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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 28 October 1988, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. AL-SHAKAR (Vice-President)

(Bahrain)

- Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency [14] (continued)
 - (a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Agency
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: third report of the General Committee [8] (continued)
- Emergency assistance to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan: draft resolution [152]
- Elections to fill vacancies in principal organs: [15] (continued)
 - (b) Election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Al-Shakar (Bahrain), Vice President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 14 (continued)

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

- (a) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING THE REPORT OF THE AGENCY (A/43/488)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.17).

Mr. AL-KITTAL (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): I wish at the outset to pay a high tribute to Dr. Hans Blix, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for the valuable information contained in his report for 1987 and for his able and wise guidance of that specialized agency, which has had a positive impact on the Agency's achievements in its various functions in the past few years, in spite of the difficulties it has faced, foremost among them the financial difficulties resulting from the failure of certain States - especially those assessed for large budgetary contributions - to pay their assessed contributions on time. We wish to draw attention to these problems, and we hope that each State will find appropriate means within its financial and legislative systems to fulfil its financial obligations in good time.

It may not be feasible at present to review all the Agency's achievements in 1987 regarding programmes aimed at expanding the use of atomic energy. I shall therefore confine myself to matters we deem to be of particular importance.

First and foremost is the use of atomic energy for electric power generation, which has attracted the attention of all countries, especially the developing ones, which need energy sources for their developmental programmes. The Agency's achievements in this field are noteworthy, particularly as regards affirmation of various aspects of the promotion of the highest level of nuclear safety standards

(Mr. Al-Kittal, Iraq)

and reducing the risks involved in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This has included the expansion of training programmes and the provision of the necessary technical assistance to a number of countries to help them prepare their national cadres and their nuclear electric power programmes.

The Agency has intensified its efficiency in the field of nuclear safety in the aftermath of a number of nuclear accidents, including the well known one at Chernobyl. Here it is relevant to refer to the assistance that has been, and continues to be, provided, by the Agency to member countries in establishing national or regional networks for the purpose of monitoring and controlling radioactivity, as well as in reviewing the codes of the Agency's Programme on Nuclear Safety Standards for Nuclear Power Plants - the NUSS Codes - and updating them. We hope that all countries will voluntarily pledge to use these safety standards in their national legislations.

I cannot fail to commend the excellent efforts made by the Agency in preparing the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Those two Conventions have indeed entered into force.

The Agency's work has not been limited to those two Conventions. It has also completed all the necessary arrangements for the establishment of a communications network for the immediate reporting of accidents.

Iraq recognizes the importance of nuclear energy and its safe and peaceful use, and believes international co-operation in this field to be important. It has therefore acceded to both Conventions and deposited instruments of ratification with the Agency. The Agency's achievements in this field have directly contributed to reducing the negative consequences of the Chernobyl accident, in regard to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

(Mr. Al-Kittal, Iraq)

Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty have already begun. The Agency will play an important role in that Conference, for it is indeed the body responsible for verifying the adherence of States to the provisions of the Treaty. The safeguards régime created by the Agency in fulfilment of its responsibilities has become a model of the required verification systems in international conventions.

The Director-General of the Agency presented, at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament held last June, all the necessary information on the experience gained by the Agency. On this occasion we reaffirm the Agency's role in expanding the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the importance of its role for all countries, especially the developing ones, which indeed wish to avoid an imbalance between the two major tasks of the Agency: technical co-operation and assistance on the one hand, and safeguards and control activities on the other.

We wish to reaffirm that measures of nuclear disarmament should not have any negative implication for the growth and development of nuclear energy in the world.

(Mr. Al-Rittal, Iraq)

I wish to refer to two resolutions adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the thirty-second session of its General Conference, in September this year.

The first resolution condemns Israel's refusal to comply with resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council and the IAEA General Conference calling on it to place all its nuclear installations under the Agency's safeguards system. It also calls on Israel to renounce its possession of nuclear weapons, which constitutes a grave threat to peace and security in the region and in the world as well as flagrant defiance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to which the countries of the region have adhered. We again call on the Agency to give serious consideration to suspending any assistance to Israel that could contribute to its nuclear capabilities.

The second resolution relates to the suspension of the rights and privileges of the heinous racist régime in South Africa, which is collaborating with the Zionist régime in developing nuclear weapons, thereby endangering peace and security in Africa. We trust that the delaying tactics and pressure used by certain States to prevent the adoption of measures that would deter those two régimes will soon cease.

In conclusion, we express our full support for the International Atomic Energy Agency and the vital functions it is carrying out. We therefore support the draft resolution in document A/43/L.17.

Mr. TORNUDD (Finland): The delegation of Finland expresses its thanks to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Hans Blix, for his statement, which brought into focus several important

(Mr. Tornudd, Finland)

aspects of nuclear power in today's world. Mr. Blix represents the most prestigious organization dealing with nuclear-energy matters. Its efficiency in performing its task is widely recognized.

