

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1246th Meeting
GOV/OR.1246

Appointment of the Director General

Board of Governors

GOV/OR.1246

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Record of the 1246th Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Friday, 3 July 2009, at 3.20 p.m.

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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.)

Ms FEROUKHI		Chairperson (Algeria)
Mr SHOOGUFAN	_____	Afghanistan
Mr GALANXHI		Albania
Mr KHELIFI		Algeria
Mr CURIA	}	Argentina
Ms DONNA RABALLO		
Mr SHANNON		Australia
Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO		Brazil
Mr SOULAMA		Burkina Faso
Mr WOOD		Canada
Mr TANG Guoqiang		China
Ms GOICOHEA ESTENOZ	}	Cuba
Mr CODORNIU PUJALS		
Mr STACEY MORENO		Ecuador
Mr FAWZY		Egypt
Ms KAUPPI		Finland
Ms MANGIN		France
Mr LÜDEKING		Germany
Ms AMOAH		Ghana
Mr KUMAR		India
Mr AQRAWI		Iraq
Mr COGAN		Ireland
Mr AMANO		Japan
Mr MAKSIMOVAS		Lithuania
Mr SALAM	}	Malaysia
Mr RAJA ADNAN		
Mr DÍAZ		Mexico
Ms MACMILLAN		New Zealand
Ms LACANLALE		Philippines
Mr FERUTĂ		Romania
Mr BERDENNIKOV		Russian Federation
Mr AL-TAIFI		Saudi Arabia
Mr MINTY		South Africa
Mr ROSELLÓ SERRA		Spain
Mr MARFURT		Switzerland
Mr FIDAN		Turkey
Mr SMITH		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr PYATT		United States of America
Mr VEDOVATTI RAFFO		Uruguay
Mr ELBARADEI	_____	Director General
Mr ANING		Secretary of the Board

Representatives of the following Member States also attended the meeting:

Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Abbreviations used in this record:

EFTA	European Free Trade Association
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
LEU	low-enriched uranium
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
SEAP	South East Asia and the Pacific
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

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

Appointment of the Director General (GOV/2009/43)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the present meeting was a follow-up to the closed meeting of the Board held on the previous day, at which, during the selection stage envisaged in the procedures for the appointment of the Director General approved by the Board and set out in the Attachment to document GOV/2008/44, Mr Yukiya Amano had received the support of two-thirds of the Board members present and voting. At the present meeting, convened in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Attachment to document GOV/2008/44, the Board was moving to the appointment stage.

2. The process of selecting a person for the post of Director General had been long and laborious. Many of her colleagues had deplored the lack of consensual spirit displayed during that process, but she did not share their point of view. In her opinion, the process had served a useful purpose in enabling Member States to assess the qualities of the candidates, to all of whom she wished to pay tribute.

3. Mr CURIA (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, congratulated Mr Amano and wished him well in the post of Director General with its many challenges. The Group hoped that Mr Amano would take account of its aspirations and expectations, in particular by fostering the promotional role of the Agency and highlighting the needs of developing Member States.

4. Ms GOICOHEA ESTENOZ (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Vienna Chapter of NAM, congratulated Mr Amano and wished him success in his future endeavours.

5. NAM, which attached great importance to the work of the Agency, was sure that its positions would be fully taken into account by the Secretariat under Mr Amano's leadership and that Mr Amano would honour the legacy of impartiality, fairness and professionalism prevailing within the Agency.

6. Mr FIGUEIREDO (Angola)*, speaking on behalf of the African Group, congratulated Mr Amano and said that the African Group looked forward to cooperating closely with him.

7. The African Group, which had greatly appreciated the merits also of the other candidates, was particularly grateful to Mr Minty for having stood as a candidate on behalf of the Africa region.

