



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TAOUS FEROUKHI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
ALGERIA, 7-11 JUNE 2009

## **Agenda Item 2: The Annual Report for 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like at the outset to thank the Director General for his comprehensive introductory statement.

The Group would like to thank the Director General and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2009 as contained in document GOV/2010/24, which provides very useful information on the activities of the Agency and their results throughout the past year.

### **Nuclear Power, Fuel cycle and Nuclear Science**

The Group notes that a large number of developing member states remained seriously interested in launching nuclear power programmes and notes that this interest is further consolidated in a threefold increase in the related technical cooperation projects in the 2009-2011 TC Cycle. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide necessary support to the requesting MS interested in launching and expanding nuclear power programmes. The Group also notes that in 2009, the Agency launched a new integrated nuclear infrastructure review (INIR) service to assess national infrastructure needs based on Agency's guidance document 'Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power'. In this context, the Group would like to reiterate that while welcoming the Agency's activities for providing assistance to the requesting Member States, the Group would like to remind that such publications are only guidance documents and should not in any way be made mandatory prerequisites for receiving technical cooperation.

The Group notes that out of a total of 437 nuclear power reactors in operation at the end of 2009, 339 had been in operation for more than 20 years. The Group underscores that the renaissance of nuclear power is closely linked to efficient and safe operation of the existing fleet of nuclear reactors. In this context, the Group notes with appreciation the work of the Agency in rendering engineering support for operation, maintenance and plant life management by compiling and disseminating information on technological advances, best practices and lessons learned from past experience. The Group further notes the successful Conference convened by the Agency on 'Opportunities and Challenges for water cooled reactors in the 21st Century' which provided an opportunity for participants to share lessons learned from operation and regulatory experience. The group also welcomes the publication of various documents in 2009 in the areas of operation, maintenance and plant life management.

The Group notes with appreciation the timely establishment of a new review mission under the aegis of the Agency, Independent Engineering Review of Instrumentation & Control Systems (IERICS).

The Group continues to believe that the success of the nuclear renaissance would largely depend on the availability of sufficient skilled workforce in all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide support to Member States in human resource development. The Group also welcomes the publication of new guide, 'Managing Human Resources in the field of Nuclear Energy'.

The Group appreciates the work of the Agency in the area of Nuclear Reactor Technology Development

through the Technical Working Groups in different reactor technologies, small and medium sized reactors and non electric applications, such as hydrogen generation and desalination using nuclear power. The Group notes with satisfaction various activities accomplished in this area through coordinated research projects, technical meetings, workshops, training and publication of documents.

The Group notes with satisfaction that the Agency's INPRO project continues to grow since its establishment in 2001 and that in 2009, its activities were consolidated in five new substantive areas: nuclear energy system assessments (NESA) using the INPRO methodology; global vision, scenarios and pathways to sustainable nuclear development; innovation in nuclear technology; innovations in institutional arrangements; and the INPRO dialogue forum on nuclear energy innovations. The Group encourages the Agency's continued efforts to seek innovation in nuclear power.

The Group notes with satisfaction that the Agency in response to strong interest from developing member states provided training in all aspects of uranium production in Africa, Asia and Latin America and encourages the Agency to continue to provide full support to the requesting Member States in this area. The Group welcomes the inclusion in the Report of activities like Nuclear Power Reactor Fuel Engineering, Spent Fuel Management and Integrated Nuclear Fuel Cycle Information System. The Group notes the efforts of the Agency directed towards efficient use of fissile and fertile resources under the heading 'topical advanced fuel cycle' and considers them important and timely from the sustainability considerations in view of the renewed interest in the nuclear power in large number of Member states.

The Group notes with satisfaction that a large number of energy analysts in various developing countries have been trained and national energy assessment efforts were supported through Agency TC projects. The Group appreciates the various activities of the Agency in the area of knowledge management and notes with satisfaction that after the free access to International Nuclear Information System (INIS) via the Internet was added in 2009, the average number of INIS searches from 7,000 per month at the beginning rose to 70,000 per month in December.

