

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records



**2276th
PLENARY MEETING**

Tuesday, 5 November 1974,
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

CONTENTS

Agenda item 15: Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency ...	Page 767
---	-------------

**President: Mr. Abdelaziz BOUTEFLIKA
(Algeria).**

AGENDA ITEM 15

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

1. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): I invite Mr. Sigvard Eklund, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], to present the report of the Agency for the year 1973/74.¹
2. Mr. EKLUND (Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency): The Assembly is fully aware of the world-wide economic and political dimensions of the present energy situation. It has become abundantly clear that energy problems in general and nuclear energy in particular must be dealt with in an international context and with increased international co-operation.
3. The present situation has had a profound effect on the economic prospects for nuclear power. As I told our General Conference last September, even if there is some decline in oil prices, electricity from nuclear power will still be cheaper in nearly all cases than that from coal, oil and other thermal sources. The size of plant at which electricity from nuclear power becomes cheaper than that from oil-fired plants now lies between 100 and 200 megawatts. This is comparatively small if one considers that most of the plants now being ordered in the industrial countries are 1,000 megawatts or above. That means that nuclear power is economically attractive to about 40 developing countries that are interested in smaller plants, and should account for more than half the new electricity plant capacity they will build in the next decade.
4. Economics are, however, not the only factor. The widespread acceptance of nuclear power is still inhibited by concern over its environmental impact. Supply problems may appear as the demand for fuel grows, and this year has been marked by sharply increased concern that nuclear weapons may proliferate as nuclear energy spreads. That concern was accentuated by the addition of another country to the number of countries possessing nuclear explosives. Nevertheless, nuclear power is, for the time being, the only available alternative to meet the steadily increasing demands for energy throughout the world. The problems that must be overcome with the spread and

growth of nuclear power influence priorities set by IAEA in carrying out its own activities.

5. Let me briefly outline the Agency's priority programme at this time.
6. It is in the interest of every country that nuclear power should maintain its outstanding safety record in this period of expansion. Increased international efforts concerning safety are imperative. Thus we are moving away from the previous case-by-case approach in dealing with nuclear-power-plant safety toward the formulation of comprehensive, internationally acceptable safety and reliability standards to be used by regulatory bodies, utilities, plant manufacturers of the member States and IAEA itself. The World Bank may wish to consider the acceptance of those standards as a condition for financing nuclear plants. We expect that this programme will further contribute to public acceptance of nuclear power, to plant safety and to an easier flow of trade in plant components and will give guidance where it is most needed.
7. The situation with regard to irradiated fuel reprocessing capacity indicates that much must be done with a view to detailed planning of the entire fuel cycle. The most economical sizes of reprocessing plants are very large and may service reactors of a total capacity of at least 30,000 megawatts. That is half the world's installed capacity at this time. Economic grounds alone require that fuel reprocessing be done on an international basis, perhaps by regional plants. Since reprocessing plants are the source of 99 per cent of nuclear waste, there are also obvious advantages, from a safety point of view, in minimizing the number of reprocessing plants and water-storage sites. Prevention of diversion also becomes easier if reprocessing plants are few in number and operated under regional or international auspices. This consideration and the problems of physical security would also encourage locating fuel-fabricating plants on the same site as reprocessing facilities. In short, economics, safety, safeguards and security all reinforce the need for joint international efforts in planning, building and operating reprocessing plants, storage sites and also, possibly, fuel-fabrication plants.
8. IAEA is taking several actions in that connexion. It is codifying the principles for the selection of waste-disposal sites and harmonizing national policies of waste management. In March of this year, IAEA established a standing international working group to ensure the fullest exchange of information on the management of radioactive wastes and to give direction to the programmes of IAEA itself. We shall look into the possibilities and problems involved in the joint construction of reprocessing facilities. IAEA has also completed the task entrusted to it by the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters² and has prepared a provisional definition of high-level radioactive wastes that

must not be dumped at sea. It has also drafted the procedures to be followed when low-level wastes are disposed of at sea. Those procedures will be kept under constant review.

9. Most of the programmes I have outlined are of importance to all IAEA members. Turning now specifically to the developing countries, their first problem is to obtain sound and impartial guidance on their over-all programmes. To meet that need, IAEA will expand its advisory services in power planning and project implementation. We are publishing guidelines designed to help Governments and utilities in making decisions at the early stages of a nuclear-power programme, including the staff they will need. We are also bringing up to date and expanding the survey IAEA carried out last year of the prospects for nuclear power in a number of individual developing countries.

10. The efficient and safe operation of nuclear power plants requires specialized planning, engineering and other technical staff. Next year, in addition to the normal programme of technical assistance, IAEA will begin with a special nuclear-power training programme, focusing on the planning and construction of nuclear power plants. It will also include fellowships for on-the-job training and construction and safety techniques, as well as some highly specialized courses. We hope to have World Bank support for this special training programme.

11. In 1974, for the first time, IAEA has served as a channel for the supply of nuclear fuel for power reactors to two of its member States, Mexico and Yugoslavia. It is likely that that service will expand in the future.

12. In 1977, IAEA will hold a major international conference on nuclear power and the fuel cycle and the problems confronting it. That meeting will be designed to give Government officials, economists and utilities the type of hard information they will need to deal with a massive expansion of nuclear-power-plant capacity.

13. I should like to make some comments in relation to those programmes.

14. Despite occasional setbacks, there are signs that public fears about the safety of individual nuclear power plants are slowly diminishing and that the concern of the environmentalists is directed more to the long-term problems of waste management and to the risks of nuclear material falling into the wrong hands. Recent extremely comprehensive studies have confirmed that the risks that we run by the operation of nuclear power plants are, indeed, very small.

15. My second comment relates to the Agency's work on energy. There is a proliferation of energy studies, energy projects and even proposals for new international machinery. The problem is one of overlap rather than gap, and the solution lies in the direction of the concentration of responsibilities so that, for instance, developing countries could know where to turn in the energy field just as they do in the health field and other fields. IAEA is equipped to play that role.

16. Thirdly, I should welcome the location of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation [UNSCEAR] in Vienna. The

importance of the work of UNSCEAR in keeping under review the total environmental impact of nuclear tests as well as nuclear power is a function of its great scientific authority. IAEA hopes to increase its support to UNSCEAR in the future.

17. Technical assistance in the nuclear energy field is especially important at this time when developing countries are under pressure to diversify their sources of energy, thus reducing their dependence on oil. Long-term planning is imperative; the time-lapse between the decision to install a nuclear plant and the generation of electricity may be 8 to 10 years. We foresee that in future the Agency should be able to help developing Member States to formulate the totality of their medium-term and long-term energy programmes in the framework of general energy planning and to help them implement each successive step. Such an integrated approach will increase the impact of IAEA assistance.

18. The question of technical assistance financing has received much attention during the year, and I am pleased to report that the target for contributions to the voluntary programme of IAEA itself has been increased in 1975 by 50 per cent, namely, to \$4.5 million. IAEA is now also executing 20 large-scale UNDP projects, compared with 9 only a year ago. These 20 projects represent a value of \$3.5 million, an increase which reflects the higher priority that Governments themselves are giving to nuclear power in the requests they submit to UNDP.

