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Chair: Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 48: Effects of atomic radiation (A/69/46 and A/69/350; A/C.4/69/L.6)

1. **Mr. Larsson** (Australia), Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, speaking via video link from Sydney and accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, introduced the report of the Scientific Committee on its sixty-first session (A/69/46). The Scientific Committee did not advise on protection, policies, programmes or techniques, but rather was mandated to undertake broad assessments of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment. Exposure to ionizing radiation was constant and in most cases came from natural sources; average natural background exposure was 2.4 millisieverts per year. Meanwhile, average man-made exposure, primarily as a result of the use of ionizing radiation in medicine for diagnostic purposes, was 0.6 millisieverts per year, which was likely to rise as more countries introduced such diagnostic tools. Certain categories of workers had significantly higher exposure levels, including responders to radiological or nuclear emergencies. Such exposure could have acute health effects at very high levels and cancer risks and other effects at lower levels, including heritable effects that had not yet been demonstrated in humans, but remained scientifically possible. The effects of ionizing radiation on other organisms and the environment were evaluated through information on accidents and controlled field experiments. The Scientific Committee's evaluations were used by Governments and United Nations entities in issuing recommendations and developing radiation control frameworks, but policy matters were not part of the Scientific Committee's mandate.

2. The work of the Scientific Committee and its secretariat had become more demanding as a result of the expansion of that Committee's membership in 2011 and the need to assess the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. At the sixty-first session, terms of reference formally establishing a Bureau had been adopted and the Scientific Committee's governing principles had been confirmed; a new Bureau would be elected at the start of the sixty-second session.

3. An advance copy of a Japanese translation of the report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the Fukushima Daiichi accident had been presented in Fukushima Prefecture in May 2014. Outreach activities had been conducted in that Prefecture with the assistance of the Japanese Government, and had focused on professionals interacting with the public, although they had been open to all. Despite some criticisms, the report had been well received.

4. The reports currently being prepared included two scientific annexes that would be published in 2015 or 2016: an evaluation of radiation exposures from electricity generation and an updated methodology for estimating human exposures due to radioactive discharges into the environment. The collection of data on radiation exposures, in particular for an evaluation of medical exposures, would be facilitated by an online platform developed by the secretariat for collecting such data from national contact points. Future work would focus on finalizing evaluations that had been delayed because priority had been given to the work on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Other potential evaluations for consideration at the sixty-second session included the health effects of low-dose radiation exposure, selected evaluations of risk to health from radiation exposure, an evaluation of the risk of second cancers after radiotherapy, and follow-up activities to update and consolidate the findings of the assessment of the radiological consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

5. The work of the Scientific Committee was fundamental to the international radiation safety framework and to the decisions made by Governments and international bodies. By remaining within its purely scientific remit, the Scientific Committee provided added value to the global community as a cost-effective mechanism for sharing scientific knowledge and had earned respect internationally for its objectivity, independence and quality of work, all attributes that should be maintained in the future.

6. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation), accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee (A/69/350). In 2011, the General Assembly had decided, by resolution 66/70, to increase the membership of the

Scientific Committee from 21 to 27 members and to consider a procedure for a possible further membership increase at its seventy-third session. Accordingly, a list of possible members would be drawn up in 2017 and an increase in membership would be considered in 2018. The Scientific Committee, at its next session, intended to set out long-term strategic directions that went beyond the period covered by its current strategic plan (2014-2019), in order to inform the membership decisions of the General Assembly.

7. The report concerned a three-year period that had been atypical as a result of the heavy focus on the assessment of the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The issues considered included extra travel costs for the new members, which had been absorbed through more favourable airfares and in-kind contributions from some members. There had been an increase in workload for the Scientific Committee and its secretariat, and most members of the Scientific Committee had stepped up their efforts, although some members could further enhance their contributions. More explicit procedures were needed to ensure a shared approach to the review of the relevant science. Overall, the period of study had been too short to draw firm conclusions on the impact of the increase in membership on the effectiveness and quality of work of the Scientific Committee.