The Group welcomes the inclusion in the Report of activities under atomic and nuclear data, research reactors, accelerators, nuclear instrumentation and spectrometry and nuclear fusion and reiterates its support for these programmes. The Group notes various initiatives undertaken by the Secretariat towards addressing the shortage of Molybdenum-99 supplies. The Group remains concerned on the severe shortages in the supplies of fission-produced molybdenum-99 and of technetium-99m generators that continue to affect medical diagnostic applications in patients in most parts of the world. The Group requests the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to ensure the availability of radioisotope supplies, including through the enhancement of the utilization of reactors in developing countries for isotope production.

## **Non-power Applications**

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the activities related to non-power nuclear applications, the Group attaches great importance to various activities in the fields of food and agriculture, human health, water resources, environment, radioisotope production and radiation technology. The Group recognizes the benefits obtained by Member States from the IAEA/FAO joint activities in the application of nuclear techniques in the fields of crop and livestock production, sustainable control of major insect pests, soil degradation and food quality and safety. The Group strongly supports the Agency's activities in the areas of securing the supply of medical isotopes.

The Group views that it is important that the Agency continues to assist Member States in the attainment of the MDGs including, inter alia, through the improvement of agricultural productivity and childhood nutrition, poverty reduction, ensuring environmental sustainability, development of global partnerships for development, and through Coordinated Research Projects on a variety of technological and scientific

resources available within the Agency's capacity.

The Group notes with appreciation the Agency's activities in addressing the needs of Member States in the area of human health, particularly with regard to capacity building and enhancing technical capabilities in nutrition, nuclear medicine and diagnostic imaging and their associated quality assurance standards and procedures, as well as in cancer treatment. The Group highly commends the expansion of the Agency's collaboration with leading cancer organizations, and also with Member States' national cancer institutes and centers under the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). The Group takes note with satisfaction the launch of a joint programme with WHO on Cancer Control. The Group commends the PACT Management Office for its continuing activities and fundraising efforts and encourages it to continue this noble endeavor.

The Group commends the Agency for its role in ongoing global water management efforts and in assessing the impact of climate change through its isotope hydrology initiatives, and appreciates the assistance it has provided to Member States in their efforts towards incorporating isotope hydrology in their national water resource management programme. The Group also notes with appreciation the publication of regional Atlases of Isotope Hydrology that will be useful in making existing isotope data available to Member States.

The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in understanding environmental dynamics and in the identification and mitigation of marine and terrestrial environment problems caused by radioactive and non-radioactive pollutants using nuclear techniques.

With regard to the application of nuclear and radiation techniques in medicine and industry, the Group expresses its satisfaction with the Agency's contribution to improved health care and safe and clean industrial development in Member States through the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology, and to strengthen national capabilities for producing radioisotope products and utilizing radiation technology for socioeconomic development.

In view of the crucial role that the Technical Cooperation Programme plays in upholding the promotional pillar of the Agency and in the implementation of technical cooperation activities in Member States for their sustainable socioeconomic development, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its calls for the strengthening of the promotional activities of the Agency including technical cooperation through the provision of adequate resources to cater for the growing needs of Member States.

## **Nuclear Safety and Security**

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the section on nuclear safety and security, the Group wishes to reiterate that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive materials rests entirely with the Member State. The Group notes the Agency activities undertaken in 2009 in these areas. As stated on several occasions, the Group attaches great importance to the issue of nuclear safety, as an integral component of any nuclear programme and believes that the Agency, in line with Article III of its Statute, has a pivotal role to play in supporting Member States in this field. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety and security considerations should not be used to hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in developing countries.

The Group is pleased to note that in 2009, safety performance of the nuclear industry remained at a high level and that various safety indicators continued to show some improvements. The Group concurs with the view in the Report that complacency should be avoided and continuous improvements and strengthening of global nuclear safety efforts were necessary. In this context, the Group welcomes efforts by the Agency in organizing an International Conference on 'Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems' held in Cape Town in December 2009, to find ways of improving the global nuclear safety regulatory framework and systems,

thus assisting the Agency to improve its support activities and services provided in this field.

