

IAEA Board of Governors

Record of the 1298th Meeting
GOV/OR.1298

Applications for membership of the Agency

The Annual Report for 2010

Board of Governors

GOV/OR.1298

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Record of the 1298th Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna, on Monday, 6 June 2011, at 10.40 a.m.

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¹ GOV/2011/36.

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 PARVEZ		Chairman (Pakistan)
Mr CURIA	_____	Argentina
Mr POTTS		Australia
Mr HAJIZADA		Azerbaijan
Ms DE CARTIER		Belgium
Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO		Brazil
Mr GABCHE		Cameroon
Mr BARRETT		Canada
Mr BERGUÑO HURTADO		Chile
Mr CHEN Qiufa		China
Ms KUCHYŇOVÁ ŠMIGOLOVÁ		Czech Republic
Ms CALLESEN		Denmark
Mr STACEY MORENO		Ecuador
Mr MONDOLONI		France
Mr LÜDEKING		Germany
Mr KHULLAR		India
Mr GHISI		Italy
Mr NAKANE		Japan
Mr QUEISI		Jordan
Mr YATANI		Kenya
Mr CHO Hyun		} Korea, Republic of
Mr MOON Byung-Ryong		
Mr ENKHSAIKHAN		Mongolia
Mr HAMER		Netherlands
Mr ILLO		Niger
Mr ANWAR		Pakistan
Mr GARCÍA REVILLA		Peru
Mr MARCELO CURTO		Portugal
Mr BERDENNIKOV		} Russian Federation
Ms BELYAEVA		
Ms CHIN		Singapore
Mr MINTY		South Africa
Mr HACHANI		Tunisia
Mr PAVLYSHYN		Ukraine
Mr ALKAABI		United Arab Emirates
Mr SMITH		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mr DAVIES		United States of America
Mr UZCÁTEGUI DUQUE		Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
Mr AMANO	_____	Director General
Mr CSERVENY		Secretary of the Board

Representatives of the following Member States also attended the meeting:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abbreviations used in this record:

CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
HEU	high-enriched uranium
imPACT	integrated missions of PACT
INIR	Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
INLEX	International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability
INPRO	International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles
IRRS	Integrated Regulatory Review Service
ITER	International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor
LEU	low-enriched uranium
LWR	light-water reactor
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Abbreviations used in this record (continued):

NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NSF	Nuclear Security Fund
NWFZ	nuclear-weapon-free zone
OECD/NEA	Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
RCA	Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SIT	sterile insect technique
SQP	small quantities protocol
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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

– Opening of the meeting

1. The CHAIRMAN said that it was his sad duty to inform the Board of the recent death of Mr Reinhard Loosch, a well-known and highly respected Governor from the Federal Republic of Germany, Director of International Relations in the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology and Chairman of the Board for the year 1987-1988. He invited the Board to mark its respect for the deceased by observing a minute of silence and requested the Permanent Mission of Germany to convey to his family the Board's condolences.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

2. The CHAIRMAN welcomed all participants, especially the new Governor, Mr Cho Hyun of the Republic of Korea, and the new Resident Representatives, Mr Marsán Aguilera of Cuba, Mr Alemu of Ethiopia, Mr Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan, Mr Ould Zahave of Mauritania and Mr Nguyen Ba Son of Vietnam.

3. He bade farewell to colleagues who had finished or would shortly be finishing their tours of duty in Vienna: Mr Shim Yoon-Joe, Governor from the Republic of Korea, and Resident Representative Ms Giocochea Estenoz of Cuba.

– Adoption of the agenda (GOV/2011/23/Rev.3)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Board to adopt the revised provisional agenda contained in document GOV/2011/23/Rev.3.

5. The revised provisional agenda contained in document GOV/2011/23/Rev.3 was adopted.

1. Introductory statement by the Director General

6. The DIRECTOR GENERAL, referring to the Technical Cooperation Report for 2010 (GOV/2011/25), said that in 2010 nuclear safety and human health had been the two largest areas of Agency technical cooperation activity, followed by food and agriculture. That underscored the fact that the Agency was firmly focused on helping Member States to apply nuclear science and technology in addressing critical development needs, while maintaining the highest safety standards.

7. It was important that all Member States contribute their full TCF target shares and do so in a timely manner.

8. In 2010, the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative had been an important source of funding for footnote a/ projects, and he was grateful to the United States for launching the Initiative, and also to the Republic of Korea for recently pledging a contribution of around US \$800 000.

9. He highlighted a few projects in order to give members of the Board a flavour of the scope of the Agency's technical cooperation activities.

10. In Europe, a regional project to enhance the safety and sustainability of research reactors was concentrating on developing sub-regional coalitions and networks. In Latin America, the Agency had supported the establishment of a Regional Network for the Optimization of Occupational Exposures in order to encourage the development of a nuclear and radiological safety culture. In Africa, support in the area of radiation safety had been provided through a portfolio of regional projects. In Asia and the Pacific, the Agency's efforts had focused on helping Member States to strengthen their nuclear safety and security infrastructures.

11. In the human health area, the fight against cancer in developing countries remained a high priority. The year 2010 had seen the inauguration, with Agency support, of Mauritania's first radiotherapy centre, which meant that many cancer patients would no longer have to travel abroad for treatment. In Albania, the Nuclear Medicine Centre and the Radiotherapy Centre at the Mother Theresa University Hospital in Tirana were being upgraded, with Agency assistance, in order to provide modern diagnostic and therapeutic services.

12. In food and health, the Agency was supporting the Government of Senegal's national strategy for the fortification of foods to address a significant micronutrient deficiency problem.

13. Regarding the Draft Programme and Budget for 2012–2013, as Board members were aware, in his original proposals there had been a particularly strong focus on efficiency and prioritization. The increase that he had proposed (2.8% plus a 1.1% price adjustment) had, in his view, been reasonable and commensurate with the expanded priorities reflected in the Medium Term Strategy 2012–2017.