8. Mr SHANNON (Australia), speaking on behalf of the SEAP Group, said that Mr Amano would undoubtedly be a highly effective leader of the Agency. Many from the SEAP region had known him for many years as a man of great intelligence, shrewdness and integrity, and they looked forward to working with him in his capacity as a Director General committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the peaceful, safe and secure utilization of nuclear energy, and technical cooperation.

9. The other candidates were to be commended for offering clearly reasoned alternative approaches whose value should not be underestimated — especially Mr Minty, who had run a fine campaign and whose well-articulated ideas about inclusivity warranted careful consideration by all. Fresh challenges lay ahead for the Agency, which had been led wisely by Director General ElBaradei, and inclusivity would be the key to its success.

10. Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO (Brazil), speaking on behalf of GRULAC, congratulated Mr Amano and said that GRULAC was certain that he would guide the Agency wisely and impartially and take due account of the aspirations of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

11. Mr MINTY (South Africa), congratulating Mr Amano, said that his commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons and the prevention of their proliferation should serve the Agency well as it faced the challenges of the future. Mr Amano could count on South Africa's full support.

12. The selection process, which the Chairperson had conducted with great objectivity and professionalism, had been long-drawn-out and hard-fought. He was grateful for the support of the African Group and of many Member States belonging to other groups — and also from within the Secretariat — for his nomination, which had been initiated because of a firm belief that the unique experience of South Africa regarding nuclear issues and its ability to forge consensus in a diverse society would enable him to make an exceptional contribution to the management of the Agency.

13. It was in the interest of all Member States to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the further peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Within the Agency, it was important to ensure that, in the promotion of the further peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, developing Member States were not denied access to advanced technologies needed for their development.

14. Director General ElBaradei had led the Agency with great dignity, dedication and professionalism, and Member States should build upon the high standard that he had set. For its part, South Africa stood ready to work with Mr Amano and all other Member States in meeting the challenges of the future.

15. Mr KUMAR (India) said that his delegation greatly appreciated the smooth conduct of the selection process by the Chairperson and the Secretariat.

16. Congratulating Mr Amano, he assured him of India's full support in the discharge of his heavy responsibilities. India was confident that, under the leadership of a person of Mr Amano's vast experience, the Agency would scale new heights in fulfilling its mandate in accordance with the Statute.

17. The Agency was unique within the United Nations family in being tasked with the promotion of a dual-use advanced technology, and several provisions in the Statute emphasized the importance of guarding against that technology's misuse. The Director General's role in ensuring that the Agency did not go astray needed no emphasis, but his country was sure that Mr Amano would fulfil that role in the best traditions of preceding Directors General.

18. India was grateful to Mr Minty for his candidature and wished him all the best in his future endeavours.

19. Mr FAWZY (Egypt) congratulated Mr Amano and wished him every success as Director General. Also, he thanked the other candidates, particularly Mr Minty.

20. The selection process had been lengthy and hard-fought, and there could be no denying that Mr Amano would be assuming the responsibilities of Director General at a time when Member States were deeply divided on major issues. One of Mr Amano's greatest challenges would be to assist Member States in identifying areas where common interests might take precedence over the narrow interests of a few. Egypt believed that the new Director General would need to show strong leadership with regard to issues such as technical cooperation and the selective application of safeguards in the Middle East.

21. Mr FIDAN (Turkey) said that Mr Amano's in-depth knowledge of the Agency, professional background and diplomatic skills would serve the Agency well. He could count on Turkey's full support.

