

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records



**2076th  
PLENARY MEETING**

Tuesday, 31 October 1972,  
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

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*President: Mr. Stanisław TREPCZYŃSKI (Poland).*

**AGENDA ITEM 17**

**Election of nine members of the  
Economic and Social Council**

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The General Assembly will now proceed to elect nine members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1972. The nine outgoing members are: Brazil, France, Ghana, Greece, Italy, Kenya, Peru, Sri Lanka and Tunisia. These nine countries are eligible for immediate re-election.

2. I should like to remind members of the Assembly that after 1 January 1973 the following States will still be members of the Economic and Social Council: Bolivia, Burundi, Chile, China, Finland, Haiti, Hungary, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, New Zealand, Niger, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zaire. Therefore, the names of those 18 States should not appear on the ballot papers.

3. I understand that, of the four seats set aside for African and Asian States, three seats will go to African States and one seat to an Asian State.

4. Ballot papers reflecting the pattern set out in paragraph 3 of resolution 1991 B (XVIII) of 17 December 1963 will now be distributed. In accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure the election will be held by secret ballot.

5. I request members of the Assembly to use only the ballot papers that are being distributed and to write on them the names of the nine Member States for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers containing more than nine names will be declared invalid.

*At the request of the President, Miss Kytömaa (Finland) and Mr. Nathon (Hungary) acted as tellers.*

*A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

6. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I propose to suspend the meeting while the ballots are being counted.

*The meeting was suspended at 11.05 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.*

7. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The result of the voting is as follows:

<i>Number of ballot papers:</i>	124
<i>Invalid ballots:</i>	0
<i>Number of valid ballots:</i>	124
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0
<i>Number of members voting:</i>	124
<i>Required majority:</i>	83

*Number of votes obtained:*

Brazil .....	121
France .....	121
Trinidad and Tobago .....	121
Spain .....	119
Netherlands .....	119
Algeria .....	116
Mongolia .....	113
Uganda .....	113
Mali .....	107
Nigeria .....	14
Iran .....	4
Philippines .....	4
Cuba .....	2
Democratic Yemen .....	1
Dominican Republic .....	1
Italy .....	1
Ivory Coast .....	1
Sri Lanka .....	1
Turkey .....	1
Yemen .....	1
Zambia .....	1

*Having obtained the required two-thirds majority, Algeria, Brazil, France, Mali, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year period from 1 January 1973.*

8. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I should like to congratulate those States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year period from 1 January 1973 and to thank the tellers for their assistance.

## AGENDA ITEM 15

## Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

9. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): The Assembly will now consider item 15 of its agenda. The Agency's report has been distributed to members under the symbol A/8774.

10. I am pleased to invite Mr. Sigvard Eklund, the Director-General of the Agency, to introduce the Agency's report for the year 1971/1972.<sup>1</sup>

11. Mr. EKLUND (Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency): In presenting the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] today I shall confine myself to three major themes: nuclear power in the developing countries, nuclear energy and the environment, and international safeguards. Each of these themes is linked to a major problem confronting the world and this Assembly: development, environment and international security. The United Nations and the Agency also share a concern that the common system should be operated as efficiently and economically as possible and I shall also touch on administrative and budgetary questions.

12. As concerns nuclear power in the developing countries, representatives will recall that last year [1979th meeting] I reported to them that several developing countries had shown a definite interest at the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva from 6 to 16 September 1971, in incorporating units of nuclear power in their electrical systems. In response to that interest, the Agency is carrying on an in-depth survey which will assess the extent of the market in 14 developing countries for various types and sizes of nuclear power plants over the next 5 to 15 years. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and several Member States are helping to finance this project. It may be expected that similar studies may become a continuing Agency operation beneficial to Member States, to the nuclear industry and to the financing organizations which will be called upon for assistance when there is a case for the introduction of nuclear units. The Agency will also publish this year a handbook on the introduction of nuclear power oriented to the needs of developing countries.

13. The problem of finding adequate energy resources for future generations is indeed an area of concern where the United Nations and the Agency can co-operate and play an active role. The market survey will contribute to this work.

14. The Agency has continued to encourage developing countries in which there are possibilities of the existence of uranium deposits to find and exploit such deposits. Present published world reserves of uranium are about 1 million metric tons. A further 2.5 million metric tons of uranium, representing some \$30,000 million at today's prices, must be discovered in the next two decades to meet the requirements of the nuclear industry towards the end of the

century. Many of these reserves will be found in developing countries.

15. During the past year the rapid development of nuclear power and the increased concern for the preservation of public health and environmental quality have led the Agency to stress even more its role in promoting nuclear safety and environmental protection. The Agency's Board of Governors decided at its February session:

"...that one of the Agency's most important and urgent tasks, in which it should take the leading role, in close collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned, was the elaboration of recommended standards of safety concerning the dispersions into the environment of radioactive waste resulting from peaceful uses of nuclear energy."<sup>2</sup>

That objective forms part of the Agency's programme adopted in Mexico City last month, by the General Conference, which also demonstrated wide support for additional activities in this field. Member States are aware of the need to work out solutions to the problems associated with an enormous expected increase in the use of nuclear power—from some 27,000 megawatts at present to some 3 million megawatts by the end of the century.