14. Following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, he had proposed some adjustments within that same envelope, including additional funding for Major Programme 3, Nuclear Safety and Security, and a corresponding decrease in Major Programme 5, Policy, Management and Administration Services.

15. He understood that Ambassador Rasi of Finland, Chairperson of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities, had circulated a package proposal which included an increase of 2.1% plus the 1.1% price adjustment. He was grateful to Ambassador Rasi for her tireless efforts to bring about consensus on a very important issue.

16. Adoption of a budget recommendation two weeks ahead of the forthcoming IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety would send a positive message about the ability of the Agency to live up to the international community's expectations of it. He therefore very much hoped that the Board would arrive at a consensus at its current meetings on the reasonable budget increase proposed by Ambassador Rasi.

17. The accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had been a top priority for the Agency since 11 March 2011. In a report entitled "IAEA Activities in Response to the Fukushima Accident" (GOV/INF/2011/8), he had detailed what the Agency had done since day one. The Agency had distributed information, validated by Japan and other countries, that had served as a reference point, and it was continuing to provide advice and assistance to the Government of Japan as it endeavoured to achieve full stabilization of the plant. The Agency had from the start worked closely with international partners such as WHO, WMO, FAO and CTBTO.

18. In March, a special Board of Governors meeting had been convened to discuss the Fukushima Daiichi accident. In April, the Fifth Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety had provided a first formal opportunity for Contracting Parties to share their preliminary thoughts on the lessons that needed to be learned.

19. An Agency fact-finding team consisting of top experts from a dozen Member States and the Agency's Secretariat had visited Japan from 24 May to 2 June in order to make an assessment of safety issues related to the accident. After sharing preliminary findings and lessons learned with the Government of Japan, the team was now preparing its final report, which would be presented at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety.

20. The Ministerial Conference was of vital importance for global nuclear safety after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Its main goals were to make a preliminary assessment of the accident, strengthen emergency preparedness and response, and launch the process of reviewing the global nuclear safety framework in order to strengthen it. The Agency, with its broad membership and unrivalled expertise in all aspects of nuclear energy and nuclear safety, was the focal point for international follow-up to the Fukushima Daiichi accident. He was counting on strong participation at a high level by Member States in the Ministerial Conference in order to send a strong message concerning their commitment to enhanced nuclear safety.

21. He was grateful to Ambassador Guerreiro of Brazil for agreeing to be the Chairman of the Ministerial Conference. With his characteristic efficiency and diplomatic skill, Ambassador Guerreiro was steering the consultation process in an exemplary manner, and he had no doubts about the success of the Conference under Ambassador Guerreiro's able leadership.

22. The Ministerial Conference would be part of a lengthy process of establishing a comprehensive post-Fukushima nuclear safety framework, building on the valuable nuclear safety framework that was already in place. He was looking forward to hearing the views of Member States during the Board's current meetings. On the basis of those views, and of the views expressed during the consultation process, and drawing on the Agency's rich experience in assisting Member States in the nuclear safety field, he planned to make some suggestions at the Ministerial Conference on how to strengthen nuclear safety. He welcomed the proposals already made by many Member States, and he greatly appreciated the proposal made by the Government of Japan that it host an Agency conference on nuclear safety in the latter half of 2012 — a proposal that demonstrated the commitment of Japan to full transparency and its willingness to share its experience for the benefit of all countries.

23. At the request of Member States in the Asia-Pacific region, the Secretariat had (in document GOV/2011/32) put before the Board, for approval, a technical cooperation project in support of a marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the region. The project provided for the possibility of Small Island Developing States of the Pacific that were not members of the Agency but had shown interest in the study to participate with the approval of the countries parties to the RCA. Work would start as soon as funding was received.

24. In December 2010, the Board had approved the establishment of an IAEA Low Enriched Uranium Bank. The Secretariat had, in document GOV/INF/2011/7, invited Member States that wished to host the LEU bank to inform it accordingly. He hoped to be able to complete the process of selecting a host State later in the year.

25. New financial arrangements were in place for the LEU bank, which was being funded exclusively out of voluntary contributions. The Agency was in the process of securing the transfer of funds pledged by Member States, the European Union and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

26. He would provide the Board with an indicative administrative and financial plan for the operation of the LEU bank as soon as possible.

27. Preparations were well underway for the Scientific Forum on "Water Matters — Making a Difference with Nuclear Techniques" due to take place in September. The aim of the Scientific Forum was to make Member States and other key partners more aware of the added value of nuclear

techniques in water management and of the broad range of Agency activities in areas such as water resources assessment, agricultural water management and aquatic pollution control.

28. Giving an example of those Agency activities, he said that 19 African countries were participating in a regional agricultural project aimed at the better use of water and fertilizers. Nuclear techniques were being used to assess soil moisture levels and to measure fertilizer uptake. The evidence so far was that drip irrigation, while increasing crop yields, used up to 30% less water than traditional irrigation methods.

29. He would soon invite members of the Board to attend celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratory in Monaco, which would take place on 29 September. In that connection, he wished to put on record his appreciation for the understanding shown by the Principality of Monaco after the postponement of the commemoration scheduled for March 2011.

30. As regards safeguards issues, the extended Clean Laboratory at Seibersdorf was now fully operational and had already analysed its first samples. The Large Geometry Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer, which had been delivered in April, made the Agency a leader in particle analysis. Thanks to the generous donations of a number of Member States, the extended Clean Laboratory had been got up and running on schedule — and slightly under budget.

31. As to the Agency's Nuclear Material Laboratory, the design work was continuing as scheduled, but the Agency had still not secured full funding for that vital component of its verification capability. He was grateful to those countries which had already pledged extrabudgetary contributions and would like more countries to make pledges. He looked forward to inviting Member States to a ceremony marking the inauguration of the expanded Clean Laboratory and the ground-breaking for the Nuclear Material Laboratory later in the year.