8. While the Scientific Committee had almost doubled in size since its establishment in 1955, its geographical distribution had remained stable. The report recalled that the Scientific Committee had expressed concerns in 2010 about a potentially large increase in membership and had made alternative proposals, and had noted the desirability of maintaining membership numbers at levels that would facilitate the achievement of scientific consensus. The report set out a number of possible ways to manage a large increase in the Scientific Committee's membership, such as the formalization of its two subgroups on levels of exposure and effects of exposure, bearing in mind the different scientific objectives of the two subgroups; increased links with scientific institutions; new funding arrangements; virtual participation; rotating membership; and limits on the size of delegations. Since the Scientific Committee's work was scientific, enlargement was not necessarily the most pertinent way of enhancing that work, despite the importance of equitable geographical

distribution. Rather, the Scientific Committee required access to good data and expertise from relevant institutions.

9. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that the report on the impact of the increase in the membership of the Scientific Committee cited financial and logistical factors as obstacles to such an increase. However, as the budget allocated to the Scientific Committee was comparatively modest, delegations should agree to increase their financial contributions in order to accommodate an increase in the membership, given the importance of the Scientific Committee, so that it could benefit from global knowledge and expertise. In the short term, if increased membership was problematic, rotating membership could provide all with an opportunity to participate. Procedural matters were not usually a concern for United Nations bodies, as could be seen in the increase in membership of the General Assembly over the years, and were therefore not good reasons for blocking the demand from countries interested in joining the Scientific Committee.

10. **Mr. Motanyane** (Lesotho) said that, given the comment by the Chair of the Scientific Committee that an increase in its membership would not necessarily enhance its efficiency, he wished to know which factors should be taken into account in order for Member States to enhance the efficiency of the Scientific Committee.

11. **Mr. Forés Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that it was important to acknowledge the right of developing countries to benefit from the work of the Scientific Committee. The degree to which countries were prepared to participate in its analyses should not be the sole consideration, since such thinking would leave developing countries without access to its important work. Creative alternative solutions should be found to address the underrepresentation of developing countries on the Scientific Committee. It was also important to make better use of the Scientific Committee's limited budget.

12. **Mr. Larsson** (Australia), Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, said that, with regard to the issue of access, one way in which the Scientific Committee provided added value to the scientific and global community was by making the results of all its scientific evaluations and reports freely available. Reports to the

General Assembly were relatively short and were available in all six official languages of the United Nations, while detailed scientific assessments were available in English only. Better interaction with countries where the Scientific Committee could provide input for the establishment of sustainable scientific structures should be discussed as part of the broader consideration of the issue of membership.

13. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation) said that the report on the increase in membership focused on the Scientific Committee's mandate, which did not specifically include developing the scientific infrastructure of Member States, but rather focused on synthesizing the results of scientific work and making them available to all. The comments made regarding the Scientific Committee's budget were welcome, while suggestions such as rotating membership were set out in the report for the delegations' consideration. Much would depend on how many countries expressed an interest in joining the Scientific Committee.

14. In terms of enhancing the efficiency of the Scientific Committee, new members might not have experience in developing scientific analyses of the standard expected, which could lead to additional work in order to conduct what were, for more experienced countries, relatively straightforward scientific evaluations. There was thus a trade-off between adding countries with good expertise and adding countries that had a desire to learn from the Scientific Committee.

15. **Mr. Estreme** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the States parties and associated States of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), said that MERCOSUR supported the work of the Scientific Committee, which played a fundamental role in providing the scientific rationale for the moratorium on nuclear testing. Its assessments were also the basis for essential international safety standards established under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He welcomed the report on the Scientific Committee's most recent session (A/69/46), which attested to the importance of issues related to the effects of radiation on human beings and the environment.

16. In a world where the applications of nuclear technology continued to grow, particularly in the field of health care, the Scientific Committee's work was

vital. MERCOSUR welcomed the assessment of the consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the review of the effects of radiation exposure on children, and fully supported the programme of work of the Scientific Committee, including the study of radiation exposures from electricity generation and the updated methodology for estimating human exposures due to radioactive discharges into the environment. Input from the Scientific Committee was essential in areas such as energy, medicine and waste management, since it influenced decision-making in those fields and worker and environmental protection.