22. His country, which had greatly appreciated the tireless efforts of Director General ElBaradei, looked forward to further developing the excellent working relationship with the Secretariat established during his tenure.
23. His delegation was grateful to the Chairperson for her open and transparent conduct of the selection process.
24. Mr RAJA ADNAN (Malaysia) thanked the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their transparent conduct of the selection process.
25. Congratulating Mr Amano, he said that Malaysia was looking forward to seeing a person from Asia, which many regarded as the focus of the nuclear renaissance, in the post of Director General and to working closely with him in helping to ensure that developing Member States had full access to the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.
26. His delegation was grateful to the other candidates for allowing their names to be put forward, especially Mr Minty.
27. Mr WOOD (Canada) congratulated Mr Amano and said that he could count on Canada's full support.
28. The excellent qualifications of all the candidates for the post of Director General reflected the importance attached to the Agency by Member States, including Canada, which hoped that the appointment of Mr Amano would be approved by consensus at the forthcoming session of the General Conference — in keeping with the 'Spirit of Vienna'.
29. Mr LUNDBORG (Sweden)*, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the candidate countries Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, and Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia associated themselves with the statement he was about to make.
30. The European Union congratulated Mr Amano and was sure that his appointment as Director General would be approved by the General Conference at its forthcoming session.
31. The European Union had greatly appreciated the fair conduct of the selection process and was grateful to the Chairperson for the way in which she had guided the Board.
32. The European Union, which considered that the Agency had a vital role to play in promoting the safe and secure peaceful utilization of nuclear technologies in those Member States which chose to use them, attached great importance to the role of the Director General in guiding the Agency, in cooperation with the Board and Member States, and in managing its activities effectively.
33. Several impressive candidates had been put forward for the post of Director General, and the European Union was grateful to them for making the selection process one worthy of the Agency.
34. The European Union was convinced that Mr Amano would be successful in his new role, thanks to his extensive experience, his knowledge of the technical issues dealt with by the Agency, his commitment to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, his willingness to listen to others, his ability to facilitate understanding and cooperation, and his sound managerial sense.
35. Mr Amano would have to face a number of challenges, such as: further strengthening the credibility of the Agency in the area of non-proliferation and its ability to deal with cases of non-compliance; further strengthening the Agency's role in promoting the development of practical

nuclear applications through — inter alia — the technical cooperation programme; further strengthening the Agency's role in developing and updating nuclear safety standards and providing safety-related technical advice; and ensuring that the best use was made of the Agency's resources in the present difficult international financial situation.

36. Mr PYATT (United States of America), congratulating Mr Amano, said that he could be assured as Director General of the Board's steadfast support. The United States stood ready to assist the next Director General in ensuring that the Agency was prepared to meet the challenges ahead.

37. Under the leadership of Director General ElBaradei and his predecessors, the Agency had become a leading international institution, and his country was confident that Mr Amano, building on the strong foundations established by them, would help Member States to shape the Agency of the future.

38. Mr Amano could be assured that the United States would continue endeavouring to ensure that the Agency had the resources and the authority necessary for the fulfilment of its mandate.

39. His delegation was grateful to the Chairperson for the way in which she had conducted the selection process and to Mr Minty for his strong commitment to the Agency and to the nuclear non-proliferation regime — a commitment attested to by his candidature for the post of Director General. It looked forward to continuing to work with Mr Minty for many years to come.

40. Ms AMOAH (Ghana) congratulated Mr Amano and assured him of her country's full support during his term of office.

41. Mr Amano would be inheriting difficult challenges at a critical time for the Agency, but Ghana believed that his rich experience would enable him to draw on the achievements of his predecessor in meeting those challenges.

42. Ghana commended all the other candidates on the positive spirit in which they had participated in the selection process — particularly Mr Minty, who Ghana hoped would continue to contribute to the work of the Agency.

43. Mr BERDENNIKOV (Russian Federation) congratulated Mr Amano, commended the other candidates and thanked the Chairperson for her management of the selection process.

44. In recent years, the Agency had become an organization with a real capacity for reacting effectively to new threats and challenges to the non-proliferation regime. Russia greatly appreciated the efforts of Director General ElBaradei in that connection.

45. His country, which would continue to support the Agency in all aspects of its work, considered it important to strengthen the Agency as the sole international organization specially empowered to verify the fulfilment by States of their obligations in the area of nuclear non-proliferation. It would like to see the Agency's verification mechanism improved, and it stood ready to help improve that mechanism through — inter alia — its safeguards support programme.

