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PLAN FOR PRODUCING POTABLE WATER ECONOMICALLY

Resolution adopted on 22 September 2000 at the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its resolutions GC(42)/RES/16 and GC(43)/RES/15,
- (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 a great portion of the world's population will, over the next years, face the ever-growing problems of potable water shortages,
- (d) Noting that seawater desalination using nuclear energy 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, particularly through the desalination of seawater,
- (g) 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(44)/13, including the preparation of a "User requirement document for SMRs and nuclear desalination" and a draft technical document on the safety aspects of nuclear desalination,
- (h) Taking note with appreciation of the progress made in the interregional technical co-operation project on "Integrated nuclear power and desalination system design",

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- (i) Expressing its appreciation of the work undertaken so far by the International Nuclear Desalination Advisory Group (INDAG),
 - (j) Noting that a number of countries consider that developing new, innovative reactors and fuel cycle designs that exhibit intrinsic safety characteristics, proliferation resistance and economic competitiveness will be useful for the promotion of nuclear energy,
 - (k) Noting that the Agency has initiated a programme to assist developing countries interested in small and medium-sized reactors (SMRs) to address economics, safety, reliability and technical measures for proliferation resistance,
 - (l) Acknowledging that innovative SMRs are of particular interest also for non-electrical energy, particularly in the desalination of seawater, and
 - (m) Noting with concern the decreasing extrabudgetary support for the Agency's activities on SMRs and nuclear desalination,
1. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions 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;
 2. Invites the Director General to:
 - continue to take the appropriate measures to assist Member States, particularly developing countries, engaged in the process of preparatory actions with regard to demonstration projects and
 - carry out, within existing resources, further work on safety-related aspects in connection with the desalination of seawater;
 3. Invites INDAG to continue its functions as a forum for advice and review on nuclear desalination activities;
 4. Stresses the need for international co-operation in the planning and implementation of nuclear desalination demonstration programmes through national and regional projects open for the participation of any interested developing country;
 5. Further invites the Director General to seek appropriate funding from extrabudgetary resources and to raise seed money in order to catalyze and contribute to the implementation of all Agency activities relating to nuclear desalination and the development of innovative SMRs;
 6. Invites Member States to contribute to the interregional technical co-operation project on "Integrated nuclear power and desalination system design";
 7. Notes the initiative of the Director General in establishing next year a task force on innovative nuclear reactors and fuel cycles and invites Member States to consider contributing to its activities;

8. Requests the Director General to note the high priority given by Member States to the nuclear desalination of seawater and SMR development in the process of preparing the Agency's Programme and Budget and to promote effective international information exchange and co-operation in this area; and

9. Further 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-fifth session under an appropriate agenda item.