



IAEA

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
國際原子能機関
International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Atoms For Peace

Wagramer Strasse 5, P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Wien, Austria
Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007
E-mail: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <http://www.iaea.org>

In reply please refer to:
Dial directly to extension: (+431) 2600-

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CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL

PLENARY

Summary Record of the 3rd Meeting

Held at the Austria Center Vienna on Friday, 8 July 2005 at 4.10 p.m.

President: Mr. BAER (Switzerland)

Contents

Item of the agenda ¹		Paragraphs
11	Adoption and signature of the Final Act (<i>continued</i>)	1–11
12	Closing of the Conference	12

¹ CPPNM/AC/1

Abbreviations used in this record:

CPPNM	Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
NPT Review Conference	Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11. Adoption and signature of the Final Act (continued)

1. The delegate from AUSTRIA joined those who had expressed their outrage at the terrorist attacks in London. On behalf of the Austrian Government, he offered deepest condolences to the victims of those terrible crimes and their families. Nevertheless, delegates had reason to be proud of their great achievement during the preceding week, whose relevance came into ever clearer focus in the light of terrorism.
2. He thanked delegates for their kind words regarding the contribution Austria had made to that process and paid tribute to the late Fritz Schmidt who had played a pivotal role. However, success had only been possible thanks to the exemplary cooperative spirit shown throughout the consultation and preparation process and that success was therefore truly collective, proving that multilateralism could effectively address important issues of concern.
3. The PRESIDENT said that diplomatic conferences were never routine meetings. They were also not very common, at least in the Agency. A diplomatic conference also involved an unusual transfer of knowledge because a group of legal and technical experts worked long and hard to agree on the text of a document and then had to hand it over to diplomats for their approval.
4. He congratulated the Conference on its remarkably positive attitude and on the genuine efforts made to understand the positions of others and the reasons for them. Efforts had been made by all to find ways around problems and persistence had been shown by many in looking for potential answers when the original ones did not work, all in a spirit of cooperation drawing on the ability and expertise of the delegates. The discussions had not been bilateral but had been a collective effort aimed at reaching consensus. Delegates had earned the success of the Conference and had made his task much easier. They could now report that success to those in their capitals who had also made an effort, but the key players had been those who had attended the Conference. There had been some difficult negotiations so that, at times, many had despaired of ever reaching consensus and yet, because they had never lost courage or taken no for an answer, all had ended up as winners.
5. In the broader context of non-proliferation, the view had been expressed that the amendment of the CPPNM had been the first positive sign since the discouraging NPT Review Conference in New York. Delegates should be proud of that proof that progress was still being made, though more slowly than many might wish.
6. The task was not finished because, to be effective, the Amendment had to be ratified. He reminded delegates to encourage their Governments to ratify it as soon as possible. The London bombings on the preceding day had provided more effective arguments for fast ratification than any could have imagined.
7. He thanked all delegates for their numerous contributions, the interpreters, précis-writers, technicians, support staff, secretaries, translators and others who had sometimes worked late into the night, and the security guards. He gave special thanks to Conference Services and drew attention to the various Agency and United Nations staff who had been involved in the running of the meeting.
8. The Conference could not have happened without the work of many States Parties and delegates over many years. However, special thanks were due to Austria for providing the Austria Center facilities, for the reception hosted by the Austrian Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, and because Austria had initiated the work of the group of 25 like-minded States Parties that had submitted the

Basic Proposal. The individual who had proposed that initiative was particularly worthy of praise. He also thanked the many States that had taken the trouble to send a delegation to the Conference.

9. Next he thanked all the officers of the Conference, in particular Mr. McIntosh, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Amégan, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and Mr. Gil, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, who had led a group to find a solution to the problem posed by the security of some radioactive sources. Members of the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs had been invaluable, not only in resolving legal and legalistic questions, but also as colleagues whose help could be relied upon.

10. Finally, he thanked all heads of delegations, deputy heads of delegations, alternates, delegates, senior advisers, advisers, counsellors, deputy counsellors and members of delegations. The positive attitude of all had made his work and that of the chairpersons of the committees much easier and more pleasant than it would have been otherwise.

11. The PRESIDENT invited a representative from each of the States Parties present to come up to the podium and sign the Final Act.

The Final Act was signed by 82 representatives.

12. Closing of the Conference

12. The PRESIDENT declared the Conference to Consider and Adopt Proposed Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material closed.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.