The Group notes the increasing interest in nuclear power particularly in developing countries and that such projections call for the need to strengthen efforts to support new entrants in developing capacities and technical skills in the nuclear field. The Group welcomes assistance to developing countries embarking on nuclear power and encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to countries in developing and strengthening their regulatory systems and infrastructures needed to develop nuclear power as part of their national energy mix. In this connection, the Group notes the Agency's completion of a draft safety guide, DS424, "Establishing a Safety Infrastructure for a National Nuclear Power Programme", providing a 'road map' to apply the entire set of the Agency's safety principles and requirements in the development of a nuclear power programme, thus ensuring that a high level of safety is achieved. While welcoming publication of such useful guidance documents, the Group reaffirms that they should not be used as a reference for approval of TC projects for Member States. In this context, the Group calls upon the Agency to ensure the necessary means for providing the appropriate TC to achieve the objective of establishing an adequate safety infrastructure.

The Group further notes the Agency's continued efforts in supporting the sharing of knowledge, expertise and information on best practices in nuclear safety for research reactors and welcomes the establishment of a web-based Research Reactor Information Network, as well as a Regional Advisory Safety Committee for Africa, to deal with safety related issues pertaining to research reactors.

The Group notes that during 2009, the Agency was informed of 211 safety related incidents involving or suspected to involve ionizing radiation. Most of these events were found to have no safety significance and/or no radiological impact on people or the environment. The Group would like to encourage the Agency to enhance its efforts to assist Member States in improving their ability to respond to such incidents. The Group notes the growing interest in the Agency's Response Assistance Network (RANET) and further notes its testing carried out in the Latin American region under an exercise 'ShipEx-1' to test existing capabilities for safe and expeditious transport of samples for biological dosimetry assessment. The Group hopes that results of such an exercise would assist the Agency in providing support to Member States, by ensuring safe and timely shipment of samples during assistance missions.

The Group notes with concern that denials and delays of shipment of radioactive material continued to occur and welcomes a database developed as part of an action plan to address this recurring problem. Such database could be useful in identifying trends to focus international efforts to address the root causes and appropriate remedial actions to resolve this problem.

The Group welcomes the launch of a web based platform called RASIMS (the Radiation Safety Information Management System) to help Member States to improve their radiation safety infrastructures. The Group notes with appreciation efforts by the Agency to encourage exchange of information and experiences among Member States on the control and management of disused radioactive sources or orphan sources.

The Group notes with appreciation assistance provided by the Agency in helping countries to manage and ensure safety of disused high activity radioactive sources. The Group notes the deployment of mobile hot cells for assisting countries that lack the required infrastructure to conduct safe conditioning of high activity radioactive sources. The Group looks forward to the deployment of such facilities in more countries that lack the required infrastructure and request such assistance.

The Group welcomes the complete revision of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS). The Group appreciates the important role of the Agency in supporting and enhancing Member States capabilities in the field of nuclear safety.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to nuclear security, the Group takes note of a range of Agency activities undertaken in support of Member States national nuclear security systems and notes the Agency's effort of convening an International Symposium on Nuclear Security.

The Group takes note of the Agency's activities in supporting Member States, upon request, to improve their nuclear security infrastructure.

The Group welcomes the Agency's Nuclear Security Plan covering the 2010-2013 period.

The Group will address the section on Technical Cooperation, in detail, under the agenda item-5 related to TC Report 2009.

With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of Annual Report for 2009 as contained in document GOV/2010/24.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

### **Agenda Item 3: Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management:**

#### **Draft Safety Requirements: disposal of radioactive waste**

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the Draft Safety Requirements for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, as contained in document GOV/2010/2 Rev.1, the Group of 77 and China notes that the draft was approved in June 2009 by the Radiation Safety Standards Committee and the Waste Safety Standards Committee, and was endorsed in October 2009 by the Commission on Safety Standards.