32. Since the Board's March meetings, Montenegro had brought into force a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol; Morocco had brought into force an additional protocol; Guatemala and San Marino had amended their SQPs; and Pakistan had brought into force a safeguards agreement for Units 3 and 4 of the Chashma nuclear power plant.

33. The number of States with additional protocols in force now stood at 108. He very much hoped that the remaining States that had concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency but did not yet have additional protocols in force would conclude additional protocols soon. Also he would like to see the 15 States parties to the NPT without NPT safeguards agreements in force bringing such agreements into force without delay and all States with unamended SQPs either amending or rescinding them.

34. Regarding the application of safeguards in the DPRK, since April 2009 the Agency had not been able to implement any safeguards measures in that country.

35. The nuclear programme of the DPRK remained a matter of serious concern for the North-East Asia region and beyond. The 2010 reports about the construction of a new uranium enrichment facility and an LWR in the DPRK were deeply troubling. As he had noted at the March meetings of the Board, the General Conference had called upon the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, to come into full compliance with the NPT, to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of comprehensive Agency safeguards, and to resolve any outstanding issues that might have arisen owing to the long absence of Agency safeguards.

36. He urged the DPRK once again to fully implement all of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference and the Security Council. Also, he wished to stress that the Agency had an essential role to play in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme, and he would — as requested — present a

comprehensive report on the Agency's previous verification activities in the DPRK to the Board and the General Conference in September.

37. Since his previous report entitled "Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran", the Agency had received further information regarding possible past or current undisclosed nuclear-related activities that seemed to point to the existence of possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme. There were indications that certain of those activities might have continued until recently.

38. In May, he had sent a letter to His Excellency Dr Fereydoun Abbasi, Vice-President of Iran and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, reiterating the Agency's concerns about the existence of possible military dimensions and requesting that Iran provide prompt access to relevant locations, equipment, documentation and persons. He had received a reply from Dr Abbasi on 31 May and had replied in turn in a letter dated 3 June, in which he had repeated the request for prompt access.

39. The Agency was continuing to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran pursuant to its safeguards agreement. However, Iran was not providing the cooperation necessary in order to enable the Agency to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran and therefore to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran was in peaceful activities. He urged Iran to take steps towards the full implementation of all relevant obligations, in order to establish international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

40. As could be seen from his latest report entitled "Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic", the Agency had come to the conclusion that it was very likely that the building destroyed at the Dair Alzour site had been a nuclear reactor which should have been declared to the Agency. That was the best assessment of the Agency, based on all the information in its possession.

41. The Syrian Government had been given ample time by the Agency to cooperate fully concerning the Dair Alzour site, but it had not done so. Nevertheless, the Agency had obtained enough information to draw a conclusion. He had judged it appropriate to inform Member States of the Agency's conclusion at the present stage as it was in no one's interest to let the situation drag on indefinitely. On 26 May, he had received from the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria a letter whose content had been shared with the Board. He was confident about the Agency's conclusion and looked forward to engaging further with Syria to resolve related outstanding issues.

42. It was deeply regrettable that the facility had been destroyed – allegedly by Israel – without the Agency having been given an opportunity to perform its verification role. Rather than force being used, the case should have been reported to the Agency.

43. Regarding its Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR), Syria had cooperated with the Agency by providing the requested access to a site in Homs, among other sites. Syria's statements concerning the previously unreported conversion activities at the MNSR and the origin of anthropogenic uranium particles were not inconsistent with the results of the Agency's verification activities. The matter would be addressed in the routine implementation of safeguards.

44. As to the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East, he had received encouraging signals from a number of Member States in response to a letter in which he had, earlier in the year, sought views about the convening of a forum on the relevance of the experience with existing nuclear-weapon-free zones for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East.

45. He hoped that it would be possible to reach agreement on the convening of such a forum in Vienna later in the year. He was continuing his consultations and would inform the Board of the outcome.

46. The Agency had organized a technical meeting to address Member States' concerns regarding newly arising threats to nuclear facilities in the field of cybersecurity. The meeting had been attended by over 100 participants from 33 countries. The Agency would continue to pay close attention to that important subject.

2. Applications for membership of the Agency (GOV/2011/35)

47. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document GOV/2011/35, which contained an application for membership of the Agency from the Commonwealth of Dominica. If the Board decided to recommend that the application be approved, the draft report attached to the document would be submitted to the General Conference.

48. Mr FAWZY (Egypt)*, speaking on behalf of NAM, expressed support for the application made by the Commonwealth of Dominica.

49. The CHAIRMAN took it that the Board wished to recommend to the General Conference that it approve the application made by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica for membership of the Agency and that it wished to submit to the General Conference the draft report attached to document GOV/2011/35.

50. It was so decided.

51. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Board, extended his congratulations to the Commonwealth of Dominica.

3. The Annual Report for 2010 (GOV/2010/21 and Corr.1, plus additional information available on GovAtom)

52. The CHAIRMAN, introducing document GOV/2010/21, urged Member State representatives to arrange for the widest possible dissemination of the final version of the Annual Report for 2010 in their home countries.

53. Mr SOLTANIEH (Islamic Republic of Iran)*, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group would like to see the Agency judiciously reflecting in all relevant future activities the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, as a large number of developing Member States remained seriously interested in launching nuclear power programmes, and approximately one third of the 60 countries that had received Agency assistance in that connection through national and regional technical cooperation projects in 2010 were studying the nuclear power option in preparation for a decision. The Agency should continue providing support to requesting Member States that were interested in launching or expanding nuclear power programmes. In that context, the Group welcomed the establishment in 2010 of the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power Infrastructure.

