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The composition of delegations attending the session is given in document GC(39)/INF/21/Rev.2.

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Abbreviations used in this record

AFRA	African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
ARCAL	Regional Co-operative Arrangements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
Basic Safety Standards	International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources
Chemical Weapons Convention	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
G-7	Group of Seven
GRULAC	Latin American and Caribbean Group
ICGFI	International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation
INIS	International Nuclear Information System
Joint Protocol	Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention
London Convention	Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (1972)
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
OAU	Organization of African Unity
Paris Convention	Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy (July 1960)
R&D	Research and Development
RAPAT	Radiation Protection Advisory Team
RBMK	High-power channel-type reactor (Soviet Union)
RCA	Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (for Asia and the Pacific)
SAGTAC	Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Co-operation
SIT	Sterile insect technique
SSAC	State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material
TCF	Technical Co-operation Fund
Tlatelolco Treaty	Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean
WWER	Water-cooled and -moderated reactor

GENERAL DEBATE AND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994 (GC(39)/3, GC(39)/26, GC(39)/26/Add.1 and GC(39)/26/Add.2) (continued)

1. Mr. MATOUG (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), after welcoming the approval of the applications of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, which had just been extended indefinitely, offered an excellent opportunity to consider future courses of action. The Agency had many tasks to perform. In conformity with its Statute, it must seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity, responding to basic human needs, ensuring sustainable development and helping to preserve the environment. The Agency was to be thanked for the steps it was taking to ensure international peace and security and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and for encouraging all countries to accede to the NPT - thereby making it truly universal - and then to enter into its comprehensive safeguards agreements. Its efforts would, he hoped, lead to a future without the threat of nuclear weapons and help to increase the impact of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

2. The world was currently faced by grave economic difficulties requiring urgent measures at the national and the international level. Economic and social development, the environment, health, nutrition and water resources were all vital issues. The fate of nations was contingent on solutions being found to the problems involved, a task calling for constructive dialogue. The Agency had a fundamental role to play in that respect, and Libya was grateful to it for its technical co-operation activities, which were making a real contribution - through technology transfer and the provision of expert services - to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in developing countries. His country was endeavouring to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in spite of difficulties resulting from the economic sanctions to which it was being subjected. Economic growth in Libya had ceased, and a total embargo on technology transfer was holding up technological progress and had led to a deterioration of his country's principal assets - a state of affairs which had prevented his country from regularly paying its contributions to international organizations, including the Agency, and from co-operating with them. That being so, his

delegation believed that the Agency should help countries which were suffering from economic problems imposed by others. The Agency should endeavour to have all restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technology to Libya lifted so that his country might use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in line with the international priorities and technical co-operation principles upheld by the Agency.

3. Many delegates had stated that the 21st century would be the century of nuclear energy. Any attempt to prevent developing countries from benefiting from that source of energy was contrary to the Agency's Statute and to the recommendations of the third Technical Co-operation Policy Review Seminar, which had emphasized the need to extend technical co-operation, given its immediately discernable impact on the environment and on health. Accordingly, the international community should put an end to the injustice of which Libya was a victim and the Agency should establish new relations with his country in the field of nuclear co-operation. It was well known that Africa was suffering from a shortage of water resources, but nuclear techniques could be used in the search for underground water reserves and nuclear power in the desalination of seawater. In 1989 his country had launched a project relating to seawater desalination and had allocated the necessary personnel and financial resources. His delegation believed that the project should continue and that various options should be studied in collaboration with the Agency. It hoped that projects of that type would acquire Model Project status.

4. The strengthening of safeguards and their universal and non-discriminatory application had become even more urgent goals since the indefinite extension of the NPT. His country supported the efforts being made by the Agency to strengthen the effectiveness of safeguards, which it regarded as the key element of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The envisaged improvements should be achieved through equitable, objective, transparent and non-discriminatory measures in compliance with the Agency's Statute and the relevant international conventions and should not undermine the national sovereignty and legitimate rights of States. The measures should be based on existing legal principles and institutions and should be applied only after extensive consultations and negotiations with Member States. The Libyan delegation hoped that the initiatives currently being taken would not lead to new restrictions on the supply of nuclear technology and that

they would be in compliance with the Agency's Statute and document INFCIRC/153 (Corrected).

5. Some nuclear-weapon States were accusing his country of possessing nuclear material to be used in making nuclear weapons and of engaging in programmes prohibited by the NPT. Such accusations constituted a form of premeditated terrorism and were impeding Libya's authorities in their efforts to raise the standard of living of the population through peaceful applications of nuclear energy in fields such as hydrology and medicine. They represented an attempt to keep his country in its present backward state, even though it had initiated projects implemented by the Agency, including the well-known seawater desalination project. Libya was a small developing country with limited resources and technical facilities. It had concluded with the Agency a safeguards agreement pursuant to which regular inspections were carried out by the Agency. Now, the Agency should help put an end to the premeditated terrorism directed against his country, otherwise all agreements would remain a dead letter.

6. Libya attached great importance to disarmament and international peace. Nuclear weapons were undeniably an obstacle to peace and security in the world. In accordance with the principles enunciated at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, which his country fully supported, the Libyan delegation wished to see the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. However, such a zone could be established only if the world stood up to Israel, which possessed enormous arsenals of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Those weapons should be destroyed and Israel forced to place all of its nuclear facilities under Agency's safeguards in compliance with the NPT. Although many of Libya's concerns had not been heeded in the past, he wished to remind the General Conference that the Middle East was suffering from a grave security imbalance as Israel was the only country in the region possessing nuclear weapons. That should be borne in mind when the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East was being considered. In view of the encouragement that Israel had received from certain nuclear-weapon States which applied double standards, however, the Libyan delegation doubted the seriousness of the international community's intentions and its ability to resolve the problem.

7. Libya welcomed the progress made in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and was grateful to the Agency for the assistance it had given to the expert group responsible for producing the draft treaty in question. The establishment of such a zone would undoubtedly contribute to peace and security on the African continent and bolster international efforts to rid neighbouring regions of nuclear weapons.

8. With the changes which had taken place on the international scene and the new priorities which had emerged during the past year, it had become necessary to modify the composition of the Board of Governors. Clearly, wider representation of Member States would make the Board more effective and increase its credibility and its ability to take important decisions and assist Member States. It was essential to reduce the imbalance in the way regional groups were represented, and especially the under-representation of Africa. The Libyan delegation therefore supported the efforts of the Open-Ended Consultative Group on Article VI of the Statute and hoped that broader and more intensive consultations would enable a compromise to be reached on that subject.

9. In spite of the measures taken by the Agency during the past year to increase the number of staff members from developing countries, progress remained inadequate. The Libyan delegation hoped that the Agency would give greater priority in the filling of senior and policy-making posts to candidates from¹ developing countries, in accordance with Article VII of the Statute.

10. In conclusion, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hoped that the Agency would help to establish a world order in which all could look forward to a future of peace, stability and security.

11. Mr. STULLER (Czech Republic), having expressed satisfaction at the fact that the General Conference had approved the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for the work done by them in difficult financial circumstances and endorsed the statement made by the delegate of Spain on behalf of the European Union and its associated countries.

12. The past year could be regarded as having been particularly successful from the point of view of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the most significant event being the indefinite extension of the NPT after an in-depth review of all its aspects. The Czech Republic had always emphasized that it considered the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons to be a priority of its foreign policy. In approving the indefinite extension of the NPT, the States parties had unambiguously pronounced their firm opposition to the potential annihilation of the planet by nuclear weapons. Continuing or planning to carry out nuclear tests - anywhere in the world - was not a step in the right direction, was not in the spirit of the NPT Review and Extension Conference and was a cause for concern, particularly among non-nuclear-weapon States. Every effort should be made to conclude a CTBT and an agreement banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (cut-off agreement).

13. The peaceful utilization of nuclear energy involved questions of safety, and the conclusion of the Convention on Nuclear Safety had therefore been an event of particular significance. The Czech Republic, one of the Convention's first 20 signatories, had deposited its instrument of ratification with the Agency during the first day of the current session of the General Conference. It would like all Member States which had not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention. With regard to the envisaged convention on the safe management of radioactive waste, his delegation believed that the preparatory work had got off to a good start.