16. Turning from nuclear power to nuclear energy in a wider sense, I am happy to report that in the Agency's technical assistance programme there is a trend towards larger projects of direct importance to the economies of developing countries.

17. The support of our member States for the agency's own modest technical assistance programme was demonstrated at the General Conference, when a number of members increased their pledges over those of past years. It is now expected that pledges will reach over 90 per cent of the \$3 million target, whereas in the past pledges amounted to only 65 to 85 per cent of the \$2 or \$2.5 million targets.

18. On the topic of nuclear energy and the environment, I have reported on several occasions—in particular at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm—that the nuclear industry is unique in that it has from the very beginning been subject to stringent regulations designed to control its possible deleterious effects on the environment. Because of the special nature of the fuel used in nuclear facilities and the expected growth in the magnitude of nuclear wastes, responsible authorities are using all the skills and methods of modern technology to keep the industry safe and clean. The Agency not only will intensify its programme to assist some member States in this work, especially in those areas where international problems are involved, but will also take a more active role in advising on health and safety conditions in existing facilities.

19. Nuclear power is, of course, only one sector of the world's energy resources; its expanded use will help us to reconcile energy needs and environmental concerns. The

<sup>1</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *Annual Report, 1 July 1971-30 June 1972* (Vienna, July 1972).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 99.

Stockholm Conference's recommendations rightly stressed other pollutants as of primary concern. As regards radio-activity, it should be recalled that the Conference recommended that Governments should:

“(a) Explore with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization the feasibility of developing a registry of releases to the biosphere of significant quantities of radio-active materials;

“(b) Support and expand, under the International Atomic Energy Agency and appropriate international organizations, international co-operation on radio-active waste problems . . .”.<sup>3</sup>

That recommendation follows the line of the Board's February decision. The idea of a register has already been given a good deal of study by the Agency; the ingredient essential to its early establishment is, of course, the support of the Governments concerned.

20. The Agency's Board of Governors has, I have noted, reaffirmed the constitutional position concerning the Agency's primary responsibility for dealing with the impact on the environment of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The Board also recognized that this requires close co-operation with other bodies concerned with this matter. It gives me great pleasure to note that, in his recent statement before the Economic and Social Council,<sup>4</sup> Mr. Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the Stockholm Conference, reiterated that the ultimate authority for the approval of the environmental programmes of each agency rested with its governing body.

21. Besides the World Health Organization [WHO] and the Food and Agriculture Organization, mention must also be made of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. Until recently that Committee's function has been predominantly to evaluate the effects of fall-out from nuclear weapons testing. In its latest report [A/8725 and Corr.1], for the first time the Committee has devoted much of its attention to the impact on the environment of the nuclear power industry and to other peaceful uses of nuclear techniques, particularly in medicine. The first matter is, of course, of very direct concern to the IAEA. I am pleased therefore that the IAEA was able to contribute to the Committee's report.

22. I should also like to draw attention to certain projections made in the Committee's report. According to that report, global doses to be received annually by the world population as a result of the continued nuclear electric power production at the 1970 level are estimated to be one hundred-thousandth of the average dose received annually from natural sources. For the year 2000, it is expected that the total exposure from nuclear electric power for the whole year will correspond to two-thousandths of that received from natural background radiation.

23. The Scientific Committee has limited itself so far to the collection of exposure data and to providing estimates of risks. This material has been used, in turn, by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and jointly by WHO and the IAEA in recommending practical safety standards. Through these arrangements duplication of activities is avoided and can continue to be avoided in the future.

24. I turn now to the Agency's safeguarding activities. The past year has been one of intensive negotiations of agreements between the Agency and member States pursuant to article III, paragraph 1, of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [resolution 2373 (XXII), annex]. Ratifications of and accessions to the Treaty have been deposited by 75 States. The Agency has now concluded 37 agreements with States parties to the Treaty. The attention of the remaining States parties to the Treaty that have not yet completed the negotiation of safeguards agreements is drawn to the deadlines set in article III, paragraph 4, of the Treaty. To enable States to complete negotiations as soon as possible, the secretariat of the Agency has made various services available. Delegations which wish to check the status of their countries' negotiations are invited to get in touch with the IAEA Liaison Office at the United Nations, which has full information on this point and will be pleased to offer its help.