Estimates by reliable international bodies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency itself, point to a considerable increase in the overall energy demand over the next 20 years. The increase in demand for electric energy will be even more pronounced. The question of how to satisfy this demand will create difficult dilemmas for many Governments. In a number of countries the nuclear alternative is a controversial one. Views differ greatly even between internationally recognized experts - a fact which is illustrated by the divergences between the conclusions contained for example in the report by the World Commission on Environment and Development and those contained in numerous studies, statements and reports emanating from organizations specializing in nuclear matters. The Director General of the IAEA had some pertinent remarks to make in that respect. A powerful argument has been made in which our attention has been drawn to the environmental aspects of energy production, and especially to the favourable consequences that nuclear energy has had in the form of decreased harmful emissions. In Finland we tend to side at least with the view that environmental considerations must be given greater weight than before when choosing between available energy alternatives.

Reports by internationally recognized experts on the alarming extent of the damages caused by the burning of fossil fuels can no longer be disregarded. We welcome the Director General's approach to this problem. In choosing between energy production alternatives, each country bears a direct responsibility for our common environment. Only broadly based international co-operation which

(Mr. Tornudd, Finland)

encompasses all forms of energy production can bring us solutions that satisfy the need for the lasting protection of the environment. This co-operation has already started in some parts of the world on a regional basis to cope with geographically limited environmental problems. It will eventually have to include the international community as a whole. The International Atomic Energy Agency will have a central role to play in this process.

Acceptance of nuclear power depends mainly on safety standards, safe waste management and effective safeguards against proliferation. Those are all fields in which, in addition to national research and legislation, international co-operation is playing an increasingly important role. The Agency's work designed to reach safe and reliable standards for nuclear-energy production is highly commendable and must be given all possible support by Member States. This must include full and timely fulfilment by all Member States of their financial obligations to the Agency.

The deterioration of the Agency's financial situation is clearly visible in its work in the field of safeguards. The Agency's latest safeguards implementation report shows that in 1987 the IAEA could not fully reach its safeguards goals. Without additional financial support the situation will sooner or later become untenable. Some countries, including Finland, are trying to alleviate the problem through voluntary contributions to the Agency's safeguards activities, but these contributions do not represent a lasting solution to this growing concern. In view of the increasing demand for Agency safeguards, both under the non-proliferation Treaty and under separate arrangements, the Agency's regular budget must be allowed to grow, and the zero-growth principle must be abandoned.

(Mr. Tornudd, Finland)

The international Conventions on early notification and assistance in case of nuclear accidents have each been signed by more than 70 Governments. That is an encouraging sign of the increased awareness of the need for concerted action in the international community. A further encouraging sign is the wide acceptance of the Joint Protocol, negotiated under the aegis of the Agency, extending, in the field of civil liability for nuclear damage, the benefits of the Paris Convention to States parties to the Vienna Convention, and vice versa. My Government sincerely hopes that the Protocol will encourage broader adherence to the civil liability Conventions. The Agency's latest General Conference decided also to establish a working group to study all aspects of liability for nuclear damage. My Government will actively participate in the work of that group, which, it is hoped, will soon lead to broadly based understanding covering the forms of nuclear damage that so far have not been internationally regulated.

In conclusion, I wish to express my Government's high appreciation of the International Atomic Energy Agency's work during the past year and to commend the Director General, Mr. Hans Blix, and his staff for their excellent performance in the fulfilment of their duties. I can assure the Director General of my Government's continued full support for the IAEA and for the principles underlying its activities.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia): May I begin by recognizing the presence in the General Assembly of Mr. Hans Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The presentation to the General Assembly each year of the annual report on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency brings with it a deep sense of history and of continuity and connection to this Assembly. It was from this platform 35 years ago that the President of the United States made the "atoms for peace" proposal, which led four years later to the establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This year is not only the thirty-fifth year since that proposal was made, but it is also significant as another instance of continuity and history, in that it marks the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That Treaty, in the view of my Government, is an indispensable - indeed, an incomparable - instrument of nuclear-arms control. The connection between that Treaty and the work of the Agency is as clear as crystal. To put it at its simplest, that Treaty, signed and ratified, as it has been, by the largest number of States ever to participate in a multilateral treaty, would simply not work or fulfil its indispensable role if it were not for the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency or for the special place that that Agency has been given under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

But this indispensable role is not the whole story. The Agency, as is indicated again in its annual report, has a dual function. One is to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and in the view of my Government, in spite of its limited resources, the Agency is fulfilling that function with great distinction. Its other function is to prevent the diversion to any military purpose of nuclear energy or atomic materials. It has sometimes been suggested that there is a contradiction between the promotional aspect and the aspect of control, and I want

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

it to be very clear that in the view of my Government there is not only no such contradiction, but indeed an extraordinarily central and important complementarity between the need to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the need to ensure that, wherever those uses occur, they occur safely and in no way lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Again I can say that in the view of my Government this second function, this indispensable function of nuclear-arms control performed by the International Atomic Energy Agency is being carried out to our complete satisfaction.