19. Thermonuclear fusion may become an inexhaustible source of energy in the future. This month, IAEA will hold in Tokyo the fifth International Conference on Plasma Physics and Controlled Nuclear Fusion Research. We shall henceforth hold a major conference on fusion every second year to review both advances in theory and practical engineering for fusion reactors. In addition, we sponsor several other programmes, including a bi-monthly journal. By doing this the Agency keeps the progress in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion under constant observation. However, according to present views, practical results in the form of commercial generation of electricity from fusion cannot be expected before the first decade of the next century.

20. Let me now turn to another major aspect of the work of the Agency: safeguards, in particular in connexion with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons [resolution 2373 (XXII), annex], and the related question of the peaceful uses of nuclear explosions. The conference to review the operation of the non-proliferation Treaty will be held at Geneva in May next year and will draw up a balance-sheet of the progress made since the Treaty came into force on 5 March 1970.

21. In this regard I must inform the Assembly that 36 of the 80 non-nuclear-weapon States that are parties to the Treaty have not yet completed the negotiation of the safeguards agreement with IAEA¹ required by the Treaty and for which, in nearly all cases, the deadline has already passed. The Secretariat of IAEA is ready to help these countries to fulfil their obligations so that they may attend the conference in May with their legal requirements fully discharged. May I suggest that any delegation wishing to have further

information about this matter should consult the IAEA office at United Nations Headquarters.

22. If the review conference next year is to give renewed momentum to the implementation of the non-proliferation Treaty it is essential that the major industrial countries, both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States, should reaffirm by deed as well as by word the importance they attach to the Treaty. At our recent General Conference I made a special appeal to the European Community to complete the process of ratifying the non-proliferation Treaty, already far advanced, as well as to other industrial States that have signed the Treaty to do the same, and also appealed to the several threshold countries of great importance from a nuclear point of view that have neither signed nor ratified the Treaty. In the Assembly, I should like to confirm this appeal and extend it to all countries. They would do themselves as well as the international community a service by demonstrating, through accession to the Treaty, their determination to use nuclear energy for peaceful, non-explosive purposes only. I also appealed to the Depositary Governments, even though article VI is not of direct concern to the Agency, to continue efforts for the implementation of article VI, and, in particular, their efforts to achieve a complete test-ban treaty, which would be of cardinal importance as a means of preventing further proliferation.

23. The experience of the Treaty of Tlatelolco⁴ may be of benefit to other regions, although it cannot replace the non-proliferation Treaty. Regarding nuclear-weapon-free zones, I agree with the statement made in the First Committee on 25 October:

“The creation of such zones must not be an excuse on the part of the participating States to abstain from adhering to the non-proliferation Treaty.”⁵

24. There have been some positive developments in connexion with the Treaty during the year. The Governments of the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States have announced that they will inform IAEA promptly and continuously of imports and anticipated exports of nuclear material. This information will significantly help IAEA to implement its safeguards. Some 10 exporting States thereafter informed the Agency of decisions they have taken to apply a minimum standard of conduct in implementing article III, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty and, in particular, to require the application of IAEA safeguards in respect of nuclear material and other significant items exported to any non-nuclear-weapon State. This will help to ensure that the requirement of effective safeguards does not become an issue of commercial competition. Further progress has been made in developing and streamlining the safeguards of IAEA itself. As a result, the rapid expansion of this work has led to a much smaller growth in safeguards costs and there has been no need to increase manpower between 1974 and 1975.

25. We have also been encouraged by the statements at this session of the General Assembly reflecting the most serious preoccupation with the dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The speed with which nuclear power is bound to spread and the reminders we have received from recent events show that there

is no time to lose. The supply policies followed by the Depositary Governments and by other major exporters at this juncture and in future will be of great importance in enhancing the acceptability of the non-proliferation Treaty and ensuring effective safeguards.

26. The importance of maintaining the momentum of the non-proliferation Treaty is not only a question of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons, crucial though that is for the long-term prospects for peace. The Treaty is a major, but only a single, step along the road to arms control and disarmament. It has been described as a bridge that must be crossed before any other more far-reaching measures of disarmament become possible. The non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, in accepting international verification, have set an example which must be more widely followed if we are to move closer to the goals that all countries profess to seek:

“... cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date ... nuclear disarmament ... general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.” [*Resolution 2373 (XXIX), annex, article VI.*]

27. Safeguards are related to the question of physical security to prevent misuse of nuclear material by individuals. IAEA is helping member States to build up national systems of accountancy and control that they will need for both safeguards and physical-security purposes. We have issued a guide on the physical protection of nuclear materials and shall now explore the prospects for an international agreement on minimum standards for physical security.

28. As regards nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, it will be recalled that both the Board of Governors and the General Conference of the Agency concluded in 1969 that the performance of the various functions described in article V of the non-proliferation Treaty were within the Agency's technical competence and the scope of its statutory functions. In 1971, the General Assembly took the same position and noted that

“... the International Atomic Energy Agency ... is an appropriate organ to exercise the functions of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.” [*Resolution 2829 (XXVI).*]

29. It was also decided that the Agency should approach this subject on an evolutionary basis, that is to say, following the developments of this technology and devoting its attention initially to the exchange and dissemination of information. That has been done by convening technical panels at yearly intervals and by the dissemination of information through the International Nuclear Information System [INIS].

30. In 1972, the Board approved guidelines for the international observation by the Agency of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under the provisions of the non-proliferation Treaty or analogous provisions in other international agreements. Also, in September of this year, the Board approved procedures for the Agency to use in responding to requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes.

The necessary expertise has been established within the Secretariat to follow up work in this field and keep abreast of technological developments.

31. The next technical panel regarding nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes to be convened by IAEA will meet in January next year to review the present state of the technology. It is expected that some legal aspects, particularly the health and safety aspects, of such explosions will require very detailed studies. The economics of this technology also deserve careful study. The latter will be reviewed again by the Board at its meeting in February 1975. It must be pointed out, however, that the interest shown so far by member States has been very limited, and that no project has yet materialized. The recent Board decisions, together with the procedure for appropriate international observation on this subject, have been communicated both to this Assembly and to the Agency's member States.

32. It would no doubt be an important development if States in possession of nuclear explosives were to volunteer to accept international observation when they carried out a nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes, and if they were to help develop proposals for the international régime that should be applied for explosions of this kind when the goal of a complete weapon-test ban is achieved. In a year that has witnessed nuclear tests by six countries, the urgent need for an agreement along those lines becomes more obvious.

33. On another matter, I should like to refer to the question of the review of the relationship agreements between the United Nations and members of the United Nations family. As far as IAEA is concerned, the existing legal framework has proved satisfactory, and we in the Agency see no need to re-open this matter.

34. I should like to note the good relationship existing between the Agency and UNIDO. Through our joint services in certain areas we are economizing and achieving greater efficiency. The permanent headquarters Austria is building for IAEA and UNIDO is expected to be ready for occupancy before the end of 1978. It will greatly enhance Austria's already significant capacity for serving as host to international organizations. It is timely to pay tribute to Austria as our host Government and to Vienna as our host city for their unfailing assistance and generosity. I should like to place on record that, in the experience of IAEA, the Government of Austria has made every effort to meet our needs during the last 17 years.

35. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from French*): On behalf of the General Assembly I should like to thank Mr. Eklund for introducing the report of IAEA.

36. I now call upon the representative of Bulgaria, who wishes to introduce draft resolution A/L.740.

37. Mr. TODOROV (Bulgaria) (*interpretation from Russian*): I should like, first, to thank the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, for his able statement introducing the Agency's report and for clearly describing the activities of IAEA for the period under consideration. The Bulgarian delegation notes with satisfaction the progress made and the practical results achieved in the field of international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

38. One of the most important results of the General Conference just held was the admission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a full member of the Agency. We welcome that decision. It became possible in conditions of international *détente* and as a result of the campaign of the socialist countries and other democratic forces in the Agency to put an end to the unjustified discrimination against a people which has devoted its entire energies to building its country and working for the establishment of durable peace in a region which is a target of international reaction. That decision was a step towards achieving universality in IAEA. I should like from this rostrum to congratulate wholeheartedly the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on its participation in this twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly as an observer. We are certain that its participation in the work of IAEA will have a favourable effect on international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

39. The fact that an ever-increasing number of countries, including developing countries, see in the use of nuclear energy a hopeful solution to the energy problem has led to a rise in the total capacity of nuclear reactors in the world for the production of energy, as well as in the number of countries that have built or are building such reactors. The Bulgarian delegation notes with satisfaction that this factor was taken into account by IAEA and that at its General Conference, held at Vienna in September of this year, stress was laid on the impact that it would have on the work before the Agency.

40. At the General Conference the opinion was unanimously expressed that there would be a resulting impact on the activities of the Agency in the areas of nuclear safety and environmental protection, international technical co-operation, and the exchange of nuclear information. Those are not new areas in the activities of IAEA, but the Agency's work in connexion with them will increase considerably.

41. The ever-wider use of nuclear reactors for the production of energy will also have its impact on the activities of the Agency in the area of safeguards. Under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the functions of verifying the observance of that Treaty are the responsibility of the Agency.

42. Through that activity, IAEA is actively promoting the prevention of the further proliferation of nuclear weapons, and in that respect it has many obvious achievements to its credit. Safeguards agreements have been concluded in this field with 44 non-nuclear countries, and 32 of those agreements have already entered into force.

43. However, we believe that the main element in the strengthening of the principle of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is this: all non-nuclear Powers Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons should place their nuclear activities for peaceful purposes, under the control of IAEA.

44. The Bulgarian delegation welcomes the decisions adopted by the Governing Council of IAEA on 13 September 1974 [A/9722/Add.1, annexes I and II], concerning a service for controlling nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which place certain respon-

sibilities in that domain upon the Director-General of the Agency.

45. I should like to express the Bulgarian delegation's conviction that IAEA, under the guidance of Mr. Eklund, will be able to make the correct decisions to deal with the constantly increasing tasks facing it.

46. I should like to take this opportunity to express the satisfaction of the Government of Bulgaria at the co-operation extended by IAEA and its Director-General, Mr. Eklund. This co-operation, which takes many and varied forms, is very useful to our country, which sees in the use of nuclear fuel a solution to the country's energy problems, a solution having decisive importance for our economic and social development.

47. Bulgaria is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and concluded with IAEA a safeguards agreement that came into force on 29 February 1972. With the decisive assistance of the USSR and in close co-operation with IAEA, two reactors in the first nuclear power plant in the Balkans have been built in our country; they are already producing energy for the national economy. When the nuclear plant has been completed, its productive capacity will reach 880 megawatts.

48. On behalf of the delegations of Thailand and Zaire and my own, I should now like to introduce draft resolution A/L.740, entitled "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency".

49. The preamble to the draft resolution is very brief and is self-explanatory.

50. In operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would take note of the report of IAEA and of the addendum thereto. In operative paragraph 2, the Assembly would commend IAEA for its action in simplifying the rules of procedure of the General Conference in such a way as to enhance and streamline its performance. In operative paragraph 3, the Assembly would welcome the decision taken by IAEA to increase the level of the 1975 target for voluntary contributions to the general fund. That will enable IAEA to meet more fully the requirements of developing countries for technical assistance in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

51. In operative paragraph 4, the General Assembly would note with appreciation the reorientation of the programme of IAEA, in view of the new development in the use of nuclear reactors for producing energy. As the report of IAEA notes, the Agency faces the task of developing new safety standards and standards for the protection of the environment as well as developing or further refining an international system of nuclear information reflecting the very great interest of the non-nuclear Powers in this sphere. That is why we believe that the General Assembly should take note of and endorse this new trend in the IAEA programme.

52. Operative paragraph 5 speaks for itself. We believe that the General Assembly should endorse the provision that IAEA is the centre for carrying out the training programme for cadres from the developing countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In this paragraph, the Assembly would note with appreciation the steps taken by IAEA in expending its training programme to meet the urgent need of developing countries that plan to utilize nuclear power at an early date.

53. We believe that the General Assembly should endorse operative paragraph 6, which refers to the importance of the initiative taken by IAEA in arranging for an international conference on nuclear power and its fuel cycle, to be convened in 1977, which will foster a better understanding of the role and place of nuclear energy among alternative energy sources in satisfying energy demand in the future. The present energy crisis in the capitalist world has made the holding of such a conference extremely timely, and we hope that this initiative of convening it will be unanimously supported.

54. Operative paragraph 7 relates to a question that is understandably of growing concern to an ever-increasing number of countries and that, therefore, explains the general approval of the decision of IAEA to establish within its framework an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control. We hope that the establishment within the Agency of a separate organizational unit will strengthen that trust among States which is so essential for guaranteeing broad access to nuclear information.

55. In operative paragraph 8 the Assembly would urge all countries to ratify or accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or to finalize their safeguards agreements with the Agency as soon as possible, in view of the fact that the review conference of the parties to the Treaty will take place in 1975. We believe that such a provision has a place in this draft resolution since IAEA is called upon to play a special role in the implementation of the safeguards clauses of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

56. Operative paragraph 9 is self-explanatory and requires no comment.

57. In conclusion, I should like to express the conviction of the sponsors that this draft resolution will meet with the unanimous support of the States Members of the United Nations.

58. Mr. WYZNER (Poland): My delegation has followed with interest and satisfaction the activities of IAEA in the past 12 months, as summarized in its annual report. In his lucid and eloquent introduction of the report, the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund, has once again demonstrated his profound knowledge of the subject at present being considered by the General Assembly.

59. The Polish Government continues to evaluate favourably the work and achievements of IAEA in the period under review. We note the existence of a certain interrelation between the general political process of *détente* reflected in a number of positive developments in the present international situation and the growing prestige of IAEA reflected, among other things, in its increasing role in the peaceful use of nuclear energy throughout the world, and the conclusion of additional safeguards agreements under article III of the non-proliferation Treaty, and in further progress towards the universality of the Agency, as illustrated by the admission of the new members—Mauritius and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We welcome with particular satisfaction the latter addition to the membership of the Agency, as a proof of further international recogni-

tion of the important position and role being played by that socialist country.