14. Signature and ratification alone did not mean that the objectives of a convention or a similar legal instrument would automatically be attained. That was why the Czech Republic attached great importance to the Agency's role in safeguarding nuclear facilities all over the world. It was supporting the Agency's efforts, within the framework of Programme 93+2, to develop a highly effective and efficient safeguards system which would include the best aspects of the present system. The Director General had recommended that the safeguards system be strengthened in two consecutive steps. The first, which could be taken within the existing legal framework, seemed to be a good way of ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards, and the Czech Republic had already begun to adjust its SSAC accordingly. However, changes to national legislation would be necessary

for the second step. Further consultations would be advisable in order to clarify in detail the advantages and feasibility of applying the envisaged measures in Member States.

15. In the near future, the Czech Republic would provide the Agency with the latest results of a research project on special monitoring methods which might be used in the vicinity of nuclear facilities for detecting clandestine activities. His delegation believed that those results would help the Agency in its efforts to strengthen the safeguards system.

16. Following a detailed evaluation of all power generation methods, the Czech Republic had decided to continue with its nuclear programme. The decision had been based primarily on his country's positive experience, during more than ten years, with the Dukovany NPP. Although no significant safety-related event had ever occurred at the site, the enhancement of nuclear safety had been a constant aim of the operator and the regulatory body. In accordance with international practice and Agency recommendations, the Dukovany operator had recently submitted to the regulatory body an operational safety report which covered the past ten years. The report would be updated periodically in the light of the results of future safety assessments, which would constitute an incentive to maintain - even raise - the level of safety.

17. The Dukovany operator, with support provided through various international projects, was preparing an extensive upgrading programme. The Agency was playing an important role in that connection; in particular, its extrabudgetary programme relating to the safety of RBMKs and WWERs had become a permanent source of valuable information and expertise, enabling the Czech authorities to better understand the safety status of the reactors and to set priorities for backfitting. The extrabudgetary programme was also proving to be of great value in connection with the construction of two new reactors at the Temelin site. Besides upgrading of the core and the instrumentation and control system of the Temelin NPP, various recommended design changes would be made in due course. At the request of the Czech Government, a special Agency mission would ensure that all the changes had been made correctly.

18. The Czech Government, which attached great importance also to the legislative framework in the area of nuclear energy, had prepared a draft atomic energy law which set

out new basic principles, specified the areas of competence of different administrative departments and provided for more effective State supervision and control of safety. The general outlines of the draft law had been approved, and the final version would probably be considered by Parliament before the end of the year. In anticipation of the new law's adoption, his Government had amalgamated the bodies responsible for nuclear safety and for radiation protection into a single State Office for Nuclear Safety, which was responsible also for the co-ordination of radiation monitoring activities and for international data exchange.

19. It would take too long to mention all the forms of co-operation taking place between the Czech Republic and the Agency, but he wished to emphasize how important the Agency's technical co-operation programme was for his country in the nuclear safety area. The Czech Government greatly appreciated the Agency's support, which was meeting many of his country's needs. Since the inception of the Agency, the Czech Republic had been a keen participant in all of its major activities, from which it had benefited greatly. It was prepared to continue participating in those activities and to co-operate with other Member States in strengthening safety and further promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

20. Mr. BENATTALLAH (Algeria), having welcomed the General Conference's decision to approve the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for membership of the Agency, thanked the Director General and the Secretariat for their effective work and recalled that his country had consistently taken an active part in the international community's non-proliferation efforts and in promoting international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. In support of the international strategy for general and complete disarmament, Algeria had acceded to a number of disarmament-related agreements, had signed - in 1991 - the Chemical Weapons Convention as one of the original signatory States, had voluntarily and unilaterally placed its two research and radioisotope production reactors under Agency safeguards and - in December 1993 - had declared its intention to accede to the NPT. It had deposited its instrument of accession to the NPT on 12 January 1995 - an act whereby, in keeping with its consistently responsible approach, it had confirmed its commitment to the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and its wish to continue participating in multilateral disarmament efforts. That act had also been

intended as a contribution to confidence-building in Africa, and it had facilitated the conclusion of the discussions on a treaty making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

21. The dangers of proliferation persisted despite the fact that the arms race between the two Blocs had ended, and it was essential that all States which had not yet done so accede to the NPT and place their nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards; the credibility of the NPT would depend on its universality. For its part, Algeria had begun negotiations with the Agency on a comprehensive safeguards agreement whose final approval should not be far off.

22. In that spirit, Algeria had actively participated in the NPT Review and Extension Conference and, in its new capacity as a State party, had endeavoured to help make the NPT an effective means of promoting collective security and international co-operation. The Conference had extended the NPT indefinitely, adopted "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" and established a review mechanism for the NPT - positive results which were inextricably linked. That global accord already constituted a frame of reference, but the welcome decision of the NPT Review and Extension Conference should not be seen as acceptance of the status quo or as a reason for relaxation in the effort to stop the arms race and improve access to nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. In the present international climate, one of hope mixed with doubt, Algeria was still committed to the balance which should exist between nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

23. Algeria, which hoped that the obligations undertaken during the NPT Review and Extension Conference would be honoured, particularly with respect to the conclusion of a CTBT in 1996, was very concerned about the recent resumption of nuclear tests. Since the NPT was a universal instrument relating to both horizontal and vertical non-proliferation, both quantitative and qualitative, it was of greater urgency than ever that a CTBT be concluded and implemented under effective international safeguards. A treaty banning the production and stockpiling of fissile materials was also necessary, as was an international agreement codifying the security guarantees given to non-nuclear-weapon States as regards the use or threatened use of nuclear weapons.

24. A decisive step had been taken towards making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone with the completion of a draft treaty (called the "Pelindaba text") which would be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in the near future - a testimony to the African States' collective political will. When the treaty entered into force, the nuclear-weapon States would have to make the same commitments vis-à-vis Africa as they had made vis-à-vis Latin America and the Caribbean through the Tlatelolco Treaty's Additional Protocol II.

25. Believing that regional denuclearization was an essential complement to general disarmament efforts, Algeria hoped that the example set by Africa would be followed elsewhere - particularly in the Middle East, where all States, and especially Israel, should, as a step towards nuclear disarmament in the region, join the non-proliferation regime by acceding to the NPT, placing all their nuclear facilities under Agency safeguards and undertaking to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The international community should take a more decisive stand in that connection and exert the pressure necessary for the achievement of that goal.

26. The Agency needed to adapt its activities and modus operandi to the structural changes taking place in the world, and the current session was an opportunity to discuss several major issues and to take decisions important for the Agency's future. Algeria's position regarding some of those issues - such as the strengthening of the safeguards system, the financing of technical assistance and safeguards, and the enlargement of the Board of Governors - was well known, and he would therefore not elaborate on it.

27. Mr. AHIMSA (Indonesia), after welcoming the approval of the applications of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that his delegation had taken note of the Director General's statement, which had provided an overall assessment of the Agency's activities in the past year. It was evident that the Director General and his staff had continued to work in the best interests of the Agency and its Member States. Since the previous session, significant progress had been made in international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and the Agency had achieved remarkable successes.

28. The question of technical assistance financing was of fundamental importance to the Agency's role in assisting developing countries in their efforts to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. By giving the Agency the means to strengthen its technical co-operation activities, one would be helping to enhance the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries and to enlarge "the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world." In that context, it was regrettable that the improved performance of the Secretariat during the previous year in implementing the technical co-operation programme had not been matched by the resources made available. The low level of pledges to the TCF might impede the implementation of resolution GC(XXV)/RES/388, in which the General Conference had requested the Board of Governors to ensure that the resources for technical assistance were adequate, predictable and assured. Like previous speakers, he believed that Member States should contribute their full shares of the TCF target in a timely manner.

29. Commending the Agency's support for nuclear power programmes in developing countries, he said that Indonesia was grateful for the continued assistance being provided by the Agency to its National Atomic Energy Agency, which the Agency had helped - for example - to review feasibility studies relating to the nuclear power project on the Muria Peninsula (Java). A group of experts sent by the Agency had made recommendations which had been followed up by Indonesian experts. The feasibility studies relating to the characteristics of the site were due to be completed in June 1996, and they would be evaluated by an independent consultant. The Agency had provided valuable guidance in connection with all aspects of those studies.