25. The successful conclusion of an agreement between the Agency, the European Atomic Energy Community [EURATOM] and the five non-nuclear-weapon States members of EURATOM will, I hope, be a spur to the ratification of the Treaty and the conclusion of safeguards agreements with other key industrialized States, whose adherence to the Treaty régime is essential for its effectiveness. According to the agreement, EURATOM will place its own safeguards system in a co-operative arrangement with the Agency in such a way that the two organizations will work together in ascertaining that there is no diversion from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons. This agreement was approved in September by the Council of Ministers of the European Communities and by the IAEA Board of Governors. It is to be hoped that the procedures for ratifying the Treaty can now be completed as rapidly as possible by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

26. In preparing itself for the full implementation of the Treaty safeguards, the Agency has devoted much effort to systems studies and the development of instruments and techniques to make safeguards as cost-effective as possible. Already we have been able to scale down the original estimates of manpower requirements which alarmed some of our member States at an earlier stage. The Agency is now better prepared to safeguard all types of facilities in the nuclear fuel cycle. This work will continue as the Agency gains practical experience in safeguarding the entire fuel cycle and the system will be modified, as required, by the introduction of new techniques.

27. According to the agreements concluded under the non-proliferation Treaty, each State is required to set up its own national system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. The effectiveness of these national systems can be crucial to the implementation of the agree-

<sup>3</sup> See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.II.A.14, chap. II, recommendation 75.

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Resumed Fifty-third Session, 1840th meeting, paras. 9-22.*

ments. The Agency is prepared to assist in giving advice to States on setting up and operating national safeguards systems.

28. Next year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963. At our General Conference last month in Mexico City, I posed the question whether the time had not come to complete the Moscow Treaty with an agreement on a total test ban. Such a step, containing provisions satisfactory to all parties, would maintain the momentum begun by the successful conclusion of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks [SALT].

29. Some provisions would no doubt be made in a complete test ban for the use of nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes. Observers from the IAEA could be present at such detonations and report to the international community on their findings. The Board of Governors has already drawn up guide-lines for international observation by the Agency of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. These guide-lines have been transmitted to the Assembly,<sup>5</sup> which, as representatives will recall, has recognized the Agency's role in this field and asked it to study ways and means of establishing, within its framework, an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control [resolution 2829 (XXVI)]. In November this year the Agency is convening another panel of experts in a series on peaceful nuclear explosions in an attempt to assess further the possibilities and problems connected with this new technology.

30. I would now say a few words on administrative questions. It will surprise no one that the Agency has been obliged to struggle with budgetary problems. In particular the fluctuations in currency markets has made it difficult to make ends meet. In October the General Conference approved a budget for 1973 which, for the first time in the Agency's history, represents a small, over-all programme decrease. It was a sense of realism, not a lack of needs or ideas for new initiatives, that compelled the Agency to take such a step in circumstances which, I hope, will prove to be exceptional. Nevertheless, the tight financial situation has required us to take a hard look at our programmes, their relative priorities and their usefulness to Member States.

31. In matters relating to the common system, the Agency will, of course, be affected by developments here in the General Assembly. I am thinking in particular of the review of the United Nations salary structure. The regrettable fact that the Special Committee for the Review of the United Nations Salary System was unable to reach unanimous agreement attests to the complexity of the problem.

32. On 9 December 1971 the Board adopted a resolution with regard to the representation of China in the Agency, similar to that adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 October 1971 [resolution 2758 (XXVI)]. All technical co-operation and research-report activities in Taiwan have been discontinued or are

being wound up during the course of 1972. The entries made with respect to China in some of the tables in the annual report refer to actions taken prior to 9 December by the authorities representing China in the Agency at the time of those actions.

33. The Agency's membership reached a total of 103 States following the approval by the General Conference of Bangladesh's application for membership. The amendment to the statute which would enlarge the membership of the Board of Governors has now been ratified by 53 Member States. Sixteen more ratifications are needed to bring it into force.

34. In conclusion, I should like to report that all the proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy have now been published.<sup>6</sup> The set includes 15 volumes of scientific papers and the records of the discussions. Thus the wealth of information brought to Geneva a year ago is now available to the international scientific community. The use the scientific community will make of that information will be the real achievement of that Conference, which, if I may recall, was a joint undertaking by the United Nations and the IAEA, at a cost much lower than the previous ones.

35. Although it goes without saying, I feel it necessary to underline most emphatically our need for abundant and cheap energy now that industrialization is spreading to developing countries and now that in developed countries it is entering the new phase of mass production methods. The alarming statements made about the destruction of our environment make it imperative to recall that the availability of clean energy is a condition for decreasing or eliminating the adverse impact upon our environment of modern civilization. It follows from what I have said that I do not subscribe to the idea that the environment will be irrevocably contaminated. Nor do I share the views of those who hold that, because present working methods are too costly, low-grade natural resources cannot be developed, and consequently there will be a scarcity of certain materials. I am confident that science and technology will find appropriate solutions—solutions which will, however, inevitably require cheap energy. Among available energy sources nuclear energy is going to play an increasing role in the next few decades and it represents, in many cases, the only alternative available to solve acute energy problems. The impact of nuclear energy on the environment is less than that of many other sources. As I have said, a safeguards system has also been worked out and has been applied practically, demonstrating that the wide-spread use of nuclear power will not necessarily lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

36. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the General Assembly, I should like to thank Mr. Eklund for the statement he has just made in connexion with the report of the IAEA.

