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President: Ms ANGARA COLLINSON (Philippines)

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¹ GC(61)/25.

Abbreviations used in this record:

DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
PACT	Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy
TC	technical cooperation
TCF	Technical Cooperation Fund
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America

– Oral report by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole

1. Mr STALDER (Switzerland), Chair of the Committee of the Whole, reported on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations on agenda item 17, "Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities", under which the Committee recommended that the Conference adopt the draft resolution set out in document GC(61)/L.10.

2. After intense informal discussions, the Committee had reached consensus on the draft resolution, thereby concluding the list of items referred to it by the Conference. In completing his work as Chair, he thanked Mr Maruta of Namibia, who had served as Vice-Chair, the Secretariat and Ms Simona Doerig of Switzerland for their support. He also expressed appreciation to those who had coordinated work on the various draft resolutions before the Committee and to the members of the Committee for their flexibility and cooperative spirit.

Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities (agenda item 17)

3. As recommended by the Committee of the Whole, the draft resolution contained in document GC(61)/L.10 was adopted.

20. Implementation of the NPT safeguards agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (GC(61)/21; GC(61)/L.9 and Add.5)

4. Ms HULAN (Canada), introducing the draft resolution contained in documents GC(61)/L.9 and Add.5, said that, in accordance with long-standing practice, it had been drawn up in consultation with China and the Russian Federation and was being presented on behalf of 74 Member States.

5. The 61st regular session of the General Conference had been particularly effective in the conduct of its business, but the draft resolution under consideration had been prepared under exceptional and grave circumstances. The DPRK's sixth nuclear test, conducted on 3 September 2017, combined with its repeated and provocative ballistic missile launches, had struck another blow to collective efforts to advance the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The difficult process of drafting the text had served as a reminder of the importance of diplomacy in tackling acute international security challenges.

6. The draft resolution, which built upon resolution GC(60)/RES/14, expressed grave concerns about the DPRK's actions, including its sixth nuclear test, which it had claimed involved a hydrogen bomb that could be delivered by an intercontinental ballistic missile. The DPRK's actions were illegal, destabilizing and a clear threat to international peace and security.

7. The draft resolution encouraged peaceful and diplomatic efforts by the international community in all available and appropriate fora to address the challenge posed by the DPRK's nuclear programme and stressed the importance of achieving the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It condemned the six nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK, in flagrant violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and stressed the importance of fully implementing obligations pursuant thereto.

8. In response to the Director General's report set out in document GC(61)/21, the draft resolution reiterated support for the Agency's efforts to remain prepared to conduct monitoring and verification in the DPRK and welcomed the intention to enhance the Agency's readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme. It supported the Six-Party Talks as an effective mechanism for dealing with the DPRK nuclear issue and stressed the importance of full implementation of the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005. Consistent with the final documents of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and relevant Security Council resolutions, it reaffirmed that the DPRK could not have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT and called upon the DPRK to come into full compliance with the NPT. Finally, it deplored the DPRK's cessation of all cooperation with the Agency and called upon it to cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of Agency comprehensive safeguards.

9. Discussions during the preparation of the draft resolution, and the number of Member States sponsoring it, suggested that the text commanded consensus. She expressed appreciation to those who had worked on the text, which had required difficult compromises and showed that the spirit of Vienna and effective diplomacy lived on within the Agency. The outcome of the process demonstrated a strong, unambiguous, unequivocal and unanimous determination to see an end to the DPRK's nuclear programme and provocations.

10. The PRESIDENT took it that the General Conference wished to adopt the draft resolution contained in documents GC(61)/L.9 and Add.5.

11. It was so decided.

12. Mr SHIN Dong-ik (Republic of Korea), welcoming the adoption of the resolution by consensus, said that the unanimous position of the General Conference would empower the international community to present a united response on the DPRK nuclear issue. He urged the DPRK to heed the unified message of the international community, particularly the Member States of the Agency, which paved the way for that State's denuclearization.

