



STATEMENT OF THE THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 13 - 18 SEPTEMBER 2004, DELIVERED BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR TAOUS FEROUKHI, PR OF ALGERIA

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China wishes to express its thanks to the Director General, Dr. ElBaradei for his comprehensive introductory statement highlighting the main topics of the agenda. The Group also commends the Secretariat for preparing all the relevant documents for the Board meeting. The Group welcomes and supports the application of the Togolese Republic for Agency's membership and is looking forward to work with it in the future. The Group would also be pleased to extend its full cooperation to you Mr. Chairman, for making the Board meeting a complete success. On behalf of the Group, I intend to make statements on a few agenda items on which the Group's views and comments need to be taken into consideration by the Board.

Mr. Chairman my first statement would be on agenda item 3(a), namely Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of radioactive sources: Guidance on the import and export of radioactive sources.

Item 3(a) The Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the report about the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, contained in document GOV/2004/62. The Group thanks Mr. Tomihiro Taniguchi, Deputy Director General for Nuclear Safety and Security, for the presentation of this agenda item.
2. The G-77 and China attaches great importance to the issue of the import and export of radioactive sources and recognizes, in general terms, the need to have guidance on this matter. Having said this, the Group would like to make a few comments about the document we have before us.
3. Although the the G-77 and China supports the text contained in Resolution GC(47)RES/7 (part B, paragraph 4), which "urges each State to write to the Director General that it fully supports and endorses the IAEA's efforts to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources," and "is working toward following the guidance contained in the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources", the Group is of the opinion that this commitment is voluntary in nature. Similarly, the G-77 and China underlines the fact that the Self Assessment Questionnaire mentioned in paragraph 18 of document GOV/2004/62 is also voluntary in nature and for information purposes only. In this context, the Group is of the view that neither the communication to the DG nor the questionnaire, which are mentioned in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the document before us, should impede international cooperation or commerce.
4. The Group of 77 and China believes that it is necessary to have additional consultations on the eventual application of part "c" of paragraphs 8 and 11, which mentions elements that the exporting State should consider, based upon available information, in deciding whether to authorize an export of category 1 and 2 sources.
5. The G-77 and China is of the view that the comments made by the Group will serve the general objective

of guiding the import and export of category 1 and 2 radioactive sources. In this connection, the Group recalls that States should consider this Guidance in a manner consistent with their national legislation and relevant international commitments.

6. With these comments, the G-77 and China supports the recommended action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Item 3(b) Promoting Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation sources

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the report about Promoting Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation sources, contained in document GOV/2004/52. The Group thanks the Director of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, Mr. Tomihiro Taniguchi, for the presentation of this agenda item.

2. In spite of the Group's support to the actions described in the document and to the issue of the control of radioactive sources, the G-77 and China wishes to underline that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive materials rests entirely with the State. In this context, the role of the IAEA in assisting Member States in enhancing their National Regulatory Infrastructures for the control of radioactive sources should be primarily based on requests from and on the needs identified in Member States.

3. The G-77 and China notes with appreciation that in past years the IAEA has started, with the support of Member states, several initiatives aimed at helping them to strengthen regulatory infrastructures where they already exist and to establish them where there are no such infrastructures in place. The Group recognizes that, as result of the activities developed by the Agency and Member States, regional expertise, networking and postgraduate educational and training courses in radiation safety have been developed and that radiation protection infrastructures in developing Member States have improved. We trust that adequate funding for activities in this area will continue to be available.

4. The Group of 77 and China supports the actions contained in items B.2 - Networking - and B.3 - Education and Training of the document. In regard to item 4 in Action 1 of part B.1, the Group wishes to reiterate that the "strengthened control over the import and export of radioactive sources" that the Agency proposes be included in the additional requirements and guidance, should not be detrimental to international cooperation or commerce when these do not contribute to the use of radioactive sources for purposes that threaten safety and security.

5. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China supports the recommended action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Item 3(b): Promoting Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation sources

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5. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China supports the recommended action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Item 3(c): Radiological Criteria for Radionuclides in Commodities (GOV/2004/54)

Mr. Chairman,

The G-77 and China acknowledge the progress achieved by the Secretariat and experts from various Member States who participate in the committees that keep the IAEA's safety standards under review as well as to the specialized agencies for their efforts to comply with resolution GC(44)/RES/15 concerning the preparation of radiological criteria for long-lived radionuclides in commodities, particularly foodstuffs and wood.

The Group notes that the criteria proposed to the Board in the Annex to document GOV/2004/54 applies to all significant natural and artificial radionuclides present in commodities and not only to long-lived ones and highlights the importance of the complementary "Safety Guide on the Application of the Concepts of Exclusion, Exemption and Clearance", which created a basis for the derivation of values of activity of radionuclides and values of activity concentration in bulk amounts of materials and provided for the application of the values to trade, proposing a graded approach in such application and for verification.

The Group also looks forward to the approval and publication of the guideline levels for radionuclides in foods and potable water for use in international trade, which were prepared in the context of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the World Health Organization with participation of the IAEA.

