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International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Thirty-ninth regular session
Agenda item 17
(GC(39)/27)

PLAN FOR PRODUCING POTABLE WATER ECONOMICALLY

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolutions GC(XXXIII)/RES/515, GC(XXXIV)/RES/540, GC(XXXV)/RES/563, GC(XXXVI)/RES/592, GC(XXXVII)/RES/617 and GC(XXXVIII)/RES/7,
- (b) Noting the study on the "Technical and economic evaluation of potable water production through the desalination of sea water by using nuclear energy or other means" attached to document GC(XXXVI)/1013, which concludes that the use of nuclear energy as an alternative option to the use of fossil fuelled plants for supplying energy for sea water desalination is technically feasible and in general economically competitive, and document GOV/INF/708,
- (c) Noting the main conclusion of the Advisory Group on Demonstration Facilities, attached to document GC(XXXVIII)/8, which includes the conclusion that there is a need to establish a programme for identifying a practical set of options from which one or more demonstration facilities with well-defined objectives might be chosen,
- (d) Noting also the interest of a number of Member States in activities relating to sea water desalination using nuclear energy as reflected in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/323,
- (e) Aware that the acute shortage of potable water in some Member States remains a major problem, and

(f) Underlining the vital importance of sufficient potable water supplies for mankind and of regional and international co-operation in solving the problem of potable water shortages in Member States and the interest of potential beneficiaries and technology holders in the provision of low-cost potable water,

1. Welcomes the progress made in this regard, and especially the initiation of a two-phase Options Identification Programme (described in document GC(39)/12) which aims at evaluating data relevant to a demonstration programme and analysing the most practical options for demonstration;
2. Urges the Secretariat to secure sufficient funding, through appeals to international organizations and prospective donor countries, so that the second phase of the Options Identification Programme will be completed in 1996 and a final report presented to the General Conference for consideration at its fortieth session;
3. Requests the Director General to continue consultations with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning the main conclusions of the "Technical and economic evaluation of potable water production through the desalination of sea water by using nuclear energy or other means";
4. Invites the Director General to undertake similar consultations for the implementation of the main recommendations of the Advisory Group on Demonstration Facilities;
5. Stresses the vital importance of producing potable water and further requests the Director General to include the nuclear desalination of sea water in future programmes of the Agency, with appropriate priority, in the process of preparing the Agency's programme and budget;
6. Calls upon Member States in a position to provide expert services and extrabudgetary resources in support of the activities relating to sea water desalination using nuclear energy to make such services and resources available; and
7. Requests the Director General to report on the progress made in the implementation of this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its fortieth session under an appropriate agenda item.