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Measures to Strengthen International Cooperation in Nuclear, Radiation and Transport Safety and Waste Management

**Resolution adopted on 24 September 2004
during the ninth & tenth plenary meetings**

A.

Measures to Strengthen International Cooperation in Nuclear, Radiation and Waste Safety

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(47)/RES/7 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport and waste safety,
- (b) Recognizing that a global nuclear, radiation and waste safety culture is a key element of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that continuous efforts are required in order to ensure that the technical and human elements of safety are maintained at the optimal level,
- (c) Stressing the important role of the IAEA in enhancing nuclear, radiation and waste safety through its various safety programmes and initiatives and in promoting international cooperation in this regard,
- (d) Reiterating the importance of Member States taking the necessary steps to develop and improve their national nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety infrastructures,
- (e) Noting with appreciation document GC(48)/INF/7, containing the Secretariat's responses to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety issues of concern,
- (f) Noting that the Third Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety will be held in April 2005,

- (g) Recalling the objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international cooperation, including, where appropriate, safety-related technical cooperation,
- (h) Recalling the findings and recommendations of the *International Conference on the Protection of the Environment from the Effects of Ionizing Radiation* held in Stockholm, 6-10 October 2003,
- (i) Recalling the findings of the *International Conference on National Infrastructures for Radiation Safety*, Morocco, 1-5 September 2003, and recognizing that the establishment of effective and sustainable national regulatory infrastructures is essential for the control of radiation sources,
- (j) Recalling the General Conference's endorsement in GC(47)/RES/7 of the revised Action Plan on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and noting the findings of the First Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, held in Vienna in November 2003,
- (k) Recalling resolution GC(47)RES/7, which urged the Secretariat to submit a finalized action plan on safe decommissioning to the Board of Governors for approval as soon as possible in 2004, and noting that the Agency is organizing an international conference in 2006 on improving safety and efficiency through the lessons learned from experience in the safe decommissioning of nuclear facilities,
- (l) Re-emphasizing the importance of education and training in establishing and maintaining an adequate radiation protection and nuclear safety infrastructure, and noting the actions taken by the Secretariat towards developing a strategic plan for sustainable education and training in nuclear, radiation and waste safety, and
- (m) Taking note of the long-term regional postgraduate courses organized in the appropriate official languages and conducted in Argentina, Belarus, Greece, Malaysia, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic,

1. General

1. Urges the Secretariat to continue and strengthen, subject to the availability of financial resources, its efforts relating to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, focusing particularly on mandatory activities and on technical areas and regions where the need for improvement is greatest;
2. Requests the Director General to continue the current programme of legislative assistance to Member States, to assist them in improving their national infrastructures for nuclear installation, radiation, transport and waste safety;
3. Encourages Member States to continue requesting IAEA safety review services in order to enhance nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety;
4. Encourages Member States to promote technical cooperation for the further enhancement of safety;

2.

The Agency's Safety Standards Programme

5. Welcomes the Board's approval in March 2004 of the International Action Plan for the Development and Application of IAEA Safety Standards (GOV/2004/6) and progress since then in implementing the Action Plan;
6. Appreciates the work of the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) in assisting the Secretariat to implement the Action Plan;
7. Encourages the Secretariat to continue assisting Member States to apply the safety standards, including through the development of supporting guidance on their application;

3.

Nuclear Installation Safety

8. Appeals to all Member States, particularly those operating, constructing or planning nuclear power reactors, which have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to do so;
9. Urges Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to participate actively in the Third Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, to be held in Vienna in April 2005;
10. Continues to emphasize the need for all operating organizations and regulatory bodies to retain nuclear safety as the foundation upon which development, construction, and operational decisions are based, with emphasis upon the need to freely share information concerning incidents, events and occurrences with all concerned parties;
11. Encourages the Agency to pursue the development of safety services for all nuclear installations;
12. Welcomes the continuing assistance provided by the Secretariat in monitoring and improving the safety of research reactors, particularly those subject to IAEA Project and Supply Agreements, and encourages relevant Member States to collaborate closely with the Secretariat in facilitating such assistance;
13. Looks forward to the Secretariat's update of the International Plan for Enhancing Research Reactor Safety, at the March 2005 Board of Governors meetings;
14. Appreciates the efforts of the Agency in developing guidance concerning life cycle management and the long-term operations of nuclear installations, and encourages Member States to support this initiative with financial and in-kind resources;
15. Recognizes the inter-actions between nuclear safety and related issues including nuclear security, and calls upon all Member States to ensure an appropriate balance between them so that the safety of workers, the public and the environment is not compromised;
16. Acknowledges the benefits of incorporating both deterministic and probabilistic considerations into operational and regulatory decision-making, urges the Agency to continue in its efforts to develop guidance and services that integrate both approaches and encourages Member States to avail themselves of these services;

17. Looks forward to the outcomes of the International Conference on *Topical Issues in Nuclear Installation Safety: Continuous Improvement of Nuclear Safety in a Changing World*, to be held in Beijing, 18–22 October 2004, and expresses appreciation to China for hosting the Conference.

