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Item 18 of the agenda
(GC(44)/21)

SERVICING IMMEDIATE HUMAN NEEDS

Resolution adopted on 22 September 2000 at the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Appreciating the important role that nuclear applications play in addressing basic human needs,
- (b) Conscious that the work done by the Agency in the field of nuclear sciences and applications in the non-power sector contributes to sustainable development, especially with programmes aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and food security, improving human health, increasing the availability of drinking water supplies and protecting the terrestrial and marine environment,
- (c) Recognizing that nuclear and isotopic techniques, appropriately integrated with other technologies and adapted to individual sectors of development, help in addressing many of the current issues and emerging needs for sustainable development earmarked for priority action by Member States,
- (d) Aware that nuclear science and applications in the non-power sector provide core scientific and technical support to Member States as mandated by Article III of the Agency's Statute and as described in the technology pillar of the Agency's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2001-2005,
- (e) Recognizing the success of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) in the eradication of the tsetse fly and of other insects of economic importance, and further recognizing that malaria, transmitted by mosquitoes, causes about two million deaths a year and about 300-500 million cases of clinical malaria annually,
- (f) Noting that a large augmentation of solid cancers, a condition mainly affecting the elderly, is expected in developing Member States, due to increasing life expectancies, and
- (g) Noting the continuous threat to civilians, economic and social development posed by abandoned land mines buried in many countries, especially in developing ones, and

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further noting the significant progress made by the Agency in developing nuclear methods for locating land mines,

1. Requests the Agency, within available resources, to facilitate, in co-operation with Member States and relevant international organizations, all efforts for:

(a) initiating research and development (R&D) activities that would lead to possible application of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for the control or eradication of mosquitoes,

(b) building up indigenous capabilities in radiation therapy to cure or alleviate the debilitating disease of solid cancers in developing Member States and improving the implementation of safety standards, and

(c) strengthening R&D activities in order to ascertain the possibility of applying nuclear techniques for locating land mines; and

2. Further requests the Director General to report on the feasibility and the resource implications of this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-fifth session under an appropriate agenda item.