30. Stating that safeguards were important for the Agency's promotional functions, he said that the NPT relied heavily on the Agency's safeguards system, which needed to be strengthened so that the Agency could detect not only declared but also undeclared nuclear activities. The Indonesian delegation was following with interest the activities of the Department of Safeguards, especially its work on developing and testing new methods - including environmental monitoring and method involving SSACs. Indonesia had participated - and intended to continue participating - in field trials to evaluate environmental monitoring as a tool for detecting undeclared nuclear activities.

31. Peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology were playing an important role in the development of Indonesia, particularly with regard to agriculture, medicine and health, industry, hydrology and the environment - areas where extensive use was being made of isotope techniques and radiation. His Government hoped that the activities in question would be strengthened with time. In the area of animal husbandry, Indonesia had successfully introduced - and intended to extend the use of - radioisotope techniques as an investigative tool in efforts to increase milk production and animal growth rates.

32. In 1995 Indonesia had hosted a meeting of the ICGFI and an ASEAN-ICGFI seminar on food irradiation. In order to meet the growing local demand for radioisotopes, a private Indonesian company was currently planning, in collaboration with Indonesia's National Atomic Energy Agency, the construction - by Indonesian engineers - of a reactor for isotope production. Also, Indonesia had successfully developed technology for the production of research reactor fuel, and beginning in August 1995 the G.A. Siwabessy multi-purpose reactor had been refuelled with fuel elements made in Indonesia - a demonstration of successful technology transfer. The Government was exploring the possibility of using a small reactor for electricity generation in a remote part of eastern Indonesia where fuel transportation presented enormous logistical problems. Lastly, his Government was about to submit to Parliament a draft amendment to the country's Atomic Energy Act which would open the way for the establishment of an independent nuclear regulatory body.

33. Regarding the implementation of safeguards in the DPRK, from the Director General's report it appeared that important developments had taken place and that there had been a new round of discussions between the Agency and the DPRK. Indonesia had welcomed the conclusion of the Agreed Framework by the DPRK and the United States, and his delegation hoped that such positive developments would lead to further confidence-building measures.

34. Indonesia attached the utmost importance to the NPT, which had proved its effectiveness in stemming horizontal proliferation and creating international norms in that connection. The NPT, whose indefinite extension had been welcomed by his country, codified the interests of a vast majority of States and thereby contributed significantly to the nuclear disarmament effort. Regional co-operative endeavours would facilitate access to

technology on a predictable and long-term basis. Also, the Agency should be provided with additional resources for technical assistance activities and for making safeguards non-discriminatory as between countries with and without nuclear programmes; in that way, all parties to the NPT would have the same unimpeded access to civilian uses of nuclear technology.

35. His delegation fully shared the concern of the international community at the decision of two nuclear-weapon States to conduct nuclear tests - a regrettable decision contrary to the direction taken by the NPT Review and Extension Conference, which had urged the nuclear-weapon States to exercise utmost restraint. Accordingly, he wished to recall the appeal made in that connection to all States in the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Conference - that they "voluntarily refrain from nuclear testing and demonstrate to the world their commitment to a future free of nuclear weapons." All States party to the NPT should take the steps necessary for ensuring the adoption in 1996 of a universal and effectively verifiable CTBT. It was that same concern which had, in August 1995, prompted the Chairman of the Second ASEAN Regional Forum to call upon the countries planning further nuclear tests to drop such plans immediately. Shortly before that, following the Twenty-Eighth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers had issued a joint communiqué deploring the resumption or planned resumption of nuclear tests in the Asia-Pacific region despite the commitments entered into by all States party to the NPT. As had been emphasized on various occasions, the decision to resume nuclear testing represented a serious setback to the current negotiations on a CTBT and might jeopardize their outcome. For its part, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had called upon the nuclear-weapon States "to take positive steps towards fulfilling their obligations as regards the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Also, the NAM members which were also parties to the NPT had demanded that the nuclear-weapon States honour the letter and spirit of the NPT and of the "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament".

36. As regards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, his delegation believed that the consent of the nuclear-weapon States was no longer an essential precondition. The establishment of such zones would be in line with the NPT and would also reflect the

changing strategic environment. In that context, Indonesia welcomed the progress made towards the establishment of an African nuclear-weapon-free zone and of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia. It was his delegation's fervent hope that the consultations on a draft treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South-East Asia would be accelerated, so that the treaty could be signed at the ASEAN Summit in Bangkok at the end of 1995.

37. In conclusion, Indonesia was confident that the Agency would successfully adjust to future changes in the international situation, particularly as regards international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy - a noble enterprise in which Indonesia would continue to support the Agency.

38. Mr. TUN (Myanmar), having welcomed the approval of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that since attending the First United Nations (Geneva) Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy his country had taken an active part in the work of the Agency. After acceding to the NPT, his country had concluded with the Agency an NPT safeguards agreement (and the relevant protocol). It had signed the Chemical Weapons Convention and begun the process of ratification. Also, it was co-operating in RCA and INIS activities. Myanmar was particularly grateful to the Agency, as almost all the activities involving the use of ionizing radiation in which it was engaged had been initiated with the Agency's assistance.

39. The Agency, which had been playing a pivotal role in promoting international co-operation for development and in maintaining peace and security through the peaceful utilization of atomic energy, was now being called upon to assume increased responsibilities in the area of safeguards - an important and challenging task. In that connection, his delegation was pleased with the Agency's achievements in preventing - through its inspections - the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Myanmar hoped that a CTBT would be concluded soon and that a total ban on the production of nuclear weapons and an agreement to eliminate all such weapons would follow. It would like to see the more advanced of the developing countries co-operating with the least developed countries in accordance with the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

40. In Myanmar, the largest country in mainland South-East Asia, the use of radioisotope tracers and of irradiation techniques in activities directed towards increasing grain yields was very important. As an agricultural country striving to develop through market-oriented economics, Myanmar was relying on its agriculture as a basis for building up other sectors of the economy. It was therefore boosting its agricultural production, through - inter alia - multiple cropping and mechanized farming, endeavouring to ensure adequate water supplies all year round through the construction of new dams and reservoirs and the tapping of underground water resources. Steady progress was being made, without detriment to the country's rich national heritage and culture.

41. With regard to the environment, Myanmar was proud of its long record of attaching high priority to sustainable forest management and to forest conservation. Approximately 50 per cent of Myanmar's land area was still covered by natural forests, but afforestation of the nine districts constituting the arid zone of central Myanmar was one of his Government's current priorities.

42. Although possessing vast hydroelectric potential, his country appreciated the importance of nuclear power for overall development, and as a believer in the values upheld by the Agency it would never compromise on the principle that nuclear energy must be used solely for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of mankind.

43. Mr. MIŠÁK (Slovakia), having welcomed the approval of the applications of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership and associated himself with the statement made by the representative of Spain on behalf of the European Union, noted with satisfaction that the NPT Review and Extension Conference had confirmed the key role of the Agency's safeguards system in helping to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to strengthen mutual confidence. The safeguards system was a generally recognized international mechanism whose importance was growing with the increasing number of nuclear installations and which had proven its worth in recent times. The indefinite extension of the NPT would promote stability and confidence and create favourable conditions for the non-proliferation regime and nuclear disarmament. Slovakia strongly supported the objectives of the NPT regarding the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones, which could make an important contribution to

regional and global security. Also, it welcomed the positive results achieved in the Middle East and the continuation of the peace process there.

44. Slovakia was strictly fulfilling its obligations under its full-scope safeguards agreement with the Agency and supported all measures aimed at strengthening the safeguards system, at ensuring the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear materials and at preventing non-compliance with obligations on the lines of what had occurred in Iraq and the DPRK. It was therefore ready to take an active part in Programme 93+2. It was in favour of greater nuclear transparency, of environmental monitoring for safeguards purposes, of expanded rights of prompt access to information and sites and of short-notice and no-notice inspections, which should be integrated with effective multilateral export controls and with measures to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear materials.

45. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that, in carrying out the safeguards obligations of the Agency in 1994, the Secretariat had not found "any indication of the diversion of a significant amount of nuclear material for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon, or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device or for purposes unknown."

46. Nuclear disarmament was inconceivable without a CTBT, which should provide for the creation of a cost-effective system for measuring effects related to nuclear explosions in different environments by means of several monitoring networks based on different technologies. The organization responsible for implementing the CTBT should collaborate closely with the Agency and be based in Vienna. Slovakia looked forward to early finalization, adoption and entry into force of the CTBT, which should ban - for all time - all nuclear explosions without exception. Meanwhile, it was important that the nuclear test moratorium be observed.

47. In Slovakia, nuclear energy was being used exclusively for peaceful purposes, particularly in the generation of electricity. In 1994, 48.2% of Slovakia's electricity had been generated at nuclear power plants, which had contributed substantially to the stability of the country's electricity supply; despite an increase of more than 9% in electricity consumption, only 1.7% of the electricity consumed had had to be imported. Slovakia - one

of the few countries in Europe with an active nuclear power programme - had four power reactors in operation and four under construction. With nuclear power recognized as irreplaceable in his country's energy sector, Slovakia's long-term energy concept envisaged the entry into operation at Mochovce of two WWER-440 units by the year 2000 and of two further ones later. Nuclear power was not only vital for the national economy, but also environmentally benign - an important consideration given the climate changes caused by the emission of greenhouse gases. On 23 November 1994, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - the first binding international legal instrument on that issue - had entered into force for Slovakia, which had committed itself to the "Toronto target", i.e. a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2005 as compared to 1988. The construction of new power reactors at Mochovce was extremely important in that context. The most recent evaluation had indicated that four units would be necessary for a 24% reduction in Slovak CO₂ emissions. Operation of the Mochovce NPP at full capacity was thus urgently required in order not only to avoid the need for major electricity imports but also to ensure attainment of the "Toronto target".

48. In view of the major role played by nuclear power in Slovakia and of the country's geographical location, nuclear safety was of great importance. Both of Slovakia's operating nuclear power plants underwent regular safety reviews and were being continuously upgraded. The Mochovce NPP, currently under construction, would be completed in compliance with the applicable international standards, regardless of how that was financed. All nuclear safety matters were under the strict control of the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority, which was now fully staffed and adequately equipped.

49. Although nuclear safety in each country was a national responsibility, Slovakia was fully aware that the use of nuclear energy had an international dimension and that nuclear safety was of prime importance for the entire international community. It had therefore ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety and was addressing all nuclear safety matters at the international level openly and transparently. Thirty teams consisting of 254 experts from 16 countries had visited the Mochovce NPP since 1991, and in 1994 Slovakia had hosted 17 Agency missions dealing with the strengthening of regulatory controls, the evaluation of

reactor safety and the general improvement of nuclear power plants. The result was a framework for plant operations in accordance with good international practices.

50. Collaboration with the Agency, particularly in the field of technical assistance, had produced very good results, and Slovakia therefore welcomed all the initiatives for strengthening the Agency's activities in that field, such as the introduction of the Model Project concept, the improvement of internal management practices, the elaboration of medium-term country plans and the preparation of Country Programme Frameworks. Slovakia itself was the beneficiary of one of the Agency's Model Projects, entitled "Strengthening the nuclear safety regulatory body". The project, which was in its second year, had contributed greatly to the present maturity of Slovakia's regulatory body. If invited to do so by the Agency, Slovakia was ready to share its experience through similar projects in Ukraine, Armenia, Bulgaria and other countries. A cost-effective approach of that type would help to strengthen regional co-operation among the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, one of the Agency's most important tasks.

51. Besides its positive view of the Agency's technical assistance and co-operation programme, the Slovak delegation was grateful to the Agency and to the donor countries for the extrabudgetary programme on the safety of WWERs, which had proved to be a very flexible and efficient means of evaluating the safety of those reactors and of drawing up proposals for safety improvements.

52. The Agency's ability to implement technical assistance programmes naturally depended on the willingness of countries to pay their contributions in full and on time. He was pleased to say that his country had already paid its 1995 contributions to the Regular Budget and the TCF in full and that his Government had already decided that Slovakia would pay its 1996 contributions in full also.

53. At the beginning of 1995, Slovakia had ratified the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Joint Protocol. It had been the first country with nuclear power reactors to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which it considered an important means of establishing confidence in an acceptable safety level and which it would like other countries to ratify with a minimum of delay. Attention could then be focused on

the drafting of a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management and on the preparatory work for a new convention on nuclear liability.

54. At the national level, the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority was co-ordinating the drafting of a new Atomic Energy Act, which was in an advanced stage of preparation. The Act, which would replace legislation of the former Czechoslovakia, would regulate the use of nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes in compliance with international treaties.

55. Mr. MARCHÁN (Ecuador), having welcomed the fact that the General Conference had approved the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for membership of the Agency, said that the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations was an appropriate occasion for Ecuador to reaffirm its belief in the principles of the Agency and express its support for all Agency activities directed towards the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

56. Knowledge of the atom should not be exploited for destructive purposes. In the year that also marked the 50th anniversary of the first nuclear explosion, Ecuador was still convinced that peace was indivisible, depending on the efforts of all in all areas. Co-operation between all Member States and the Secretariat was the only way of ensuring that the third millennium was free of the danger of nuclear destruction.

57. Having thanked the Director General for all he had done, he said that the Permanent Mission of Ecuador was pleased to be participating in the pilot project for access to the Agency's computer services - and hence to the Internet - and expressed the hope that the project would be broadened so as to ensure easier and more flexible access to various specialized Agency documents.

58. The Secretariat was to be commended on the measures being taken to strengthen technical co-operation, especially on the basis of national programmes and through Model Projects, which were proving to be a valuable tool for development. The technical assistance provided by the Agency to Ecuador over the years had been crucial in the training of experts and the development of the country, particularly in agriculture, cattle raising, mining, medicine and industry. Ecuador, which wanted to rationalize the use of its water resources, was very interested in the Agency's plan to produce potable water economically and

welcomed the progress made with regard to the use of isotope hydrology in water resources management.

59. Ecuador was a supporter of ARCAL activities, which should result in real technology transfer, particularly through Model Projects suitable for rapid and broad implementation in different regions having fairly similar characteristics. Ecuador was convinced that the universal nature of the Agency's activities was beneficial to all countries whatever their level of economic, technological and scientific development. All of the Agency's functions, whether in the safeguards or the technical co-operation area, were of equal importance.

60. The benefits of an effective system for safeguards and radiation protection had been demonstrated, and Ecuador therefore welcomed the efforts being made by the Agency to negotiate and supervise safeguards agreements with various countries with a view to ensuring the proper use of nuclear energy and preventing nuclear weapons proliferation through the diversion of nuclear material to non-peaceful applications. The imminent entry into force of safeguards agreements concluded with Ukraine and Moldova was proof that those States wanted to submit their nuclear activities to safeguards in order to avoid problems which might affect the international community. Ecuador was following with interest the Secretariat's endeavours to carry out the inspections foreseen in the safeguards agreement with the DPRK and hoped that the negotiations between the Agency and the DPRK authorities would reach a successful conclusion.

61. With regard to budgetary matters, Ecuador welcomed the consensus agreement reached in the Board on the financing of safeguards and technical co-operation over the following three years. It was important to underline the key role played in that regard by the Ambassadors of Japan and India and by the Ambassador of Sudan, Chairman of the Group of 77.

62. Ecuador welcomed the significant progress made by the African countries towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Once concluded, the agreement in question would complement the Tlatelolco Treaty, through which Latin America and the Caribbean had become the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in the world. On the other hand, Ecuador deplored the recent resumption of nuclear testing by certain Powers, which was jeopardizing

nuclear disarmament efforts; it was opposed to all types of nuclear testing, which was not only conducive to the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons but also extremely detrimental to human health, to nature and to the environment. In addition, nuclear tests ran counter to the decision adopted by the NPT signatories calling on the Conference on Disarmament to complete a CTBT.

