



General Conference

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Fifty-third regular session

Plenary

Record of the First Meeting

Held at Headquarters, Vienna,, on Monday, 14 September 2009, at 10.10 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr GHISI (Italy)

President: Ms MACMILLAN (New Zealand)

Iran 151-155

151. Mr SALEHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed the hope that the General Conference would address a number of issues, including the inalienable right of States to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, the enhancement of international peace and security through the eradication of weapons of mass destruction, the universal application of the comprehensive safeguards regime without prejudice or discrimination, the need to maintain a balance between the Agency's promotional responsibilities and its verification activities, and the need for an internationally negotiated, legally binding instrument on assurances of nuclear fuel supply. Furthermore, it was important to recognize the threat posed to the Agency's independence by the political pressure exerted on the Secretariat.

152. Since the end of the second world war and the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear energy and associated technologies had stood at a crossroads between the development of nuclear technology, on the one hand, and global and regional wrangling, on the other. Nuclear competition aimed at unilateral domination had resulted only in an ominous cold war, and although all traces of that time appeared to have disappeared, its defining authoritarianism and arrogance continued to hold sway. Iran's courageous and almost single-handed attempts to challenge such arrogance had met only with affirmations by a number of States that they were defending their national interests. Under that pretext, those States had amassed a terrifying arsenal in the Persian Gulf tens of thousands of miles away from home. Meanwhile, Iran's attempts to exercise its sovereign right were shamelessly denied. The continued threat of attack on Iran's nuclear facilities had only strengthened its resolve. It had overcome an imposed war and unjust sanctions and emerged as one of the most advanced countries in the region. Iran had successfully launched a satellite, and had played a pioneering role in the cloning of sheep, cows and goats. It had one of the highest numbers of students per capita and had published more books than any other Muslim country. Iran took seriously the threats made against it and had every confidence in its capacity to defend itself.

153. Iran was a peace-loving nation and viewed dialogue and unconditional negotiations as the key to conflict resolution. Iran had always rejected weapons of mass destruction and the non-peaceful uses of nuclear technology, and insisted on the integrity of the NPT and on global nuclear disarmament. The

international community had witnessed Iran's appeal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Unfortunately, Israel had failed to cooperate in that regard. It had not acceded to the NPT and it possessed a nuclear weapons programme. It constantly turned a deaf ear to international appeals for peace and security and refused the Agency access to its nuclear installations. Such arrogance would surely lead to unexpected consequences within the region. Iran, by contrast, had maintained strong and active ties with the Agency since its inception, and had even gone beyond the call of duty by implementing the additional protocol for over two and a half years in order to demonstrate transparency and a spirit of cooperation. Subsequently, Iran and the Agency had agreed on a work plan to establish a timescale for ending the Agency's investigations of Iran's nuclear activities, with a view to making safeguards implementation a routine process in Iran. He hoped that the Agency would keep its word and deliver on its commitments in accordance with the final paragraph of the work plan contained in document INFCIRC/711. Iran would not accept discriminatory treatment.

154. With respect to Iran's nuclear programme, he said his country now had considerable radioisotope production capacity. That capacity was expected to increase further once the heavy water reactor at Arak came into operation. Thereafter, Iran intended to meet the humanitarian needs of neighbouring countries by providing them with pharmaceutical radioisotopes. Also, Iran was prepared to share its experience of nuclear technology by hosting, in collaboration with the Agency, various regional and international workshops and training courses on nuclear applications in medicine, agriculture and industry. The production capacity at the uranium conversion facility in Isfahan could be made available to other countries on request, under the full supervision of the Agency. Iran was embarking on a long-term plan to construct nuclear power plants with a total capacity of 5000 MW(e) within the next decade. Such an ambitious project required comprehensive planning in various fields of nuclear technology, such as the fuel cycle, safety and waste management techniques.

155. In the course of its peaceful nuclear activities, Iran remained committed to cooperating closely with the Agency in accordance with its safeguards agreement.