46. There was a need to expand cooperation also in other areas of Agency activity, such as nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear power development, and nuclear applications in agriculture, health care, science and other fields.

47. Clearly, nuclear power was due to play an increasing role in meeting the growing energy needs of humankind, and it was therefore necessary to step up the efforts to establish the conditions for ensuring the right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with their relevant international obligations. Among those efforts were recent initiatives regarding multilateral

approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including the Russian initiative relating to the establishment of an LEU reserve for the supply of LEU to Member States.

48. Russia hoped that the Agency, under Mr Amano's leadership, would continue to be an independent professional body focused on promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and committed to nuclear non-proliferation. The new Director General could count on Russia's support.

49. Mr TANG Guoqiang (China) congratulated Mr Amano and wished him success in his new post.

50. His delegation was grateful to Mr Minty and the other candidates for their participation in the selection process, and to the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their conduct of that process.

51. Under the leadership of Director General ElBaradei, the Agency had achieved a great deal. Now it faced unprecedented challenges, but his country believed that Mr Amano would unite all Member States in meeting those challenges. China stood ready to cooperate still more closely with the Secretariat under Mr Amano in the endeavour to achieve all the Agency's objectives.

52. Mr AQRAWI (Iraq), having thanked the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their efforts in conducting the selection process, congratulated Mr Amano and wished him success in helping to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons.

53. Iraq, which was grateful to Director General ElBaradei for his professionalism and leadership, stood ready to cooperate fully with the new Director General.

54. His country was also grateful to Mr Minty and the other candidates for the post of Director General. Their participation in the selection process had greatly enriched it.

55. Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO (Brazil), having thanked the Chairperson for her smooth management of the selection process, said that far more was expected of the Director General of the Agency now than in the early years of the organization, and his country looked forward to the next Director General's advice and leadership in important matters relating to development, peace and security.

56. All the candidates for the post of Director General had been excellent, and his country, while supporting the candidature of Mr Minty, had been of the view that, whichever candidate emerged successfully from the selection process, the Agency would be in good hands.

57. Brazil was confident that Mr Amano would be a wise and capable Director General, and he could count on his country's full support.

58. Mr ROSELLÓ SERRA (Spain) congratulated Mr Amano and, on behalf of Spain's candidate for the post of Director General, Mr Echávarri, thanked the Chairperson for her transparent and efficient conduct of the selection process. He also thanked those Member States which had expressed support for Spain's candidate.

59. Spain hoped that Member States would set aside whatever differences may have arisen during the selection process and extend their full support to the new Director General.

60. Mr MARFURT (Switzerland), congratulating Mr Amano, said that his country was convinced that, under Mr Amano's leadership, the Agency would effectively respond to the challenges of the future. Switzerland wished Mr Amano success in his new role, in which he could count on its full support.

61. His delegation was grateful to the other candidates for their participation in the selection process and to the Chairperson for her conduct of that process.

62. Ms LACANLALE (Philippines), congratulating Mr Amano, said that her country was particularly pleased that the Agency was finally to have a Director General from Asia.

63. Mr Amano would be assuming his new post at a time when the Agency faced many challenges, and much would be expected of him in securing, in an objective and professional manner, a balance among the many differing interests of Member States. It would be important for him to create an atmosphere of renewed trust and unity within the Agency, and the Philippines therefore hoped that all Member States would give him their full support.

64. Her delegation was grateful to the other candidates for the post of Director General, particularly Mr Minty, for their readiness to serve the Agency, and it was grateful to the Chairperson for her smooth and efficient conduct of the selection process.

65. Ms MACMILLAN (New Zealand), congratulating Mr Amano, said that he was a man of great experience, intelligence, integrity and humanity who would undoubtedly be a very effective Director General. New Zealand looked forward to working with him.

