthening of the CSS which had prepared a number of proposals which had been presented to the Director General. It would be greatly appreciated if the Secretariat could prepare, for consideration by the Board, a document on strategic directions for that area based on those proposals.

85. Argentina was also pleased by the progress made in revising the BSS. It had suggested a number of changes to the Secretariat which it was sure would be taken into account and it hoped that the BSS — an extremely important document, which was being developed, as required by the Statute, in close collaboration with specialized organizations of the United Nations system — would provide the foundation of general safety requirements to implement the Safety Fundamentals approved by the Board.

86. The efforts of Member States and the Agency in the field of education and training in radiation protection and nuclear safety were essential. Argentina had continued to work towards becoming a regional training centre for radiation protection and the safety of sources, based on its existing postgraduate course. Before the end of 2008, it hoped to sign a long-term agreement on education and training with the Agency.

87. With reference to the approval of Safety Requirements No. GS-R-3, his country believed that regulation of management should not be internationalized but should be exclusively national, and he requested that section D.4 of the document reflect that position.

88. Commenting on section D.6, he praised the Secretariat for taking advantage of the experience of the earthquake in Japan on 16 July 2007 to strengthen safety standards for facilities in earthquake zones. However, his country was concerned that, as a result, new and excessive requirements were being developed for facilities located in areas where there was no earthquake risk.

89. He drew attention to the rigorous and professional treatment accorded in sections G, H and I of the document to the basic safety issues related to the end of nuclear and radioactive activities. Argentina gave high priority to the Agency's activities related to the safe management of radioactive waste, decommissioning of facilities and remediation of sites.

90. He welcomed the successful outcome of the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, in particular the progress achieved since the preceding meeting, highlighting the Convention's importance as an instrument for establishing and strengthening safety culture, and stressing the importance of protecting and promoting its incentive nature.

91. The document referred to the 12th International Congress of IRPA which was to take place in October 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Congress had already become a historical event. Its Scientific Committee had received more than 1500 papers from 82 countries on 5 continents. Thus, its mission was truly to strengthen radiation protection throughout the world.

92. The Congress's success would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of the Secretariat in ensuring wide participation by developing countries, as requested in General Conference resolution GC(51)/RES/11. He thanked the Congress support committee, the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security and the Department of Technical Cooperation for their efforts in that regard. He also expressed the hope that there would be extensive Agency participation in the Congress, including the participation of the Director General, or his representative should his schedule not permit his attendance.

93. The Agency should take concrete measures to ensure the early dissemination of information about the event, as requested by the General Conference. The surprising number of papers sent to the Congress and the large number of special presentations to be made deserved to be widely distributed, particularly among professionals in developing countries unable to attend the Congress who could benefit greatly from such information. Disseminating that information would also be in accordance with the Agency's statutory function to encourage the exchange of scientific and technical information within its area of responsibility and competence.

94. With those comments, he took note of document GOV/2008/34.

95. His country supported the approval of the draft Safety Requirements contained in document GOV/2008/26. Argentina had been involved in the development of the Transport Regulations since their inception over 40 years ago and its regulatory authority had incorporated them in the country's national regulations.

96. Argentina also supported the promulgation and publication of the draft Safety Requirements contained in document GOV/2008/27 as part of the Agency's Safety Standards Series.

97. Mr CAMERON (Australia) welcomed the significance attached to the Agency's safety standards, and the approval by the CSS of a road map for the development of a long-term structure for those standards which flowed logically from the Agency's Fundamental Safety Principles and which should ensure a manageable total number of publications. His country was also pleased that the need for a stepwise and flexible approach that considered the overall impact of any changes on Member States had been recognized, and it looked forward to further consultations in that regard. The IRRS played an important role in the application of the safety standards, assessing Member States'

regulatory effectiveness. Australia had benefited from an IRRS mission and had been pleased to participate in the mission to Spain.

98. Ten countries had now registered response capabilities to contribute towards achieving full implementation of the Response Assistance Network. Australia had been pleased to be able to register four teams with the Incident and Emergency Centre. It encouraged more Member States to register teams and looked forward to working with the Incident and Emergency Centre and other teams to harmonize the capabilities of the network.

99. The 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety in April 2008 had provided an opportunity to share regulatory and operational experience through a peer review process. Although many of the issues identified at the meeting were covered by Agency standards and guides, consideration should be given to further elaboration of the concept of regulatory independence.