I want to express personally to Mr. Blix my gratitude for the statement that he made here yesterday. As has always been the case, but I felt particularly on this occasion, Mr. Blix has brought to us a statement of immense clarity and relevance to the conditions that we face in today's world. He made clear beyond doubt the role that nuclear generation of electricity must play and should continue to play in the future, but he also made clear beyond doubt that it is his view that it is the role of the Agency to ensure that wherever nuclear energy is used it does not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In particular I would draw attention to the concluding portion of Mr. Blix's statement, where he pointed out that to those who sometimes suggest that to scrap nuclear power is the only way in which we can ensure non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, he said:

"It would certainly seem more appropriate to suggest an expanded acceptance of safeguards and decisive steps to nuclear disarmament. Such steps, which were envisaged in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) might, indeed, encourage further adherence to non-proliferation, whether under the NPT or other agreements." (A/43/PV.39, p. 18)

In my view, those remarks in Mr. Blix's statement contain an essential truth, a truth to which we should all give profound attention.

(Mr. Butler, Australia)

Nuclear energy is with us for the foreseeable future, as indeed it should be. Nuclear co-operation is enjoined upon us through, among other instruments, the Non-Proliferation Treaty itself, but it must never be permitted to be the case that, as a consequence of the use of nuclear energy, the spread of nuclear weapons will occur. It is to this purpose that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is devoted and the work of the Agency is directed. I can only echo Mr. Blix's concluding remarks by asking again, on behalf of my Government, those States which have not already done so to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to provide maximum possible support to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In conclusion, may I express my Government's complete support for draft resolution A/43/L.17, on the work of the Agency, which we hope will be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Mr. ABDULLAH FADZIL (Malaysia): Some 10 years ago the General Assembly enunciated certain principles concerning the right of all States to develop programmes for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for economic and social development. The General Assembly also agreed that States should have access to and be free to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. My delegation maintains a firm belief in those principles and hopes that international co-operation in the nuclear field will not be tarnished by the breach of those principles by anyone at any time in the future.

My delegation followed with interest the presentation of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for 1987 in the statement made by Mr. Hans Blix, Director General of IAEA. Malaysia reaffirms its full support for the objectives and work of IAEA in encouraging and facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and in preventing nuclear

(Mr. Abdullah Fadzil, Malaysia)

proliferation. The Agency has done a commendable job in promoting the safe use of nuclear energy.

Malaysia had the privilege and honour of being President of the thirty-second session of the General Conference of IAEA which was held in Vienna from 19 to 23 September 1988. My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to all those who placed their trust and confidence in Malaysia and to the Director General for the valuable assistance and facilities which he provided in making the General Conference a success.

(Mr. Abdullah Fadzil, Malaysia)

We are all fully aware of the danger of the unbridled use of nuclear energy. It is therefore of utmost importance that safeguards be observed and implemented fully. The IAEA should be given full powers to ensure that nuclear material under the Agency's safeguards remains in the area of peaceful nuclear activities. Malaysia strongly supports the safeguards system, which is crucial to the principle of nuclear non-proliferation. Safeguards should be applied as widely as possible. All non-nuclear-weapon States should be ready and willing to have their nuclear facilities placed under safeguards, in conformity with IAEA standards.

The Agency has been instrumental in expanding co-operation in some areas of nuclear safety. Malaysia is encouraged by this development. But we note that there are still a number of important areas where international co-operation can and should be strengthened. Emphasis should be given to wider technical co-operation to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In view of the limited resources, particularly in the developing countries, assistance under viable co-operative arrangements with adequate safeguards should be encouraged. My delegation notes that the nuclear Powers are especially concerned over the question of safeguards. Such concern need not be theirs alone. It is, I am sure, universal. The horrors of nuclear holocausts arising from the military use of nuclear energy are vivid to all of us; and we are also fully aware of the dangers posed by inadequate safety and nuclear accidents.

The activities of the Agency in the area of nuclear safety deserves the full support of Member States. Rigorous safety measures are an essential component of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. There has to be adequate emphasis on nuclear safety and radiological protection. The commitment of the Agency and Member States towards improving and upgrading nuclear safety was clearly demonstrated in the adoption and early entry into force of the Conventions on early notification of

(Mr. Abdullah Fadzil, Malaysia)

nuclear accident and on assistance in the case of nuclear accident or radiological emergency. This no doubt constitutes an important step in international co-operation in the area of nuclear safety. It is important, however, that there be strict adherence to those and other Conventions relating to nuclear technology and safety. Nuclear safety is the primary responsibility of the State that owns nuclear facilities. It is therefore important for States not only to ensure that strict safety standards are observed but also that there is constant contact with other parties, in particular the Agency, so that any flaws could be corrected before anyone suffers disastrous consequences.