37. I call on the representative of Canada, who wishes to introduce the draft resolution appearing in document A/L.681.

<sup>5</sup> See documents A/7678 and Add.1-4 (mimeographed).

<sup>6</sup> See United Nations publication, Sales No. E.72.IX.1-15.

38. Mr. RAE (Canada): The report of the IAEA for the year 1971/1972 which is now before us will doubtless have been reviewed in the capitals of its member countries, and most members will also have had an opportunity to discuss the report only a few weeks ago at the sixteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency held in Mexico. In addition, we have had the benefit of the statement by the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, who in his discussion of the work of IAEA in the period under review has also referred to those aspects concerning which there have been significant developments since the report was published.

39. Accordingly the General Assembly will not need from the Canadian delegation a lengthy statement of the value of the contribution which the IAEA is making, within the framework of its comparatively modest resources, to international co-operation in a field of ever-increasing significance. I shall simply recall very summarily and without any attempt to suggest priorities some of the major aspects of the Agency's activities as reflected in the annual report which has been submitted to this session of the General Assembly.

40. The period 1971/1972 in the life of the Agency has been characterized by successful progress towards full implementation of the obligations which rest with the Agency as a consequence of the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty. Last year, following completion of the negotiation by the Safeguards Committee of a model for safeguards agreements with the Agency in connexion with the non-proliferation Treaty, some 30 non-nuclear-weapon States concluded their agreements. Of major historic importance was the Treaty safeguards agreement involving IAEA, EURATOM and five non-nuclear-weapon States members of the European Community; this agreement has recently been approved both by the Board of Governors of the Agency and by the Council of Ministers of the European Communities. This agreement reflects great credit on all concerned. It is to be hoped that the safeguards agreement and the non-proliferation Treaty will soon be ratified by the five nations concerned.

41. Although the international community can derive satisfaction from the steady increase in the amounts of nuclear material subject to safeguards in accordance with the non-proliferation Treaty, we should not be realistic if we failed to note that there yet remain very considerable gaps to be filled in the edifice of a comprehensive non-proliferation system. We look to those non-nuclear-weapon States which have not yet ratified the non-proliferation Treaty to do so and to implement international safeguards.

42. Of course international safeguards are only one very important facet of the Agency's role. We strongly believe that the Agency's on-going work in health, safety, radioactive waste management and environmental protection also deserves great praise and will indeed warrant even greater emphasis in coming years.

43. Side by side with these vital activities, the Agency has striven to maintain a balanced programme of technical assistance in order to facilitate the efforts of developing countries to make greater use of the potential of nuclear

energy for contributing to their industrial development and economic growth. In addition to bilateral channels for international co-operation, the Agency's own programme has included assistance related not only to the timely introduction of nuclear power but also to the application of nuclear methods in food production, agricultural and life sciences. It is particularly significant that the number of large-scale projects which the Agency is executing for the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] has tripled in the year under review.

44. Clearly the technical co-operation and promotional activities of the Agency are of direct importance to an overwhelming majority of Member States, and the Agency will need to maintain active and well-balanced programmes in this field.

45. Finally, I should like to take note of the valuable work of co-operation pursued by the Agency in the field of nuclear science and technology and, in particular, the decision reached this year that an International Nuclear Information System should be expanded to cover the full range of nuclear information.

46. The Agency faces tasks of growing importance and complexity. It was therefore fitting that some time ago an amendment was approved by the General Conference of the agency to article VI of its statute, which prescribes the composition of the Board of Governors. That amendment provides for expansion of the representation of many areas of the world on the Agency's executive body. What remains is for this amendment to be ratified by fully two-thirds of the members of the Agency. Two-thirds of the required number of ratifications have now been deposited. The Canadian delegation seizes this opportunity to urge those members of the Agency that have not yet done so to ratify the amendment to article VI of the IAEA statute so that the Board of Governors may be strengthened and updated without further delay.

47. With these thoughts in mind my delegation wishes to commend the Director-General on this report and on the solid achievements it records under his highly competent administration. We believe that the report reflects what has been on the whole a very successful year in the work of the Agency as it continues to seek, in the words of article II of its statute, "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

48. Accordingly the Canadian delegation, together with the delegations of Japan and Romania, has the honour to introduce draft resolution A/L.681, which we believe will command the general support of Member States.

49. Mr. OGISO (Japan): First of all, I wish to express on behalf of my delegation, words of thanks to Mr. Eklund, Director-General of the IAEA, and his dedicated staff who have so successfully discharged their complex and important tasks. My delegation has examined with great interest the annual report of the Agency, which is a comprehensive and thorough assessment of the general activities of the Agency over the past year. We note with satisfaction that the work being done by the Agency is encouraging and stimulating.



50. I should like now to make a few brief comments on certain questions relating to the activities of the Agency.

51. First, despite the present slack market, it has been generally recognized that there will be a shortage of uranium resources in the near future because of increasing demand resulting from rapid progress in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We need to discover another million tons of uranium before 1980 to assure capacity to meet all the world's energy requirements in the 1980s. Specifically, in Japan, it is estimated that our  $U_3O_8$  requirements will amount to 8,000 short tons in 1980 and 15,000 short tons in 1990. With a view to coping with this problem, Japan has made special efforts to prospect for and develop uranium resources abroad in close co-operation with the supplying countries concerned. In this connexion we welcome the encouragement by the Agency of the prospection and development of new uranium resources, particularly in the developing countries, since it will enable those countries to benefit from the growth of nuclear power.