60. As we heard from the Director-General a few minutes ago, the new developments in the world energy situation, and especially the increase in oil prices, have stimulated the search for other sources of energy, in particular nuclear energy, in many parts of the world. This process has been reflected in the opening paragraphs of the Agency's annual report. The report, among other things, points to a large number of nuclear power plants being ordered, as well as to the growing interest in the use of nuclear energy as a source of process heat in industry. Thus, with increased availability of fissionable material, the accelerated growth in the use of nuclear power will, of necessity, increase IAEA responsibilities with regard to safeguards in order to assure the international community that no part of material available is channelled to other than peaceful purposes.

61. In this respect we cannot pass over in silence the constructive role that the Agency plays in the field of safeguards under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As we all are aware, the non-proliferation Treaty will have been in force for five years when, in May 1975, the States parties convene to attend its review conference. In the view of my delegation, the Treaty is one of the most significant international instruments in the field of arms limitation. It is aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear armaments and hence is instrumental in preserving peace and thwarting the dangers of nuclear war either by design or merely by miscalculation or accident.

62. It is our firm belief that the primary objective of the process of reviewing the non-proliferation Treaty—a process successfully begun this year in the Preparatory Committee for the review conference—must be the consolidation and the strengthening of the Treaty, as well as the enlargement of its scope by encouraging the widest participation in, as well as strict observance of, the Treaty. In this spirit, we express the satisfaction that some new countries, including those with advanced nuclear technology, either have become parties to the non-proliferation Treaty or have begun the ratification procedures, among them some members of the European Atomic Energy Community [EURATOM]. We cannot however, fail to express our regret that the safeguards agreement signed by the EURATOM countries in April 1973 has not yet, judging from the Agency's report, entered into force. At this juncture, I wish to inform the Assembly that Poland, whose safeguards agreement with IAEA has been in force since 1972, further informed the Agency's General Conference last September of its acceptance of the extended controls by IAEA of all transfers of fissionable materials and of the nuclear installation covered by the non-proliferation Treaty.

63. Speaking of the process of review of the non-proliferation Treaty, it gives me particular pleasure to note the Agency's excellent co-operation with the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As is reflected in its report, the Agency has offered its participation in the preparatory work and has produced valuable reports on IAEA activities under the respective provisions of the Treaty. The Preparatory Committee considers the documents

valuable and helpful and has asked the Agency to submit revised and updated versions for the use of the review conference itself. In my capacity as Chairman of the last session of the Committee, I was pleased indeed to convey to the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, the Committee's satisfaction and gratitude for the co-operation of his Agency.

64. The Agency's annual report covers activities of a highly versatile character and great importance. Let me refer briefly to those other aspects of the work of IAEA which the Polish delegation considers of particular relevance.

65. First, there is assistance to developing countries, including assistance aimed at introducing nuclear energy and using nuclear techniques in agriculture. We wish to reiterate our full support for the useful work done in that field, to which we attach particular importance. Motivated by this conviction, Poland has substantially increased its voluntary contribution to the technical assistance programme. Our declared contribution for 1975 is twice that for 1973. In addition, as reflected in annex A of the report, Poland has offered 10 fellowships free of charge each year for the use of developing countries.

66. Secondly, there is the environmental aspect of the Agency's operations. As my delegation stated during the consideration of the IAEA report at the twenty-eighth session, no other field of human activities is potentially more dangerous to the survival of man or requires more protection from imminent hazards than the use of nuclear energy.⁶ We also stressed that, taking into account the fact that, in addition to harmful effects of radiation and releases from nuclear facilities geared to the peaceful application of nuclear energy, there was a danger of radiation caused by atmospheric nuclear tests conducted by two nuclear Powers, the need for energetic protection of the natural environment was becoming increasingly urgent. Therefore, we welcome with satisfaction the expansion of the IAEA programmes relating to nuclear safety and environmental protection, as well as the plans for supplementary training activities in these domains, reflected in paragraph 7 of the report. My country takes an active part in these programmes and was privileged to be host to the Warsaw Symposium on Environmental Surveillance around Nuclear Installations in November 1973. We continue to believe, as well, that the Agency should acquire the leading role within the United Nations system as a co-ordinator of the activities in this special field of protection of the environment.

67. Thirdly, the Polish delegation wishes to support the initiative of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance suggesting the intensification of its co-operation with the Agency in the sphere of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. We hope that this mutually beneficial co-operation will further develop in the future.

68. To conclude, I should like to express Poland's acceptance of the IAEA programme of work for the years 1975 to 1980, as presented to the last General Conference of the Agency in September 1974. The next few years will be marked, no doubt, by a constantly increasing pace of activity in the field of safeguards in connexion with the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on the one hand, and the in-

creasing political role of the Agency in this highly sensitive field on the other. We are confident, however, that the highly competent personnel of IAEA, under the excellent leadership of Mr. Eklund, will successfully discharge all the responsible tasks facing the Agency in the future.

69. In this spirit, we shall gladly support draft resolution A/L.740, so ably introduced by the representative of Bulgaria.

70. Mr. SCALI (United States of America): Since its inception nuclear technology has presented mankind with a fundamental dilemma. How are we to enjoy the fruits of this, our civilization's highest technical achievement, without also suffering its lethal poison? Never before in history has man possessed an instrument with such potential for good or for evil. Never has man been more starkly faced with the moral responsibility to control the product of his own creation.

71. Events of the past year have highlighted our dilemma. Even the most reluctant must now acknowledge that the world community has yet to exploit adequately the potential benefits of nuclear technology or to control fully its awesome capacity for destruction. As a result, today's debate takes on a new and timely significance.

72. Recent dramatic developments in the field of energy intensified the world search for new sources of energy. The fact that this new demand for alternative sources of energy results from an artificial restriction on oil production does not make the development of such alternatives any less urgent.

73. The response of IAEA to this new situation, particularly as it affects the developing countries, has been commendably swift and comprehensive. We congratulate the Agency on its decision to step up technical assistance to the developing countries. We are impressed by the Agency's recognition that an equally high priority must be placed on international standards for health, safety and reactor reliability. We continue to attach the highest importance to all of these activities, and we congratulate the Director-General and his staff on the imaginative way in which they are carrying out their growing responsibilities.

74. As the world community expands access to the fruits of nuclear technology, we must also apply ever more rigorous and effective controls over its potential for destruction. As Mr. Kissinger has remarked to the Assembly:

"The challenge before the world is to realize the peaceful benefits of nuclear technology without contributing to the growth of nuclear weapons or to the number of States possessing them."
[2238th meeting, para. 70.]

Mr. Kissinger went on to set out a number of specific areas where action to control and limit the spread of nuclear arms is most urgent. These priority areas include the strengthening of safeguards and controls on the transfer of nuclear materials and improving the physical security of such material. He also called for more comprehensive adherence to the non-proliferation Treaty and the safeguards for which it provides. I should like to take this occasion to say how impressed my Government has been by the way in which IAEA

is taking the lead in confronting each of these key issues.