The Group notes that at the Board meeting in March 2010, consideration of the draft was deferred at the request of one Board member. A revised draft was endorsed in March 2010 by the Commission on Safety Standards.

The Group concurs with the action recommended for the Board.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

### **Agenda Item 4(a): Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities: Technical Cooperation Report for 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Deputy Director General Ms. Ana Maria Cetto for her introductory statement and the staff of the Technical Cooperation Department for preparing the relevant documents and for the briefing on this subject.

The Group wishes to reiterate the paramount importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) of the Agency. As the main statutory vehicle of the Agency for transferring nuclear technology, it plays a key role in the promotion of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Group shares the view expressed in the report that IAEA's technical cooperation programme is a shared

responsibility, the result of the combined efforts of the technical Departments, the Department of Technical Cooperation, and the Member States themselves. The Group recognizes that the combined contributions of Member States and the Secretariat are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the TCP, which is essentially based on the needs and evolving priorities of the recipient Member States.

The Group notes that in the Summary of the Report, it is mentioned that Part A would provide an overview of the new mechanisms and procedures that have been developed by the Secretariat during the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010. We think the enumeration and further elaboration of these new mechanisms and procedures would be very useful. In this regard we would like to request the inclusion of a table highlighting any changes that have been introduced in order to help us better understand these efforts.

The Group notes that the Rate of Attainment, on pledges, stood at 94.0% at the end of 2009. The Group also wishes that the report should include the rate of attainment on the TCF target.

The Group reiterates its call upon the Secretariat to strictly apply the due account mechanism in respect of all countries that fall short of paying their full share to the TCF in a timely manner.

The Group would like to commend the staff of the TC Department, who in spite of increasing workload conditions, managed to achieve an implementation rate of 77.3% for 2009. The Group however, wishes to see the calculation of this rate be based on the TC-approved core programme for the year under assessment, which would give a better indication of actual programme delivery. The Group would like to highlight that the assessment of the implementation level should also take into account various factors. While expressing its appreciation to the staff of the TC Department for their efforts in trying to achieve efficient programme delivery despite resource constraints, the Group calls on the Secretariat to help overcome the long-standing obstacles such as delays and denials for procurement as well as the continuing problems with travel and visa restrictions imposed by a number of countries that are affecting the implementation of the TCP. In some cases, several incidences that are beyond the control of Member States and the Agency hamper programme delivery, among them the major natural disasters and particular security situations.

The Group further notes that the Secretariat has attempted to address the difficulty in securing placements in countries with advanced facilities in response to Member States' fellowship requests by conducting special in-house courses in Vienna. While this may be a practical measure in the short-term, we believe it will not be a viable solution in addressing long-term needs. In this regard, we request the cooperation of all Member States and the Secretariat in resolving this problem.

While the Group considers the Country Programme Framework (CPF) as one of the programming tools that could be employed in planning the TCP, it reiterates that the CPF is a non-binding document and shall not be the definitive reference to screen Member States TC projects or to prevent them from participating in TC activities. The 5-year validity of the CPF also means that it is a static document that will not be able to capture the evolving needs and change in priorities of Member States from developing countries over that period.

The Group wishes to highlight that the planning of the TCP, its implementation, monitoring and evaluation involve close cooperation between the Member States and the Secretariat. The Programme Management Officer (PMO), who is the direct interface between the Agency and the Member State, acts as the Agency's resident expert on a Member State's needs, interests and priorities. In view of the specialized nature of the work of the Agency, this close interfacing between the PMO, who is the contact point for the overall management of a Member States' TCP, and Member State's counterpart, usually the National Liaison Officer (NLO), cannot be delegated to UN resident representatives. The joint responsibility of the PMO and the Member State's counterpart is to carefully design projects based on the Central Criterion and developmental strategies of the Member States concerned, using the IT-based Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF). In this regard, the Group looks forward to the enhancement of this IT-platform, particularly by making it a more user-friendly tool, and reiterates the need to provide appropriate training to Member States

in its subsequent phases of implementation.