54. The Group welcomed the Agency's engineering support for nuclear power plant operation, maintenance and service life management and the increase in the number of technical cooperation projects aimed at strengthening the ability of Member States to improve nuclear power plant performance.
55. The Group also welcomed the introduction of the Advanced Reactors Information System in 2010.
56. The Group, which continued to believe that the success of nuclear power programmes would depend largely on the availability of a sufficiently skilled workforce at all stages, would like the Agency to continue supporting human resource development in Member States. The Group had noted with interest in that context the announcement by the Agency of its intention to conduct, in collaboration with eight other organizations, "a number of surveys of human resource needs and supplies throughout the nuclear power field, and to develop workforce planning tools for countries considering or launching new nuclear power programmes."
57. The Group greatly appreciated the activities of the Agency in the area of nuclear reactor technology development, including its activities relating to small and medium-sized reactors and to applications of nuclear energy such as hydrogen production and seawater desalination.
58. The Group welcomed the establishment by the Agency in 2010 of the INPRO Dialogue Forum.
59. The Group would like the Agency to continue with its support for developing Member States in the area of uranium production.
60. The Group had noted with interest the Agency's efforts directed towards the efficient use of fissile and fertile material. In its view, they were timely given the renewed interest in nuclear power in a large number of Member States.
61. The Group welcomed the fact that in 2010 the collection of information on the world distribution of thorium deposits and resources had been initiated within the framework of the Agency's Integrated Nuclear Fuel Cycle Information System (iNFCIS).
62. The Group welcomed the training of energy analysts and the support for national energy assessment efforts being provided through Agency technical cooperation projects. It also welcomed the continuing expansion of INIS as "a key provider of knowledge on the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology."
63. The Group, which welcomed the steps taken by the Agency to promote international collaboration in support of the transition to molybdenum-99 production based on LEU, would like to see it intensifying its efforts to increase the utilization of reactors in developing countries for radioisotope production.
64. The Group, which attached great importance to applications of nuclear and isotopic techniques in areas such as food and agriculture, human health and water resources management, would like the Agency to continue supporting the efforts aimed at the attainment of MDGs through — inter alia — coordinated research projects. In that connection, it welcomed the continual expansion of the Agency's Collaborating Centre scheme.
65. The Group, which was very concerned about the shortage of medical specialists in developing countries, welcomed the launching of the on-line Human Health Campus by the Agency.
66. In view of the risks associated with the use of ionizing radiation in medical procedures, the Group commended the Agency for organizing the International Symposium on Standards, Applications and Quality Assurance in Medical Radiation Dosimetry held in November 2010.

67. The Group also commended the Agency for further strengthening its collaboration with leading cancer control organizations through the WHO/IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control. In addition, it would like to see the PACT Management Office continuing with its fund-raising efforts, given the strong demand for imPACT reviews. In that connection, the Group was of the view that overhead costs and programme support costs should not be charged against contributions made in support of PACT activities.

68. The Group, which commended the Agency on its role in global water management, greatly appreciated the launching of the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement (IWAVE) project. It also greatly appreciated the fact that the Agency had started to publish a series of isotope hydrology atlases.

69. The Group welcomed the fact that a coordinated research project had in 2010 resulted in the development of two novel technetium-99m tracers for use in medical diagnoses and treatments. The Group also welcomed the fact that another coordinated research project had in 2010 resulted in the development of methodologies for the preparation of radiation-grafted membranes to remove pollutants such as heavy metal ions and toxic compounds from waste water.

70. With the world's growing population continuing to be faced with inadequate food supplies, the Group welcomed the fact that the early application of rapid and sensitive nuclear and nuclear-related diagnostic tests to control transboundary animal diseases such as rinderpest had been one of the Agency's key priorities in the area of food and agriculture in 2010. It was particularly pleased that FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health had officially declared the global eradication of rinderpest — the first such declaration in respect of an animal disease.

71. The Group would like use of the SIT to be expanded so as to eradicate or control further types of crop pest and further regions

72. The Group, which recognized the Agency's unique role in enhancing the capacity of Member States for understanding environmental dynamics and identifying and mitigating marine and terrestrial environmental problems caused by radioactive and non-radioactive pollutants, welcomed the preparations made in 2010 for the accreditation of the Agency's Environment Laboratories.

73. Given the crucial role that the Agency's technical cooperation programmes were playing in promoting sustainable socio-economic development in developing Member States, with their growing needs, the Group reiterated its call for the provision of adequate resources for those programmes.

74. As a nuclear incident or accident could have regional or global consequences, the Group greatly appreciated the Agency's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety lay with States, the Group considered that the Agency had a central role to play by virtue of its mandatory functions, broad membership and long-standing expertise. Also, it continued to believe that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations should not be invoked in order to hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in developing countries. The Group greatly appreciated the diverse Agency activities undertaken in 2010 in the areas of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

75. While welcoming the fact that nuclear power plant safety performance had remained high in 2010, the Group considered that the Fukushima accident highlighted the need to review and strengthen the international nuclear safety framework and the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of Member States. It therefore welcomed the convening by the Director General of the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. Continuous vigilance was essential, and there must be no complacency.

76. The Group, which would like the Agency to intensify its efforts to assist Member States in improving their ability to respond to safety-related incidents, recognized the usefulness in that regard of the Agency's Response Assistance Network (RANET) and of the emergency preparedness and response exercises and missions organized by the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre.

77. The Group welcomed the assistance being provided to developing Member States that were embarking on nuclear power programmes and would like the Agency to continue helping them to develop the requisite nuclear safety infrastructure. In that connection, it commended the Agency for launching the Regulatory Cooperation Forum and establishing the Global Safety Assessment Network (G-SAN) and welcomed the continuing development of the Safety Assessment Education and Training Programme (SAET).