75. In his message to the recent IAEA General Conference, President Ford stated that the non-proliferation Treaty was "one of the pillars of United States foreign policy". The Director-General, Mr. Eklund, has today reported to us on the status of the safeguards agreements concluded pursuant to that Treaty. We share the Director-General's concern over the delays in concluding those agreements. My Government therefore would like again to urge those nations which have signed the non-proliferation Treaty but have not yet concluded safeguards agreements to accelerate negotiations with the Agency in order to complete those agreements as soon as possible. We urge those countries which have not yet become parties to the Treaty to do so as soon as possible.

76. Mr. Kissinger suggested that IAEA consider urgently the development of an international convention to improve physical security against the theft or diversion of nuclear materials [*ibid.*, para. 74]. We are pleased to note that the Agency has already begun to turn its attention to this problem, and we look forward to co-operating fully in the Agency's efforts.

77. The addendum to the annual report of IAEA [A/9722/Add.1] tells of the Agency's recent actions to prepare itself to respond to requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. Once again I should like to note that my Government is pleased that the Agency has established the necessary expertise to follow the work in this field, to keep abreast of technological developments and to carry out its responsibilities under article V of the non-proliferation Treaty.

78. In closing I should like to record my Government's full support of the IAEA programme. We believe that, under the forceful and imaginative leadership of Mr. Eklund, the Agency is responding well to the unprecedented and still increasing challenges of the nuclear age.

79. Mr. KERN (Federal Republic of Germany): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany has been greatly impressed by the annual report covering the activities of IAEA for the year 1973/74, as well as by the most informative statement made by the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund, in introducing the report at this session of the General Assembly.

80. During the past year the world has experienced far-reaching political developments. I would mention first the shortage of oil and the persistent increase in oil prices, which affect by far the greater part of the international community. This crisis also has a direct impact on the work of IAEA because it is a major reason for the development of alternative energy sources. At the present stage of technological development these include nuclear energy, in spite of the problems it presents. Like many other countries, the Federal Republic of Germany is making great efforts to fulfil the hopes attached to nuclear energy.

81. In this connexion, the necessary measures in the fields of safety, engineering and environmental protection have of course to be taken. It is fortunate that IAEA has joined in the international discussion of

this extremely important question. This seems indispensable in order to meet the dangers and risks arising out of the increased use of nuclear energy.

Mr. Upadhyay (Nepal), Vice-President, took the Chair.

82. In view of the drastic changes in the energy situation, my Government welcomes the adoption by the Agency of a new medium-term programme for the years 1975 to 1980. The programme is marked by a streamlining of the Agency's activities and the establishment of new priority areas. These are nuclear safety, environmental protection and training. The question of the future financing of technical assistance is the subject of careful consideration. An analysis of Agency expenditures shows that in 1974 about \$15 million—that is, one half of the funds available to the Agency—are being spent on projects of immediate interest to developing countries. These funds are only to a lesser part taken from the general fund, which is fed entirely by voluntary contributions. To a considerable extent, they are drawn from other sources, that is, a part from UNDP funds, from other voluntary contributions in cash and in kind and from the Agency's regular budget. The other half of the funds available benefits all members, including the developing countries.

83. However, the Agency can attain its goals only if all member States make adequate voluntary contributions. Such contributions should, if possible, be higher than the contributions to the general fund. We should welcome it if developing countries with substantial and constantly growing balance-of-payments surpluses would assume a larger share of the cost of technical assistance than in the past. In this connexion, I should like to point out that some of the present contributors to the general fund find it difficult this year to make their contributions as a result of the balance-of-payments deficits caused by the oil crisis. It is therefore all the more remarkable that, in spite of these problems, the ceiling of the general fund has been raised to \$4.5 million.

84. The voluntary contributions of the Federal Republic of Germany for the year 1975 will comprise the following items.

85. In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Governors regarding the increase of the target for the general fund, we shall raise our contribution to this fund from \$220,000 in 1974 to about \$330,000 in 1975. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany is making voluntary contributions in kind and is granting scholarships. It also provides experts for the Agency's technical assistance programme. The value of all these contributions to the Agency will be more than \$1 million in 1975.

86. Another development the effects of which are deeply disquieting has taken place in the field of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this context, I wish to express our regret that out of the 83 States parties to the non-proliferation Treaty only 44 have concluded the verification agreements with the Agency required under the Treaty.

87. The Federal Republic of Germany signed the non-proliferation Treaty in the interest of *détente* in Europe and of world-wide peace, having formally renounced the production of nuclear weapons as early

as 1955. Although the Federal Republic of Germany is already subject to effective EURATOM safeguards, it accepted, in the Agreement between the Agency and EURATOM, which was signed in April 1973, the verification of the EURATOM safeguards by IAEA. Earlier this year it completed the parliamentary ratification procedures concerning both the non-proliferation Treaty and the verification agreement and intends to participate in the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is our hope that further States that have not yet acceded to the non-proliferation Treaty or that have not yet concluded safeguards agreements with the Agency will do so in the near future.

88. As regards the export of nuclear material and equipment, my Government welcomes the understanding among numerous exporting States to permit exports only in case of acceptance by the receiving State of international safeguards in respect of the material, the equipment and also the fissionable material produced with such material and equipment. In this connexion, the Agency will have to assume an important role because it has to conclude the appropriate safeguards agreements with the importing countries.

89. I should like to take this opportunity to say a word on the extremely important field of peaceful applications of nuclear explosions. My Government believes that recent developments call for an early review of this complex question in view of the undertaking laid down in article V of the non-proliferation Treaty. The issues involved, which would also include the establishment of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, should be discussed within the framework of IAEA, which, by its statute and its technical expertise, provides the appropriate forum for this. In this context, we welcome the action of the Board of Governors of IAEA, at its meeting on 13 September 1974, in approving the procedures to be used by the Agency in responding to requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes [*ibid.*]. The invitation to a number of States to a panel meeting at Vienna on 20 January 1975, on the initiative of IAEA, to discuss projects, including nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, will also prove useful.

90. With the growing number of nuclear installations and the unprecedented increase in the utilization, storage and transportation of nuclear material, the possibilities for diverting such material and for misusing it have grown rapidly. It is the task of the individual State to ensure the physical protection of nuclear material. The Agency, however, has already rightly assumed an advisory role in this area and should intensify its efforts in that direction. We therefore support the Director-General's suggestion of exploring the prospects for the establishment of minimum standards.

91. We share the view that the utmost priority must be given to the elaboration of a system of effective international safeguards. I should like in this context to refer to the remarks of the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, at the 2238th plenary meeting [*paras. 67-75*], where he pointed in a most impressive way to the dangers confronting us and announced

proposals to meet them. We are looking forward to those proposals with great interest.

92. These questions are, of course, also being discussed in the debate on disarmament questions at the present session of the General Assembly. Moreover, the conference to review the operation of the non-proliferation Treaty, to be held next year, will provide a welcome opportunity to consider all relevant problems. My Government is prepared to participate actively in the work of all relevant institutions.

93. We look to the future with confidence, trusting that the Agency and its Director-General will be able to deal efficiently with the issues and problems facing them. My Government is certainly willing to assume also in the future its full share of responsibility in the realization of their work.