66. Her delegation was grateful to the other candidates for the post of Director General, and particularly to Mr Minty, whose contributions to the work of the Agency over many years had been extremely valuable.

67. Her delegation was also grateful to the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their efforts in conducting the selection process.

68. Mr DÍAZ (Mexico), having thanked the Chairperson for her conduct of the selection process, congratulated Mr Amano and assured him of Mexico's full support during his term of office. Given the challenges facing the Agency, Mexico hoped that all Member States would unite around the new Director General.

69. Mr STACEY-MORENO (Ecuador) said that the Chairperson and the Secretariat were to be commended for the manner in which they had conducted the selection process. That process had been long and complex owing to the high quality of all the candidates, to whom Ecuador was very grateful.

70. His delegation congratulated Mr Amano and wished him success in his new role. In that role, Mr Amano's task would be to strengthen the Agency by creating a climate of trust conducive to the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, particularly in support of the sustainable development of developing Member States.

71. Ecuador was grateful to Director General ElBaradei for the great contribution made by him during his leadership of the Agency and hoped that he would continue to make his wisdom and experience available in the future.

72. Mr CODORNIU PUJALS (Cuba) congratulated Mr Amano and thanked the Chairperson for her transparent conduct of the selection process.

73. Cuba was grateful to all the Member States that had put forward candidates for the post of Director General, and particularly to South Africa for proposing Mr Minty.

74. Cuba wished Mr Amano success in his new role, in which he could count on its full support. It was confident that, under Mr Amano's leadership, the Secretariat would maintain its high standards of professionalism, independence and impartiality.

75. Ms DONNA RABALLO (Argentina) congratulated Mr Amano and assured him of her country's full support. Argentina was confident that, under his guidance, the Agency would meet the expectations of developing Member States.

76. Her delegation was grateful to the Chairperson for her conduct of the selection process. It was also grateful to Mr Minty for his commitment to the Agency.

77. Mr VEDOVATTI RAFFO (Uruguay) said that his country welcomed the selection of Mr Amano, whose candidature it had supported from the outset. Mr Amano could count on Uruguay's full support at a time when the Agency faced many challenges relating to international security and sustainable development.

78. In the present international economic crisis, developing Member States striving to attain the Millennium Development Goals had great expectations of the Agency.

79. Mr ZNIBER (Morocco)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that his first responsibility as the new Director General would be to maintain the effectiveness and credibility of the Agency. Morocco had full confidence in the ability of Mr Amano, with his impressive professional and personal qualities, to meet that responsibility.

80. The policy of Japan in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament was well known, and the appointment of Mr Amano as Director General of the Agency would undoubtedly contribute to attainment of the common objective of freeing the world from the threat of nuclear weapons.

81. There were many challenges to be addressed in the near future. It was particularly important to ensure that the Secretariat had the resources it needed and that the Agency maintained its balanced role in determining the truth in controversial matters still being investigated. Morocco was confident that, with the Agency under Mr Amano's leadership, those challenges would be addressed successfully.

82. Mr QUEISI (Jordan)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that Jordan was confident that his wide experience would serve him well in his task of leading the Agency's efforts to promote the peaceful utilization of nuclear technologies, strengthen nuclear safety and security, and verify compliance with international non-proliferation obligations.

83. Jordan believed that Mr Amano's experience in the field of nuclear disarmament would be of particular value and that his acute awareness of the suffering of Japan from nuclear weapons would drive him to do all he could to prevent the recurrence of such tragedies.

84. Jordan, which strongly advocated the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East, attached great importance to the Agency's comprehensive safeguards system. At the same time, it believed that the Agency should not be just a 'nuclear watchdog', but also promote peaceful development through technical cooperation. It therefore attached great importance also to the Agency's technical cooperation activities and welcomed Mr Amano's support for those activities.

