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SAFETY OF TRANSPORT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Resolution adopted on 22 September 2000 at the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling that in 1999, in resolution GC(43)/RES/11, it - inter alia - requested Member States shipping radioactive materials to take into account, as appropriate, its invitation (contained in resolution GC(42)/RES/13) to provide, as appropriate, assurances to potentially affected States upon their request that their national regulations take into account the Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (the Agency's Transport Regulations) and to provide them with relevant information relating to shipments of such materials. The information provided should in no case be contradictory to the measures of physical security and safety,
- (b) Noting with appreciation the report on the "Safety of transport of radioactive materials" contained in document GC(44)/INF/7,
- (c) Noting with interest the account given in that report of the survey, initiated by the Secretariat in February 2000, concerning the implementation by Member States of the Agency's Transport Regulations,
- (d) Noting that the Secretariat intends to make available on the Agency transport safety web page the latest list of Member States' national competent authorities responsible for radioactive materials transport and information provided by Member States which returned completed questionnaires in response to the aforementioned survey,
- (e) Recognizing that the Secretariat has been working closely with the international modal organizations - the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) - on the harmonization of the content and the timing of the adoption of the regulations with the 1996 edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations, with a view to reaching world-wide harmony of the modal regulatory documents during 2001,

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(f) Recalling resolution GC(43)/RES/11, in which it encouraged Member States "to make use where appropriate" of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service (TranSAS) established by the Secretariat,

(g) Recalling that States have under international law the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, and

(h) Noting the concerns of small island developing States and other coastal States about the transport of radioactive materials by sea and the importance of the protection of their populations and the environment,

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the progress made in revising the Agency's Transport Regulations and in the implementation of the Agency's Transport Regulations by international organizations;

2. Notes that only 55% of the Agency's Member States returned completed questionnaires in response to the Secretariat's survey of February 2000 and that, with regard to international transport,

- 15% of the respondents do not have transport regulatory documents consistent with any edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations, and
- only 18% have transport regulatory documents based on the 1996 edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations;

3. Requests the Secretariat to seek from each Member State which did not respond to the February 2000 survey information on how it regulates the transport of radioactive materials, for publication on the Agency transport safety web page;

4. Encourages Member States whose national regulatory documents governing the transport of radioactive materials are not in conformity with the 1996 edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations to bring them into conformity with the 1996 edition and Member States which do not have national regulatory documents governing the transport of radioactive materials to adopt such documents, ensuring that they are in conformity with the 1996 edition, with a view to completing this action during 2001;

5. Commends those Member States which have already made use of TranSAS and encourages other Member States to avail themselves of it with a view to achieving high levels of safety during the transport of radioactive materials;

6. Requests the Secretariat to continue its work of reviewing and revising the Agency's Transport Regulations, on the basis of a schedule consistent with the regulation revision schedules of the international modal organizations, with a view to issuing a revised edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations every two years, as necessary, beginning in 2003;

7. Invites Member States shipping radioactive materials, consistent with the invitation in resolutions GC(42)/RES/13 and GC(43)/RES/11, to provide, as appropriate, assurances to potentially affected States upon their request that their national regulations take into account

the Agency's Transport Regulations and to provide them with relevant information relating to shipments of radioactive materials. The information provided should in no case be contradictory to the measures of physical security and safety;

8. Calls for efforts, at the international, regional and bilateral level, to examine and further improve measures and international regulations relevant to the international maritime transport of radioactive material and spent fuel, consistent with international law, and stresses the importance of having effective liability mechanisms in place;

9. Requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for above be undertaken within available resources; and

10. Requests the Director General to report to it at its forty- fifth (2001) regular session on the implementation of this resolution.