The Group continues to stress on the vital role of the National Liaison Officers in TC project implementation. In this context, the strengthening of the NLO's management capabilities and the capacity of the NLO office, together with the strengthening of the role of the PMO would be essential to enhance country programme delivery.

The Group remains concerned that the resources for the TCP are still not sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute as called for in several GC resolutions. The Group also calls for adequate funding for MP-6 to ensure successful programme delivery.

The Group welcomes the success of the TC activities within the different regions and thanks the Secretariat for its role in providing support and assistance. In this regard, the Group also looks forward to an increase in nuclear energy activities in the next cycle in tandem with Member States' growing interest in the nuclear power option in their energy mix, along with sustained focus on the areas of health, applications of nuclear technology in food and agriculture, environment, water resources and industry, as well as in nuclear knowledge management.

The Group deems it necessary for the Agency to maintain an adequate balance between its promotional activities, which constitute the Technical Cooperation Programme, and its other statutory activities. The Group stresses the need to strengthen Technical Cooperation activities and continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TCP in accordance with the requests and needs of Member States. The Group equally emphasizes that all measures taken and policies adopted in this regard should preserve and enhance the ownership of TC projects by developing countries.

The Group reiterates its call for adequate resources to alleviate the increasing burden faced by the TC Department due to activities for fuel repatriation as well as core conversion from HEU to LEU. The Group reiterates its position that such activities are not promotional activities. The Group therefore believes that the cost of the management of such projects, including staff support costs, should be fully financed through the Nuclear Security Fund and other extrabudgetary resources.

The Group notes the Secretariat's view that regional and cooperative agreements remain the primary mechanism for technical cooperation among developing countries. We would like to stress that TC among developing countries or TCDC, offers a rather limited scope for sharing of experience and some facilities. In our view, regional and cooperative agreement TC programs should involve the Agency, developed and developing countries since it is only through such triangular cooperation that Member States could benefit from real transfer of technology, knowledge and expertise.

The Group would like to emphasize that by virtue of their specialized technical focus, TC projects may not fit in a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Therefore alignment with UNDAFs should not be imposed as criteria for approval of TC projects. Additionally, neither should criteria such as "socio-economic impact" or "measurable outcomes" be applied as parameters for project design nor their absence be grounds for rejection of project proposals. In this regard, the Group is disappointed that our previous comments and concerns regarding references to such concepts for ascertaining the impact of TC projects had been ignored and that the particular OIOS evaluation report in which those references were made was included in this TC Report.

The Group takes note that across all regions, Member States' interest in safety and security-related activities remains high. While such activities are important steps towards building Member States' national capacity in nuclear safety and security, it is equally important to recognize that safety and security should not be an end to itself and that the levels of nuclear safety and security requirements and infrastructures should commensurate with the levels of nuclear activity in respective countries.

With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of TC Report for 2009 as contained in document GOV/2010/26.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Agenda Item 4(b): Proposal to the Board of Governors by the Vice-Chairman on project INT/0/085 (GOV/2010/35)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of 77 and China deeply appreciates the successful efforts undertaken by Ambassador Rudiger Ludeking, Vice Chairman of the Board, to prepare a revised proposal and garner consensus on this matter.

We hope that similar situations could be avoided in the future by better communication, dialogue and transparency between the Member States and the Secretariat. While we continuously strive to make the TC programme more effective and efficient, any reform or changes which directly or indirectly affect the design and implementation of TC projects, must be prepared in close consultation with developing Member States.

The Group looks forward to receiving soon the compilation of "best practices" and other project details like the Logical Framework Matrix (LFM), as agreed in the meeting of the Working Group.

With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China endorses the action recommended for the Board as contained in document GOV/2010/35 (Vice-Chairman's proposal on project INT/0/085).