100. Australia remained committed to the safe operation of research reactors and had demonstrated the many potential benefits of their successful utilization. Following its hosting of the Agency's successful international conference on research reactors in Sydney in November 2007, his country looked forward to participating in the international meeting on the application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors to be held in Vienna in October 2008.

101. Australia attached high importance to ensuring the safety and security of radioactive sources and was gratified to note that, as of 1 September 2008, 92 States had made a political commitment to implementing the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. His country had been pleased to provide the chairman for the May 2008 open-ended meeting of technical and legal experts on sharing of the lessons learned from implementing the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. Australia acknowledged the role of Canada and the United States of America in providing funds to support the attendance of experts from those States which could not otherwise have participated. It commended the conclusions contained in the chairman's report, made available in document 2008/Note 26, and requested that the Secretariat make it available in all official languages of the Agency to facilitate wide accessibility. The discussions held at that meeting and elsewhere showed that the long-term management of disused sources remained an ongoing challenge for many States.

102. His country agreed that intermediate-level waste disposal warranted further consideration, particularly in connection with the revision of the Agency's Safety Guide on classification of radioactive waste which relied on criteria for disposal in its definitions. Australia looked forward to the international workshop in the Republic of Korea on that issue in December 2008.

103. Recognizing the importance of establishing best practice in uranium mining and processing, Australia was pleased to note that a number of Australian experts would be participating in the Agency's technical meeting on that topic to be held in October in Vienna. His country would also be hosting a round-table discussion on the revival of the uranium mining and production industry in conjunction with the General Conference.

104. Australia attached great importance to the safe, reliable and timely transport of radioactive material, which played an essential role in medical, scientific and industrial applications. His country had therefore played an active role in establishing the International Steering Committee on Denial of Shipments of Radioactive Material. The Secretariat had made a significant contribution by holding regional workshops on denial of shipment in Italy, the United Republic of Tanzania, Madagascar and China. Australia urged the Secretariat not to delay in putting into operation the test database developed in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

105. With those comments, he took note of document GOV/2008/34.

106. Australia endorsed the Board's approval of the revisions to the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, as proposed in document GOV/2008/26. The revision had been undertaken primarily to ensure better consistency with the United Nations Model Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods. It also endorsed the Board's approval of the draft Safety Requirements contained in document GOV/2008/27.

107. Mr SCHULTE (United States of America), noting the important role that the Agency would play in the global resurgence of nuclear power, particularly through the assistance it gave countries that were just beginning to build the infrastructure needed to support a safe and secure nuclear programme, stressed the importance of the early establishment of a strong national regulator to ensure safety throughout the process and noted the value of the Agency's safety standards in aiding countries to establish a domestic regulatory structure. He urged the Agency's departments to continue to work together closely to ensure effective coordination of activities relating to safety and new nuclear power programmes.

108. The Director General's report in document GOV/2008/34 contained several references to the term "international safety standards". His country recommended that the term "IAEA safety standards" be used in the future, for clarity and to avoid any possible confusion.

109. The United States attached great importance to safety conventions and thanked the Secretariat for its support of the 4th review meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It urged countries considering nuclear programmes to join that Convention.

110. His country also commended the Agency on its efforts in the area of nuclear liability, including the establishment of INLEX. It also welcomed the regional workshops on liability issues and believed that such activities should continue.

111. The Director General's report in document GOV/2008/34 noted the deposit by the United States of its instrument of ratification of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. Concerns over nuclear liability had been an impediment to the global distribution of nuclear power technology. That Convention was designed to help alleviate those concerns by providing a common liability system for all Member States. For Member States with nuclear facilities, the Convention ensured sufficient protection of its citizens in the unlikely event of a nuclear accident. For Member States considering new nuclear power facilities, it provided liability coverage that allowed access to the largest number of potential sellers, giving the Member State more options for nuclear technology. For Member States without a nuclear power facility, it provided liability coverage for the protection of its citizens in the event of an accident elsewhere. All Member States, whether they had a power facility or not, should have access to a strong global liability regime. The United States therefore urged all Member States to join the Convention in order to bring that important liability regime into effect expeditiously.

112. Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO (Brazil) said that his country attached great importance to nuclear safety, which should be an integral part of any nuclear programme. It commended the Agency for its efforts to strengthen international cooperation in that field.

