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GENERAL CONFERENCE

Forty-first regular session
Agenda item 15
(GC(41)/28)

PLAN FOR PRODUCING POTABLE WATER ECONOMICALLY

Draft resolution recommend by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its resolution GC(40)/RES/14,
- (b) Recognizing that sufficient and clean potable water supplies for all mankind are of vital importance, as emphasized in Agenda 21 of the Rio Summit on Development and Environment and subsequently recalled at the 19th special session of the United Nations General Assembly,
- (c) Taking note with great concern of the fact that more than 60 per cent of the world's population will, over the next 30 years, face the ever-growing problems of potable water shortages,
- (d) Noting that seawater desalination using nuclear energy, as an alternative to the use of fossil-fuelled plants for supplying energy for seawater desalination, is technically feasible and in general cost-effective,
- (e) Noting also the interest of a number of Member States in activities relating to seawater desalination using nuclear energy,
- (f) Underlining the urgent need for regional and international co-operation in helping to solve the serious problem of potable water shortages,
- (g) Taking note of the main recommendations and the final declaration of the First World Water Forum, held in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 22 March 1997,
- (h) Taking note also of the recommendations of the International Symposium on Seawater Desalination held in Taejon, Republic of Korea, in May 1997, particularly as regards the need for continued Agency involvement in international and regional co-operation and information exchange in this respect,

(i) Welcoming the holding of a meeting by the World Bank on "Water for Sustainable Growth" at the end of this year or the beginning of 1998, and

(j) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat, as outlined in the report of the Director General contained in document GC(41)/12,

1. Welcomes the establishment of an International Nuclear Desalination Advisory Group (INDAG);
2. Requests the Director General to continue consultation and interaction with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in activities relating to seawater desalination using nuclear energy;
3. Invites the Director General to take the appropriate measures to assist Member States engaged in the process of preparatory actions with regard to demonstration projects;
4. Further requests the Director General to regularly assign appropriate priority to the nuclear desalination of seawater and small and medium reactor development in the process of preparing the Agency's programme and budget and to promote effective international information exchange and co-operation;
5. Invites the Director General to take appropriate measures and concrete actions, on the basis of the technical and economic feasibility of seawater desalination using nuclear energy, with a view to the effective development and practical application of nuclear technologies for producing potable water economically;
6. Further invites the Director General to seek extrabudgetary funding and manpower support through appeals to prospective donor countries in order to further strengthen the Agency's activities relating to nuclear desalination and small and medium reactor development; 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 forty-second session under an appropriate agenda item.