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Sub-item 14(b) of the agenda
(GC(44)/21)**RADIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR LONG-LIVED RADIONUCLIDES IN
COMMODITIES (ESPECIALLY FOODSTUFFS AND WOOD)**Resolution adopted on 22 September 2000 at the tenth plenary meetingThe General Conference,

- (a) Aware of the prolonged impact of the Chernobyl accident on the economy of the affected region, which is also affecting the freedom of international trade,
- (b) Recalling that in resolution A/RES/54/97 of 28 January 2000 the United Nations General Assembly stated that it was “*Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels*”,
- (c) Recalling that in Article III (“*Functions*”) of its Statute the Agency is authorized to ... *establish ... standards of safety for protection of health, ... and to provide for the application of these standards ... at the request of a State ...*” and that the Board of Governors has decided that such standards should be based to the extent possible on recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP),
- (d) Aware that the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (the BSS), which were developed by the Agency jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/NEA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and approved by the Board in September 1994, established special requirements for intervention in emergency exposure situations, including “*generic action levels for foodstuffs*” based on the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission’s guideline levels for radionuclides in food moving in international trade following accidental contamination,

(e) Concerned, however, that the BSS did not establish criteria for exposure situations remaining for a long time in areas affected by radiation accidents and that, in particular, they did not establish *radiological criteria for long-lived radionuclides in commodities* designed both to ensure the radiation safety of people and to avoid unnecessary restrictions in international trade in commodities, especially foodstuffs and wood, as a follow-up to the intervention exemption levels recommended by the ICRP in ICRP Publication 60, paragraph 284, and

(f) Aware that the ICRP, in paragraph 5.4 of its recent Publication 82 (“Protection of the Public in Situations of Prolonged Radiation Exposure”), has recommended generic intervention exemption levels for commodities,

1. Requests the Secretariat to develop, using the Agency’s radiation protection advisory mechanisms and in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, during the next two years and within available resources, *radiological criteria for long-lived radionuclides in commodities, particularly foodstuffs and wood*, and to submit them to the Board of Governors for its approval; and
2. Requests the Director General to report to it at its forty-fifth (2001) regular session on the implementation of this resolution.