94. Mr. DE PRAT GAY (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Argentina has examined with great interest the report of IAEA on its activities in 1973/74 and has also heard with equal interest the introduction of that report made by its Director-General, Mr. Eklund. My Government, as in preceding years, observes with satisfaction the increase of the technical activities of the Agency and the focusing of those activities upon specific objectives in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. We maintain close relations with IAEA programmes. Argentine scientists have participated in symposia, technical panels, scientific visits and various other activities organized by the Agency. Moreover, we have furnished experts to participate in various IAEA projects and we have also benefited from the valuable co-operation of foreign experts within the framework of technical assistance by the Agency. In brief, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the progress of IAEA activities in the fields of technical co-operation, the application of nuclear technology in agriculture and livestock raising, in biology and in the physical sciences, nuclear-power technology, environmental protection and nuclear safety.

95. We attach paramount importance to the information and technical services programme, and we should like to point to the value of INIS. All this demonstrates clearly the great potential of activity in the atomic field for a rapid improvement in the well-being of peoples. Its role in the pressing task of development is of basic importance to Argentina, as it is to all the developing nations of the world. The peaceful use of atomic energy is of great interest to all mankind. We must not, of course, be deterred by the alleged controllable risks to which some industrial quarters point as a pretext for curtailing the full use of this tool of unique value for contemporary man.

96. For many years Argentina has had a very close connexion with IAEA with regard to safeguards. This relationship is in line with Argentina's firm decision to use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes, a decision we reaffirm today in this international forum.

97. My country has nuclear material and installations subject to the Agency's safeguards system by virtue of various arrangements and agreements we have signed with the Agency. In particular, Argentina voluntarily placed the commercial nuclear power plant of Atucha—now in commercial operation—

under a safeguards system under an agreement signed in October 1972. In November 1973 the Argentine Government asked IAEA to begin negotiations with a view to voluntarily placing its second nuclear power plant under a safeguards agreement. The building of that plan began this year.

98. We must emphasize that our relations with the Agency with regard to safeguards, both in the negotiating of arrangements as well as in implementing them, were highly satisfactory until the case of the second nuclear power plant arose. In that case my country, unfortunately, has a totally different experience.

99. My delegation believes that in dealing with the report of IAEA it is appropriate to introduce into this discussion information about that experience. In our opinion, it may be illustrative for the many nations on various continents that share our resolute efforts towards development. We believe, moreover, that this experience raises serious doubts about the performance of the IAEA secretariat, because by acting in this manner, in the belief that they are thereby better serving the developed countries, they go quite beyond what is acceptable in their dealings with the developing countries. An international agency such as IAEA must diligently and effectively perform its duties, always bearing in mind that all member States directing its activities are fully sovereign and deserving of the same treatment with regard to the services provided by the secretariat as laid down in its terms of reference.

100. As I said earlier, in November 1973, the Government of Argentina requested the secretariat of IAEA to negotiate a voluntary safeguards arrangement for its second nuclear power plant, the construction of which, as I mentioned, began in 1974. Argentina believes that it is necessary to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the behaviour of the secretariat of IAEA, which, despite repeated urging, delayed more than eight months beginning negotiations, without giving any valid reason. I repeat, Sir, eight months.

101. My delegation wishes to emphasize this delay because Argentina, in all good faith, had included in the corresponding call for tenders its intention of voluntarily placing this plant under the safeguards arrangement, and had included that factor in the commercial contract concerned.

102. Soon after the negotiations began—after eight months had elapsed because no reply had been received from the IAEA secretariat—an agreement was reached on most of the text, which was discussed in the Governing Council. It recommended that negotiations be pursued until a final document had been agreed with the secretariat. It should be pointed out that the point of contention was the duration of the arrangement and the continuation of the safeguards once it had lapsed. In new negotiations with the secretariat of the Agency, an agreement was reached on those aspects, including relevant parts of documents approved by the Governing Council. The continuation of the safeguards system was to cover material and equipment actually transferred to Argentina by third parties, but not those produced in Argentina. It should be remembered that a nuclear reactor is not

an indivisible whole but is rather a combination of components and equipment.

103. At the end of September 1974 my country believed that the negotiations had been concluded and that there was a text agreed to by the parties. Although an arrangement had been arrived at with the secretariat of the Agency on the safeguards agreement, new difficulties constantly raised by the secretariat are now jeopardizing the possibility of signing the agreement within the period stipulated in our commercial contract. These new difficulties were due to the fact that the secretariat seemed to give too much weight to the desires of a small number of Governors from highly industrialized countries.

104. We wonder whether that slow, mysterious process does not imply the exertion of pressure to change the sovereign will of a State in the multilateral field. We also wonder whether, on the pretext of control to prevent nuclear proliferation, action to virtually supervise the entire nuclear-power industry is not being extrapolated in an attempt to restrict the sovereignty of all nations on earth over their resources.

105. It should be recalled that Argentina is a nation that, since the very beginning of its nuclear research, has demonstrated most resolute support for limiting the use of nuclear power to purely peaceful purposes. We are a country that, in all spheres, has come out against any nuclear activities for military purposes, which, the most powerful countries on earth have been telling us in this very General Assembly, have been developing daily. Argentina is also a nation that for more than 100 years has waged no war.

106. We hope this suspicion concerning the motives of the IAEA secretariat will soon be dispelled so that next year, when we address the Assembly on this topic, we will have nothing but praise for the performance of the Agency, as has been the case on previous occasions.

107. Mr. SUNDBERG (Sweden): Let me first thank the Director-General of IAEA, Mr. Eklund, for his detailed and very interesting introduction of the annual report.

108. The global problems connected with the energy situation have significantly influenced the conditions for the fulfilment of the Agency's functions. The increase in oil prices has given rise to ambitious plans to increase considerably the use of nuclear power in both industrialized and developing countries. The massive expansion of nuclear-power programmes, and the many accompanying problems that can be foreseen, will place heavy demands on both the technical co-operation and the regulatory activities of the Agency. We fully support the Agency programmes in those two priority areas. My delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of securing adequate resources for the technical co-operation programme. We welcome the fact that the target for the general fund in 1975 has been raised to \$4.5 million from the previous \$3 million.

109. The public discussion concerning problems connected with the use of nuclear energy, particularly its safety aspects and its impact on the environment, is at present rather intense, not least in my country. The Agency will be called upon to play an important normative role in the development of world-wide rules for the safe handling, transport and storage of

the rapidly increasing amount of plutonium produced, as well as the disposal of radioactive waste. My Government intends to participate actively in the Agency programme on safety codes and guides for nuclear power plants. Constructive co-operation between IAEA and UNEP concerning basic environmental criteria for this important work is obviously highly desirable. Such codes and guides, developed through international co-operation, are urgently necessary if the fuel cycle in nuclear-power generation is to become completely controllable and if, thus, nuclear power is ever to become accepted by the general public as a safe means of producing energy.

110. The problems I have mentioned and the IAEA work programmes in these fields find their reflection in the annual report. The report also deals with another major area of the Agency's activities—that is, safeguards. The present procedures are not adequate for the requirements of today and tomorrow. All reasonable measures must therefore be undertaken to strengthen and improve the IAEA safeguards system in order not to let the situation of today signify the beginning of the erosion of the relevance of the non-proliferation Treaty.