63. With regard to the latest proposals made by the Open-ended Consultative Group on Article VI of the Statute, Ecuador's position continued to be that any increase in the number of Board members should be proportional to the Board's present composition. Furthermore, Ecuador believed that elected Board members should not be eligible for immediate re-election; that would make for more flexible and more democratic representation of Member States on the Board.

64. With the Fourth World Conference on Women having just come to an end in Beijing, he wished to reiterate Ecuador's support for the Agency policy directed towards the recruitment of more women. Also, his country was in favour of preference being given to candidates from developing countries; Ecuador and the other developing Member States of the Agency were still under-represented in the Secretariat.

65. Mr. PEDERSEN (Norway), having welcomed the General Conference's approval of the membership of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia, said that few issues mobilized public opinion as much as nuclear issues. Since the dropping of the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, people all over the world had regularly called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and many governments would continue to face active and critical public opinion as long as there were doubts about safety and environmental standards in the nuclear field.

66. Efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons had passed an historic milestone at the NPT Review and Extension Conference. At the 1995 G-7 Summit, in Halifax (Canada), the leading industrial countries had decided to continue to give high priority to questions such as nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and illicit trafficking in fissile material. The Norwegian Government believed that the decision to hold

a summit meeting between Russia and the G-7 countries in Moscow in 1996 would give impetus to current and future activities in that connection.

67. Many speakers had stressed the importance of the outcome of the NPT Review and Extension Conference. Norway, which had participated actively in the preparations for the Conference, was particularly satisfied with the decision to extend the NPT indefinitely. However, the credibility of that fundamental decision depended largely on the Agency's ability to verify effectively that non-proliferation commitments were respected. However, the substantial interval in many cases between entry into NPT commitments and conclusion of NPT safeguards agreement continued to be a source of concern. Norway would like the States party to the NPT which had not yet concluded an NPT safeguards agreement with the Agency to take the necessary steps as a matter of high priority.

68. Another crucial step in the field of nuclear disarmament would be the achievement of a strong global commitment to ban all nuclear tests. Good progress had been made in the Geneva negotiations on a CTBT. Norway believed that the CTBT should be concluded as soon as possible, and by the end of 1996 at the latest. It deeply regretted the nuclear tests recently carried out by two nuclear-weapon States, which might well complicate the current CTBT negotiations. Nuclear testing constituted a threat to human health and the environment in the areas affected, and the recent tests nullified some of the progress made at the international level in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation in the past few years.

69. As Norway was close to one of the world's largest concentrations of civilian and military nuclear activity, safety at nuclear facilities and the safe management of radioactive waste and spent fuel were issues of paramount importance for it. Earlier that year, the Norwegian Government had drawn up an action plan for strengthening co-operation with Russia and other countries in nuclear safety and radioactive waste management. The scale of the problems involved and the enormous financial resources required made large-scale international co-operation necessary.

70. Also, in order to focus international attention on the problems involved and gain international support for the efforts being made to resolve them Norway had proposed to the G-7 countries that an international plan of action be drawn up and an international fund

created for the management of spent uranium fuel and radioactive waste in Russia. It hoped that the 1996 Moscow Summit would give further impetus to that initiative.

71. In the early 1990s the radioactive waste which had been dumped in the Arctic Seas had caused serious concern, and the need for immediate governmental measures in that connection had become a top priority. Studies of the waste dumped in the Kara Sea had been carried out during three joint Norwegian-Russian research expeditions. The establishment of the International Arctic Seas Assessment Project had made a significant contribution to the success of those studies. The initial results of the joint efforts to provide reliable information on the possible health and environmental effects of the dumped material were already available, and the final conclusions and recommendations would be presented by the Agency to the consultative meeting of the London Convention in 1996.

72. The results of efforts to establish, with the Agency's assistance, a mechanism for co-operation with Russia in the field of radioactive waste management had so far been quite encouraging. Some delegates had already mentioned the seminar on Russian nuclear waste management programmes held in Vienna in May 1995 at the initiative of the Nordic Council of Ministers and under the auspices of the Agency. Only a few months later, such a mechanism appeared to be taking shape; the envisaged "contact expert group" would provide a forum for the discussion with Russia of co-operation in priority projects in the field of radioactive waste management. Close involvement of the Agency in efforts to resolve radiation safety and radioactive waste management problems in the CIS would strengthen the multilateral commitment to those efforts.

73. Illicit trafficking in nuclear material was a cause of growing international concern. The main problems were inadequate physical protection systems, incomplete systems of accounting and control and insufficient border controls. More effective measures should be agreed upon for registering, managing and monitoring stocks of nuclear material. Norway welcomed the Agency initiative relating to the establishment of a database on illicit trafficking and stood ready to participate in that initiative.

74. Finally, Norway welcomed the constructive discussions taking place on a draft convention on the safe management of radioactive waste. It would like to see the adoption

as soon as possible of an incentive convention covering all potential sources of radioactive contamination in the civilian and the military sector. In the interests of environmental safety, those sources should be subject to strict national control and managed in accordance with generally accepted international standards. At present, a point of controversy was whether or not the convention should cover the management of spent fuel earmarked for reprocessing. The countries which currently did not want it to be covered by the convention should carefully consider the serious legitimate environmental concerns felt in that connection by many of the countries participating in the negotiations. Nuclear activities in northern Russia were being closely monitored, but one should not ignore the fact that the radioactive pollution in the north-east Atlantic derived to a considerable extent from reprocessing plants in northern Europe. It was commonly recognized that a radioactive waste convention should address the problems not addressed by the Convention on Nuclear Safety. Only a comprehensive and complete radioactive waste management convention could do that.

75. Mr. ADEKANYE (Nigeria), having welcomed the fact that the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia had been approved for membership of the Agency, said that his delegation had studied the annual report for 1994 and had noted that fruitful co-operation between the Agency and Nigeria had contributed to some of the achievements described in that document. In particular, it appreciated the activities of the Agency in the technical co-operation area, where it was endeavouring to increase delivery through a large and complex programme which currently consisted of more than 1000 national and regional projects, training courses, workshops and regional co-operative arrangements, to implement the 12 Model Projects approved by the Board in 1993, and to introduce new programming concepts and procedures for 1995-96. Those initiatives were important to the pursuit of the Agency's "Atoms for Peace" objectives.

76. His delegation welcomed the improvements reflected in the technical co-operation programme for 1995-96 and appreciated the efforts being made to strengthen the Agency's technical co-operation activities by focusing on the enhancement of the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries in the field of peaceful applications of nuclear energy for sustainable development. That positive orientation had been reaffirmed during the NPT Review and Extension Conference. As the process of nuclear disarmament

gathered momentum and became irreversible through the conclusion of a CTBT and a cut-off convention, the Agency, whose mission was to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, would assume new tasks and responsibilities. The new orientations in the area of technical assistance constituted a response to that challenge. In that connection, his delegation commended the Board on its endorsement of the Director General's proposal to establish a Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Co-operation (SAGTAC). It looked forward to the first meeting of SAGTAC and to its recommendations and was convinced that they would meet Member States' expectations and address the specific needs of African countries.

77. Over a period of five years, AFRA had established itself as a framework for exchanges of information and experience among African scientists and technicians working in the nuclear field. At the latest annual AFRA meeting, a common determination had emerged to strengthen institutional co-operation among participating countries with a view to ensuring a positive impact of science and technology on their development. It was against that background that Nigeria had participated in the sixth technical working group meeting, which had taken place from 24 to 28 April 1995 in Johannesburg (South Africa), and it would itself host the next meeting. As a demonstration of confidence in AFRA and of commitment to its objectives, Nigeria had endorsed the extension of AFRA for five years. It would continue co-operating with other African countries and the Agency within the framework of AFRA. It hoped that the continuing quality of AFRA projects and their proven beneficial impact would lead to increased AFRA membership and encourage donor countries to complement the efforts of AFRA participating countries by allocating resources for future projects.

78. In 1994, his delegation had welcomed the increased prospects for application of the sterile insect technique (SIT) in controlling - and possibly eliminating - the Mediterranean fruit fly. It was pleased that the technique was now being applied in Africa and that the Secretariat had resuscitated the SIT project in Nigeria after a brief interruption. Nigeria was determined to overcome all the administrative obstacles and to co-operate with the Agency in ensuring successful completion of the project, the beneficial impact of which had already been felt in Nigeria.

