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MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS RELATING TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

Resolution adopted during the 341st plenary meeting on 20 September 1991

MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS RELATING TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling its resolutions GC(XXXII)/RES/489, GC(XXXIII)/RES/508, GC(XXXIV)/RES/529 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/530,

(b) Noting with appreciation the results of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power held in Vienna from 2 to 6 September 1991,

(c) Reaffirming that nuclear safety should be enforced primarily at the national level, by the conscientious application of existing safety principles, standards and good practices at each installation, and within each national regulatory body, making the best use of national legal frameworks and working practices,

(d) Reaffirming also the importance to the international community of ensuring that all nuclear installations are safe, well regulated and environmentally sound, and that sound practices are in place for the safe management and disposal of all categories of radioactive waste,

(e) Noting in particular that the International Conference recognized the potential value of a step-by-step approach to a framework convention for the promotion of an international nuclear safety regime,

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(f) Noting also the action recommended by the Board of Governors on 12 September 1991, and

(g) Noting the report by the Director General on Member States' use of the Agency's services for advancing operational safety, the progress report on the revision of the Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection, and the other reports on the implementation of resolutions GC(XXXIV)/RES/529 and GC(XXXIII)/RES/508,

1. Reaffirms the vital necessity of continuing to promote the highest level of nuclear safety worldwide and of strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection;
2. Takes positive note of the major findings, conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power;
3. Stresses the need to consider a harmonized international approach to all aspects of nuclear safety, including safety objectives for nuclear waste;
4. Invites the Director General to prepare, for the Board's consideration in February 1992, an outline of the possible elements of a nuclear safety convention, taking into account the activities and roles of relevant international and intergovernmental bodies and drawing on the advice of standing groups like INSAG, NUSSAG and INWAG, and also on expertise made available by Member States and competent international organizations;
5. Invites the Director General to initiate a process for developing a common basis on which the acceptable level of safety of all operating nuclear power plants built to earlier standards can be judged;
6. Stresses the need to consider a more thorough and transparent nuclear safety overview process with the objective of achieving a high safety performance in all operating nuclear installations;
7. Recommends to Member States that they avail themselves fully of the Agency's services for advancing operational safety, including OSART and ASSET missions;
8. Urges Member States to use the Incident Reporting System for the analysis and feedback of operating experience and, in a timely manner, the International Nuclear Event Scale, as appropriate, for reporting all nuclear accidents or incidents;
9. Invites the Director General to set up a small group of experts to develop safety principles for the design of future reactors, using a step-by-step approach based – inter alia – on the work of INSAG and taking into account the characteristics of various reactor types;

10. Requests the Director General to come forward with specific proposals, based on the findings of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power, for actions to be taken within the financial envelope of the Agency's approved 1992 budget and for consideration within the framework of the 1993--94 biennial programme and the Medium--Term Plan;
11. Takes note of the report by the Board of Governors on liability for nuclear damage and reiterates the priority it attaches to the consideration of all aspects of the question of liability for damage arising from a nuclear accident, especially in the light of the requests from Parties to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage to convene a revision conference;
12. Welcomes with interest the report by the Director General on the important question of assessing the safety of WWER--440/230 plants and invites the Director General to continue his endeavours in the important field of safety assessments of reactors built to earlier safety standards;;
13. Takes note with appreciation of the report by the Director General on the International Chernobyl Project and requests him to come forward with proposals for specific actions to address the problems identified in the report to be taken within the financial envelope of the Agency's approved budget for 1992 and considered within the framework of the 1993--94 biennial programme and the Medium--Term Plan;
14. Takes note of the report by the Director General on the status and implementation of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and requests the Director General to pursue his efforts to promote the effective implementation of the two Conventions; and
15. Requests the Board of Governors and the Director General to report on the implementation of this resolution to it at its thirty--sixth session.