111. I find it necessary to point out that there are also encouraging developments to register in connexion with the non-proliferation Treaty. A number of industrial nations with a rapidly growing peaceful nuclear capacity are moving closer to final acceptance of the Treaty and of the concomitant safeguards agreements with IAEA. I can mention here specifically that my own country initialled a safeguards agreement under the non-proliferation Treaty with the Agency on 4 September. That agreement will supersede Sweden's present agreement on Agency safeguards.

112. With regard to the non-proliferation Treaty, I also wish to inform the General Assembly that Sweden has had under review its obligations under article III, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty, relating to exports to non-nuclear-weapon States of source and special fissionable material. As a result, my Government is in the process of introducing export regulations with regard to certain specified equipment and materials, exportation of which to countries in the category just mentioned will be authorized only if, according to the rules of article III, paragraph 2, adequate international—that is, IAEA—safeguards continue at the facility of destination in the recipient State and in connexion with the material that may be produced in it.

113. Several ideas have recently been put forward, including some from the Swedish delegation, to the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and in the disarmament debate in the First Committee of the General Assembly on how to deal with the many problems the international community is facing with the introduction of large-scale generation of nuclear energy. To cope with these problems we shall obviously have to go beyond present management and control arrangements. My Government is studying with interest the proposal by the Director-General for an international conference in 1977 on the prospects and problems of nuclear energy. It is clear that if such a conference is to take place it must be

prepared very carefully under the guidance of the General Assembly.

114. Among matters falling into the category of possible international agreements, I wish to mention the area of physical security of nuclear installations and nuclear materials during storage and transport. In this connexion, special attention must be paid to the problems concerning storage of the increasing amount of plutonium. My Government supports the proposal for an international agreement on minimum standards for physical security.

115. Like the Director-General, my Government is concerned with the problems created by the present bottlenecks in the fuel cycle. For instance, we feel that the idea of establishing international reprocessing plants merits careful study.

116. In conclusion, I should like to express the Swedish Government's appreciation of the efficiency and vigour with which the IAEA and its Director-General fulfil their functions at this juncture in the Agency's existence, when it is faced with new and increasingly important tasks in a number of fields.

117. Mr. NISHIBORI (Japan): I should like first of all to extend to Mr. Eklund, Director-General of IAEA, a very warm welcome to the present session of the General Assembly, and to convey to him my heartfelt congratulations on his excellent, lucid statement on the Agency's activities. The detailed explanation he gave today on the Agency's report leads me to believe that in recent months IAEA has made steady progress in the field of nuclear activities, which is one of the most important areas of scientific and technological development today. I earnestly hope that the international community will continue to make concerted efforts to maintain and even further strengthen this encouraging development.

118. It is against this background that my delegation attaches great importance to the Agency's active efforts, in particular, to strengthen its activities in the fields of assistance to developing countries as well as of development of nuclear energy as an alternative energy source. In this spirit I welcome the steps taken by IAEA in expanding its training programme to meet the urgent need of developing countries, and I fully endorse the initiative taken by IAEA in arranging for an international conference on nuclear power and the fuel cycle, to be convened in 1977.

119. Now I wish to take this opportunity to state my delegation's views on the question of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which is one of the most important issues under the present agenda item.

120. On 25 October, during the First Committee's consideration of the question of the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, I stated the basic views of the Japanese Government on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which are based on the concept that there is no way to distinguish between nuclear explosions for military purposes and those for peaceful purposes at the present level of technology.⁷ In these circumstances, therefore, nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes should be internationally controlled in order to deter the risk of nuclear proliferation in the guise of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and, at the same time, to ensure that the potential benefits from any peaceful applica-

tions of nuclear explosions will be made available to those States desiring to obtain such benefits.

121. In view of this need, I wish to state that IAEA has made an excellent study of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and I welcome current efforts, as described in the Agency's report, to establish a new organizational unit within the secretariat of IAEA to explore ways of supplying services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and to strengthen the activities of the Agency in this field. In addition, my delegation considers that all information on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes that has been acquired from past nuclear tests should be made available to IAEA and that all States should be permitted to obtain through the Agency the information thus collected. Needless to say, however, we should control with the utmost care the flow of information concerning the ways of manufacturing nuclear explosive devices for peaceful purposes, and other technology that could facilitate nuclear proliferation.

122. With the assistance of a group of experts, IAEA has prepared procedures to be followed by the Agency in responding to requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. It is the sincere hope of my delegation that the IAEA will go further and will study not only the procedural aspects but what information will be supplied on the technological aspect and economic feasibility of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. I am convinced that our concerted efforts in this field will unquestionably make peaceful applications of nuclear energy more promising for mankind.

123. Before concluding these brief remarks I wish to express, on behalf of the Japanese Government, its earnest desire, as a member of IAEA, to continue to make as great a contribution as possible to the activities of the Agency.

124. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria): Let me begin my brief remarks by expressing appreciation to the Director-General of the Agency, Mr. Eklund, for the most interesting and comprehensive statement he has just made to us.

125. Mr. Eklund's introduction and the report of the Agency show convincingly that the situation in the energy sector as it exists today, especially the rise in the price of crude oil, will have far-reaching effects on the nature and scope of the Agency's activities in the years to come in fields as varied as research, nuclear safety, environmental protection and technical assistance. The ever-increasing need for energy in its different forms and the problem of producing this energy in sufficient and economically feasible amounts has faced the international community for a long time, but it has gained new relevance in the recent past. Nuclear energy has now become an economic reality, but in order to define correctly its place in the overall energy supply one would, it seems, need extensive additional over-all energy research, which, in our view, should lead to additional responsibilities for the Agency in areas such as economic analysis and environmental studies. Speaking at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs said that, bearing in mind that nuclear energy would obviously play an important role in the scientific and technical provision of additional sources of energy, the Austrian Government

felt that those tasks could usefully be entrusted to the Agency. By its very nature and within the framework of its statutory and regulatory functions, IAEA was well equipped either to co-ordinate or to implement the wide-ranging technical and scientific projects in the field of energy research and also to make the pertinent economic analysis.⁸ One of the significant advantages offered by the Agency, which I should like to mention in this context, is the fact that developing as well as industrialized countries have already co-operated successfully within its framework.

126. As is reflected in the report before us, the changing energy situation will have a distinctive impact on the Agency's technical co-operation programme and the enhanced economic prospects for nuclear power in developing countries will have a profound effect on both the content and the size of the Agency's technical assistance activities. My delegation has always advocated an increase of the financial means for the technical assistance programme, and profoundly welcomes the increase in the general fund to \$4.5 million. The Austrian Government will, subject to parliamentary approval, make a voluntary contribution to the general fund for 1975 in the amount of \$26,100, which, although modest, represents an increase of about 60 per cent over the current year. We have also declared our readiness to make available the same amount of type II fellowships as in previous years.

127. Within the area of technical assistance, the training of experts for nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities is an important question. In this connexion, we welcome the announcement that the Agency will provide training for key project engineers and on-the-job training in construction and safety techniques.