79. The Secretariat's detailed examination of the radiation protection situation in Member States was very welcome. His delegation liked the idea of a coherent safety policy covering - in a single document - nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and radiation protection. Nigeria had already taken steps to strengthen its national radiation protection structures. The Nigerian Head of State, General Sani Abacha, had recently signed a new law on nuclear safety and radiation protection. That law provided for the establishment of a national nuclear regulatory authority which would control the use of material and equipment emitting ionizing radiation. The new law should facilitate co-operation with the Agency and enhance public awareness of safety issues.

80. In co-operation with the Agency, Nigeria was to hold a national workshop in 1996 on the design, management and evaluation of technical co-operation projects. Similar workshops - on radiation safety and the legal system and on radioactivity in foodstuffs - had been held during the year, and Nigeria continued to appreciate the Secretariat's co-operation in the organization of such workshops.

81. Predictable and assured funding for the technical co-operation programme was of great interest to Nigeria, which was therefore very concerned about the fact that there had been a steady decline in the pledges of contributions to the TCF as a percentage of the target over the past ten years, from 92.2% in 1984 to 72.5% in 1994, while the number of Member States had increased and the demand for the Agency's expertise had grown. There was a contradiction between that situation and the explicit and repeated promises of Member States to support the Agency's technical assistance programme by providing the necessary resources. Those promises, which had been reaffirmed at the NPT Review and Extension Conference, should be backed by a firm commitment to the TCF target for 1996 and the Indicative Planning Figures which had been agreed upon for 1997 and 1998.

82. Nigeria greatly appreciated the Agency's role in verifying compliance with commitments entered into by States in NPT safeguards agreements concluded with the Agency. Although Nigeria had not supported the indefinite extension of the NPT, it was still in favour of a strong and effective safeguards system as part of a credible non-proliferation regime based on transparency and confidence. It therefore particularly appreciated the work done by the Secretariat under Programme 93+2 in identifying new safeguards approaches.

His delegation welcomed the support given to the Secretariat's proposals by the Board of Governors and hoped that, once implemented in consultation with Member States, the new safeguards system would, by taking advantage of new technologies, result in significant savings and greater effectiveness. His delegation also welcomed the safeguards agreements concluded with eight newly independent non-nuclear-weapon States and the progress made in Latin America and the Caribbean towards the full application of the Tlatelolco Treaty. It welcomed the ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty by Brazil and Chile and Cuba's accession and shared the view that those developments would promote peace and security in the region.

83. Considerable progress had been made in establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa. Following the latest meeting of OAU/United Nations experts in Pelindaba (South Africa), African Heads of State and Government had endorsed the draft treaty establishing such a zone at the latest OAU summit, in Addis-Ababa (Ethiopia). Nigeria was confident that the treaty would come into force soon and hoped that the nuclear-weapon States would accede to the protocols. It was grateful to the Agency for the constructive role which it had played in that connection and hoped that it would contribute to the treaty's implementation.

84. Nigeria shared the concerns of many Member States about the serious problem of illicit trafficking in nuclear material and had followed with interest the steps taken by the Agency since the previous session of the General Conference to assist Member States in finding a lasting solution. It welcomed the Secretariat's initiative of establishing a reliable database on illicit trafficking, which would give an idea of the scale of the problem and help the Member States concerned to take the necessary measures. The health of the present generation and of future ones should not be compromised, and Member States should therefore continue to co-operate in that area.

85. For 15 years Nigeria had been advocating an amendment of Article VI of the Agency's Statute. Nigerian delegations had repeatedly drawn the General Conference's attention to the blatant under-representation of Africa and of the Middle East and South Asia, a legacy of the Cold War and a time when most of the States in those regions had not yet achieved independence. The matter should be settled now, not only because the number of Agency Member States had increased considerably but also in order to reflect the realities

of the nuclear industry and the new orientation in favour of non-proliferation. In that regard, his delegation, which had noted the report of the Open-ended Consultative Group on Article VI of the Statute, believed that it was necessary to build upon the modest progress achieved so far.

86. His delegation welcomed the measures taken by the Director General, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(XXXVIII)/RES/12 and 13, to address the imbalance in the staffing of the Secretariat between developing and developed countries and was confident that the Director General would continue his efforts to attract from developing Member States qualified persons capable of helping to increase the Agency's efficiency.

87. Finally, his delegation welcomed the Board's decision to designate the Republic of South Africa as a member of the Board; that historic event had completed the process of reintegrating South Africa into the Agency. As one of the countries which had in the past opposed the participation of apartheid South Africa in the Agency's activities, Nigeria welcomed that country's transformation and was convinced that it would build upon the important contributions made by Egypt on behalf of Africa to the deliberations of the Board and to the achievement of the Agency's objectives.

88. Mr. MUNZUR-I-MOWLA (Bangladesh), having welcomed the approval of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had been a sad reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear energy when used against man. No-one wanted a repetition of such events. Bangladesh had always favoured the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy for progress and development, particularly of those who were deprived. The decision taken without a vote by the States party to the NPT to extend it indefinitely had been a very positive development, and it was to be hoped that the NPT would soon become universal.

89. For Bangladesh, the pursuit of general and complete disarmament - of which nuclear disarmament was a vital part - was an imperative, and his country would wholeheartedly support any initiatives in that connection. With the indefinite extension of the NPT, there were legitimate expectations that meaningful steps towards the ultimate objective of nuclear

disarmament in accordance with Article VI and the relevant preambular paragraphs of the NPT would now be initiated. Meanwhile, Bangladesh welcomed the consensus that seemed to be emerging on the conclusion of a CTBT in 1996.

90. Few things could change the lot of the poor as much as nuclear technology. However, such technology had to be available at the right place and at the right time. The right place was countries where most of the poor lived, such as Bangladesh. The right time was the present. The poor could not be allowed to suffer for ever. If nuclear technology was to help them, work would have to start without further delay. All concerned should rise to the occasion and accelerate the transfer of nuclear technology to countries where it would most benefit the poor, in accordance with Article IV of the NPT.

91. Although nuclear technology was not new in Bangladesh, its use was rather limited. It was at present used in health and agriculture, but Bangladesh would like to extend its use to other sectors - for solely peaceful purposes and for the economic and social welfare of its people.

92. Bangladesh had reserves of gas and coal, but such non-renewable sources of energy had to be used with care and imagination so that they were not exhausted prematurely. Also, it was necessary to prevent environmental pollution and to make life safer and richer for all. In view of those considerations, his Government had recently decided in principle to construct a nuclear power plant. Once completed, the plant would have social and economic benefits for a large number of people in rural areas, boost the country's economy and be a symbol of peace, progress and prosperity. His delegation hoped that the international community and the Agency would help Bangladesh, in the interest of the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, of the alleviation of poverty and of narrowing the gap between the advanced countries and others.

93. Bangladesh was very grateful to the Agency for the assistance which it had provided over the years. That assistance testified to the trust of the two partners in each other. The commercial irradiator which had been set up in Bangladesh demonstrated the advantages of co-operation between the two. His delegation hoped that Bangladesh would continue to

benefit from the Agency's support and that that support would grow and become more diversified with time.

94. Bangladesh was participating actively in RCA projects, including projects in the field of research. Such projects provided an opportunity for sharing experience and should therefore continue to be undertaken. Also, their scope should be expanded, particularly in industry, agriculture and medicine.

95. His Government had recently adopted a law on nuclear safety and radiation protection, thereby demonstrating its sincerity and its desire to use nuclear technology solely for peaceful purposes and for the welfare of the population.

96. Finally, his delegation had hoped that the question of amending Article VI of the Statute and restructuring the Agency's Board of Governors would be settled at the present session of the General Conference. Regrettably, it did not look as though that would be the case. His delegation believed that restructuring of the Board was indispensable and hoped that it would be brought about soon.