113. Brazil supported the Agency's initiative to develop a long-term structure for its safety standards. Such a structure would lead to greater coherence in the safety requirements and to stability in the safety standards.

114. With regard to education and training, it was worrying that the work force in the nuclear safety community were ageing, which might cause serious difficulties in terms of the availability of

competent personnel. Capacity building was essential for the sustainable use of nuclear energy, and the Agency played a key role in that regard.

115. Brazil welcomed the adherence of Chile to the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, which was an efficient instrument to enhance nuclear safety in the Ibero-American region. The first nuclear safety project within the framework of the Forum had been approved in May 2008. It addressed ageing and licensing of life extension of nuclear power plants.

116. His country appreciated the support given by the Agency to the Contracting Parties of the Convention on Nuclear Safety at their organizational meeting in September 2007 and the review meeting in April 2008. It welcomed the results of the review meeting, believing the peer review mechanism to be an important tool for the exchange of information and best practices. However, the review exercise would benefit from a longer interval of four years rather than the three-year interval provided for by the Convention.

117. Brazil welcomed the publication of several nuclear fuel cycle safety standards. Those standards filled a gap in the Agency's safety requirements, providing parameters for the licensing process for nuclear facilities and thus enhancing the capabilities of national regulatory bodies.

118. In the area of radiation safety, Brazil supported the Agency's initiative to plan, in cooperation with other organizations and a number of professional bodies, the preparation of new guidance documents and training material on new medical imaging modalities such as PET.

119. His country had participated actively in the Agency's activities related to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. In that connection, he announced that Brazil's National Nuclear Energy Commission had decided to negotiate administrative arrangements with other countries with a view to facilitating the import and export of radioactive sources.

120. In October 2007, Brazil had hosted the Technical Meeting on Remediation Strategies and Long Term Management of Radioactive Waste after Accidental Radioactive Releases to the Environment, in the context of the 20th anniversary of the Goiânia accident. That meeting, which had been held in parallel with the International Nuclear Atlantic Conference, had contributed to disseminating the lessons learned from the accident.

121. Brazil encouraged the Agency to undertake expert and fact-finding missions to ascertain the activities needed to support the safe expansion of uranium resource development.

122. Denials of shipment had an impact on people's daily lives, especially in connection with radioactive material required for medical applications. The Agency's efforts to establish a database of national focal points would further advance international cooperation to find a solution to problems in that area.

123. Mr FUENTES SANCHEZ (Mexico) expressed his country's support for the Agency's efforts to improve the safety of nuclear facilities and provide greater assurances that nuclear energy could be used in a safe and responsible way. It noted with satisfaction the improvements in nuclear safety achieved in Member States through the application of the Agency's safety standards, which should serve as a global reference. As a result of joint efforts undertaken with the Secretariat, several regional and national events related to improving safety and security at nuclear facilities had been held in Mexico. His country had sent the Agency its comments on five draft safety guides and had participated in several meetings on their revision.

124. With regard to capacity building, in particular education and training in radiation, transport and waste safety, in 2008 Mexico had held a regional meeting on the licensing of centralized storage

facilities for radioactive waste, including disused sources, and a regional training course on occupational radiation protection.

125. In 2007, his country had hosted the plenary meeting of the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, where ongoing projects had been reviewed, activities for 2008 planned and extrabudgetary contributions collected.

126. Also in 2007, Mexico had registered its response capabilities under the Response Assistance Network. In July 2008, the Agency, in collaboration with Mexico's Federal Electricity Commission and the National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission, had tested international response to nuclear emergencies in a large-scale nuclear emergency exercise based on a simulated nuclear accident at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant. 75 Member States had participated, along with 9 international organizations and the bodies responsible for coordinating national response to emergencies. The objective had been to identify shortcomings in national, international and the Agency's emergency response systems. The Agency would be sending Mexico the findings of that exercise shortly.

127. The International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients had particular relevance and he commended the considerable progress the Agency had made in that field. The Secretariat should continue in its efforts to apply all the measures contained in the Action Plan. Millions of cancer patients received radiotherapy each year, so the Agency's activities related to human health and welfare had a fundamental impact.

128. Mexico urged the Agency to continue to take advantage of synergies with other international and regional institutions to develop a wider and more integrated approach in the field of nuclear safety. Of particular interest were efforts to examine earthquake-related aspects when evaluating nuclear installation safety.