18. Welcomes, within the framework of the Agency's extrabudgetary programme on the safety of nuclear installations in South East Asian, Pacific and Far East countries, the entry into operation in 2004 of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN), expresses appreciation for the support of all those countries involved in the ANSN, and looks forward to the December 2004 report on the results of the ANSN-related activities;

4. Radiation Safety

19. Welcomes the recommendations of the first meeting of the *Steering Panel on the International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients*, held in Madrid in January 2004, as reported in Annex 6 to GC(48)/INF/7, encourages Member States to contribute to international efforts to ensure the effective global dissemination of material on the radiological protection of patients to the medical profession and to patients, and requests the Secretariat to continue to keep it informed about the implementation of the Action Plan.

20. Welcomes progress in implementing, jointly with ILO, *the International Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection* as reported in Annex 7 to GC(48)/INF/7, encourages the Agency and the ILO Secretariats to continue assisting the Steering Committee in monitoring progress, looks forward to future reports of the Steering Committee, and requests the Director General to keep it informed of its implementation;

21. Welcomes the approval by the Board of Governors of the Agency's policy and actions for promoting *Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation Sources*, requests the Secretariat to continue to keep it informed about the implementation of this policy, encourages the Secretariat to continue its proactive approach to assist Member States in improving their regulatory infrastructures, and urges Member States to play a more active role in the implementation of strategies that will help to enhance the regulatory control of radiation sources;

22. Welcomes the establishment in 2003 of the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network (IARSN), expresses appreciation for the support of all those countries involved in the IARSN, including the Government of Spain for its financial support, welcomes the development of an Action Plan to support implementation of the IARSN, and looks forward to further reports;

23. Welcomes approval by the Board of Governors of the use of radiological criteria for radionuclides in commodities, as outlined in document GC(48)/8, in the application of the *International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS)*, encourages Member States to make use of the criteria, for example, to facilitate trade, and further encourages the Secretariat to take account of the criteria in the forthcoming review and revision of the BSS;

24. Welcomes the findings of the International Conference on the Protection of the Environment from the Effects of Ionizing Radiation held in Stockholm from 6 to 10 October 2003;

25. Looks forward to further cooperation between the Agency and relevant international organizations and stakeholders in promoting a coherent international policy regarding the radiological protection of the environment;

26. Encourages the completion of the draft international action plan on *The Radiological Protection of the Environment* being prepared by the Secretariat, and urges the Secretariat to submit a finalized action plan to the Board for approval as soon as possible in 2005;

5.

The Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

27. Welcomes the progress made in implementing the revised Action Plan on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, in particular with regard to the control of radioactive discharges to the environment and international mechanisms for facilitating the management of disused radioactive sources, and requests the Secretariat to keep it informed about the further progress made in the implementation of this Action Plan;

28. Reminds Member States of the relevance of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management to all Member States, covering as it does radioactive waste from, inter alia, medicine and industry as well as the nuclear fuel cycle, and appeals to all Member States which have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Joint Convention to do so;

29. Welcomes the First Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention, held in Vienna in November 2003, which highlighted, inter alia, the importance of all countries having long-term strategies for managing spent fuel and radioactive waste, including plans for integrated decommissioning and waste management, and endorses ongoing efforts by the Secretariat and the General Committee to promote the Joint Convention, including through enhanced consultation with non-ratifying Member States;

30. Welcomes progress towards achieving disposal and long-term storage solutions for spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and in this context encourages Member States to participate actively in the deliberations of the International Symposium on Disposal of Low Activity Radioactive Waste due to take place in Spain in December 2004 and the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Disposal due to take place in Japan next year, and requests the Director General to report to the Board and the General Conference on their findings;

6.

The Safe Decommissioning of Nuclear Activities

31. Welcomes the approval by the Board of Governors in June 2004 of the International Action Plan on the Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities in document GOV/2004/40 (Corrected) and requests the Director General to keep it informed of its implementation;

32. Urges Member States to give high priority to supporting the International Action Plan on the Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities, including support for the research reactor decommissioning demonstration project and support for the organization of an international conference in 2006 to improve the exchange of information and experience to facilitate decommissioning;

7.