17. The tragedies at Chernobyl and Fukushima were a reminder of the need for caution and for the broadest possible dissemination of data on the effects of atomic radiation, including in civil society. The MERCOSUR States parties and associated States were committed to working with the Scientific Committee to develop the international regime for protection from the effects of atomic radiation.

18. **Mr. Vrailas** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union and its member States were satisfied with the outcome of the sixty-first session of the Scientific Committee. The work and assessments of the Scientific Committee played an important role in improving the international scientific understanding of exposure to ionizing radiation and its health and environmental effects and in providing essential and authoritative scientific information to the international community.

19. His delegation welcomed the report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the Fukushima Daiichi accident, and agreed that protection from medical exposure to radiation should be a priority for the Scientific Committee, whose review of scientific knowledge on such exposure played a central role in the evaluation of the health effects of low-dose radiation exposure and the risk of second cancers after radiotherapy. His delegation also supported the Scientific Committee's focus on low-dose-rate exposures of the public to environmental sources of radiation.

20. He welcomed the Scientific Committee's extensive review of the effects of radiation exposure on children, as exposure in childhood left more time for cancer to develop than exposure in adulthood. The programme of work of the Scientific Committee was in line with the priorities of the European Union, which looked forward to receiving the report on radiation exposures from electricity generation.

21. **Mr. Forés Rodríguez** (Cuba) said that his delegation welcomed the annual report of the Scientific Committee, whose high-quality work was used to establish international and national standards on protection from the effects of ionizing radiation. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a permanent reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons, a scourge that still affected humankind. Cuba called for nuclear disarmament as the main means of achieving international peace and security and ensuring that such weapons were never used again.

22. Under its humanitarian programme in Tarará, Cuba had treated thousands of child victims of the accident at Chernobyl, despite the difficulties caused by the illegal embargo imposed by the United States Government. The programme had gathered primary data on internal contamination in children, which had been disseminated at scientific events, used by United Nations-affiliated agencies and quoted in the work of the Scientific Committee.

23. It was important to continue developing links between the Scientific Committee and other organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), IAEA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), since joint efforts would lead to technical progress and greater benefits for humankind in areas such as health care and environmental protection. Genuine and broad cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy was the only way to eliminate the potential threats of ionizing radiation.

24. **Mr. Alday González** (Mexico) said that information on the impact of atomic radiation collected by the Scientific Committee over six decades had proved useful for organizations and Governments. The Scientific Committee had supported the development of international radiation protection standards and the introduction of those standards in domestic legislation.

25. The Scientific Committee's research had strengthened the deliberations at the Conference on the

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Norway in 2013 and in Mexico in 2014. The debates in Mexico had focused on the long- and short-term effects of nuclear weapons on public health, the environment and food security, among other issues. It had been recognized at those two events that the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons was a central concern that should be at the heart of multilateral deliberations on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and on the global security agenda for the twenty-first century. Raising awareness of the devastating humanitarian and other consequences of the use of nuclear weapons had enhanced understanding of the need to eliminate risks. His delegation urged all Member States to participate in the next Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, which would take place in Vienna in December 2014.

26. **Mr. Vallarino** (Argentina) said that his delegation appreciated the work of the Scientific Committee and the report of its sixty-first session. The Government of Argentina welcomed the Scientific Committee's successful research into the consequences of the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the effects of radiation exposure on children, but underscored the preliminary nature of those findings. The Scientific Committee should continue that work in order to achieve an exhaustive understanding of those topics; in particular, it should take into account IAEA General Conference resolution GC(57)/RES/9 calling for a comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. It was essential for the secretariats of IAEA and the Scientific Committee to coordinate their efforts in order to ensure that the conclusions on the Fukushima Daiichi accident were consistent and coherent.

27. While Argentina fully supported the programme of work of the Scientific Committee, it considered that the latter should evaluate radiation exposures from electricity generation from all sources. Regarding biological effects from selected internal emitters, recent experience, particularly following the Fukushima Daiichi accident, had changed priorities and the Scientific Committee should study caesium and iodine, radionuclides with significant radiological impacts, as a matter of urgency. So far, only tritium and uranium had been evaluated in depth.