129. Having the necessary knowledge and experience for the safe operation of nuclear facilities, the decommissioning of facilities and the safe management and disposal of radioactive waste was essential. Measures aimed at preserving and improving knowledge in the field of nuclear science and technology should be a priority for the international community.

130. With those comments, he took note of document GOV/2008/34 and endorsed the approval of the Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27.

131. Mr AMANO (Japan) acknowledged the importance of nuclear safety as a key element in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, welcomed the preparation of document GOV/2008/34 and endorsed the Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27.

132. Japan had been engaged in the safe transport of radioactive material jointly with France and the United Kingdom for over 30 years and would continue to make every effort to ensure safety. His country hoped that its safety record and efforts to maintain safety in the maritime transport of radioactive material were duly appreciated by Member States. Together with France and the United Kingdom, Japan had also engaged in constructive dialogue with coastal states. A communication meeting hosted by shipping states would be held with coastal states alongside the forthcoming General Conference, with many States expected to participate. His country hoped that the General Conference would adopt a well balanced resolution on transport safety.

133. Recognizing Japan's role as a leading country in the field of nuclear energy, the Japanese nuclear authorities and nuclear power producers had been making continuous efforts not only to ensure safety but also to develop international transparency with respect to their activities. For example, following the severe earthquake in July 2007 off the coast of Japan, the Japanese nuclear safety regulatory body had conducted an examination of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant

in collaboration with a special Agency team. Japan had invited the Agency to send a second mission to follow up on the preliminary findings of the first mission. The Agency had held an international workshop to share the latest knowledge on seismic safety in Japan in June 2008, with the full cooperation of the Japanese regulatory body, and had also started planning for the creation of an international seismic safety centre. Japan strongly supported the establishment of that centre and, to that end, had made extrabudgetary contributions and provided the Agency with experts in that field.

134. The third review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management would be held in May 2009. Under the Convention, the Contracting Parties were expected to implement an international peer review mechanism. International peer review was important to promote compliance with and further development of international safety standards and to enhance transparency. Japan looked forward to contributing actively to the success of the meeting and strongly urged other Member States to join the Convention.

135. As a country which had accumulated a wealth of experience on nuclear installation safety, including seismic safety, Japan would continue to make every effort to contribute to the further improvement of the international nuclear safety regime.

136. Mr STEINMANN (Switzerland) welcomed the ratification by the United States of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage reported in document GOV/2008/34 and took note of that document.

137. The comments made by Swiss experts were well reflected in the texts of documents GOV/2008/26 and 27 and his country therefore approved the publication of the Safety Requirements contained therein.

138. Mr YANG Dazhu (China) expressed satisfaction at the Agency's measures to strengthen nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management and at the positive achievements reported in document GOV/2008/34, including the successful conclusion of the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the formulation and application of action plans for the Agency's safety standards, and the provision of IRRS and OSART services to Member States.

139. China appreciated the Nuclear Power Support Group's efforts to help launch nuclear power programmes and build national nuclear safety infrastructures in Member States. It encouraged the Secretariat to continue to provide training to Member States, to promote the sharing of knowledge and experience, to provide assessment services, to hold conferences and workshops, to set up networks and to provide multimedia publications. Such measures would help States strengthen their nuclear safety infrastructures and improve the level of nuclear safety worldwide.

140. His country had participated actively in the Agency's nuclear safety activities by sending experts to assist in the Agency's revision of relevant nuclear safety standards, by providing cost-free experts to the Asian Nuclear Safety Network, by hosting workshops on the safety of fuel cycle facilities and denials of shipment, and by assisting with the provision of heavy water research reactor decommissioning demonstration facilities.

141. China welcomed the Secretariat's initiative to establish an education and training support group and would continue to strengthen cooperation with the Agency in that area.

142. The major earthquake that had hit China in May 2008 had caused serious loss of lives and damage to property. After the earthquake, the Chinese Government had immediately dispatched experts to examine nuclear facilities and had adopted effective measures to ensure that those facilities were safe and that radioactive sources were recovered in a timely manner. The Agency had played a

very important role in the recovery operations by providing equipment and training through its technical cooperation programme, for which the Chinese Government was thankful. China would like to expand sharing of experience in the security of nuclear facilities during earthquakes.