52. Regarding technical co-operation, the IAEA has advanced various kinds of technical assistance to the developing countries including the promotion of prospection. My delegation appreciates the fact that there have been increased voluntary contributions to the general fund, the 1973 target of which amounts to \$3 million. Japan will make an increased voluntary contribution in 1973 in the amount of its share of assessment, which has ranked fifth in size since 1969. Japan is also prepared to increase its technical assistance through the Agency's technical co-operation programme for the developing countries.

53. With reference to atomic energy and the environment, my delegation considers that the Agency is the appropriate organization within the United Nations family for dealing with all problems relating to the impact of nuclear energy on the environment. Therefore, it is our hope that there will be close co-operation between the Agency and the new organizational arrangements proposed by the Stockholm Conference. In particular, the new organization could provide valuable additional resources to the research and development programmes of the Agency to the extent that they conform to the priorities of the new organization. We will give ever-increasing support to the Agency's activities in this field and at the same time to effective coordination between the IAEA and the new United Nations human environmental organization.

54. Keeping pace with rapid progress in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the role of the IAEA has become more responsible and important and its activities more diversified. In order to meet such requirements, there must be necessary structural changes in the Agency, especially the expansion and strengthening of the Board of Governors, which has primary responsibility for the promotion of the Agency's general work. In line with these objectives, the fourteenth session of the General Conference of the Agency adopted a resolution for the amendment of article VI of the statute in order to increase the size of the Board by about a third and to provide for more ample representation of the developing countries. My delegation is glad to note that this amendment is expected to come into effect very soon since an increasing number of States are ratifying it.

55. Finally, my delegation, as one of the sponsors, would like to commend the draft resolution just introduced by the representative of Canada for unanimous adoption by the General Assembly.

56. Mr. CONSTANTINESCU (Romania): It is with particular pleasure that the Romanian delegation welcomes the Director-General of the IAEA, Mr. Sigvard Eklund, who is participating in our deliberations on the annual report of the Agency. With his accustomed eloquence and brilliance, the Director-General has presented to us the main lines of the Agency's activities, thus making a very valuable and constructive contribution to our debates. May I seize this opportunity to express again to Mr. Eklund our highest regard for his untiring activities at the helm of the IAEA and to wish him, and through him the Agency as a whole, further accomplishments in extending international co-operation in that vital field for the future of mankind: the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

57. The primary task which member States have entrusted to the Agency is precisely to encourage and facilitate the utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes by all States and for the benefit of every nation. If we are to judge the Agency's activities in that respect, as reflected in its annual report, it appears to us that its performance has been positive.

58. Among the numerous actions taken in the past year, my delegation would like to mention in particular the growing attention being paid to technical co-operation activities, which have grown from \$3.9 million in 1970 to an estimated \$6.7 million in 1972, while the number of large-scale projects that the Agency is executing for UNDP has increased from three in 1971 to nine in 1972. As a result of the remarkable contribution which UNDP is making to those projects, we believe that there are good grounds to hope that the Agency can devote more of its skills and resources to this area of general concern to all developing nations.

59. We have also taken note of the increased activities of the Agency in the fields of power production and the application of isotopes and radiation to peaceful uses in industry, agriculture, medicine and other areas, as well as the training of national personnel for peaceful nuclear technology.

60. While commending the Agency for what it has accomplished so far, we believe at the same time that a profound examination of its future plans might prove to be highly beneficial. In approaching this discussion, we proceed from the assumption that science and technology are increasingly becoming one of the main tools of economic development, and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should become the property of all States struggling to eradicate under-development, to achieve progress and well-being for their peoples.

61. The IAEA is able to, and should, contribute in a more energetic manner to the achievement of that goal. Through its activities, it is called upon to make a substantial contribution in setting up a favourable framework to ensure that the tremendous benefits resulting from the peaceful uses of the atom become an integral part of the world

circuit of values, help overcome under-development and raise the standard of living of all peoples.

62. I should like to mention here also that my country has consistently advocated the universality of the Agency and we want to reiterate now that measures should be taken with a view to ensuring proper conditions for the participation of all States in the activities of the Agency. Securing the wide and unrestricted access of all countries to the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology and increasing the atom's share in accelerating economic progress, while paying particular attention to the specific needs of the developing countries—that, in our conviction is the best way for the Agency effectively to contribute to better understanding among peoples, to peace, security and prosperity for all nations.

63. It is with that aim in mind that my delegation would like to suggest that the Agency should study the possibility of working out an appropriate instrument concerning co-operation among States in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We believe that such an instrument should specify the main rights and obligations of States in this sphere, and first of all their right to benefit, without any discrimination and on an equal basis, from all the achievements of peaceful nuclear technology.