The G-77 and China highlights that the harmonized criteria submitted to the Board should be used to the exclusive end of facilitating the uniform application of the Basic Safety Standards on Protection against Ionizing Radiation (BSS) by national regulatory authorities. In this context, the Group calls for the incorporation of the criteria into the next BSS revised edition and recommends the coordinated circulation of the IAEA, FAO and WHO documents on this matters to the competent authorities as well as their integration into training courses on radiological protection, possibly through the respective Model Project.

With this comments the Group approves the measures suggested to the Board in document GOV/2004/54.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Item 5: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

Mr. Chairman the Group of 77 and China would like to express its deep appreciation to the DDG Nuclear Energy, Mr. Sokolov, for his excellent introduction of this agenda item. The Director General's report on two important aspects of nuclear science, technology and applications, namely nuclear knowledge and innovative technologies gives a comprehensive progress which has been made during the last year. As these two sub items of the agenda are interrelated I would like to make a single statement in order to save time.

Mr. Chairman, the G-77 and China has always given importance to the development of nuclear energy for its peaceful applications in the socio-economic uplift of the developing countries. The G77 and China and other regional groups have remained closely attached to this notion through various Board Statements and GC resolutions. The DG's reports on nuclear knowledge and innovative nuclear technologies as contained in Agency documents GOV/2004/56 and GOV/2004/57 respectively present encouraging outcomes of the Secretariat efforts in these two important areas.

Mr. Chairman, the appropriate management of nuclear knowledge needs rapid remedial measures. The Group would urge the Agency to redouble its efforts to implement the programmes and strategies through the collaboration of the World Nuclear University, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics and the various designated centres of excellence of the Member States. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its desire for the effective implementation of educational and training programmes in nuclear science and technology through various well considered and workable mechanisms to achieve the objectives of sustainable preservation of nuclear knowledge. The Group urges the Agency to strengthen the networking of nuclear education among the Member States belonging to this group and promote CRP channels to enhance R&D which could lead to post graduate degrees in various disciplines of nuclear science and technology. The nuclear knowledge management has cross cutting applications in almost every major regular programme of the Agency. In this context, the Group is pleased to note that the Secretariat has constituted a Knowledge Management Liaison Group. It would, therefore, be useful if this aspect is amply reflected in the future programme designs, strategies and plannings on regular basis.

Mr. Chairman, the Group of 77 and China also attaches high importance to innovation in the nuclear applications particularly dealing with generation of energy for the economic needs of the interested developing countries. There is no doubt that new nuclear power reactor and fuel cycle designs involving enhanced safety, cost effectiveness and proliferation resistance will play significant role in the energy mix scenarios of many countries. The Agency has already embarked upon the relevant studies under the programme of INPRO which is gaining increased importance among the interested countries of the Group. We are thankful to the Director General for the progress report of the last year which reveals encouraging prospects for the future. The Group of 77 and China would urge the Agency to draw maximum benefits from the experience of Generation-IV International Forum (GIF), disseminate more effectively the knowledge gained from various meetings, conferences workshops and technical studies among the Member States so that more developing countries could gain awareness on the potential benefits of INPRO project. The R&D studies being undertaken under the INPRO and future programmes in this regard can be of particular benefits to many Member States in enhancing the knowledge and capacities for their future decisions. The Group recognizes the importance of long term benefits of such related projects as the evolution of small and medium sized nuclear power reactors of capacities less than 700 MW, co functioning of desalination plants and the R&D on future hydrogen economies. The Group feels that INPRO programme be further strengthened in a cost effective manner and further resources be identified for its success.

With these remarks, Mr. Chairman, the Group of 77 and China expresses its full support to the Agency's

programme on strengthening the nuclear knowledge management and recommend that the Board authorize the Director General to submit the report on the development of innovative nuclear technology to the General Conference at its forty eighth regular session.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Item 6(a): Technical Cooperation Fund Targets, Initial Planning Figures and Rate of Attainment

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China would like to submit its views on the recently concluded work of the Working Group which you tasked with making recommendations for the setting of Technical Cooperation Fund Targets for 2005-2006, the Initial Planning Figures for 2007 and 2008 and the Rate of Attainment. In this regard, the Group wishes to express its appreciation and recognition of the work of the two Co-Chairpersons, Ambassador Victor Garcia III of the Philippines and Ambassador Patricia Cantellano of Mexico for the successful outcome of the negotiations.

While the figure of US\$ 77.5 million dollars falls way below the Group's expectations of an appropriate level for the TCF targets, the Group is of the view that it is important for all of us to achieve consensus on the principle that the TCF should be strengthened, and that there is no substitute for political and financial support for the Technical Cooperation work of the Agency. While political considerations were the main factors in coming up with this figure, it is the Group's understanding that Member States are to be faithful to the letter, spirit and intent of the Package which the Board adopted on July 2003 (GOV/2003/48), particularly paragraph 8.

It is hoped that future negotiations will be able to reflect an appropriate balance in the way all the statutory activities of the Agency are to be regarded. With these comments the Group endorses the recommendation of the Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.