78. The Group attached great importance to the Agency's activities in support of the sharing of knowledge and expertise relating to all aspects of nuclear safety, including regulatory supervision and the ageing management of research reactors.

79. The Group had noted with satisfaction the approval of the revised International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources by the Commission on Safety Standards.

80. The Group greatly appreciated the efforts being made to reduce unnecessary radiation exposures in medicine and had noted with satisfaction the way in which occupational radiation exposures in nuclear facilities were being managed.

81. The Group welcomed the Agency's networking activities relating to the exchange of information on good practices in the management of radioactive waste and the holding by the Agency of training courses in the area of radioactive waste management. It also welcomed the work being done within the Agency on developing a borehole disposal system as a simple and economically viable option for the disposal of disused high-activity radiation sources.

82. The Group greatly appreciated the nuclear security guidance documents published by the Agency, the nuclear security training provided through the Agency and the supply through the Agency of equipment for detecting and responding to unauthorized movements of nuclear and other radioactive material.

83. Mr. YATANI (Kenya), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that it was pleased that nuclear power continued to be a major focus of the Agency's activities, particularly given the large number of developing Member States interested in launching nuclear power programmes.

84. The African Group welcomed the assistance being provided to Member States in developing the safety infrastructures necessary for the introduction of nuclear power. It greatly appreciated the establishment in 2010 of the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Group and the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power Infrastructure. It had noted with interest that a further INIR mission had been conducted in 2010.

85. The African Group welcomed the outcomes of the workshop on 'Topical Issues in Infrastructure Development: Managing the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power'.

86. The African Group also welcomed the outcome of the International Conference in Human Resource Development for Introducing and Expanding Nuclear Power Programmes held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in March 2010, and particularly the announcement during the Conference of an Agency-led initiative aimed at — inter alia — the conduct of surveys of "human resource needs and supplies throughout the nuclear power field".

87. In view of the growing interest in nuclear power, the African Group considered that access to up-to-date information on all available nuclear power technologies was of the utmost importance. It therefore welcomed the launching by the Agency of the Advanced Reactors Information System.

88. The African Group welcomed the publication in 2010 of the joint OECD/NEA-IAEA report entitled *Uranium 2009: Resources, Production and Demand* — the 23rd edition of the ‘Red Book’.

89. The African Group, which greatly appreciated the Agency’s activities relating to the early application of rapid and sensitive diagnostic techniques for the control of transboundary animal diseases, welcomed the fact that in 2010 the way had been cleared for the official global announcement by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health of the eradication of rinderpest — a devastating disease of cattle that had particularly impacted African countries. It also welcomed the success achieved in using nuclear and nuclear-related immunological and molecular techniques to diagnose and control Rift Valley Fever in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mauritania.

90. The African Group, which welcomed the benefits to 19 African countries of the regional project on ‘Enhancing the Productivity of High Value Crops and Income Generation with Small-Scale Irrigation Technologies’, would like to see the project extended to cover other countries in Africa.

91. The African Group, which attached great importance to the assistance provided through the Agency to Member States in the area of pest control, welcomed the fact that the 12th International Workshop on Arthropod Mass Rearing and Quality Control had resulted in “a strengthened network of rearing experts and a worldwide road map for future arthropod mass rearing and quality control”.

92. As malaria was continuing to affect millions of people in Africa, the African Group would appreciate the establishment by the Agency of a facility for the rearing of sterile mosquitoes to be used in the fight against malaria.

93. The African Group, which greatly appreciated the provision through the Agency of laboratory infrastructure and staff training in support of the use of stable isotope techniques to assess human milk intake in breast-fed infants and body composition in lactating mothers, welcomed the establishment of a stable isotope laboratory in the Central African Republic and the training of technical and medical staff provided at facilities in Burkina Faso and Morocco in 2010.

94. The African Group also welcomed the launching in 2010 of the Human Health Campus. In its view, that educational website would prove very useful for health professionals working in the area of nuclear medicine.

95. The Group greatly appreciated the impACT reviews conducted in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the follow-up reviews conducted at the PACT Model Demonstration Sites in Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania. It considered PACT Model Demonstration Sites to be important for enhancing the capacities of public health authorities in Member States participating in the WHO/IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control. It would like to see further development partners supporting Member States in the development of their national cancer control programmes.

96. The African Group, which agreed with the Secretariat that the shortage of qualified cancer care professionals was “a major bottleneck in developing countries”, looked forward to the establishment of a Virtual University for Cancer Control in Africa and welcomed the selection of Ghana, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia as the pilot sites.

97. The African Group also welcomed the fact that the Agency, responding to “the inequity that persists in access to radiation therapy in the developing world”, had launched an Advisory Group on Increasing Access to Radiation Therapy.

98. The African Group commended the Director General's decision to make water resources management a high-priority area of Agency activity in 2011 and to designate it as the theme of the Agency's 2011 Scientific Forum.

99. Despite the high level of safety performance of nuclear installations achieved in 2010, complacency should be avoided. Vigilance and continuous improvements were essential in view of the challenges relating to nuclear power and the wider use of radioactive sources.

100. While the safe and secure use of nuclear and other radioactive material was important, the African Group was of the view that nuclear safety and security considerations should not be invoked in order to prevent countries, particularly ones in Africa, from developing or expanding nuclear power programmes.

101. The African Group, which attached great importance to the Agency's efforts in helping Member States in the area of nuclear safety and security, welcomed the launching of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum in 2010. It also welcomed the development by the Agency of a 'self-assessment tool' for facilitating the regular evaluation by Member States of their regulatory infrastructures for nuclear and radiation safety.

102. The African Group looked forward to completion of the process of revising the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources.

103. The African Group welcomed the inauguration of a website on occupational radiation protection as part of the Agency's Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection.