28. The Argentine representative on the Scientific Committee had expressed concerns regarding the draft hypothetical evaluations, prepared with no

epidemiological basis, of the radiological impact of tritium, and had emphasized that care should be taken regarding estimates in that area. Argentina supported the Scientific Committee's work on the cancer epidemiology of exposures at low dose-rates due to environmental radiation, which should be fully coherent and consistent with the recent report of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly. Regarding the Scientific Committee's collection of data on medical exposure to radiation, the conclusions of the International Conference on Radiation Protection in Medicine, held in Bonn, should be taken into account.

29. **Mr. Takahashi** (Japan) said that his country had been a founding member of the Scientific Committee, whose work was vital for the evaluation of radiation risk and the establishment of radiation protection and safety standards. As a country committed to nuclear safety, particularly in light of the 2011 accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, Japan highly valued the work of the Scientific Committee. It commended the publication in April 2013 of the report on the sources, effects and risks of ionizing radiation and its annex on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami.

30. In September 2014, a team from the Scientific Committee, including the Chair, had visited Japan, where it had held public dialogues on the report on the effects of radiation exposure following the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The report indicated that cancer rates would remain stable, and both the report and the public dialogues had been well received because they were based on scientific knowledge and were useful for sharing experience with the international community. In recognition of the Scientific Committee's important role in nuclear safety, Japan would continue to support its activities and in February 2014 had provided it with a voluntary contribution of \$863,000.

31. **Mr. Mishkorudny** (Belarus) said that in 2015 and 2016, the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Scientific Committee, the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident and the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi accident would draw attention to issues concerning the protection of human beings and the environment from radiation. His delegation took note of the publication of the scientific annex on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan

earthquake and tsunami. As a new member of the Scientific Committee, Belarus wished to draw attention to its unique experience in combating the medical and environmental effects of the accident at Chernobyl. That experience had led it to focus on the problems of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and to show due regard for science-based decision-making and stringent safety standards in the construction of the first nuclear power station in Belarus.

32. Under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, a 10-year action plan should be drafted on the rehabilitation and sustainable development of the areas affected by the Chernobyl accident. The action plan, in which the Scientific Committee should participate, would complement the efforts of the three countries worst affected by the Chernobyl accident. His delegation hoped that such an initiative would receive broad support.

33. Following the Fukushima accident, Belarus had signed an intergovernmental agreement with Japan in 2012 on cooperation in dealing with the consequences of the accident. The agreement had established a dialogue between Belarusian and Japanese experts to analyse the impact of large-scale nuclear disasters and take appropriate measures.

34. The Scientific Committee's priorities matched those of Belarus, and its findings served as the basis for national radiation protection standards. His delegation welcomed the periodic exchange of data on radiation exposure in industrial and health-care settings, launched in 2014, and would submit the required information. It also welcomed the intention to publish an updated version of the UNEP booklet "Radiation: doses, effects, risks", which would be used at national and international events commemorating the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

35. **Mr. Tsymbaliuk** (Ukraine) said that his delegation commended the authoritative and independent contribution of the Scientific Committee to the international community's understanding of ionizing radiation. Given the increase in the volume, complexity and diversity of information on atomic and ionizing radiation in recent years, the Scientific Committee's work should continue and should be disseminated widely. His delegation welcomed the Scientific Committee's resolve to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the exposure levels and radiation risks resulting from the Fukushima Daiichi

accident and noted the publication of the scientific annex on the topic, in which a Ukrainian expert had been involved. The scientific annex on the effects of radiation exposure on children would be used in Ukraine to plan assistance for children exposed to radiation as a result of the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Ukraine stood ready to contribute to the Scientific Committee's future work on the basis of its experience in dealing with the effects of radiation on human health and the environment.