64. In the opinion of my delegation, the programme of the IAEA for the years 1973-1978 mirrors the main preoccupations of this body, and its implementation will allow for a substantial increase in the Agency's role in the years to come. We are particularly gratified that priority will be attached to nuclear power plants, and also to the use of isotopes and radiation in various industrial, agricultural and scientific fields.

65. The very important question of training national personnel requires, in our opinion, that increased attention should be devoted to both the allocation of funds and the establishment of specific targets for such training.

66. We should also like the Agency to increase its preoccupations in the field of peaceful nuclear explosions.

67. The Romanian delegation believes that the secretariat of the Agency, with its outstanding scientific resources and extremely valuable experience, should carefully examine all aspects of international scientific co-operation in the peaceful application of atomic energy and suggest adequate new forms for such co-operation which would tend to make room for the active participation of the developing countries.

68. We deem it necessary that a fresh impetus should be given to the co-operation of States in the peaceful uses of the atom so as to transform the present conception of assistance for development into a broader and more meaningful system of co-operation for development. It is therefore necessary that such co-operation should rely on the active participation of all States, and not be limited to the granting of technical assistance by several countries to other countries.

69. Of special significance is the extension of those forms of co-operation that have already proved themselves very

profitable indeed, such as research contracts, study visits and regional courses using the national currencies of member States.

70. The Romanian delegation considers it necessary to establish a reasonable balance within the framework of the Agency between the performance of its principal task as an instrument for international co-operation in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and its increasing functions in the matter of safeguards. This reasonable relationship should be reflected on the financial level as well, with regard to the funds allocated "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity" [*resolution 2457 (XXIII)*].

71. An essential condition for all peoples to benefit fully from the peaceful uses of the atom is that its power should no longer be used for the production and improvement of means of mass destruction.

72. It is our strong conviction that the Agency should act vigorously to bring about the cessation of the production of nuclear weapons and their total destruction, a cut-off in the production of fissionable materials for military purposes, and the transfer of existing materials to peaceful uses. We believe that a solemn undertaking by all nuclear Powers not to resort to the threat or to the use of nuclear weapons for any reason or in any circumstances against any State, whether it possesses such weapons or not, would be a major step forward towards a total prohibition and the destruction of these weapons and the use of the atom exclusively for peaceful purposes.

73. Romania has consistently advocated such measures, and it is convinced that, now as ever, they deserve the most serious consideration and prompt action.

74. Aware of the capital importance which nuclear energy bears for the life of contemporary society, my country is deploying considerable efforts with a view to developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses.

75. Let me mention in this respect that preparations are under way to start in the not-too-distant future the construction of nuclear power stations. The Romanian Government has decided to seek the assistance of the Agency and the UNDP in order to open a national nuclear technology institute.

76. Please allow me to express from this high rostrum our deep gratitude to the IAEA and to UNDP for their spirit of understanding and co-operation and their prompt action which will make it possible for this project to start very shortly.

77. Special attention is also given in Romania to directing research in the nuclear field in such a way as to answer the specific practical needs of various branches of our national economy and in particular to foster the introduction of nuclear technology in industry, agriculture, medicine and other fields. The results achieved so far are noteworthy.

78. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to emphasize that Romania is profoundly interested in developing its co-op-

eration in the field of nuclear energy with all States, and in increasing its participation in the activities of the Agency.

77. My country supports the efforts which the Agency is making with a view to becoming a useful instrument for the co-operation of all States in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy. We have done so in the past, and we shall certainly continue to do so in the future.

80. Mr. GARCIA ROBLES (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): For the first time, in what we might describe as a symbolic act of growing co-operation in the interests of accelerating the development of the under-developed countries through the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the IAEA decided to convene a meeting of its most representative body, the General Conference, in a developing country. The agency accepted the invitation extended to it by my country's Government, and Mexico had the honour to serve as the host for the twenty-sixth session, which was held from 26 September through 4 October of this year.

81. In the period from July 1971 to June 1972, which is the period covered by the report which was so clearly introduced to us a few minutes ago by Mr. Sigvard Eklund, who so wisely and effectively has been filling the post of Director-General of the Agency, we note with satisfaction the increase in the activities in technical co-operation of the IAEA in working with development programmes for various countries, and we note the collaboration with other bodies of the United Nations, in particular UNDP.

82. We could perhaps say without fear of exaggeration that the IAEA is one of the primary instruments available to the United Nations for weakening and eventually eliminating what President Luis Echevarría of Mexico described, when he opened the recent General Conference, as "the new trend towards hegemony in our time: technological colonization". It is for that reason that Mexico fully appreciates the beneficial assistance which it receives from the IAEA, *inter alia*, in research on the use of nuclear energy for the fertilization of wheat and the control of diseases, and the application of atomic energy in medicine.