85. Mr SHIM Yoon-Joe (Republic of Korea)*, having congratulated Mr Amano on behalf of the Far East Group, said that his country looked forward to Mr Amano's leadership of the Agency. The long-standing dedication of Mr Amano to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and to nuclear energy would be a great asset.

86. His delegation was grateful to the Chairperson and the Secretariat for organizing the selection process. Also, it had greatly appreciated the outstanding candidature of Mr Minty and hoped that he would continue to give the Agency the benefit of his experience and wisdom.

87. With the appointment of a new Director General, Member States should prepare for future challenges in an era of nuclear renaissance by putting aside their differences and moving forward in unity.

88. The Republic of Korea hoped that Mr Amano would take the initiative in strengthening the Agency's authority and would like to see all Member States supporting him as he endeavoured to

make the Agency more effective, efficient and innovative. Mr Amano could count on his country's full support.

89. Mr JAFFEER (Sri Lanka)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that his country looked forward to working closely with him.

90. His delegation was grateful to the other candidates, particularly Mr Minty, for participating in the selection process, and to the Chairperson for the manner in which she had conducted that process.

91. Mr EL KHOURY (Lebanon)* congratulated Mr Amano and wished him every success in his new role. His country was sure that, under Mr Amano's leadership, the Agency would continue to make substantial progress in various fields despite the political, financial and administrative difficulties it faced.

92. Mr Amano's experience in the field of disarmament would be particularly important given the threat posed in the Middle East by the nuclear arsenal possessed by a State which regularly flouted international conventions. Lebanon would welcome steps towards the establishment of an NWFZ in the Middle East.

93. His country, which welcomed Mr Amano's support for technical cooperation, hoped that under Mr Amano's leadership the Agency would be an open forum in which the views of small Member States really counted.

94. Mr MOLLINEDO CLAROS (Bolivia)*, having thanked the Chairperson for her transparent conduct of the selection process with the support of the Secretariat, congratulated Mr Amano and said that, with his experience in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and nuclear energy, he would undoubtedly contribute to the attainment of the fundamental objectives enshrined in the Agency's Statute —promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through technical cooperation, and nuclear non-proliferation.

95. Ms LISTYOWATI (Indonesia)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that her country welcomed his commitment to the Agency's role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through technical cooperation. Indonesia was confident that, under Mr Amano's leadership, the Agency would continue to successfully promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

96. Her country, which looked forward to cooperating with Mr Amano, was grateful to Director General ElBaradei for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Agency over the past 12 years.

97. The Chairperson was to be commended for the manner in which she had conducted the selection process, and the other candidates for the manner in which they had participated in it.

98. Mr EKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia)*, having thanked the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their efforts during the selection process, congratulated Mr Amano and said that his experience and impartiality would be greatly needed within the Agency. Mr Amano could count on Mongolia's full support in addressing the challenges that lay ahead.

99. He thanked Mr Minty for offering his experience in the Agency's cause.

100. Ms CALCINARI (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that her country looked forward to working closely with him. Venezuela, which attached great importance to the Agency, was confident that under Mr Amano's leadership it would maintain the high standards of impartiality, transparency and professionalism it had displayed under the leadership of Director General ElBaradei.

101. Venezuela was grateful to the other candidates who had participated in the selection process, particularly Mr Minty, and to the Chairperson and the Secretariat for their impartial efforts throughout that process.

102. Mr SOLTANIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)*, having congratulated Mr Amano, said that the selection process had highlighted certain shortcomings within the Agency. The most worrisome one was the polarization of members of the Board into political blocs. The selection process had sometimes been overshadowed by that polarization.

103. The choosing of a Director General was a process in which all Member States should be involved, but over a hundred Member States were excluded from that process when they were not Board members. Such discrimination was aggravated by the fact that the Statute accorded a special status to certain Member States, which thereby effectively had permanent seats on the Board.

104. During the deliberations on the future of the Agency, consideration should be given to the possibility of future Director Generals being appointed by the General Conference and not the Board. At present, the General Conference was called upon merely to approve a decision of the Board — a purely formal act.