36. His delegation looked forward to the approval of the documents on an updated methodology for estimating human exposure to radioactive discharges and on the biological effects of selected internal emitters at the sixty-second session of the Scientific Committee. The findings of the studies on the epidemiology of low-dose-rate exposures of the public to natural and artificial environmental sources of radiation and on medical exposures would be used in Ukraine to inform assessments of cancer in the population. The Scientific Committee's broad assessments of global and regional exposures to radiation provided scientific foundations for international and national standards to protect the public and workers. His delegation therefore encouraged specialized international organizations and other relevant institutions to collaborate with the Scientific Committee on the collection and exchange of data on radiation exposures of the general public, workers and patients.

37. His delegation supported the inclusion of four new topics in the future work of the Scientific Committee (A/69/46, para. 19) and noted that outreach activities played an important role in raising awareness and deepening understanding of issues related to radiation. In 2016, the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima accident and the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident would provide opportunities for outreach activities. Ukraine had actively participated in drafting the Scientific Committee's future programme of work and current strategic plan (2014-2019). Consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States should continue to be part of the process of preparing scientific reports and should be facilitated by the secretariat. Ukraine remained ready to provide the Scientific Committee with information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation.

38. **Mr. Ghiza** (Iraq) said that his delegation was gravely concerned about the use of military weapons and ammunition that released ionizing radiation, and called on the competent international organizations, such as IAEA and WHO, to conduct in-depth scientific studies on the environmental and health effects of such radiation and on ways of dealing with them. He urged States that had used such weapons to provide information to the authorities of affected States regarding the areas and quantities of use and to help them assess the situation and provide effective remedies for the local populations and areas concerned. The Iraqi Government had approved measures aimed at the safe use of ionizing radiation, marking dangerous zones and ensuring occupational health by establishing a database and a centre on radiation protection. The Ministry for the Environment had carried out a comprehensive survey of all remnants of war in areas that had witnessed military operations and had determined that 41 locations were at risk of radiological contamination.

39. Iraq was seeking to introduce nuclear technology in order to generate atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to conduct scientific research into medical, industrial, agricultural and environmental applications; it was also training staff in cooperation with IAEA. The Ministry for the Environment had completed a geophysical survey of groundwater in contaminated regions close to destroyed nuclear-reactor sites. In addition, radiation screening measures were being introduced to ensure that imports were not harmful to health. In the field of health care, improvements in safety information for radiologists, enhanced indicators and quality control for medical exposure, and medical radiation licensing had prompted IAEA to improve its ranking of Iraq; that would open up prospects for cooperation with IAEA and for Iraq to contribute to neurological and nuclear medicine.

40. Iraq had recently deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which would strengthen the international nuclear security regime. Further international support was needed for the clean-up of all the pollutants and radiation to which Iraq had been exposed as a result of war. The Scientific Committee and the IAEA Technical Cooperation Department had carried out training and capacity-building programmes

on nuclear technology and science, which his delegation hoped would be extended.

41. **Ms. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that her delegation acknowledged the contribution of the Scientific Committee to assessing the effects of atomic radiation on human health and the environment, particularly with regard to the formulation of international protection standards. She noted that the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of the increase in the Scientific Committee's membership (A/69/350) mentioned both the principle of geographical representation and the critical need to ensure that highly specialized experts served on that Committee, in order to maintain its independence and integrity and enhance its effectiveness.

42. Between 1946 and 1996, more than 315 nuclear tests had been carried out in the Pacific region, spreading radioactive fallout and leaving entire islands uninhabitable. Communities in the area still experienced higher rates of cancer and birth defects due to exposure to radiation; the environment and food sources in some areas remained highly contaminated; and many peoples had been relocated from their ancestral homes and disconnected from their indigenous way of life. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes had highlighted the impact of such nuclear tests as a serious human rights issue. The costs of nuclear testing in the Pacific to current and future generations were unknown, since no medical or environmental data on radiation poisoning had been compiled by those responsible.

43. Her delegation noted with concern the report of the Secretary-General on the environmental, ecological, health and other impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in French Polynesia (A/69/189) and remained unconvinced by the overall conclusion of the IAEA study on the residual radiological conditions at the atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa in French Polynesia. Even the peaceful use of nuclear technology, in the event of disasters, had humanitarian, genetic and environmental consequences that many States in the Pacific lacked the capacity and technology to measure or counter. Although the Scientific Committee had presented the results of its assessment of the impact of radiation on children affected by the Fukushima Daiichi accident, much

remained unknown about the accident's impact in Japan and beyond.