Thank you Mr. Chairman

**Agenda item 5: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

Mr. Chairman,

The Group of G77 and China greatly appreciates the efforts of H.E. Ms. Marjatta Rasi, Chairperson of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities, in carrying out extensive consultations with member states and thanks her for presenting a "package proposal" as contained in document GOV/2010/37. I would also like to thank Mr. Jani Rappana of the Finland Mission in this regard.

The Group believes that the Agency should be provided with the necessary financial resources it needs to fully carry out its mandate.

The Group wishes to reiterate the paramount importance it attaches to the Agency's technical cooperation activities, which, according to the Statute, is the central objective of the Agency.

The Group remains concerned that the balance between the promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency continues to be ignored and the bulk of the proposed regular budget increases remain directed towards non-promotional activities.

The Group notes that the appropriation proposed for MP-3 is still four times higher than that proposed for MPs 1, 2, and 6 combined. The Group further notes that for the operational regular budget, the single largest increase has still been proposed for 'Nuclear Security'. The Group wishes to reiterate that the sole responsibility for nuclear security rests in the hands of the Member States and that nuclear security, despite being an important Agency activity, is not its statutory function.

The Group welcomes the continuation of the mandate of the Working Group on Financing of Agency's Activities and looks forward to a meaningful discussion with concrete outcomes towards addressing the



issue of making the resources of the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) Sufficient, Assured, and Predictable (SAP), and its balanced relationship with other components of the regular budget.

The Group notes that the draft decision also mandates the Working Group to discuss the issue of efficiency gains through management reform and improved business practices. The Group would like to stress that any discussion on management reform will be incomplete without addressing staffing issues like: (i) equitable geographical distribution particularly at the senior policy making levels, and (ii) the role and employment of cost-free experts (CFEs) and consultants in the Secretariat.

With these comments, the Group, in the spirit of compromise, goes along with the "package proposal" presented by Ambassador Rasi, as contained in document GOV/2010/37, just adopted by consensus.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.

## **Joint Statement of the Group of 77 and NAM**

### **Agenda Item 11: Any other Business**

#### **Assurance of Supply**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour of delivering this statement jointly on behalf of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

On the issue of assurance of supply, the two Groups would like to reiterate their views and concerns expressed in their statements during the June 2009, November 2009, and March 2010 sessions of the Board on this matter, which, inter alia, stated that there is a need to address thoroughly the associated technical, legal and economic aspects, as well as the underlying political dimensions of this issue, so that any proposal that eventually emerges in this regard is in full accordance with the Statute and takes into account the respective legal obligations of Member States, and the principle of non-discrimination.

The Groups reiterate that any further consideration of the issue of nuclear fuel supply assurances must be based on a coherent and comprehensive conceptual framework that adequately addresses the views and concerns of all Member States.

The Groups are convinced that further consideration of individual proposals on this matter must be preceded by consensual agreement by the General Conference on the conceptual framework that outlines the specific political, technical, economic and legal parameters. If the Agency is to establish a mechanism for assurance of nuclear fuel supply, it must first agree on common principles and objectives which would then apply automatically to all the different proposals.

The Groups recommend once more that, subject to the provisions of the Statute, any decision on individual proposals be taken by consensus in the General Conference, to take into account the views and concerns of all Member States.

Considering that there has been no development in addressing the concerns of the two Groups on this matter, the Groups are of the view that it is still premature to bring individual proposals before the Board.

The Groups note that detailed and comprehensive discussions on all aspects pertaining to this issue did not take place before the non-consensual decision taken at the November 2009 Board meeting to authorize the Director General to conclude an agreement to establish a reserve of LEU. We hope that such a situation can

be avoided in future.

The Groups are disappointed that their joint proposal to form an open-ended working group where the concept can be thrashed out in a structured manner before considering any individual proposals in the Board, was not accepted by some member states including the proponents of the various proposals.

In view of the above comments, the Groups believe that further transparent and inclusive deliberations are required to formulate an acceptable framework for assurances of nuclear fuel supply. The Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement continue to believe that an open-ended working group is still the best forum for conducting such consultations, and request the Chairman of the Board to continue his efforts in this regard.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.