One area that has become a major concern to the international community is the indiscriminate increase of dumping of nuclear and toxic wastes. It is a matter of utmost regret that there has been wanton disregard of the damaging effects of such dumping on the environment, ecology and life. My delegation believes that strong measures need to be taken to curb and end the irresponsible practice of dumping of nuclear and toxic wastes.

Finally, in reiterating our support for the Agency, my delegation is ready to render all support to the draft resolution.

Mr. DELPECH (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): First of all, I wish to extend my gratitude and congratulations to the Agency's Director General, Mr. Hans Blix, for his statement in introducing the annual report for 1987.

Throughout all these years of fruitful work by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) my country's Government has not only adhered firmly to the basic objective of the Agency - which in our view is to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for peace, health, and the general prosperity of the international

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

community - but also demonstrated that commitment by its active and enthusiastic participation in the Agency's work.

Indeed, Argentina is making a decisive contribution to the Agency's technical assistance activities as a donor country, especially in programmes with broad impact, such as the regional co-operative arrangements for the promotion of nuclear science and technology in Latin America - generally known as the ARCAL Programme. Similarly, my Government was pleased to join the group of countries which recently signed, in Vienna, the Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy (Paris Convention) and the Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (Vienna Convention).

This position is deeply rooted in my country's renewed confidence in technology, in particular nuclear technology, as an appropriate tool for meeting the needs of our peoples, especially those who live in the developing world.

Hence, in the past three decades the Argentine Republic has devoted tremendous efforts to acquiring a remarkable capability in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which is today a source of pride for my people. Nuclear development is undoubtedly an important step in the modernization of Argentina, which my Government, motivated by a broad spirit of co-operation, wishes to share with other peoples interested in finding appropriate means to achieve the lofty goals of well-being and peace. With this end in mind, we have undertaken, together with several developing countries, important joint projects in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy which in the near future will clearly demonstrate the many benefits to be derived from South-South co-operation.

(Mr. Delpech, Argentina)

This endeavour has throughout clearly displayed the peaceful intentions we have expressed in the various international forums and made manifest in all our bilateral undertakings, so as to prevent these goals from being distorted by considerations not in keeping with a genuine spirit of co-operation.

(Mr. Delpuch, Argentina)

In view of the foregoing, the Republic of Argentina deeply appreciates the general work carried out by the Agency. For that reason, we reaffirm today our intention to continue to work actively in the Agency, as we have done previously and as reflected in the report now before us. It is in this constructive spirit that my delegation welcomes with great interest the comprehensive report of the International Atomic Energy Agency and hopes that its conclusions will lead to new and valuable steps to promote nuclear development throughout the world.

Mr. JANOWSKI (Poland): My delegation associates itself with previous speakers who have commended Mr. Hans Blix for his valuable statement and for the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which reflects the many-faceted activities of the Agency in such a well-organized manner. I share the conviction of many representatives that, under the leadership of the Director General, IAEA is in a very good position to serve the international community in regard to the safe uses of nuclear energy.

While discussing the annual report of the Agency, I take this opportunity to reaffirm my Government's strong support for the important work of IAEA in many fields of peaceful and safe applications of nuclear energy. The impressive record of the Agency for the 32 years of its activity constitutes but one more proof that differences in ideology and social and economic development constitute no serious obstacles to businesslike co-operation beneficial to all participants. The Agency is a unique international organization, well equipped to satisfy the needs of many different aspects of international relations related to harmonious and purposeful endeavours.

The latest advances in nuclear disarmament, and steps to be taken subsequently towards a 50 per cent cut in strategic weapons contribute favourably to the creation of an atmosphere of greater security and stability in which common efforts are more likely to be fruitful. Poland, for its part, has contributed to those

(Mr. Janowski, Poland)

undertakings by putting forward a plan for decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in Central Europe.

Nowadays every country, irrespective of its potential or size, is able to play a role in the common process of lessening the risk of nuclear conflagration. It can do so by, for example, acceding to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or the Tlatelolco Treaty or by concluding an agreement with IAEA on the application of its full-scale safeguards. There is sufficient legal basis for such moves. It is the best way to increase confidence with regard to one's country and to benefit fully from the transfer of nuclear materials, technology and equipment, with lower costs involved. We welcome, in this context, the agreements signed by Nigeria and Spain with IAEA. For obvious reasons, we note with special interest the agreement China has concluded with the Agency, placing some of its civilian nuclear power facilities under the Agency's safeguards.

In two years, the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is to be held. I am sure that, in keeping with its best traditions, IAEA will participate actively in the preparatory work which is about to begin.

In the Agency's report for the past year we have been assured once more that "nuclear material under Agency safeguards ... remained in peaceful nuclear activities". (A/43/488, annex, para. 384)

The most important conclusion follows from this fact that it is improbable that nuclear material is misused when it is placed under Agency safeguards. Therefore the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards system is a task of paramount importance for all. The recognition of this fact goes beyond the scope of IAEA activities. The Agency's experience may be utilized for different disarmament verification techniques.