128. The impact of nuclear energy on the environment is a question of rapidly increasing dimensions, which has not only intensified public discussion but also led to a substantial expansion of the Agency's activities on nuclear safety and environmental protection, in particular waste management. As can be noted from the respective paragraphs in the report, the Agency has responded expeditiously and decisively to this growing challenge and we welcome the fact that this reorientation in the over-all programme of the Agency is reflected in operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution before us.

129. As regards the non-proliferation Treaty, my delegation shares the regret at the lack of progress with regard to wider adherence to and fulfilment of the obligations under the Treaty, as expressed by the Director-General. This lack of progress—one might also call it stagnation—is demonstrated by the fact that since last year's General Conference no new country has signed the non-proliferation Treaty and only two of those which had already signed have deposited their instruments of ratification. We fully share the view that the review conference, which is to take place in May 1975, will be of crucial importance for the functioning of the system established by the Treaty and it will be essential that the major industrial countries, both nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear States, reaffirm, by deed as well as by word, the importance they attach to it.

130. There has been a little more progress in the field of safeguards. In this connexion, I wish to point to the agreed decision of a number of major exporting countries to apply a minimum standard of conduct in the implementation of article III, paragraph 2, of the non-proliferation Treaty and to require the application of the Agency's safeguards in non-nuclear-weapon States with regard to items covered by that provision of the Treaty which applies to such States. I should like to add here that when establishing the Austrian safeguards system we found the guide on international standards for safeguards systems published by the Agency particularly useful.

131. Another question of significance to which I should like to address myself briefly is that being dealt with here and concurrently in the First Committee relating to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. The Austrian delegation continues to attach great importance to General Assembly resolution 2829 (XXVI) by which the Assembly requested that the Agency should study ways and means of establishing, within its framework, an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control. The steps that the Agency has taken on the basis of the provisions of that resolution and in accordance with article V of the non-proliferation Treaty, which are set out in the addendum to its annual report [A/9722/Add.1] are to be highly commended. Without going into the substance of that document, I wish only to say that we share the view of the Director-General that it would help the prospects of the non-proliferation Treaty if all those nuclear-weapon States that have yet to adhere to the Treaty would do themselves, as well as the international community, a service by demonstrating, through accession to the Treaty, their own determination to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. In view of the difficulties in distinguishing between nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and those for military purposes, we feel at the same time the need for an early agreement on the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests in the atmosphere and underground.

132. A thorough study of all aspects of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes would, in our view, go a long way towards clarifying, for the benefit of all of us, the true economic and scientific potential of this technology, as well as the problems of distinguishing such explosions from nuclear-weapon tests. Such a study could build on the work already done by the Agency in this field.

133. Regarding the Agency's budget for the coming year, the Austrian delegation regrets that, again, cost increases for personnel and administration, caused by inflation as well as by changes in the exchange rates, will permit of only a limited extension of the Agency's activities proper. My delegation is convinced, however, that the funds available will be used with the greatest care, in order to achieve optimum effect.

134. Although the report states that no serious problems of co-ordination have arisen during the period under review, I wish nevertheless to emphasize the importance of this question, especially in view of the increasing interrelationship between nuclear energy on the one side and general economic and environmental

problems on the other. In these circumstances my delegation fully supports the statement in paragraph 23 of the Agency's report and expresses the hope that the Agency will be given the role it is so competent to play in this respect.

135. In conclusion, representing the Agency's host country, I should like to adhere to custom and mention briefly here the progress made in the construction of the permanent headquarters of the Agency. The work on the office towers and the conference building is making good progress, according to schedule. The construction of single floors to be installed between the towers and the fitting of the façade will be started very soon indeed. We have every reason to believe that the buildings will be ready for occupancy by 1978, as planned.

136. In this connexion, I should very much like to thank Mr. Eklund for the very kind words he addressed to Austria as the host country of the Agency. I can assure the Director-General, and indeed all member States of IAEA and of the United Nations, that my country will continue to do its utmost to support the Agency and to meet its requirements also in the future.

137. May I conclude by paying a very special tribute to Mr. Eklund and his staff, not only for the outstanding accomplishments of his organization in the past year but also for the excellent co-operation they have always extended to the Austrian Federal Government.

138. Mr. GARCÍA ROBLES (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The report of IAEA for 1973/74, and the introduction of that report a short time ago, made with his habitual clarity by the Director-General, Mr. Eklund, demonstrate that the Agency has intensified its activities in various important spheres over the past 12 months. In draft resolution A/L.740 reference is made to some of the most outstanding aspects of the work done by the Agency. We believe that today, more than ever, it should play a decisive role in solving problems related to the need for facilitating the transfer of nuclear technology and the promotion of a better distribution of the benefits of the nuclear era.

139. Last February, during a voyage to Salzburg to participate in a meeting of the Club of Rome, the President of Mexico, Mr. Luis Echeverría, visited the headquarters of IAEA and said the following, among other things, to the Board of Governors:

"The age-old desire to make available to man the forces of nature finds in nuclear energy the greatest possibilities. The twentieth century will, as time goes by, be judged by the way in which we have used this formidable tool, which can either ennoble or destroy our species, to begin an enlightened era or to seal the doom of the human adventure. Atomic energy is thus the qualitative frontier of modern history."

140. Without ignoring the value of the work done by the Agency at Vienna—which since its establishment,

I would say in passing, has had the resolute support of my Government—we continue to believe that its activities in the field of technical assistance to developing countries should be considerably increased.

141. The present energy crisis has dramatized that need, since the developing countries require most urgently, in order to be able to use the energy of the atom, the technical co-operation that IAEA can extend to them. We have noted with satisfaction the measures adopted by the Agency to establish, within its framework, an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control, particularly the approval of the procedures in responding to requests for services related to nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, and the resolution of the Board of Governors of 13 September 1974 [*ibid.*, annex I] to establish, within the Agency, a separate organizational unit for this purpose.

142. As will be recalled, such measures were requested in 1971 by the General Assembly in its resolution 2829 (XXVI). My delegation, which was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution that became resolution 2829 (XXVI), pointed out⁹ that its sponsorship of that draft did not in any way modify or affect our well-known position on the question of the special international agreement mentioned in article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons—an agreement which, I would say in passing, the representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union have been promising us since 1968 they would very shortly start to negotiate.

143. In conclusion, I should like to say that my delegation's position on this agreement and on what article V of the Treaty refers to as the "appropriate international body", is the same as the one we set forth on 25 November 1968.¹⁰

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

NOTES

¹ International Atomic Energy Agency, *Annual Report, 1 July 1973-30 June 1974* (Vienna, July 1974) and addendum; transmitted to the members of the General Assembly by notes by the Secretary-General (A/9722 and Add.1).

² Concluded in London on 29 December 1972.

³ See resolution 2373 (XXII), annex, article III.

⁴ Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America signed at Tlatelolco, Mexico, by 21 Latin American States in February 1967 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068).

⁵ A/C.1/PV.2000, pp. 9-10.

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2159th meeting, para. 71.

⁷ A/C.1/PV.2001, p. 46.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixth Special Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2224th meeting, para. 115.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Twenty-sixth Session, First Committee, 1848th meeting, para. 41.

¹⁰ A/C.1/976.