143. Mr PANUPONG (Thailand) said that, as a country embarking on a nuclear power programme, Thailand fully supported the work of the Agency to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management. A nuclear safety culture was indispensable for any nuclear power infrastructure development plan, in particular to enhance public confidence, and long-term plans for human resource development in the field of nuclear power technology and safety in both regulatory and operating bodies had to be pursued vigorously. Thailand looked forward to close collaboration with the Agency in the area of capacity building, knowledge management, and educational and training programmes for nuclear safety.

144. The effective development of nuclear energy in Thailand and the ASEAN region presupposed a strong commitment to nuclear safety and related issues. In 2007, ASEAN had commemorated the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone which, in addition to contributing to the non-proliferation regime, contained several provisions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including legal frameworks for nuclear safety, regional networks for early notification of nuclear accidents, and a regional emergency preparedness and response plan.

145. His country had hosted the ASEAN+3 Forum on Nuclear Energy Safety in Bangkok in June 2008 and he thanked the Deputy Director General for Nuclear Safety and Security for participating in that event and highlighting the importance of enhancing nuclear safety and further developing the work of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network. The Forum had agreed that internationally standardized safety regulations should be put in place and that a clear road map for the development of nuclear power plants should be adopted among countries embarking on nuclear power programmes. The Forum had also recognized ASEAN as the dynamic centre for nuclear development in the future. The potential for and direction of regional cooperation on nuclear power development therefore merited serious examination. As the current chair of ASEAN, Thailand would work consistently towards advancing the cause and awareness of nuclear safety culture in the region.

146. Taking note of the outcome of the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna in April 2008, he reported that the competent Thai authorities were considering developing or enhancing domestic nuclear safety legislation with a view to enabling Thailand to become a party to the international instruments that formed the basis of the global nuclear safety regime, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It was hoped that future Agency technical cooperation activities would be geared more towards legislative assistance.

147. With regard to infrastructure development, his country took note of the Agency's continued development of a web-based Safety Analysis Report Review Plan to provide guidance to designers, regulators and the Agency in preparing and reviewing safety analysis reports for nuclear power plants. The envisaged publication of a draft document on nuclear safety infrastructure by INSAG and an Agency Safety Guide on nuclear installation safety infrastructure was very welcome.

148. He commended the Agency for continuing, in collaboration with co-sponsors and potential co-sponsors, its work on the revision of the BSS and expressed support for the IRRS, which provided Member States with advice and assistance in strengthening the effectiveness of their regulatory infrastructures.

149. With those comments, he took note of documents GOV/2008/34, 26 and 27 and endorsed the recommended actions set forth therein.



150. Mr ACHAL (India) commended the Secretariat for its efforts to strengthen nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management, given that achieving a high level of safety worldwide was a precondition for the sustainable use of nuclear energy. Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Action Plan for the Development and Application of IAEA Safety Standards, and expressed support for the Agency's planned activities to develop a long-term structure for safety standards to address all potential and actual radiation exposure situations and cover all facilities and activities. The Agency's safety standards had set a global benchmark for the high level safety required for the promotion of the use of nuclear power and other applications, and India made extensive use of them in developing its own standards. A number of its experts had contributed to the drafting and review of Agency standards.

151. He commended the Agency's efforts in the area of capacity building for nuclear safety. Its proactive role in providing opportunities to share knowledge and experience, through safety reviews conducted at the request of Member States, training courses and workshops, and national and regional networks, was of great importance. Referring to the advice and support the Agency provided to Member States embarking on a nuclear power programme, he noted in particular the development of the web-based Safety Analysis Report Review Plan. He further commended the Agency's efforts to promote design safety of new reactors, safety of research reactors and fuel cycle facilities, and radiation safety.

152. Following its ratification of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 2005, India's first national report had been examined at the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention. Detailed replies had been provided to the 143 questions raised by 20 countries and the report had been well received. In November 2008, India would be hosting the IAEA International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Installation Safety: Ensuring Safety for Sustainable Nuclear Development in Mumbai. That Conference was directed at a broad range of experts in the area of nuclear safety, including professionals from the various disciplines involved in the safety of nuclear power plants, installations in other parts of the fuel cycle, and research reactors.

153. With regard to the severe earthquakes that had recently affected nuclear power plants, India supported the Agency's activities to resolve the complex multidisciplinary issues involved through international participation and welcomed the plan to create an international seismic safety centre under the aegis of the Agency to consolidate experience and expertise, share them with the international community, and respond to the individual needs of Member States.

