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THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTORS

Resolution adopted on 22 September 2000 at the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Reaffirming the primary responsibility of individual States for maintaining the safety of nuclear installations within their territories or under their jurisdiction,
- (b) Recalling resolution GC(43)/RES/13, in which it, inter alia, noted that the highest levels of safety should be applied to the operation and regulation of nuclear research reactors,
- (c) Noting that the Final Document of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons welcomed the voluntary application of the related provisions of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to nuclear installations other than nuclear power plants,
- (d) Taking note of the national reports on the safe management of research reactors submitted by a number of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety at their First Review Meeting,
- (e) Recalling the Director General's introductory statement to the Board of Governors on 5 June 2000, in which he expressed concern about the safety of research reactors and reaffirmed the priority which the Secretariat attached to the safety of research reactors,
- (f) Concerned by the Director General's advice that the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) has found that problems relating to the safety of research reactors remain very serious, with many such reactors not currently subject to adequate regulatory control,
- (g) Appreciating the efforts of INSAG, among others, in developing recommendations designed to strengthen the international nuclear safety arrangements for research reactors,

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- (h) Noting the significant differences between research reactors and power reactors, and
 - (i) Mindful that Member States may need to upgrade their national institutional and technical capabilities to adequately operate and regulate research reactors, with the co-operation and assistance of the IAEA where appropriate,
1. Calls upon all Member States with research reactors to ensure that those reactors are subjected to strict safety and radiation protection arrangements;
 2. Invites the Board of Governors and the Director General of the IAEA to continue to maintain its emphasis on the safety of research reactors, particularly in assisting Member States to implement relevant Safety Standards;
 3. Requests the Secretariat to continue to monitor closely research reactors subject to IAEA Project and Supply Agreements, and to assist relevant Member States in fulfilling all relevant safety obligations;
 4. Requests the Secretariat, within its available resources, to continue work on exploring options to strengthen the international nuclear safety arrangements for civil research reactors, taking due account of input from INSAG and the views of other relevant bodies; and
 5. Requests the Director General to report to it at its forty-fifth (2001) regular session on the implementation of this resolution.