Education and Training in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety

33. Underlines the fundamental importance of sustainable programmes for education and training in nuclear, radiation, transport safety and waste management, remaining convinced that such education and training is a key component of any adequate safety infrastructure;
34. Welcomes the ongoing commitment of the Secretariat and Member States to the implementation of the Strategy for Education and Training in Nuclear Safety and the Strategic Plan for a Long-Term and Sustainable Programme of Education and Training in Radiation Safety and Waste Management;
35. Supports the Secretariat's continued focus on developing sustainable educational and training programmes, including through the establishment of a network of training centres and 'train-the-trainer' workshops;
36. Urges the Secretariat to continue to strengthen, subject to the availability of financial resources, activities in these areas, and in particular to assist Member States at regional and national training centres that conduct such education and training courses in the appropriate official languages of the Agency;
37. Also urges the Secretariat to work towards maintaining the sustainability of postgraduate courses; and
38. Encourages the Secretariat to employ electronic networking and outreach (ENO) projects to implement e-learning;

8.

Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors

39. Welcomes the adoption by the Board of Governors in March 2004 of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors and endorses the guidance for the safe management of research reactors set out in the Code;
40. Encourages Member States to apply the guidance in the Code to the management of research reactors; and
41. Requests the Secretariat to continue to assist Member States in the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors, and associated safety guidance within available resources

[adopted during the ninth plenary]

B.

International Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response

The General Conference,

- (a) Noting with concern the nuclear and radiological incidents and accidents that have occurred in different parts of the world in recent years,
 - (b) Recognizing that such incidents and accidents and possible acts with malicious intent may lead to significant radiological consequences over wide geographical areas, generate a pressing need for authoritative information to address public and media concerns, and require an international response,
 - (c) Recalling the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (the Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention),
 - (d) Recalling resolutions GC(46)/RES/9.D and GC(47)/RES/7.A, which encouraged Member States to contribute to the international efforts to develop a more efficient international response to nuclear and radiological emergencies and requested the Secretariat to seek ways of facilitating enhanced cooperation among Member States,
 - (e) Welcoming the establishment of a regionally balanced National Competent Authorities' Coordinating Group (NCACG) to co-ordinate the execution of certain priority tasks, including work on the long-term goal of strengthening the international emergency preparedness and response system,
 - (f) Noting with satisfaction the report submitted by the Director General in Annex 3 to document GC(48)/INF/7 in response to resolution GC(46)/RES/9.D, but noting with concern that the Secretariat, in its follow-up, has largely been dependent on extrabudgetary contributions,
 - (g) Appreciating the development of the International Action Plan for the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials and its approval by the Board of Governors in March 2004,
 - (h) Welcoming the approval by the Board of Governors in June 2004 of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies,
 - (i) Appreciating ongoing efforts by the IAEA Secretariat and Member States' competent authorities towards implementation of the Action Plan, and
 - (j) Recognizing a need for resources to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan,
1. Urges all Member States to become parties to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (the Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention), thereby contributing to a broader and improved basis for international emergency response, to the benefit of all;
 2. Encourages Member States to improve their own preparedness and response capabilities for nuclear and radiological incidents and accidents, including their preparedness and response

arrangements for responding to acts involving the malicious use of nuclear or radioactive material and to threats of such acts, and to implement the Safety Requirements for Preparedness and Response to a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (GOV/2002/5) and the updated procedures of the Emergency Notification and Assistance Technical Operations Manual, and in particular to adopt the lower threshold for early notification so as to allow for improved exchange of information;

3. Encourages Member States to put in place arrangements for effective response to requests made under the Assistance Convention and, within their respective capabilities, to make resources available for responding to such requests, and to consider joining the IAEA response network, ERNET;

4. Requests the Secretariat to continue its support for the activities of the NCACG and, in collaboration with the NCACG, Member States and relevant international organizations, to continue the implementation of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies;

5. Urges Member States to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan;

6. Requests the Secretariat and Member States to take into account the long-term objectives of the Action Plan in the future development of the Agency's programme and budget, to ensure adequate resources necessary for long-term sustainability of the System, and further requests the Secretariat to identify its resource needs, review existing resources to optimize usage and, where necessary, request additional extrabudgetary resources to fulfil the Secretariat's part of implementing the Action Plan;

7. Requests the Director General to continue evaluating and, as necessary, to enhance, subject to availability of resources, the capability of the IAEA Emergency Response System to fulfil its role as coordinator and facilitator of international emergency preparedness and response;

8. Requests the Secretariat to review its current mechanisms for reporting and sharing information about incidents and emergencies, with a view to streamlining them; and

9. Requests the Director General to report at its fiftieth (2006) regular session on the implementation of this resolution.