154. With those comments, he endorsed the recommended actions set forth in documents GOV/2008/34, 26 and 27, on the understanding that the recommendations contained in the last document were not binding on Member States.

155. Mr BAAH-DUODU (Ghana) expressed satisfaction at the Agency's concerted efforts to establish a global nuclear safety regime and commended its achievements in developing safety standards, enhancing human resources, promoting and supporting regional networks in order to strengthen nuclear safety, and other related activities.

156. Ghana attached great importance to the safe management, operation and utilization of its nuclear facilities and radioactive sources, adhering strictly to the BSS and ensuring that its practices conformed to international requirements.

157. Nuclear safety was a precondition for the sustainable use of nuclear technology, and highly qualified professionals were therefore needed both in operating organizations and in regulatory bodies. Consequently, Ghana was committed to the development of human resources capacity building programmes to ensure the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of nuclear technology in Ghana and Africa. The School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences of the University of Ghana offered a master's

programme in radiation protection using Agency training materials and hosted regional training courses in nuclear safety and security. The Agency had recently conducted a successful Educational and Training Appraisal mission to enable the School to host the Agency postgraduate course in radiation protection for English-speaking countries in Africa, due to begin in 2009, and the mission recommendations were being addressed.

158. Recognizing the importance of continuous assessment of the safety of research reactors, Ghana had requested that the Agency conduct a follow-up INSARR mission to its miniature neutron source research reactor which had been in operation since 1995.

159. Noting with satisfaction that the Agency continued to provide advice and support to Member States considering a nuclear power programme, he said that his country intended to liaise with the Agency with a view to establishing the required nuclear infrastructure for its planned nuclear power programme. He also expressed support for the Safety Analysis Report Review Plan initiative.

160. Nuclear techniques were increasingly being applied to solve many socio-economic problems in Member States in Africa, in such areas as non-destructive testing in the petrochemical, mining and construction industries, diagnosis of diseases using nuclear medicine, and treatment of cancers using radiotherapy. Such activities had to be carried out in line with safety standards and requirements and be subject to effective regulatory control. It was therefore necessary to exchange information, to share knowledge and best practices, to review self-assessments by Member States, and to develop a common policy and strategy for harmonizing educational and training materials for aspects of nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management. In that regard, he proposed the establishment of a regional safety network for Africa, requesting that it be developed as an extrabudgetary programme of the Agency.

161. In conclusion, he endorsed the recommended actions set forth in documents GOV/2008/34, 26 and 27.

162. Mr MAKSIMOVAS (Lithuania), commending the well-structured and balanced overview provided in document GOV/2008/34, expressed support for the road map for the development of a long-term structure for safety standards approved by the CSS at its meeting in May 2008. Safety requirements integrating all thematic areas in a coherent and harmonized set of publications, complemented by a series of facility- and activity-specific safety requirements, would provide Member States with an effective tool and reference to enhance their national nuclear and radiation safety infrastructure. Lithuania's regulatory authority was reviewing national legislation in preparation for the construction of a new nuclear power plant. The review process was planned to be complete by 2011 and his country looked forward to active cooperation with the Agency in that regard. It strongly endorsed the principles that the long-term structure should maintain the current categorization and take into account the need for stability in regulatory approaches, and that the safety standards should be user-friendly and as concise as possible, addressing essential safety issues.

163. His country had followed the developments in safety review services, in particular the IRRS, with great interest. It concurred with the view that a vital and integral part of the IRRS process was regulatory self-assessment against international safety standards and it fully supported the Agency's activities aimed at establishing a network for exchanging regulatory experience and practices, in which his country looked forward to participating. It encouraged the Secretariat to invite young professionals from the regulatory authorities of Member States which were developing their regulatory infrastructures to participate in IRRS missions as observers, which would provide them with an overview of the methodology involved and allow them to develop their professional competence.

164. During the 4th review meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Lithuania had been among those Member States that had emphasized the importance of OSART

missions. The follow-up OSART mission to the Ignalina nuclear power plant had completed its work in April 2008, concluding that all the issues highlighted by the previous mission in June 2006 had either been successfully resolved or were being addressed satisfactorily. The positive results of the mission were very important for Lithuania, given that the Ignalina plant was in a transition phase from operation to decommissioning and that a high level of safety culture had to be maintained during that challenging time. A significant number of good practices at the plant had been noted by the OSART mission, including the safety culture monitoring system.