105. His country hoped that the new Director General would follow in the footsteps of Director General ElBaradei by resisting pressure and interference from certain Western countries that were playing down the importance of nuclear disarmament, exaggerating the importance of nuclear non-proliferation, trying to turn the Agency — a promotional organization — into a ‘nuclear watchdog’, politicizing the Agency’s safeguards activities, trying to impose obligations going beyond those arising out of safeguards agreements, and permitting interference by the UNSC in the Agency’s activities.

106. In doing so, Mr Amano could be sure of the full cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was confident that he would be successful.

107. His country was grateful to the other candidates, particularly Mr Minty, for their readiness to serve the Agency and wished them all the best for the future. It was also grateful to the Chairperson for the professional manner in which she had conducted the selection process.

108. In his country’s view, it was time for Member States to set aside their differences and unite in pursuing the objectives enshrined in the Statute — particularly promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

109. Mr BOCANEGRA (Colombia)*, congratulating Mr Amano, said that he had distinguished himself through his commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and nuclear energy and had demonstrated great leadership as Chairman of the Board in 2005–2006. Many challenges lay before the Agency, but Colombia was confident that, under Mr Amano’s leadership, the Agency would be successful in addressing them and in maintaining its high standards of independence, impartiality and competence. Mr Amano could count on Colombia’s full support.

110. The CHAIRPERSON took it that the Board wished to suspend Rule 36(b) of its Provisional Rules of Procedure, which provided for a formal ballot, and appoint Mr Yukiya Amano as the next Director General by acclamation for a four-year term beginning on 1 December 2009.

111. The Board appointed Mr Yukiya Amano by acclamation as the next Director General for a four-year term beginning 1 December 2009.

112. The CHAIRPERSON said that, pursuant to Article VII of the Statute, the appointment of Mr Amano was subject to the approval of the General Conference at its 53rd regular session. It was

customary for the Board to recommend to the General Conference a draft resolution which the General Conference could adopt when confirming the Board's decision. A draft report on the Board's decision and also a draft resolution were contained in document GOV/2009/43.

113. She took it that the Board wished to approve document GOV/2009/43 for communication to the General Conference.

114. It was so decided.

115. Mr AMANO (Japan) thanked the Board for the trust it had placed in him by appointing him to the post of Director General of the Agency. He also thanked the Chairperson for the dedication she had displayed throughout the selection process.

116. As a candidate, he had done his best to secure support across all regions and groups, taking account, without bias, of the interests of all Member States. As Director General, he would do his best to ensure the Agency's effective, efficient and impartial functioning in the interests of all Member States.

117. The efforts of a Director General could be successful only if they responded to the needs and desires of Member States. He would further intensify communication with Member States, and he hoped for their support after he had taken up his role at the helm of the Agency. Tremendous tasks awaited, but he was confident that a Director General trusted and supported by all Member States would not fail in guiding the Agency to achievement of the goals enshrined in the Statute.

118. As Director General, he would focus on accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world, on enhancing the Agency's technical cooperation and related activities, on helping to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and on further improving the overall management of the Agency.

119. Thanks to the efforts and commitment of Director General ElBaradei, the Agency had become the celebrated and decorated organization it was today, and he and his predecessors deserved the gratitude of all Member States for their contributions to the Agency over the years — as did the highly professional staff of the Agency, its most valuable asset, with whom he looked forward to working as a team in tackling the challenges that the Agency was facing.

120. It had been an honour for him to be running for the post of Director General alongside candidates of very high calibre, particularly Mr Minty; they had all conducted their campaigns in a graceful and thoroughly professional manner.

121. Looking to the future, he hoped that all Member States would unite in the interests of achieving the objectives set out in the Statute. He intended to listen to and discuss and cooperate with all Member States in seeking to ensure the future success of the Agency.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.