44. Her delegation was deeply concerned about the accountability, transparency and integrity of the multilateral processes for dealing with the impact of nuclear testing in the Pacific and its health and environmental effects. Her delegation called on the United Nations to commission an independent study assessing the environmental, ecological, health and other related impacts of the 30-year period of nuclear testing in the Pacific and the wider impacts on the region. Such a study would ensure that measures could be taken to address the injustice of exposure to radiation from nuclear testing.

45. **Mr. Prasad** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the publication of the scientific annexes on radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident at Fukushima Daiichi and on the effects of radiation exposure on children. The fact that, thus far, no significant health effects had been observed in the exposed population was reassuring.

46. Regarding the draft scientific annexes on radiation exposures from electricity generation and on updating the methodology for estimating human exposures due to radioactive discharges into the environment, India had concerns about gaps in information and erroneous methods of estimating exposures based on generic assumptions that were not globally applicable. Its representative in the Scientific Committee had communicated those concerns to the secretariat in writing, with a request that they should be addressed and accommodated during the revision of the scientific annexes. Regarding the evaluations of the biological effects of exposure to selected internal emitters, India supported, in light of the Fukushima accident, the proposal to conduct similar evaluations for caesium and iodine. His delegation noted the Scientific Committee's efforts to develop an evaluation of medical exposure and to undertake outreach activities. India endorsed the view that a thorough review of the effects of radiation exposure on children following the Fukushima accident should be given the highest priority in future programmes of work.

47. **Ms. Sughayar** (Jordan) said that her delegation commended the Scientific Committee's transparent and independent contribution to information on radiation usage and exposure. As the use of radiation and atomic energy was increasing, research into mechanisms for

mitigating the risks and effects of radiation exposure was essential, while reporting on findings in that area increased knowledge and raised awareness of the effects of radiation on human health and the environment.

48. Every country had a responsibility to ensure the safety of radiation usage through regulatory practices and security strategies. The magnitude of the threat posed by ionizing radiation to each country's security, regardless of whether it benefited from such technologies, should be recognized. Her delegation called on Member States to commit to international legal and regulatory standards to protect the public from radioactive discharges, including from nuclear weapons testing, electricity generation and medical exposure. More monitoring measures should be implemented in the areas most exposed to radiation, and developed countries should share their technology and expertise to address challenges in developing countries.

49. As Jordan prepared to open its first nuclear power unit by 2021, it was taking into account the lessons learned from the Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi accidents in developing a regulatory framework for its nuclear power programme. Jordan intended to become a model for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with international safety standards and laws, and was a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to IAEA safeguards agreements. Its legal, regulatory and security framework was in line with IAEA safety standards. Her delegation reaffirmed its demand that all nuclear and radioactive facilities, particularly in the Middle East, should be subject to comprehensive safeguards, with a view to achieving universal application of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Member States should collaborate to ensure that public radiation exposure was as low as possible and to boost international efforts towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

50. **Mr. Zhao Xinli** (China) said that his delegation took note of the work of the Scientific Committee over the previous year, including on radiation exposures from electricity generation, biological effects from selected internal emitters and outreach activities. The topics and activities for the Scientific Committee's future programme of work were well chosen and China hoped that all remaining tasks and planned work, including the assessment of the levels and effects of

radiation exposure due to the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the review on the effects of radiation exposure on children, would be completed as scheduled and to the usual high standard.

51. Environmental pollution, climate change and energy supplies were three major challenges facing humankind. Nuclear technology provided highly efficient and cost-effective energy and the lowest overall emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and was therefore a clean energy source awaiting further development. The application of atomic radiation technology in other fields, including health care and food preservation, was increasing, and human activities had led to increased radiation from natural sources. The international community should further study the effects of atomic radiation, ensure effective protection from harmful radiation and fully harness such technology for the benefit of humankind.