104. Regarding the control of radioactive sources, the African Group greatly appreciated the appraisal and advisory missions to various Member States, including African ones, conducted by the Agency. Also, it welcomed the increased commitment of Member States to application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

105. The African Group, which remained concerned about radioactive material shipment denials and delays, welcomed the continuing efforts of the International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material.

106. The African Group also welcomed the creation of a Regional Advisory Safety Committee for research reactors in Africa.

107. The African Group greatly appreciated the security-related assistance provided by the Agency in connection with the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament held in South Africa.

108. Mr PADILLA de LEÓN (Colombia)*, speaking on behalf of GRULAC, said that, given the interest of many Member States in embarking on nuclear power programmes, the Agency should, at the request of Member States, step up its assistance in the area of nuclear safety.

109. GRULAC welcomed the progress made in the application of radioisotope techniques in the areas such as food and agriculture, human health and water resources management, which were important for the attainment of MDGs.

110. GRULAC, which attached great importance to the Agency's activities in seeking to enhance Member States' capabilities for preventing, diagnosing and treating health problems through the application of nuclear techniques, welcomed the launching of the Human Health Campus.

111. GRULAC commended the Agency on its efforts in encouraging Member States to apply the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors, including the organization by the Agency in 2010 of a regional meeting on application of the Code of Conduct in Latin America.

112. GRULAC, which remained concerned about radioactive material shipment denials, would like the Secretariat to continue working with Member States in an effort to harmonize different sets of national regulations and establish mechanisms for cooperation between national regulatory authorities.

113. GRULAC welcomed the Agency's cooperation with Latin America Member States in the area of nuclear security, and it especially appreciated the assistance provided to Colombia during the 2010 South American Games, held in Medellín. It was sure that the Agency could be counted on to help ensure security at the Pan American Games due to be held in Mexico in October 2011.

114. GRULAC, which commended the Agency's role in the application of nuclear techniques in the area of food and agriculture, welcomed the assistance provided to Latin American and Caribbean Member States in 2010 in combating insect pests and improving the control of chemical residues.

115. Ms BELYAEVA (Russian Federation) said that the draft report under consideration clearly highlighted the importance of nuclear power generation in helping to meet the world's growing demand for electricity without contributing to climate change. Notwithstanding the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, her Government was convinced that nuclear power generation would expand in the long term, as there was no alternative to it in the foreseeable future for ensuring that humankind's energy needs were met. At the same time, the accident in Japan had once again underlined the importance of the Agency's role in promoting international cooperation in the area of nuclear safety.

116. In 2010, her Government, which attached great importance to the work of INLEX, had, together with the Agency, organized a Regional Workshop on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage. The Regional Workshop, held in Moscow, had been attended by 80 experts from 26 countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Her delegation would like the holding of the Regional Workshop to be appropriately reflected in the final version of the draft report now under consideration.

117. Drawing attention to paragraph 17 of the draft report, which referred to the LEU reserve established at the Angarsk nuclear facility, in Siberia, she said that her Government considered the creation within the Agency framework of a sound nuclear fuel supply system to be essential for giving Member States confidence as regards the feasibility and sustainability of their plans for using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

118. Her country's initiatives with regard to multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle aimed at creating new opportunities for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and would not hamper the development by other Member States of peaceful nuclear technologies.

119. Her delegation, which was satisfied with the attention paid in the draft report under consideration to INPRO, welcomed the fact that Poland had joined INPRO in 2010, bringing the total INPRO membership to 32.

120. Given the growing interest in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the expansion of international cooperation in that connection, the application of Agency safeguards was more important than ever. Her country welcomed the Agency's efforts in promoting the conclusion of additional protocols to safeguards agreements and was pleased that the number of States with additional protocols in force was continuing to increase. The international community needed to have full confidence as regards the peaceful nature of States' nuclear activities, and only the Agency was qualified to draw the necessary conclusions — conclusions based on verified official information and not on speculation.

121. The Russian Federation, which greatly appreciated the Agency's efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear security worldwide, had in December 2010 concluded with the Agency an agreement regarding the payment, during the period 2010–2015, of \$6.5 million into the NSF. Her delegation would like that fact to be appropriately reflected in the final version of the draft report now under consideration.

122. Her delegation welcomed the account given in the draft report of the repatriation of spent fuel from the Vinča Institute in Serbia to the Russian Federation within the framework of the largest technical cooperation project in the Agency's history — a very important project in the field of nuclear security.

123. Her country, which stood ready to continue supporting the activities of the Agency, attached great importance to maintenance of the balance between the Agency's main statutory functions: promoting collaboration in the peaceful use of nuclear technologies; ensuring high levels of nuclear and radiation safety; and verifying the non-diversion of nuclear material for military purposes. It also attached great importance to the maintenance of high levels of professionalism and impartiality in all of the Agency's activities.

124. Mr CHEN Qiufa (China) said that the Agency had in 2010 worked hard in fulfilling its statutory mandates in response to Member States' needs as regards economic development, poverty reduction and energy security. It had increased its assistance to and further promoted cooperation among Member States. In particular, it had done much to help newcomer States with energy assessments and in areas such as human resource development, uranium resource exploitation and nuclear safety and security capacity-building. In cooperation with other international organizations, it had promoted nuclear applications in areas such as human health, food and agriculture, water resources management and environmental protection. On all those counts, the Agency was to be commended.

125. The Agency was also to be commended on its efforts in promoting the universalization of safeguards agreements and additional protocols and on the way in which it was implementing the Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013.

126. In China's nuclear power development strategy, safety was the top priority. In accordance with the 'safety first' principle, his country had developed advanced nuclear safety technology, put in place a comprehensive set of nuclear safety laws and regulations and established regulatory and emergency response systems. A good nuclear safety record was being maintained through rigorous, independent safety regulation.

127. In April 2011, China had participated very actively in the Fifth Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, at which its national report had been approved.