83. It is also a source of satisfaction for my delegation to observe the significant progress achieved by the IAEA in negotiating the safeguards agreements provided for in the non-proliferation Treaty. These are agreements which, to cite the report of the Agency itself, "cover nearly all the non-nuclear-weapon States that at present have significant nuclear activities or quantities of nuclear material."<sup>7</sup> We trust that these agreements will eventually extend to all States.

84. Mexico, as a party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,<sup>8</sup> whose safeguards agreement it was the first to sign in 1968, and as a party to the non-proliferation Treaty, signed on 27 September this year a new safeguards agreement which satisfies the requirements of both international instruments.

85. Draft resolution A/L.681, which has been submitted to us by the delegations of Canada, Japan and Romania, offers well-deserved recognition of the work done by the IAEA and its Director-General during the period under review. We are sure that, as in previous years, this draft resolution will receive the unanimous support of the General Assembly.

86. Mr. JAROSZEK (Poland): The Polish delegation wishes to express its appreciation of the annual report on the activities of the IAEA, which has been brought up to date in the interesting and valuable statement made earlier this morning by the Director-General, Mr. Sigvard Eklund. This comprehensive yet concise report shows the progress made by the IAEA in such important fields of its activity as the question of safeguards in connexion with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the promotion of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, including technical co-operation, and the environmental operations. Without overlooking other aspects of the Agency's activities I should like to concentrate in my brief statement on those three particularly important fields of the work of the IAEA on which the Director-General also focussed attention in his statement.

87. The Polish delegation notes with satisfaction that in the period under review the role of the Agency in discharging its responsibilities under article III of the non-proliferation Treaty has been further strengthened, and further progress has been made in negotiating and concluding safeguards agreements. We hope that this process will gain momentum and that all States which have not already done so, particularly those with advanced nuclear capabilities, will accede to or ratify the non-proliferation Treaty and conclude the safeguards agreements with the Agency without further delay. May I be permitted to recall here that Poland was one of the first countries to sign and to ratify the non-proliferation Treaty and was also among the first to start negotiations and to sign the safeguards agreement with the Agency.

88. The non-proliferation Treaty has been generally recognized as one of the main international instruments in the field of arms limitation aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. We consider that this international Treaty, when adhered to and strictly observed by all States, particularly those with advanced nuclear technology, would play an even greater role in strengthening mutual confidence and would be even more conducive to further progress in nuclear disarmament measures.

89. In this context we have welcomed the Soviet-United States SALT agreements, which are in line with the obligations deriving from article VI of the non-proliferation Treaty. We are convinced that universal adherence to the Treaty would be highly beneficial to the enhancement of the security of all nations. We hope that with the active co-operation of all States concerned, the valuable activities of the IAEA in implementing article III of the non-proliferation Treaty will be even more fruitful in the future.

90. In view of the universal character of the activities of the IAEA, the Polish delegation wishes to emphasize again that the German Democratic Republic—which has constantly supported all disarmament measures, which was one

<sup>7</sup> See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Annual Report, 1 July 1971-30 June 1972* (Vienna, July 1972), para. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, signed at Mexico City on 14 February 1967.



of the first States to sign and ratify the non-proliferation Treaty, which has already concluded a safeguards agreement with the Agency, and which is highly advanced in the peaceful uses of atomic energy—should without further delay be given the right to full participation, on a basis of equality, in all the activities of the IAEA.

91. The Polish Government highly appreciates the activities of the Agency in the promotion of international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including technical assistance to developing countries. The need for and the scope of international co-operation in this field will grow continuously. It is therefore gratifying that this question finds its due reflection in the Agency's report. According to this report the total resources of the Agency for technical co-operation activities have nearly doubled in the period between 1970 and 1972. We share the hope expressed by the Board of Governors of the Agency that the over-all expansion in resources available to the Agency for technical co-operation will continue.

92. Poland is very much interested in a further expansion of the Agency's activities in the promotion of co-operation in the practical application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and in the exchange of scientific and technical information. My country contributes actively to different programmes and activities of the Agency. In fact, the Polish Government has decided to increase substantially its voluntary contribution to the Agency's fund for technical assistance for the year 1973. At the same time, Poland also benefits from the Agency's assistance and experience in some fields.

93. Passing now to the question of environmental operations, I should like to stress that the IAEA has contributed a great deal to the development of international co-operation in projects relating to the protection of the human environment from the harmful effects of nuclear radiation and radio-active and non-radio-active releases from nuclear facilities. In view of the rapid development of peaceful applications of nuclear energy and, subsequently, the growing importance of problems concerning protection from radiological hazards, the Polish delegation is of the opinion that the IAEA is the competent body to harmonize on a world-wide scale the activities in this particular field of the protection of the environment.

94. In conclusion, the Polish delegation wishes to express its opinion that the period covered by the Agency's annual report was a fruitful one. The results obtained required much creative effort from the staff of the Agency, under the able guidance of its Director-General, Mr. Sigvar Eklund.

95. I should like to express the hope that the co-operation between the IAEA and the United Nations will continue to develop to the benefit of all nations.