13. The deliberations of the General Conference had taken place in grave and unprecedented circumstances. Following two nuclear tests in 2016 and the launch of two ballistic missiles with intercontinental range earlier in 2017, the DPRK had conducted its sixth nuclear test on 3 September 2017. Immediately after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2375 (2017), it had launched an intermediate range ballistic missile. It was clear that the DPRK was progressing fast in developing its nuclear weapons capability, despite the international community's efforts and universal condemnation.

14. Far from revealing any signs that the DPRK was abandoning its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, the Director General's report set out in document GC(61)/21 gave indications of troubling nuclear activities at the Yongbyon site and Pyongsan Mine and Concentration Plant. The continuous negative response by the DPRK to the international community's diplomatic efforts underlined the need to reiterate the strong and unified message that the path to peace, stability and prosperity hinged on DPRK's willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue and honour its denuclearization commitments.

15. The purpose of the resolution just adopted was to call on the DPRK to fully comply with all its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions and to fully cooperate with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of comprehensive safeguards. Echoing the message of his country's President to the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, he said that his country was willing, together with the international community, to assist the DPRK if it decided to denuclearize.

16. The resolution highlighted the Agency's essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme and the need to maintain readiness to do so. Until the Agency was able to resume monitoring and verification in the DPRK, his country would work with its partners to maintain vigilance and coordinate a constructive response from the international community to the DPRK nuclear issue, with a view to resolving it peacefully. It appreciated the Agency's continued efforts to enhance its readiness to verify the DPRK's nuclear programme, including the establishment of the DPRK team. Lastly, he expressed appreciation to those who had coordinated and taken part in work on the text of the resolution.

17. Mr KITANO (Japan), welcoming the adoption of the resolution by consensus, said that the DPRK's nuclear and missile development posed an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat to Japan's national security and seriously undermined the peace and security of the region and the international community. Japan strongly urged the DPRK to comply strictly and fully with its obligations under relevant UN Security Council resolutions, to take steps towards denuclearization without delay and to refrain from further provocative actions.

18. In view of the grave situation created by the DPRK's provocations, he stressed the need for all countries to implement their obligations pursuant to relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2375 (2017), fully, comprehensively and immediately. Maximum pressure should be applied by the entire international community with a view to ensuring that the DPRK took action towards denuclearization.

19. He expressed appreciation for the Agency's continued and enhanced readiness to resume its verification activities in the DPRK. It was to be hoped that the Agency would continue to play an important role in resolving the DPRK nuclear issue.

20. Ms SHAMPAINÉ (United States of America) welcomed the unanimous adoption of the resolution, which was a firm and appropriate response to the dramatically increasing threat posed to the international community by the DPRK's proscribed weapons programme. The resolution condemned in the strongest terms the DPRK's six nuclear tests, which had occurred in violation and flagrant disregard of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. In particular, it expressed grave concern at the latest test, which the DPRK had described as a hydrogen bomb to be delivered by intercontinental ballistic missile. It was entirely appropriate for the General Conference to express itself in the manner it had regarding the DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile activity, which the DPRK had stated existed for the purpose of launching nuclear weapons against the USA and allied cities.

21. The resolution strongly urged the DPRK to comply fully with its obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions, including the four adopted since the previous year's General Conference, and to take steps to fulfil its international commitments, which included abandoning its nuclear weapons and other nuclear programmes and immediately ceasing all related activities. In addition, it stressed the importance of all Member States implementing all relevant Security Council resolutions fully, comprehensively and immediately.

22. The pace and aggressiveness of the DPRK's unlawful testing had not weakened but strengthened the international community's universal opposition to its activities. By adopting the resolution, the General Conference had reiterated its firm stance against the DPRK's possession of nuclear weapons and underscored that the DPRK's illicit pursuit of nuclear weapons would never be recognized as legitimate by the international community. It had also reaffirmed its support for the Agency's intention to enhance its readiness to return to its vital verification role in the DPRK.

23. The strong message of the resolution must be matched by maximum diplomatic and economic pressure on the DPRK regime. The international community must work tirelessly to implement all

relevant Security Council resolutions and address the real and growing threat that the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes posed to international peace and security and the shared objective of non-proliferation. In the absence of a meaningful commitment by the DPRK to return to serious talks aimed at denuclearization, enhanced pressure remained essential to compel the DPRK to change its course.