(Mr. Janowski, Poland)

The attention of IAEA during the past two years has been justifiably focused on matters related to the safety of nuclear facilities. The well-known achievements of IAEA in this domain are encouraging and deserve the highest praise. Let me mention just one - perhaps the least conspicuous one - the special reviews carried out by the Agency's Operational Safety Review Teams at the request of the respective Governments. The work of these missions contributes significantly to the safe use of nuclear energy and its public acceptance and reinforces the role and the level of preparation of national organs with responsibility in this domain. As we know, such missions are scheduled for several countries.

I should like to dwell now for a moment on international legal regulations. Poland is a party to three of the four relevant international Conventions. Like a number of other countries, we think it is necessary that the problem of international nuclear liability continue to be studied within IAEA. The resolution on international liability for damage arising from a nuclear accident adopted by the last session of the General Conference of IAEA is intended to serve this purpose.

In confining myself to these remarks, I should like to stress that the Polish delegation approves the annual report of the IAEA for 1987 and also supports the draft resolution on the issue under consideration.

Mr. MARDOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) (interpretation from Russian): The delegation of the Byelorussian SSR would like to begin by thanking the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Hans Blix, for the excellent statement he made at the preceding plenary meeting in submitting the thirty-second annual report of the Agency and also for his account of the main events that have taken place since the publication of that report.

(Mr. Mardovich, Byelorussian SSR)

The activities of IAEA are unique; they promote the performance of an exceedingly important task, that of the provision of energy for mankind and the use of the atom for that purpose, verification of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the safe development of nuclear power.

As has been rightly pointed out, the Agency typifies the peaceful alternative to the military use of the atom. It is a kind of prototype of the international organization of the future, whose task it is to guarantee that there will be no resurgence of nuclear weapons.

(Mr. Mardovich, Byelorussian SSR)

The elaboration within the framework of the Agency of two international Conventions on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency has demonstrated yet again that, for the international community, the Agency is a reliable and effective mechanism for the co-ordination of activities pertaining to the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy.

The Byelorussian SSR highly values the contribution the Agency makes to the establishment of an atmosphere of trust, mutual understanding and co-operation among States. We are particularly gratified by the role played by the Agency in carrying out its monitoring functions. The safeguards system elaborated by the Agency effectively and reliably guarantees the non-diversion of nuclear materials from peaceful to military purposes.

In this connection, we are pleased to note that, in the period under review, as in previous years, the Agency's inspectors did not detect any anomaly which would indicate the diversion of safeguarded nuclear material or the misuse of facilities for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon or for any other military purpose, or for the manufacture of any other nuclear explosive device.

As is evident from the annual report for 1987 and the statement of the Director General, Mr. Blix, in the period under review the scope of the monitoring control functions of IAEA has broadened and the safeguards system has been steadily improved. At the same time, we feel that the Agency should concentrate its efforts even more in the field of guarantees on the near-nuclear States. We also feel that the Agency should play an increasingly active and constructive role in strengthening international co-operation in the sphere of nuclear and radiation safety, in particular, in spheres such as the prohibition of attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities, the prevention of nuclear terrorism, the elaboration of norms

(Mr. Mardovich, Byelorussian SSR)

and standards and the universal régime for international liability for nuclear damage.

The Byelorussian SSR, above all, supports such spheres and programmes in the activities of the Agency as nuclear energy, its fuel cycle, nuclear safety and environmental protection, safeguards, and the international system of nuclear information and co-operation in the area of nuclear data. We attach great importance to technical assistance to the developing countries for the purpose of the development and study of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We pay our voluntary contribution to the Technical Assistance and Co-operation Fund regularly and in full. The Byelorussian SSR supports the implementation by the Agency of its programmes in this field and of its scientific co-ordination programme. We are prepared to consider organizing individual training of specialists in a number of scientific and technological institutes in our Republic within the framework of those Agency programmes; and we are also prepared to consider recommending our specialists for work as Agency experts in the developing countries.

The Byelorussian SSR wishes to associate itself with those delegations that have endorsed the Agency's report. We are convinced that the Agency will continue to be a reliable instrument for the development of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it being understood that the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons must be consistently guaranteed. The Byelorussian SSR has provided, and will continue to provide, political, scientific, technological and material support to the Agency in its implementation of the tasks entrusted to it.

Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda): I should like at the outset to express my delegation's gratitude to Mr. Blix, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for the comprehensive and informative report submitted to the General Assembly under cover of the Secretary-General's

(Mr. Karukubiro-Kamunanwire,
Uganda)

note, document A/43/488. We listened with great interest to the Director General's introductory statement in which he outlined the considerable work done by the Agency, and which is clearly set forth in the report. This has greatly facilitated our discussion on this item.