128. As soon as news of the Fukushima accident had broken, his country's National Nuclear Emergency Coordination Committee had arranged for continuous radiation monitoring of China's terrestrial and marine environments, for expert analyses and assessments and for the timely release of authoritative information to the public through the news media. In addition, the nuclear safety authorities had promptly carried out safety inspections at China's nuclear facilities, strengthening their safety management arrangements, and had carried out a comprehensive review of the safety features of the nuclear power plants under construction. Such measures, taken in a transparent manner, had helped to maintain the Chinese public's confidence in nuclear energy.

129. As the effects of nuclear accidents transcended national borders, achieving higher levels of nuclear safety should be a matter for the international community as a whole, with the Agency playing a leading role. China would participate in discussions on the proposals made by different countries for strengthening the international nuclear safety regime.

130. The Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety due to be held from 20 to 24 June 2011 would be an important opportunity to summarize lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, with a view to further improving nuclear safety and emergency response capabilities worldwide. China would participate with a high-level delegation.

131. His Government attached great importance to the security of nuclear material and facilities, and China had ratified the Amendment to the CPPNM in 2009 — one of the first countries to do so. In April 2010, at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington D.C., the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, had presented a six-point proposal for strengthening global nuclear security and had announced that his country stood ready to cooperate with other countries in establishing a nuclear security demonstration centre in China. The Chinese Government was currently working together with the United States Government on preparations for construction of the centre, and it would like to see the Agency and further Member States supporting the project.

132. It was important that the international community use the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident in making nuclear safety a top priority. On 19 April 2011, at the Summit on the Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy held in Ukraine, Chinese Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang had presented a four-point proposal for strengthening global nuclear safety. For its part, China would cooperate still more closely with other countries in the field of nuclear safety, take still more effective nuclear safety measures and continue to strictly fulfil its international obligations relating to nuclear safety.

133. Mr NAKANE (Japan) said that his country had greatly appreciated the Director General's initiative in designating cancer control as a high-priority area of Agency activity in 2010, and it welcomed the fact that the Director General had designated the use of nuclear techniques in water resources management as a high-priority area of Agency activity in 2011 and as the theme of the 2011 Scientific Forum, in which Japan intended to participate very actively.

134. In the opinion of his Government, which welcomed the initiation in 2010 of the Agency's IWAVE (IAEA Water Availability Enhancement) project, the Agency could play an unique role in responding to global water challenges by providing Member States with science-based information.

135. Mr KHULLAR (India) said that, although events at the Fukushima nuclear power plant were still unfolding, his country was convinced that the world nuclear community would take the measures necessary in order to assuage public concern about the safety of nuclear power. In 2010, several Member States had been seriously considering the nuclear power option, and India welcomed the expressions of commitment by several of them to pursuing that option despite the Fukushima accident.

136. Nuclear safety should be seen not as a static situation but as a continuously evolving process, and the Agency, in coordination with all stakeholders, had an important role to play in strengthening it. For the present, however, it was imperative that the Agency allay misapprehensions about the safety of nuclear power plants by emphasizing the advances being made in plant design and technology. India would like the Agency to continue supporting all activities related to the promotion of nuclear power.

137. India, which needed a severalfold increase in its installed electricity-generating capacity, now had 20 operating nuclear power reactors, and it had accumulated over 320 reactor-years of safe operating experience.

138. India's indigenous nuclear power programme was oriented towards maximizing the energy potential of available uranium resources and the utilization of its large reserves of thorium. His country was of the view that available global uranium resources would not be sufficient to sustain the

projected expansion of nuclear power without adoption of the closed fuel cycle approach, and it would like the Agency to further engage in work relating to the thorium fuel cycle.

139. India welcomed the Agency's activities aimed at stimulating innovation through coordinated research projects and technical working groups on, for example, small and medium-sized power reactors and non-electricity-generating applications of nuclear power. In that connection, it also welcomed the release of an updated version of the Advanced Reactors Information System (ARIS) in 2010.

140. His country, which had been associated with INPRO since its inception, believed that it had great potential for making nuclear power accessible in a safe and sustainable manner, particularly to new entrants.

141. India, which attached great importance to the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear science, was supporting its nuclear fusion programme. It was also supporting the ITER programme through the provision of hardware and expertise.

142. The Agency's activities relating to non-power applications of nuclear energy were of special importance for meeting the needs of developing countries in areas such as food and agriculture, cancer control, nutrition and water resources management, and Indian experts were regular participants in those activities.

143. As regards cancer control, the Bhabhatron teletherapy unit donated by India to Vietnam within the framework of PACT had been commissioned in 2010, and a further such unit was currently being installed in Sri Lanka.

144. As regards nutrition, his Government welcomed the designation of the St John's Research Institute in Bengaluru, India, as the first IAEA Collaborating Centre in nutrition.

145. Mr GARCÍA REVILLA (Peru) said that his country had in 2010 participated very actively in Agency activities relating to — inter alia — training in energy needs assessment and strategy development; PACT and the WHO/IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control; applications of nuclear techniques in areas such as food and agriculture, human health and water resources management; the upgrading of research reactors; the production of molybdenum-99; the control of insect pests and chemical residues; and the preparation of nuclear safety and security guides.

146. Peru, which remained a strong supporter of the Agency's safeguards activities, welcomed the State-level integrated safeguards approach, the increasing use of remote monitoring and the progress made in the ECAS (Enhancing Capabilities of the Safeguards Analytical Services) project.

147. Mr PAVLYSHYN (Ukraine) commended the Agency's activities relating to human health, particularly cancer control activities, and said that the Scientific Forum held in conjunction with the 54th regular session of the General Conference — with the theme "Cancer in Developing Countries: Facing the Challenge" — had shown how ionizing radiation might be used in the medical field without unnecessary risks.