24. Mr ULIYANOV (Russian Federation) said that his country had joined consensus on the resolution because the extremely worrying situation on the Korean Peninsula called for a reaction from the General Conference, particularly as the DPRK nuclear issue was directly relevant to the Agency's mandate. Support for the text had been facilitated by the drafters' willingness to incorporate several important Russian comments, as a result of which provisions that went beyond the Agency's mandate, concerning ballistic missile launches, had been removed from the text. The wording of some phrases had been strengthened to emphasize the importance of political and diplomatic efforts. He expressed appreciation to the drafters for their willingness to compromise.

25. The Russian Federation nonetheless had reservations about the resolution and did not share the belief that increased pressure on the DPRK would compel the country to meet the international community's demands. Experience suggested the contrary: thus far, the DPRK had responded to every sanctions resolution with further tests, either of nuclear bombs or ballistic missiles. The international community must learn from that experience and seek out a more productive course of action that had a real prospect of solving the problem promptly.

26. Imposing further sanctions on the DPRK would not achieve the desired result but have negative consequences for the civilian population, as had been the case when sanctions had first been attempted on such a scale, against the former Yugoslavia and Iraq. Pressure tactics would only be successful if combined with active diplomacy, as with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in the case of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which stood as one of the great geopolitical achievements of recent years and demonstrated the effectiveness of diplomacy as the only viable solution.

27. He expressed regret that the drafters of the resolution had refused to include a reference to the Russian-Chinese road map contained in document INFCIRC/922, which remained the only detailed proposal to end the deadlock. Such an attitude did not augur well for resolving the DPRK nuclear issue. The "encouraging peaceful initiatives" mentioned in operative paragraph 13, however, could only be interpreted as the Russian-Chinese road map since no others existed.

28. It was also regrettable that the drafters had refused to include a call to all parties to refrain from provocative action and belligerent rhetoric. Under the United Nations Charter, the threat or use of force in international relations were inadmissible, and any departure from that principle could have disastrous consequences. Any threat to wipe an opponent from the face of the Earth, whether in north-east Asia, the Middle East or elsewhere, should be viewed as a serious danger. He likewise expressed regret that his country's proposal to communicate the text of the resolution directly to representatives of the DPRK had not found support, as it would have provided an opportunity to reinforce the message set out therein.

29. Future efforts should focus on supporting the Agency's readiness to bring the DPRK's nuclear activities under comprehensive international monitoring in strict accordance with the NPT and the Agency's mandate. The Agency should be involved in seeking a political and diplomatic resolution to the DPRK nuclear issue. Its leadership should find ways to build bridges with representatives of the DPRK with a view to engaging in meaningful dialogue.

29. Report on contributions pledged to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2018

(GC(61)/20/Rev.1)

30. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report on TCF contributions pledged for 2018 contained in document GC(61)/20/Rev.1. The total amount pledged was €22 867 517, or 26.69% of the target for 2018. By the same time in 2016, 30.5% of the target for 2017 had been pledged.

31. Since the publication of the document, the following Member States had communicated pledges: Mongolia: €4283; the United Republic of Tanzania: an additional €1500; and Zimbabwe: €3427.

32. The total amount pledged by the end of the 61st regular session of the General Conference was therefore €22 876 727, representing pledges from 90 Member States and accounting for 26.70% of the TCF target for 2018. The 90 Member States that had pledged represented over 50% of Member States, setting a record compared with previous sessions. That record, and the fact that 17 Member States that had not pledged in 2016 had pledged in 2017, reflected the continued commitment of Member States to the Agency's TC activities.

33. However, by the end of the 60th regular session, the percentage of the TCF target pledged had stood at 31.1%. She therefore urged all delegations that had not yet done so to make their 2018 pledges and pay their contributions in full at the earliest opportunity to enable the Secretariat to submit to the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee in November 2017 a draft 2018 TC programme and budget based on the level of pledges received and then implement the approved programme without hindrance or uncertainty.

