

On the multilateral scene, 1997 was a very productive year at the IAEA, coinciding with its 40th anniversary. Canada's Resident Representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Peter Walker, was the Chairman of the IAEA's Board of Governors (the key decision-making body) from October 1996 to October 1997. Significant achievements were realized in many areas.

Of particular note was the adoption by IAEA member states in September 1997 of amendments to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and a Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. These agreements significantly strengthen the international regime for civil liability related to nuclear damage. Canada participated actively in

these negotiations and played a key role in brokering an agreement that secured very broad-based support for the Convention. The question of whether Canada should become a party to the Convention will be reconsidered in two or three years once a review of Canada's domestic civil liability legislation is completed. This timing will also enable the views of other key member states to become clear.

Mr. President, Canada believes that the Agency plays an important role in promoting the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The public worldwide, who have a significant role to play in the development of national energy programs, must be better equipped to compare the nuclear energy option with other forms of energy, if we are to ensure sustainable development benefiting not only the present generation but all those to come. In this regard the Agency is in a unique position to provide a valuable service.

Statement made by Canada's Ambassador Peter Walker at the IAEA 41st Annual General Conference in September 1997.

Non-proliferation

The Gulf War revealed Iraq's extensive clandestine weapons programs and demonstrated that the

existing international nuclear non-proliferation regime had not been adequate to prevent or even detect such activity. IAEA member states agreed that IAEA safeguards activities had to move beyond accounting for *declared* nuclear material to include the detection of *undeclared* nuclear material and activities. The IAEA secretariat, in co-operation with member states, developed a series of proposals to strengthen the effectiveness of the IAEA system within the existing authority of the Agency's bilateral safeguards agreements. These measures (Programme 93+2, Part 1) were adopted by the IAEA Board of Governors in 1995. They include increasing the amount of information provided to the IAEA on member states' nuclear activities, enhancing the access of IAEA inspectors, optimizing the strengths of the existing system, and applying new technologies such as remote monitoring.