96. Sir Laurence McINTYRE (Australia): My delegation is pleased to take part once more in the consideration of the report of the IAEA. We shall be happy to support draft resolution A/L.681, submitted by the delegations of Canada, Japan and Romania, which we hope will be approved unanimously.

97. As in past years, we are glad to join earlier speakers in welcoming the Director-General of the Agency to United Nations Headquarters for the discussion of this item.

98. As the representative of Mexico has just reminded us, the General Conference of the IAEA was held this year in Mexico City. My delegation would like to record Australia's appreciation to the Government of Mexico for extending the invitation that made this possible, as well as for the considerable feats of organization and administration which were required to make the conference the success that it undoubtedly was.

99. The past year has seen many developments in the nuclear energy field. These are recorded in the Agency's report, which Mr. Eklund has presented so capably and comprehensively to us. The report provides, in easily digestible form, a clear statement of what the Agency has done in the year 1971/1972 under several important subject headings. My delegation would like particularly to commend the Agency for its work on safeguards and environmental operations, in regard to both of which the past year has seen valuable progress.

100. Australia commends the decision to broaden representation on the Board of Governors. The necessary amendment to article VI of the statute increasing the size of the Board has been ratified by a number of members, including Australia. We hope that other States also will take this step so that the amendment can be put into effect.

101. Nuclear power is now becoming so well established as an industrial activity that it would be easy, in these circumstances, to allow financial pressures to limit the Agency's role to its safeguards and technical assistance functions. As the Australian representative said at the General Conference, however, we are in full agreement with the view of the Director General that if we allow this to happen we will be ignoring the ways in which the organization can accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. In particular, we see the Agency as having a major contribution to make in ensuring that atomic energy not only does not degrade our environment, but improves it by displacing less acceptable forms of power production.

102. The Agency is well qualified to look at those environmental problems and risks that come within its field of knowledge and activity and, because of its preoccupation with safety, it has a sound technological base to work from. We can all recognize that the dangers to our environment from inadequately controlled industrial uses of atomic energy would transcend national boundaries and that co-operative international effort will be required to ensure that full attention is given to environmental protection, and in particular to the safety of nuclear reactors and to the disposal of radio-active wastes in ways that protect the interests of all. By concentrating its efforts on these and allied problems, the Agency can maintain its reputation for making practical and constructive contributions to the development of a responsible atomic energy industry.

103. We believe that there may now be more scope for the more efficient use of technical assistance funds by making

available to developing countries the experience of others which have already embarked on nuclear power programmes. We know from our experience, for example, how valuable a report could be which examined the various types of contractual arrangements one could enter into for a nuclear power station and the ways in which one could go about inviting tenders and assessing reactor bids. We think that there are a number of other ways in which it may be possible to direct technical assistance resources towards activities that will benefit simultaneously a number of developing countries.

104. At the General Conference in 1971, the Australian delegation recorded its view that action should be taken to ensure the availability of proven reactors in the medium and low power range. There seems to be a noticeable current trend for the major reactor manufacturers to concentrate their efforts on the development of very large units suitable for installation in the more technologically advanced countries of the world. This is perhaps to be expected; but there is a need to be reminded that for a long time to come many countries will have grid systems that will be able to accommodate reactor units of only, from 100 to 500 megawatts, and it seems to us important that reactors within these sizes should be readily available. In this context my delegation commends the action taken by the Director General, in association with the World Bank and other financial institutions and member States of the Agency, to produce an authoritative market survey of the likely demand for reactors of this type and size throughout the world.

105. I should like to record that the search for uranium in Australia has continued with success. We now estimate that our resources of uranium—recoverable at less than \$US 10 per pound of uranium oxide—are approximately 92,000 tons. The resources already discovered and proved, together with the other fields discovered but not yet fully investigated, indicate that Australia might expect to become one of the major uranium producers in the world.

106. During the year the Australian Government decided to defer again a decision on the nuclear power project proposed for Jervis Bay in the state of New South Wales. We in Australia are, I think, not unique in deferring or delaying plans to introduce nuclear power. We are able to do so because we are fortunate in possessing large reserves of relatively cheap high-grade coal. We have also recently discovered substantial resources of natural gas. Notwithstanding this postponement, our electricity authorities believe that nuclear power will find its place in Australia within the next 10 or 15 years.

107. As a producer of both low cost energy and uranium, Australia has taken a keen interest in moves directed to meeting the projected world demand for enrichment services. In this connexion we have noted that several large enrichment plants are likely to be constructed outside the United States for operation in the 1980s. We have accordingly welcomed the opportunity for discussing with the United States and French authorities the technical and economic problems associated with the establishment of an enrichment plant in Australia.

108. In conclusion, I should mention that the past year has seen a further important development for us in Australia in the signing with Japan, now our major trading partner, of an agreement for co-operation in nuclear energy. This agreement opens the way for closer co-operation between Australia and Japan at the governmental and at the commercial level in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and it provides a formal basis to facilitate future negotiations for collaboration in specific areas of research and commercial ventures.

109. Let me conclude by again commending the report of the IAEA and expressing my delegation's full support for draft resolution A/L.681.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*