



# General Conference

GC(48)/OR.1

October 2004

**General Distr**

English

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Forty-Eighth (2004) Regular Session

## Plenary

### **Record of the First Meeting**

*Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Monday, 20 September 2004, at 10.10 a.m.*

**Temporary President:** Mr. TAKASU (Japan)

**President:** Mr. RÓNAKY (Hungary)

### **Iran 166-171**

166. Mr. AGHAZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran), having welcomed the General Conference's approval of Chad, Togo and Mauritania for membership of the Agency, recalled that Article II of the Statute required the Agency to seek "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and that the Agency was authorized by Article III to "encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes".

167. Under Article IV of the NPT, all parties undertook "to facilitate, and had the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy." It was essential to note that, according to the same article, nothing in the NPT should be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to it to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

168. A fair review of developments since the Agency had been established and the NPT had entered into force revealed the regrettable fact that the promotional provisions of the Statute and the NPT had not been implemented, either in the letter or in the spirit. The Islamic Republic of Iran had therefore had no choice but to depend on its own resources and manpower in exercising its inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

169. For more than a quarter of a century, despite sanctions, discrimination, deprivation and an eight-year imposed war, his country had stood on its own feet and struggled for independence and sustainable development. Unjustified continuous sanctions relating to items important for the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, and even to items of humanitarian importance, had left the Islamic Republic of Iran with no option but national mobilization for self-sufficiency. Remarkable achievements relating to various peaceful applications of nuclear technology and to various stages of nuclear fuel production were the result of decades of huge investment by his country and of huge scientific efforts by outstanding Iranian experts. The Islamic Republic of Iran would not permit any interruption in or interference with its indigenous nuclear programme, which was purely peaceful and which it would not give up at any price.

170. Some provisions of the resolution adopted by the Board of Governors on 18 September 2004 were contrary to the letter and spirit of the Statute and the NPT, and some called for action going beyond the fulfilment of safeguards obligations. In the resolution, there was no clear distinction between voluntary and obligatory measures. Moreover, calling upon a Member State to suspend or stop activities such as uranium conversion and enrichment and the construction of a research reactor designed to produce radioisotopes for use in medicine, agriculture and industry — activities in no way prohibited by the Statute and the NPT — would only lower the esteem in which the Agency, which had been established to promote peaceful applications of nuclear energy, was held. The inalienable rights of Member States were at stake.

171. The international community could rest assured that all of his country's nuclear activities were for peaceful purposes. At the same time, it should know that his country was determined to continue those activities without interruption, under the surveillance of the Agency in accordance with its safeguards agreement with the Agency and the additional protocol thereto.