165. Lithuania fully adhered to the principle that safety was a precondition for the sustainable use of nuclear technology. Capacity building at institutional, national and regional level, sharing of knowledge and experience, training, and assistance to Member States to identify gaps in knowledge and develop national programmes for sustainable education and training of specialists, therefore remained of high importance. Due attention should be paid to competence building and training of personnel in regulatory authorities and supporting organizations, and he encouraged the Secretariat to consider the possibility of reviewing and evaluating the capabilities of technical support organizations, given their essential role in providing assistance to regulatory authorities and support to national nuclear and radiation safety infrastructures.

166. As a country engaged in decommissioning a large and complex nuclear facility, Lithuania was interested in the new review service for planned and ongoing decommissioning projects that was designed to complement the Agency's OSART services and it looked forward to the outcome of the first review which had been undertaken at the Bradwell site in the United Kingdom in June 2008.

167. Mr GUMBI (South Africa), said that Agency safety standards constituted an excellent reference for Member States. South African experts had actively contributed to developing and editing the various safety standards through their membership in all safety standards committees and the CSS. South Africa had presided over the 4th review conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and placed great importance on the peer review process, exchange of experience, and learning from the comments and input of other Contracting Parties. His country endorsed the adoption and publication of the revised draft Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27.

168. Although a good safety culture was maintained worldwide, there was still much room for improvement. In 2006, South Africa had initiated discussions with the Agency and interested partners in its region about establishing an African regional regulatory body and it planned to pursue that idea.

169. His country welcomed the Agency's progress in the areas of knowledge management and information sharing and the development of an information sharing network, and it looked forward to drawing on the experience of others and lessons learned. In the context of knowledge management and capacity building, he underscored the important role of postgraduate educational courses that sought to meet educational needs in nuclear science.

170. Mr ALSHARIA (Iraq) acknowledged the Agency's efforts to foster a global nuclear safety regime, the main pillars of which were the development and application of the BSS and assistance to Member States in building and strengthening their infrastructure, including through capacity building and setting up safety networks. The principal challenges facing that regime were the extent to which future standards could be established and expanded in a balanced and smooth manner, and ensuring that the BSS were incorporated into national practice. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident should form the basis of any future safety regime, which should be developed through enhanced exchange of information and expertise among Member States, contributing to a better understanding of safety and assisting in the development of efficient methods

consistent with increased needs for nuclear and radiological applications, without increased restrictions.

171. The rapidly increasing use of nuclear and radiological techniques required joint efforts by Member States to avoid any negative consequences. States should not only support the Agency's efforts but should also extend support and assistance to developing countries, through regional, bilateral or multilateral programmes, to enable them to meet their needs while applying the BSS, which would reduce the probability and incidence of nuclear accidents in the developing world. He commended the Agency and those countries which had helped Iraq to decommission its destructive nuclear facilities and establish a programme for the control of radioactive sources.

172. Mr SHAHBAZ (Pakistan) expressed appreciation for the Agency's efforts in the field of safety, which were reflected in the fact that no significant event with an impact on public health and safety had been observed during 2007. He expressed the hope that there would be a renewed pledge to enhance the safety of nuclear facilities in a cost-effective way through technological improvements, and that the Agency would be more active in its statutory activities relating to the promotion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in a safe manner.

173. The Agency provided useful support to Pakistan in the form of expert missions, peer reviews, etc., to enhance the safety of its nuclear power plants, and Agency safety standards were of great benefit in formulating national regulations and guides covering various aspects of nuclear safety. Support should be extended to facilitate procurement of items (including software) needed to improve existing safety features.

174. In the light of the planned increase in nuclear power generation in Pakistan, the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority was enhancing its human resources and technical capabilities in order to be able to discharge its current and anticipated regulatory responsibilities. It had established a School for Nuclear and Radiation Safety, and bilateral relations with international organizations and the regulatory bodies of other countries were being utilized to exchange regulatory experience and train staff. An Agency technical cooperation project on strengthening of regulatory infrastructure in Pakistan was providing beneficial assistance to improve the technical skills of regulatory staff and keep them abreast of state-of-the-art knowledge.