— Closing of the session

34. The PRESIDENT said that the 61st regular session of the General Conference had been well attended by high-level representatives of Member States, including one Head of State, one Vice-President, one parliamentary Speaker and 33 ministers. During the general debate, 140 speakers had taken the floor.

35. Dato' Adnan OTHMAN (Malaysia) said that the General Conference had always strived to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Friday afternoon and had sometimes managed to achieve that goal. The introduction of a seven-minute time limit on general debate statements during the current session had presented a challenge, but all speakers had endeavoured to meet it. The conclusion of the General Conference well in advance of the allocated time was testimony to the efforts of all delegations and the efficient coordination of work by the Secretariat. The best practices thereby established should continue in future sessions.

36. He congratulated the President on successfully concluding the 61st regular session in record time and expressed appreciation for her excellent management of its work, which had ensured a smooth, expeditious and successful outcome. He thanked the Vice-Presidents and the members of the General Committee for their valuable contributions and expressed deep gratitude to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole for his outstanding stewardship and for the skilful, professional and balanced manner in which he had conducted the negotiations, thereby ensuring success. He paid

tribute to the Director General and his staff, including the interpreters and translators, for their excellent organization and professional support for the smooth running of the session.

37. Mr NAJAFI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, congratulated the President on her diplomatic skills and professional leadership, which had enabled the Conference to conclude its proceedings in a successful and timely manner. He also thanked the Chair of the Committee of the Whole for ensuring the successful outcome of its work and commended the Director General and the Secretariat on their efforts and support.

38. Ms TREIER (Estonia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, thanked the President for her smooth and efficient conduct of the session. She commended the Chair of the Committee of the Whole for his professional and impartial work and expressed appreciation to the General Committee, the Director General, the Secretariat and Member States for their excellent cooperation.

39. Mr HAMMER (Australia), speaking on behalf of the South East Asia and the Pacific Group, thanked the President for effectively guiding the session to a successful conclusion. He commended the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and his Vice-Chairs for their constructive and even-handed guidance of the Committee's work and expressed appreciation for the excellent professional support provided by the Director General and his staff prior to and during the session. Lastly, he thanked fellow delegations for their cooperation, patience, flexibility and collegiality in achieving strong consensus outcomes, which would guide the Agency's work during the year ahead.

40. Ms PEÑA (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of NAM, congratulated the President, who represented a member State of NAM, on her skilful and successful conduct of the proceedings. She also expressed appreciation to the Chair of the Committee of the Whole and to the members of the General Committee.

41. The PRESIDENT said that it had been an honour and privilege to serve as President of the 61st regular session of the General Conference, which she hoped would be remembered not only for the seamless conduct of proceedings but also for its successful conclusion in record time.

42. The spirit of Vienna was clearly alive and well. New Governors had been elected to the Board without issue, and all geographical groups had nominated their Governors by mutual consent. The Conference had adopted a resolution by consensus that condemned the six nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK in the strongest terms. The general debate had been conducted in record time thanks to delegations' observance of the seven-minute target for statements, which had saved the Agency thousands of euros that could be allocated to other uses.

43. The Committee of the Whole had reached consensus on all the resolutions before it, also in record time. She recognized in that connection the able and decisive leadership of Mr Stalder of Switzerland who, as Chair of the Committee, had steered its proceedings to a prompt and successful conclusion. She also recognized the work of the various coordinators and drafters of resolutions, whose early preparatory work had ensured that issues had been thrashed out ahead of time. In addition, she commended the groups and Member States that had exhibited flexibility during negotiations on the various resolutions, even in areas where differences of principle existed. Consensus had been maintained on resolutions concerning nuclear security and nuclear safeguards, and forward-looking resolutions had been adopted on nuclear safety, nuclear applications, technical cooperation and PACT.

44. She commended the Director General and wished him well in his third term of office. She also commended the Secretariat for its remarkable support.

45. In accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, she invited the Conference to observe one minute of silence dedicated to prayer or meditation.

All present rose and stood in silence for one minute.

46. The PRESIDENT declared the 61st regular session of the General Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 3 p.m.