Many of the points my delegation would have liked to raise have already been adequately covered by previous speakers. I will, therefore, confine my remarks to a few points that are vital to my delegation.

The Agency plays an important role in promoting international co-operation for the peaceful application of nuclear energy. In the 30 years of its existence, the Agency has come to be universally recognized as the world centre for the handling scientific and technological problems, as well as the appropriate institution for rendering technical assistance to developing countries in this field.

Great strides have been made in non-power nuclear technology, which are of great importance for developing countries. We are particularly interested in the Agency's programmes regarding the use of radiation and isotope techniques in agriculture, medicine, biology, industry and hydrology. The Agency has been playing an invaluable role in this regard, but we believe it is handicapped by a lack of resources.

Uganda, as a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), is very supportive of the IAEA safeguards system for ensuring that nuclear energy is utilized only for peaceful purposes. However, as can be seen from both the report of the Director General and the programme budget of the Agency, there is a clear imbalance between resources allocated for technical assistance and those allocated for safeguards. We believe that this imbalance should be redressed if the Agency is to respond adequately to requests for technical assistance.

(Mr. Karukubiro-Kamunanwire,
Uganda)

Africa appreciates the potential use of the peaceful application of nuclear energy in efforts undertaken for social and economic development. It is for this reason that, within the framework of the NPT, the Organization of African Unity summit meeting in 1986 decided to organize an African regional symposium to explore ways and means of harnessing nuclear energy. It is our hope that both the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and IAEA, which have already been approached in this regard, will respond positively and assist in the successful realization of the symposium.

(Mr. Karukubiro-Kamunanwire,
Uganda)

An issue of great concern to my delegation is the dumping of toxic waste, including nuclear waste, by the industrialized countries in the developing countries. I cannot over-stress the imponderable consequences this has for the health of future generations and the development of our continent. It is a crime that Africa cannot tolerate. We therefore support the preparation of a convention that would make dumping an international crime. Uganda believes that the IAEA has an important role to play in this regard and welcomes the assurances of the Director General that it will continue to render assistance to countries victims of dumping of radioactive waste.

As indicated in paragraph 41 of the Agency's report, the question of South Africa's nuclear-weapon capability is of great concern to Africa. While the rest of Africa is struggling for assistance in acquiring the technical know-how needed to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, South Africa, with the collaboration of some Western countries, has acquired nuclear-weapon capability. Unless South Africa complies fully with resolution GC(XXX)/RES/468, the recommendation of the Board of Governors for the suspension of South Africa from the exercise of the privileges and rights of membership in accordance with Article XIX.B of the statute should be put into effect.

In conclusion, I wish to stress the importance Uganda attaches to the activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear safety. The Chernobyl incident demonstrated that an accident in a nuclear plant can have far-reaching radiological consequences. We therefore support the preparation of an international convention on the liability of States with regard to damage caused by accidents in nuclear-power installations. Such convention should cover the liability of those who knowingly or negligently cause damage by dealing in contaminated food or goods.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/43/L.17.

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/43/L.17 was adopted (resolution 43/16).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): This concludes our consideration of agenda item 14.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: THIRD REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/43/250/Add.2)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In paragraph 2 (a) of its report (A/43/250/Add.2), the General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item, entitled "Emergency assistance to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan".

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in its agenda.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In paragraph 2 (b) of the report the General Committee recommends that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I take it that the item should be considered with priority because of its important and urgent character?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In the light of the urgent nature of this matter, I propose that the Assembly proceed immediately to consider the new item.

AGENDA ITEM 152

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, PANAMA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY HURRICANE JOAN: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/43/L.19)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I now call on the representative of the Dominican Republic, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/43/L.19, which will shortly be distributed to members.

Mr. DEL ROSARIO (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the delegation of the Dominican Republic, which has the honour to be Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for this month, I am pleased to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/43/247, dated 26 October 1988, entitled "Emergency assistance to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan".

As everyone knows, nature once again unleashed its fury in our Caribbean area and one more hurricane lashed at the sister countries of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries of the Central American area. Our regional group adopted this draft resolution unanimously; it clearly demonstrates our concern and solidarity with the countries that have been affected. The operative paragraphs read as follows:

"Expresses its solidarity and support to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries in the region affected by the natural disaster;

"Expresses its gratitude to all the States of the international community, the international agencies and the non-governmental organizations that are currently providing emergency relief to the affected countries;

"Urges all the States of the international community, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas;

"Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the steps taken to co-ordinate and mobilize the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

(Mr. Del Rosario, Dominican Republic)

"Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Governments of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the affected countries of the region, and the international financial institutions, organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to assist those countries in mobilizing the additional financial resources necessary for the implementation of the medium- and long-term plans and programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction."

To those members of the Assembly who may not have up-to-date information on developments in the area, I should like to mention that, when hurricane Joan crossed over to the Pacific, meteorologists renamed it hurricane Miriam.