175. Recognizing the importance of the safety and security of radioactive sources, Pakistan maintained an inventory of sealed radiation sources using a computerized database. Unsealed radiation sources used in agriculture and medical and research facilities were also under the regulatory control of the regulatory authority, and it was ensured that short-lived sources were properly disposed of after the end of their useful life.

176. The current system of radiological protection was generally effective and well regulated. While some simplifications, clarifications and rationalizations could and should be made, it was important that they be undertaken in an evolutionary manner, avoiding unnecessary change to the practical implementation of radiological protection.

177. He expressed particular appreciation for the Agency's important role in the radiological protection of patients. Management of radiation doses at both the diagnostic and therapeutic stages should be given the highest priority. The Agency had conducted training programmes for cardiologists, gynaecologists, urologists and orthopaedic surgeons, but public awareness of radiological protection of patients should be given no less importance.

178. He also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the safety standards committees in producing many new and revised safety standards, guides and other documents. The Agency was fully seized of the challenges inherent in its role of supporting worldwide efforts to strengthen waste safety, as well

as nuclear, radiation and transport safety. He commended its continued efforts to harmonize its Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material with other United Nations regulations and to resolve issues related to denials of shipment.

179. Mr KIM Sung-Hwan (Republic of Korea)\*, said that his country shared the Agency's view that the global nuclear safety regime was being continuously improved to maintain a high level of safety worldwide and that international safety commitments had been effectively strengthened through the dedicated efforts of, and close cooperation between the Agency and Member States. The Republic of Korea had actively supported the Agency's efforts to strengthen the safety of nuclear installations throughout the world and had improved its nuclear safety infrastructure, including the design, construction, operation and safety regulation of nuclear power plants.

180. His country was committed to sharing its accumulated experience and expertise with the international community and to supporting countries wishing to develop their own national nuclear safety infrastructure. The International Nuclear Safety School had opened in January 2008 within the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety on the basis of a nuclear safety cooperation agreement between the Agency and the Institute. The School was designed to promote education and training on nuclear safety and cooperation at global and regional level.

181. The Republic of Korea was engaged in a wide range of activities related to nuclear power plants, from site selection to operation and safety regulations. Capitalizing on that extensive knowledge and experience, the International Nuclear Safety School planned to set up international education and training programmes with universities and to develop on-the-job training courses for each phase of a given activity. Those programmes and courses would be provided to countries planning to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and to establish their own nuclear safety infrastructure. His country hoped that the Agency and Member States would support the initiative.

182. Given the increased importance of sharing information on seismic safety, his country welcomed the planned establishment of an international seismic safety centre by the Agency, which should contribute to an improved level of safety in all Member States. The Republic of Korea would cooperate fully with the Centre upon its establishment.

183. The Agency's safety standards constituted a global reference for the high safety level required for the use of nuclear power and other applications. His country appreciated the Agency's important role in improving nuclear safety through many important activities, especially the development of safety standards. The draft Safety Requirements contained in documents GOV/2008/26 and 27 would contribute greatly to improving safety in the areas they covered. The Republic of Korea planned to apply the Agency's safety standards to its national regulatory system and evaluate the outcomes. He reiterated his country's readiness and determination to give its full support to strengthening the global nuclear safety regime and international cooperation in the area of nuclear safety.

184. With those comments, he endorsed the recommended actions set forth in documents GOV/2008/34, 26 and 27.

185. Ms MACMILLAN (New Zealand)\* stressed the importance her country continued to attach to nuclear safety, and in particular to strengthening of international cooperation with regard to transport safety, and welcomed the fact that the report contained in document GOV/2008/34 highlighted the informal talks on communication between coastal and shipping States that had taken place, with Agency participation, in September 2007. The references in the report underlined the importance Member States continued to attach to the Agency's active involvement in the talks, in line with General Conference resolution GC(51)/RES/11 B. Informal dialogue was continuing in an open and constructive manner, providing a valuable opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest and to build mutual confidence, and she expressed the hope that further progress towards addressing and

understanding the concerns of both coastal and shipping States could be made at future talks, resulting in improved voluntary communication practices.

186. New Zealand strongly supported the continued work of INLEX, in particular its examination of gaps and ambiguities in the nuclear liability regime. An effective liability regime to insure against harm to human health and the environment, as well as possible economic loss resulting from an incident or accident during the maritime transport of radioactive material, remained a key priority for her country. The work of INLEX made an important contribution to nuclear safety and was of enormous benefit to all Member States.

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