97. Mr. LORENZO Y LOSADA (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), confirmed GRULAC's support for the ARCAL programme, which in the 11 years of its existence so far had demonstrated its importance and effectiveness, as a number of major successes testified. At the same time, it had led to the establishment of a solid framework for the exchange of experience, the implementation of projects of common interest and the spread of peaceful applications of nuclear technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, to the benefit of the region's peoples. The countries of the region had thus been able jointly to enjoy economic and social advantages in the pursuit of sustainable development and, by giving their projects genuine economic and social impact, to direct them towards end-users.

98. Since its inception the ARCAL programme had received continuous support from the Agency, which had facilitated the transfer of technology and experience, and assistance from donor countries, for which GRULAC was very grateful. The 18 ARCAL countries had used their own and regional resources and capabilities and a large number of experts in achieving the results obtained.

99. With regard to the third phase of the ARCAL programme, planned to start in 1996, a large number of questions with a direct bearing on programme activities would arise in connection with the future of ARCAL, particularly questions regarding the proposed measures for strengthening the programme. GRULAC hoped that those measures would further enhance ARCAL's contribution to the region's development. Future relations between the ARCAL programme and the Agency, and also co-ordination within the Secretariat, would be very important, and the administration of the programme would have to be based on thorough knowledge of the region's needs and problems.

100. Mr. YUMJAV (Mongolia), welcoming the fact that the General Conference had approved the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that the Conference's thirty-ninth session was taking place at an important juncture in world affairs, the year 1995 marking the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the founding of the United Nations. In May, the NPT Review and Extension Conference had decided to extend the NPT indefinitely. Regarding that legal instrument as a cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime, Mongolia considered it important that the States parties - and especially the nuclear-weapon States among them - renew their commitment to the attainment of the NPT's ultimate goal, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and undertake to strengthen the NPT review process.

101. In the document entitled "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", which it had adopted unanimously, the NPT Review and Extension Conference had set the target date for the completion of negotiations on a CTBT at no later than 1996. Also, the Conference had urged the nuclear-weapon States to exercise, pending the entry into force of a CTBT, utmost restraint with regard to nuclear testing. In that connection, his delegation fully shared the concerns and disappointment expressed by many other delegations at the resumption of nuclear tests by some nuclear-weapon States.

102. The outcome of the NPT Review and Extension Conference would have a direct impact on the future work of the Agency, which was recognized as the competent authority responsible for verifying and ensuring compliance with safeguards agreements. The Conference had supported the actions of the Agency directed towards the strengthening of its safeguards and of its capability for detecting undeclared nuclear activities. Also, the

Conference had underlined the continuing importance of the Agency for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Mongolia attached great importance to the safeguards of the Agency and the initiatives being taken by it to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of its safeguards system.

103. The Mongolian delegation considered that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones would help to strengthen regional and international security. In that connection, it welcomed the progress made towards the entry into force of the Tlatelolco Treaty and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa.

104. The Government of Mongolia greatly appreciated the measures taken by the Agency to strengthen international co-operation in nuclear safety and radioactive waste management. The Convention on Nuclear Safety, which had been opened for signature during the thirty-eighth session of the General Conference, constituted one of the major achievements in the nuclear safety area. Also, it was encouraging to note that significant progress had been made in the elaboration of a convention on the safe management of radioactive waste. At the same time, his Government greatly appreciated the Agency's efforts directed against illicit trafficking in nuclear materials, which was a matter of concern to the international community.

105. Mongolia still attached great importance to the Agency's technical co-operation programme, which was responding to its real needs and supporting its national development plans. There were at present 16 technical co-operation projects under way in Mongolia, in a number of high-priority fields including the development of nuclear analytical facilities for the analysis of coal, ore and mineral samples in support of exploration activities and the assessment of the country's uranium resources.

106. Owing to economic difficulties, the capabilities of Mongolia's nuclear medicine laboratory and cancer radiotherapy service had declined. Through a Model Project aimed at upgrading the radiotherapy service and another Agency project designed to restore the nuclear medicine service for cancer diagnosis, the facilities in question had been modernized and were beginning to function normally. Also, the Agency was helping Mongolia to improve animal productivity by reducing animal diseases through the use of nuclear

techniques in the determination of hormones and in disease diagnosis. Moreover, the Agency was helping Mongolia to upgrade its radiation protection and environmental monitoring activities and to increase agricultural production through the use of nuclear techniques and isotopes. Lastly, Mongolia was receiving additional technical assistance through RCA.

107. His delegation had greatly appreciated the work done by the Agency in the past year and commended the untiring efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat in managing the organization so efficiently.

108. Mr. OLEMBO (Kenya), having welcomed the fact that the General Conference had approved the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, said that his country greatly appreciated the Agency's continued efforts, under its Statute, in promoting the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, applying safeguards and minimizing the risks of radiation to life, health and the environment; the Director General and his staff were to be commended for the way in which they were meeting those challenges. Also, he expressed his country's gratitude for the indispensable support being provided by the Agency to Kenyan institutions.

109. The Kenyan delegation welcomed the measures being taken to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the safeguards system and the Agency's ability to handle a growing volume of safeguards activities.

110. Kenya welcomed the decision regarding indefinite extension of the NPT, the main pillar of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The principles and objectives adopted by the NPT Review and Extension Conference constituted a collective commitment to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only and would lead to a situation where no countries possessed nuclear weapons any more. Kenya believed that the international community should strive to bring about that situation.

111. It was encouraging to note that substantial progress had been made by the Agency, especially in safeguards, in the strengthening of international co-operation in nuclear safety, radiological protection and radioactive waste management and in technical co-operation directed towards sustainable development in conformity with Article II of the Agency's Statute.

112. The Kenyan delegation continued to have full confidence in and to support the measures taken by the Agency pursuant to resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/17 with a view to making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It welcomed the participation of South Africa in the Agency's activities and was pleased that South Africa had been able to host the sixth technical working group meeting of AFRA in April. Judging by the success of that meeting, it was to be expected that South Africa would continue to play a significant role in the activities of AFRA and of the Agency as a whole.

113. As a beneficiary of technical co-operation, Kenya was grateful to the Agency for its efforts to improve agricultural production, animal production, the diagnosis and control of animal diseases and the utilization of fertilizers and to deal with the problem of pesticide residues. Also, Kenya had benefited from assistance in the health sector, receiving equipment for use in radiotherapy, the treatment of cancer, nuclear medicine, radiation protection and radioactive waste management. In addition, it had benefited from nuclear technology transfer relating to the application of nuclear analytical techniques and nuclear instrument maintenance. It greatly appreciated the assistance received from the Agency in the form of expert services, equipment and financial resources. As a party to AFRA, it had also benefited from human resource development projects and was grateful in particular to the United Kingdom, the United States, Spain and France for the assistance which they had provided, through the Agency, for AFRA projects in Kenya.

114. Kenya greatly appreciated the Agency's efforts in promoting regional co-operation as a means of accelerating the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful uses in developing countries. The support given to Asia and the Pacific region through RCA, to Latin American countries through ARCAL and to African countries through AFRA was a sure way of making effective and efficient use of available resources, and it promoted understanding and peace in the regions concerned. Kenya was strenuously supporting the efforts of the Agency in that connection and would like it to pay more attention to AFRA. Also, it would like more African Member States of the Agency to become parties to AFRA. Kenya greatly appreciated the extrabudgetary contributions made by France and the United States in support of AFRA projects and hoped that other countries would provide financial resources for the still unfunded ones.

115. Kenya had noted with appreciation the measures taken by the Agency to strengthen international co-operation in matters related to nuclear safety and radiological protection pursuant to various resolutions. Also, it was pleased with the response to the General Conference resolution on illicit trafficking in nuclear material and other radioactive sources.

116. Water was crucial to the survival of mankind, and Kenya therefore appreciated the Agency's efforts in implementing resolution GC(XXXVII)/RES/617 ("Plan for producing potable water economically") and resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/9 ("Extensive use of isotope hydrology for water resources management"). Lastly, it also appreciated the Agency's efforts in promoting public education and awareness regarding the safety and waste management aspects of nuclear energy and the use of nuclear energy as an alternative energy source and for environmental protection.