The Latin American and Caribbean Group trusts that this draft resolution will be adopted by the General Assembly unanimously.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): Since, for technical reasons, the draft resolution just introduced by the representative of the Dominican Republic has not yet been distributed, I propose to suspend the meeting for a few minutes.

The meeting was suspended at 11.35 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): A short while ago, the General Assembly decided to give immediate consideration to the item now before us.

The representative of the Dominican Republic has introduced the draft resolution in document A/43/L.19, which was circulated a few moments ago.

The text of the draft resolution was actually circulated yesterday together with the letter from the representative of the Dominican Republic that appears in document A/43/247. A slight amendment to the draft resolution has been made specifying Panama as one of the countries affected.

May I therefore take it that the General Assembly wishes to waive the provisions of rule 78 of the Assembly's rules of procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): May I also take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution in document A/43/L.19?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 43/17).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The United States representative wishes to speak, and I now call on her.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): My delegation joined in the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Emergency assistance to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan" because we are in total sympathy with the objectives of the resolution.

I wish to note, however, that my delegation would have very much preferred it if the draft resolution had come to us yesterday. We got it, not yesterday as you said, Mr. President, but only during the suspension of this meeting. We are an instructed delegation, and we normally wish to consult our Government in the capital. I am saying this for the record. We would have preferred to have time to

(Miss Byrne, United States)

consult the capital. I repeat, however, that we joined in the consensus because we are in total sympathy with the objectives of the resolution.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I would recall that I said that the text of this draft resolution was contained in document A/43/247, which was distributed yesterday. I also stated that that document (A/43/L.19) had been circulated a few moments ago.

In any event the General Assembly has taken due note of the statement just made by the representative of the United States.

We shall now hear short statements by the representatives of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

Mr. SERRANO CALDERA (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of my Government and my delegation, I express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to the General Assembly for adopting the draft resolution on emergency assistance to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan. I express our appreciation also to the Latin American and Caribbean Group, which yesterday endorsed this text and made it a draft resolution of the Latin American and Caribbean Group. I am of course grateful, too, to the Secretary-General for the steps and arrangements he made when faced with this emergency situation caused by a natural disaster, and to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund for the co-operation which they extended from the very moment when they learned about this tragedy. We are grateful to all the other agencies and bodies of the United Nations which have responded to our request for assistance to deal with the emergency.

(Mr. Serrano Caldera, Nicaragua)

We believe that the decision taken this morning by the General Assembly will be very useful in terms of future material co-operation. But there can be no doubt that it is also very clear proof of moral solidarity with the peoples referred to in the draft resolution, who have been directly affected by the disaster.

I take this opportunity to express our most sincere thanks to the Governments which offered assistance immediately upon learning of the disaster caused by hurricane Joan.

Once again I thank you, Mr. President, and all the members of the General Assembly.

Mr. GUTIERREZ (Costa Rica) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Government and people of Costa Rica, I express our gratitude for the decision just taken by the General Assembly. We are grateful also to all the entities and persons who contributed to the taking of this decision so swiftly.

(Mr. Gutierrez, Costa Rica)

It is a display of human solidarity and it binds us to the international community as a whole. I also consider it necessary to express our gratitude to friendly countries and international organizations which, even before the adoption of this decision, have assisted us so that we could meet the emergency and attend to the damage caused by it.

Mr. KAM (Panama) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the General Assembly for having agreed to the inclusion on its agenda of a new item relating to the damage caused by hurricane Joan in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and my own country. I also thank it for deciding to take up this item on an urgent basis and for adopting the draft resolution unanimously. A special word of gratitude is due to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and in particular to its Chairman for the month, the Dominican Republic, for the care and interest with which the Group complied with the mandate given it.

I wish also to make special mention of those countries which, given the circumstances in which the draft resolution was brought before us, were able to join in the consensus.

On behalf of my delegation I express sincere condolences to the delegations of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and other countries of the region which have suffered great human and material loss as a result of the devastation caused by hurricane Joan. With Nicaragua and Costa Rica we share geography, history and culture and today we also share tragedy. But I am certain we also share solidarity and hope.

Perhaps the damage caused by hurricane Joan in my country is less well known. I would therefore observe that it is great indeed and has worsened the already critical economic and social situation that has obtained in Panama in recent months.

Yesterday - only yesterday - we concluded the preliminary assessment undertaken by a multi-disciplinary team designated by the executive body to assess the magnitude and impact of the damage caused by hurricane Joan. Its findings are

(Mr. Kam, Panama)

that intensive rain and flooding has caused more than 10,000 casualties and dozens of deaths and disappearances. Thousands of housing units and public installations have been destroyed or damaged. Approximately 20 per cent of the national road network has been destroyed, including several parts of the Pan American Highway. Many towns are without communications. Thousands of head of cattle and other livestock have been lost.