52. The physical, psychological, environmental and social repercussions of major nuclear accidents often transcended national boundaries and lasted for generations. Since such accidents were often associated with weak regulation and poor emergency response, the countries concerned should take measures to meet their responsibilities in that regard and eliminate all negative effects resulting from nuclear accidents.

53. Progress in the development of nuclear energy, atomic radiation technology and nuclear emergency response required international cooperation and must benefit humankind. Safety and security should be prioritized, and development and security should be seen as mutually reinforcing objectives; development achieved at the expense of safety and security was not sustainable and was therefore not real development. A comprehensive and balanced approach should be taken in continuously improving the work of the Scientific Committee. Stakeholders should make joint efforts to maintain the quality and efficiency of that Committee's work, and attention should be paid to the need for equitable geographical representation on the Scientific Committee and the aspiration of more countries to be represented. International cooperation on nuclear emergency response and nuclear energy development, including safety and security standards, should be strengthened through partnerships, the sharing of best practices, capacity-building and the establishment of emergency response mechanisms.

54. China had made progress in atomic radiation safety and in the development and application of nuclear energy technology, and promoted international cooperation on nuclear safety and security. The China-United States Center of Excellence on Nuclear Security was under construction and would contribute to regional and international cooperation in that field. China had made contributions to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and had hosted workshops to enhance nuclear safety and security capacities in Asia-Pacific countries. Since the Fukushima accident, China had improved its nuclear emergency plans; a national nuclear emergency response exercise would take place in 2015.

55. The world's first generation III nuclear power plant would shortly come online in China. Construction of the first unit of Hualong One, a reactor of Chinese design, would begin in late 2014. A CAP1400 unit had been developed on the basis of imported technology and had clear safety advantages over existing nuclear power plants. In addition, the Chinese design for a high-temperature gas-cooled reactor promised improved safety and efficiency; construction of a demonstration reactor was well advanced and commercial operation was within sight. Having established partnerships with the leading players in nuclear energy technology, China itself was now becoming a major player in that field.

56. **Ms. Jalili** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran attached great importance to the Scientific Committee's role in promoting knowledge and understanding of the effects of atomic radiation and that all Member States had a duty to cooperate with it. Her delegation welcomed all measures aimed at strengthening and enhancing the work of the Scientific Committee, including measures that allowed it to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of Member States, and noted that the increase in its membership would allow interested countries to contribute. Given the nature of the Scientific Committee's work, all interested countries should be represented by their most qualified scientists.

57. No financial, logistical, political or other factors should prevent any Member State with a high level of expertise and scientific potential from joining the Scientific Committee. Despite the principle of equitable geographical distribution in United Nations bodies, there was a large gap between developed and developing countries in terms of their representation in the Scientific Committee. That gap should be narrowed

and, in cases where an increase in the membership of United Nations bodies was limited by special circumstances, rotating membership should be introduced. Her delegation could not agree with the Secretary-General's statement that enlarging the Scientific Committee was not the most pertinent means of enhancing the effectiveness and quality of its work (A/69/350, para. 44). In the absence of a better method, enlarging the Scientific Committee's membership was, at least, one of the most pertinent means of enhancing its effectiveness and the quality of its work.

Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.6: Effects of atomic radiation

58. **Ms. McDougall** (Australia), introducing the draft resolution on effects of atomic radiation (A/C.4/69/L.6) on behalf of its sponsors, said that the Scientific Committee's valuable contribution to international knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation provided Governments with authoritative information that underpinned the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and supported global economic and social development. The commemoration in 2016 of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident and the fifth anniversary of the Fukushima accident would highlight the importance of understanding and managing the risks and effects of radiation.

59. In addition to welcoming the Scientific Committee's work on the Fukushima accident and endorsing its planned programme of work, the draft resolution emphasized the importance of sufficient, assured and predictable funding and of efficient management of the Scientific Committee's activities.

60. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal and the United States of America had become sponsors. As the draft resolution had not been available in all six official languages of the United Nations until earlier that day, he took it that the Committee wished to waive the advance notice required under rule 120 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure.

61. *It was so decided.*

62. *Draft resolution A/C.4/69/L.6 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.