148. Ukraine, which considered Agency safeguards to be of paramount importance, welcomed the efforts made during 2010 in strengthening the safeguards regime.

149. His country also welcomed the progress made by the Agency during 2010 in improving controls over radioactive sources and implementing the Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013.

150. In 2010, Ukraine had announced its readiness to get rid of its entire HEU stock by 2012 provided that there was sufficient international assistance. It had already repatriated a substantial part of that stock to the Russian Federation.

151. Ukraine, which attached great importance to Agency technical cooperation projects in the nuclear safety area and to the Agency's nuclear safety review services, welcomed the start, in 2010, of full-scope operation of the International Seismic Safety Centre.

152. On 26 April 2011 the world community had commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. In that connection, Ukraine had in April hosted a high-level meeting on the safe and innovative use of nuclear energy and an international scientific conference entitled "Chernobyl, 25 Years On: Safety for the Future". One outcome of the high-level meeting had been the unanimous conclusion that it was necessary to ensure adequate levels of nuclear safety, as the key priority, at each and every stage of nuclear energy production — a conclusion reinforced by the still unfolding events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Ukraine had greatly appreciated the participation of the Director General in the high-level meeting, and it was grateful for the support that the Agency was continuing to provide for mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

153. Mr MOON Byung-Ryong (Republic of Korea), commending the Secretariat for its efforts in the area of knowledge management, said that his country had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agency regarding joint operation of the Asian Network for Education in Nuclear Technology (ANENT). His country would like the Agency to expand its activities in support of education and training in Member States.

154. His country, a participant in the INPRO Dialogue Forum, aimed to complete the construction of a demonstration sodium-cooled fast reactor by 2028.

155. The Republic of Korea, which was due to host an IRRS mission in July 2011, expected that the mission would be useful to the country's nuclear regulatory body as regards — inter alia — evaluation of its enforcement of safety standards. His country would like the Secretariat to provide still more sophisticated safety review services, so that Member States might establish and maintain robust safety and security infrastructures.

156. His country, which greatly appreciated the strong emphasis placed by the Director General on cancer control activities, would continue to support the Agency in its PACT fund-raising campaign and in the training of medical staff in Asian PACT Model Demonstration Site (PMDS) countries.

157. Mr DAVIES (United States of America) said that his country applauded the Agency's activities relating to the application of nuclear technologies for development, to nuclear safety and security, and to nuclear verification.

158. Agency technical cooperation projects had been under way in 129 countries and territories in 2010 — an indication of how Member States were turning to the Agency's expertise in applying nuclear technologies in areas important for socio-economic development such as food and agriculture, water resources management and human health.

159. The draft Annual Report acknowledged the contributions made by the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), announced by US Secretary of State Clinton at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In the first year of the PUI, his country had supported activities in over 80 Member States, expanding its financial contributions towards Agency activities by more than \$10 million over and above its continuing support through the TCF. Funding from the United States through the PUI had made possible 25 imPACT reviews and PACT Model Demonstration Site (PMDS) follow-up missions and important Agency support for Member States in the areas of water resources management, food security and nuclear power infrastructure development.

160. As Member States sought simultaneously to address their energy needs and to respond to the dangers of climate change, they were turning to the Agency for support in developing and expanding

nuclear power programmes. Recent events had made clear the importance of proper nuclear safety, and for such Member States the Agency had developed a safety guide on establishing safety infrastructures; also, it had carried out a number of missions designed to help Member States to strengthen their existing safety infrastructures.

161. The draft Annual Report highlighted the work that the Agency was doing in order to ensure that a State could purchase nuclear fuel in the event that exceptional circumstances prevented it from obtaining such fuel on the commercial market. In that connection, his country particularly welcomed the conclusion between the Agency and the Russian Federation of an agreement on the establishment of an LEU reserve for the supply of LEU to Member States and the Board's decision to authorize the Director General to take steps towards the establishment of an LEU bank under the Agency's auspices. It was proud to have been able to make a substantial financial contribution towards the establishment of that LEU bank. Also, it welcomed the Board's approval earlier in 2011 of the Model Nuclear Fuel Assurance Agreement proposed by the United Kingdom.

162. Through the application of safeguards, the Agency aimed to assure the international community that nuclear material and facilities were being used only for peaceful purposes. Such assurance was critical for enabling Member States to enjoy the benefits of the peaceful and responsible utilization of nuclear energy. The United States accordingly welcomed the adoption by ten Member States of additional protocols to their safeguards agreements in 2010 — a measure increasingly recognized as the international standard for safeguards, and necessary for the fulfilment by the Agency of its mission.

163. The Agency had an essential verification role to play under the NPT and under other treaties, such as those establishing NWFZs. Moreover, Agency safeguards helped to create an environment conducive to nuclear disarmament and nuclear cooperation.

164. The United States was pleased that the Agency had completed the development of its Long-Term Strategic Plan (2012-2023), which addressed “the conceptual framework for safeguards, legal authority, technical capabilities, and human and financial resources for Agency verification.” Such long-range planning was highly commendable, and his delegation was certain that, if similar plans were developed for other Agency activities, the Agency would be better prepared to meet future challenges.

165. As more and more Member States sought to benefit from the important services being offered by the Agency, the resources and capacities of the Agency were being exceeded by the demand. The Agency's core activities were mutually reinforcing — not competing priorities. The United States remained committed to ensuring that the Agency was adequately resourced, so as to be able to fulfil its broad mandate now and in the future. As the demand for Agency services increased, Member States should consider the resource ramifications of the resulting expansion of Agency activities. It was untenable that the Agency should conduct such a wide variety of activities at the level of excellence being demanded without adequate financial support.

166. The United States, in endorsing the recommendation made in document GOV/2011/21, looked forward to an Annual Report for 2011 that described an empowered Agency that was increasing both its efficiency and its value to Member States.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.