Given the seriousness of the damage, the executive branch of Government has decreed a state of national emergency throughout the territory of the Republic of Panama. All ministries and official entities have been instructed to provide priority assistance, support, materials and the necessary staff to make them available, in order to redress as soon as possible the damage caused, especially with regard to roads, food, health, agriculture and livestock, electricity and housing. The task of rehabilitation and reconstruction has begun immediately, within the serious financial constraints faced by the Government, which are well known to all.

The spirit of solidarity is already evident in the Panamanian people, which has an indefatigable will to overcome adversity, great as it may be. We are confident that generous and effective solidarity and assistance will be received from the international community in support of the efforts already initiated by the Government and people of Panama in this difficult hour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): On behalf of the General Assembly, I wish to express to the Governments and peoples of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, and other countries of the region affected by hurricane Joan, our sympathy and solidarity in respect of the damage and tribulations they are facing at the present time.

Mr. DEL ROSARIO (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): I should like to point out that the 33 States members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group are responsible for draft resolution A/43/L.19, which I introduced on their behalf and which we thank the General Assembly for having adopted unanimously. On behalf of the Dominican Republic and all the other members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I would, through you, Mr. President, request the Secretariat to ensure that the final version of the resolution carries the names of all 33 members of our Group.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The remarks of the representative of the Dominican Republic have been noted. The Secretariat will ensure that the final text of the resolution will carry the names of all the members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group that have sponsored the draft resolution.

The Assembly has concluded its consideration of agenda item 152.

AGENDA ITEM 15 (continued)

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS:

(b) ELECTION OF 18 MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): As representatives will recall, at its thirty-seventh plenary meeting, on Wednesday, 26 October, the Assembly elected 17 members of the Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1989.

(The President)

As the result of the first restricted ballot held at that meeting was inconclusive and since one seat remains to be filled from the Group of Latin American and Carribean States, we must, in accordance with the rules of procedure, proceed to a third ballot restricted to those two States, namely, Nicaragua and Peru, which were not elected but which obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot.

In this context, the representative of Peru has asked to make a short statement. I call on him.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): I wish to notify you, Sir, and the General Assembly, that in the light of the fraternal relations of friendship and solidarity which exist between the Republic of Nicaragua and Peru, my Government hereby withdraws its candidature for the Economic and Social Council in order in this way to make possible the unanimous endorsement of the Nicaraguan candidature.

We are quite sure that our decision will help to consolidate Latin American unity, which both Peruvians and Nicaraguans, like all the members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, greatly cherish.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of the Dominican Republic, as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. DEL ROSARIO (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, I wish whole-heartedly to thank the Government and delegation of Peru for withdrawing its candidature, in the interest of the unity of the group. My country, as current Chairman of the group, is most grateful for this gesture, which does credit to the Peruvian Government and enhances the unity of Latin America and Caribbean States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I call on the representative of Nicaragua.

Mr. SERRANO CALDERA (Nicaragua) (interpretation from Spanish): On behalf of the delegation and Government of Nicaragua, I wish to take this opportunity to express our most profound gratitude to the Government and delegation of Peru for the decision taken in the interest of Latin American unity. We thank Peru very sincerely for its expressed intention to endorse Nicaragua's candidature, which is a clear manifestation of the unbreakable, permanent links of brotherhood and solidarity which exist between the Governments and peoples of Peru and Nicaragua.

It was also a very difficult situation for us when, in the last ballot, the Latin American region was unable to put forward a single candidate, and we were faced with two brother countries as candidates for membership of the Economic and Social Council. We therefore agreed to the postponement of the election so as not to have a confrontation in the Assembly, which would certainly not have been good for the close indissoluble bonds of solidarity and friendship that exist between Peruvians and Nicaraguans.

Peru's decision reaffirms the sentiments that inspire our two peoples, and, as the representative of the Dominican Republic has said, does credit to the Government and people of Peru, who, because of their altruistic behaviour, deserve the gratitude of the Government and people of Nicaragua, who are most appreciative.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): In the light of the statement of the representative of Peru we shall now move to the second restricted ballot.

Ballot papers will now be distributed.

I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the one

(The President)

State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing more than one name will be declared invalid.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Agstner (Austria), Mr. Mounkh-Orgil (Mongolia), Mr. Gorajewski (Poland) and Mr. Idris (Sudan) acted as tellers.

The meeting was suspended at 12.25 p.m. and resumed at 12.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): The result of the voting for the election of one member of the Economic and Social Council is as follows:

<u>Number of ballot papers:</u>	149
<u>Number of invalid ballots:</u>	2
<u>Number of valid ballots:</u>	147
<u>Abstentions:</u>	8
<u>Number of Members voting:</u>	139
<u>Required two-thirds majority:</u>	93
<u>Number of votes obtained:</u>	
Nicaragua	123
Peru	16

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Nicaragua was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1989.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Arabic): I congratulate Nicaragua, which has just been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in this election.

We have thus concluded our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 15.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.