117. Mr. LEMOS SIMMONDS (Colombia), having welcomed the fact that the General Conference had approved the admission to the Agency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia, commended the efforts of the Director General and his colleagues in striving - in the spirit prevailing at the time of the Agency's inception - to maintain a balance between, on one hand, promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, on the other, controlling those uses and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In the year that marked the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations, that task was not easy to accomplish in the discouraging atmosphere created by certain statements and practices contrary to the organization's objectives. In that connection, Colombia deplored the resumption of nuclear testing and hoped that those tests which had been carried out would be the last. It believed that nuclear weapons should not simply be limited, but eliminated completely. As long as certain countries retained nuclear weapons, life on Earth was threatened and certain States would be tempted to acquire such weapons. Peace depended not only on a strong determination to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ban nuclear tests, but also - and above all - on the complete dismantling of the weapons and other devices which certain countries possessed.

118. As a signatory of the Tlatelolco Treaty, Colombia welcomed the progress made in establishing further nuclear-weapon-free zones and hoped, for the sake of mankind, that the efforts in question would be successful. The destruction of nuclear weapons, the completion

and strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and the safety mechanisms designed to avoid accidents like the one at Chernobyl required an even more effective safeguards system as their controlling element. It was therefore necessary to put into effect the decisions adopted by the Board of Governors in June. In that context, Colombia would co-operate fully with the Agency and hoped that other Member States would do likewise.

119. In Colombia, his Government would be submitting to Parliament a draft "nuclear law" whose purpose was, on one hand, to institute a policy for the peaceful utilization of nuclear techniques and, on the other, to protect users and the population against ionizing radiation. With regard to radiation protection, Colombia had finished inventorying all its facilities and equipment and had assessed the conditions under which they were currently operating. At the end of that exercise, a facility not meeting the minimum operating criteria had been closed down. The other facilities were being inspected regularly in the context of the nuclear safety and radiation protection programme of Colombia's Institute of Nuclear Sciences and Alternative Energy Sources.

120. Also worthy of note were projects on screening for neonatal hypothyroidism, quality assurance in nuclear medicine, strengthening the nuclear safety and radiation protection programme, nutrition, plant-soil-water relations, the exploitation of water resources and the use of accelerators in industry. With regard to radioactive waste management, an inventory of the sealed sources in Colombia had been drawn up and the equipment and materials required for conditioning them had been determined. It would therefore now be possible to launch, with Agency assistance, a programme for their storage.

121. With the support of the Agency and the United States Government, the Institute of Nuclear Sciences and Alternative Energy Sources was continuing work on converting the core of its INEA-R-1 research reactor, which Colombia hoped would be commissioned in February 1996 once the safety requirements had been met and the operating licence obtained.

122. His Government considered that nuclear technology - used wisely - was a valuable development tool. For that reason, it placed emphasis on the continuous strengthening of technical co-operation activities, which should be accorded the highest level of political commitment, as envisaged by "Agenda 21", which was concerned with issues ranging from

129. There was no doubt that progress in connection with the NPT, safeguards and nuclear safety underpinned all other activities and was conducive to the dissemination of nuclear technology for the benefit of all humankind. The welcome extension of the NPT for an indefinite period, the related comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Convention on Nuclear Safety provided the basic assurance for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy throughout the world. Tanzania was convinced that the comprehensive safeguards agreements concluded by Member States with the Agency were of universal benefit and could contribute greatly to mutual trust between countries. However, the unavowed intention of nuclear-weapon States to retain an exclusive right to own nuclear weapons and engage in their vertical proliferation undermined that trust, which could not be restored by the sincere gesture of the non-nuclear-weapon States which had agreed to the extension of the NPT out of a desire for peace. It was now for the nuclear-weapon States to demonstrate, by positive deeds and specific projects, that they intended to resist the temptation of being the only States to own and possibly use nuclear weapons.

130. The recently adopted Convention on Nuclear Safety and the convention on safe radioactive waste management now being prepared were of crucial importance for all. Tanzania believed that, together with safeguards agreements, they were and would remain the key elements in encouraging widespread acceptance of the nuclear power option and of nuclear science as a whole in a coherent, stable, safe and peaceful world. The Agency, which had a primary role to play in that respect, deserved the full support of all Member States in ensuring that all the decisions taken were duly implemented.

131. Tanzania was unequivocally committed to the establishment of an African nuclear-weapon-free zone and an enthusiastic supporter of all efforts made to that end. It hoped that the Agency - through its Member States - would support, morally and materially, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all parts of the world.

132. Lastly, he stressed the importance which Tanzania attached to the Agency's Basic Safety Standards (BSS) and their incorporation into safety fundamentals, guides and practices. The Agency should help Member States, and particularly those which were least developed countries, to establish and maintain infrastructures and regulatory frameworks that conformed

to the BSS. It must not neglect that obligation, since compliance with the BSS was a necessary prerequisite for the transfer and development of nuclear technology applications.

133. Ms. SCHIMMING-CHASE (Namibia), having welcomed the approval of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Georgia for Agency membership, commended the Agency on its initiatives in the areas of radiation protection, nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and safeguards and on the technical assistance provided to various Member States.

134. Namibia faced challenging tasks in connection with - for example - economic reconstruction, industrialization, education and the eradication of illiteracy, human resources development, job creation, agricultural development and the provision of primary health care. There was tremendous scope in Namibia for promoting socio-economic development through the use of ionizing radiation and radioisotope techniques in various areas: in mineral prospecting, mining and processing; in the natural gas and petroleum sector; in the industrial, agricultural and veterinary sectors; in hydrology (the locating and scientific utilization of groundwater resources); and in primary health care and the treatment of benign and malignant diseases. Namibia's overall development objectives were to foster economic growth, to reduce poverty and inequality and to increase the number of jobs and other income-earning opportunities. Namibia was therefore grateful to the Agency for its advice on the use of radiation and radioisotope techniques in the areas in question. Six technical co-operation projects - relating to the country's radiation protection infrastructure, the diagnosis of animal diseases, animal nutrition, the upgrading of a radioimmunoassay laboratory, the establishment of a basic radiotherapy unit and the creation of a uranium database - were currently under way.

135. In the area of veterinary science, progress had been made in efforts to eliminate the need for the cordon fence separating the south of Namibia from the north, where farmers were prevented from exporting meat to lucrative overseas markets by the prevalence there of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. The Agency had helped to train technicians and had supplied to the central veterinary laboratory the equipment necessary for carrying out serological tests and controlling the disease more effectively.

136. Namibia was very grateful to the Agency for providing assistance in the planning and construction of a radiotherapy centre, which was needed urgently. The centre would provide services to other countries in the region at an affordable cost. Namibia was interested in technical co-operation with the Agency also for the purpose of establishing the basic infrastructure needed in order to use radioisotope techniques in studying infectious tropical diseases and malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency diseases.

137. As an arid country, Namibia particularly appreciated the expert services provided by the Agency in the area of hydrology. However, in order that it might effectively manage its very scarce water resources, which were vital to its development, Namibia would appreciate assistance also with a view to the production of potable water through seawater desalination or by other means.

138. The radiation protection problems which might arise with the increasing use of ionizing radiation and radioisotopes would have to be resolved intelligently and effectively, without jeopardizing the tremendous economic and social benefits their use could bring to Namibia. With the Agency's assistance, Namibia was developing an adequate national infrastructure with a small staff and basic radiation monitoring equipment. A Namibian radiation protection officer was currently being trained in Australia in the assessment and control of radiation hazards, and Namibia was grateful to the Agency and to the relevant Australian authorities for organizing the training programme; the radiation protection problems which currently arose in Namibia could be handled efficiently, but the establishment of the country's radiotherapy service and the processing of certain minerals could create serious radiation protection problems in the future.

139. It was hoped that the radiation protection legislation currently being drafted with the Agency's help would be promulgated before the end of the year, and it was confidently expected that application of the international principles reflected in that legislation would make Namibia a pace-setter in practical radiation protection and also in occupational medicine and environmental protection.

140. The Agency had recently published new Basic Safety Standards, the most important aspect of which was the concept of "safety culture". There should be total commitment to

that concept at all levels - among the managers and employees of operating organizations, among the designers and suppliers of equipment, among the providers of maintenance services and among national authorities. That called for better co-ordination, with greater sharing of responsibility and accountability. For its part, Namibia would endeavour to assimilate the "safety culture" concept.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