[adopted during the ninth plenary]

C. Transport Safety

The General Conference,

- (a) Noting with interest the report on transport safety contained in document GC(48)/INF/7,
- (b) Noting concerns about a potential accident or incident during the transport of radioactive materials by sea and about the importance of the protection of people, human health and the environment as well as protection from actual economic loss, as defined in relevant international instruments, due to an accident or incident,
- (c) Recognizing that, historically, the safety record of maritime transport of nuclear materials has been excellent,

- (d) Recalling that States have under international law the obligation to protect and preserve the maritime environment,
 - (e) Reaffirming the competence of the IAEA in relation to the safety of transport of radioactive materials,
 - (f) Reaffirming maritime and air navigation rights and freedoms, as provided for in international law and as reflected in relevant international instruments,
 - (g) Stressing the importance of international cooperation to enhance the safety of international navigation,
 - (h) Emphasizing that the General Conference has encouraged Member States to make use of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service (TranSAS),
 - (i) Recalling resolutions GC(47)/RES/7 and GC(46)/RES/9, and the previous resolutions which invited Member States shipping radioactive materials to provide, as appropriate, assurances to potentially affected States, upon their request, that their national regulations take into account the Agency's recently amended 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 protection and safety,
 - (j) Recognizing concerns about the potential for damage to arise in the event of an accident or incident during the maritime transport of radioactive materials, including pollution of the marine environment, recognizing also the importance of having in place effective liability mechanisms, and believing that the principle of strict liability should apply in the event of nuclear damage arising from an accident or incident during the transport of radioactive materials, and
 - (k) Noting the importance of security for the safe maritime transport of radioactive materials and the strong concern of some States in this regard, and stressing the need to take adequate measures to deter or defeat terrorist and other hostile or criminal actions directed against carriers of radioactive materials, in accordance with international law,
1. Welcomes the approval of the Action Plan on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials by the Board in March 2004, based on the results of the International Conference on the Safety of Transport of Radioactive Material held in July 2003 and the request at the 2003 General Conference for the Agency to develop this Action Plan, notes the Board's request that the Director General implement this Action Plan within the framework of the Agency's approved programme, commends the Secretariat for progress to date in the implementation of the Plan, and encourages the Secretariat to pursue implementation of all areas of the Action Plan and Member States to cooperate fully with the Secretariat to this end;
 2. Stresses the importance of having effective liability mechanisms in place to insure against harm to human health and the environment as well as actual economic loss due to an accident or incident during the maritime transport of radioactive materials, welcomes the valuable work that the International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX) has undertaken since its establishment, including the development of an explanatory text on the various nuclear liability instruments, looks forward to the continuation of INLEX's work on the overall nuclear liability regime, including its examination of any serious gaps in the regime, and calls on Member States expeditiously to complete the questionnaire prepared by the Group relating to their domestic civil liability regimes for nuclear damage;
 3. Welcomes the practice of some shipping States and operators of providing in a timely manner information and responses to relevant coastal States in advance of shipments for the purpose of

addressing concerns regarding safety and security, including emergency preparedness, and invites others to do so in order to improve mutual understanding and confidence regarding shipments of radioactive materials. The information and responses provided should in no case be contradictory to measures of physical protection and safety;

4. Emphasizes the importance of maintaining dialogue and consultation aimed at improving mutual understanding, confidence building and enhanced communication in relation to safe maritime transport of radioactive materials, and in this context encourages shipping States and relevant coastal States to continue informal discussions on communication, with Agency involvement, as recommended by the President of the 2003 International Conference and included in the Action Plan;

5. Looks forward to the seminar to be arranged by the Agency in October 2005 on complex technical issues related to the safety of transport, and encourages all concerned States to participate in this event;

6. Welcomes the approval in June 2004 by the Board of the Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies, and looks forward to its implementation and to further dialogue to improve the overall international emergency response capability especially with respect to potential maritime incidents;

7. Welcomes the publication of the reports on the TranSAS missions to Turkey and Panama in 2003 and to France in 2004, welcomes Japan's recent request for a TranSAS mission, looks forward to the implementation of the revised procedures for TranSAS missions, commends those Member States that have already made use of TranSAS and encourages them to put into effect the resulting recommendations and suggestions, as well as to share their good practices with other Member States, and encourages other Member States to avail themselves of TranSAS and to improve transport practices based on recommendations and suggestions of TranSAS missions;

8. Urges Member States that do not have national regulatory documents governing the transport of radioactive materials to adopt such documents expeditiously, and urges all Member States to ensure that such regulatory documents are in conformity with the current, recently amended, edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations;

9. Takes note of the current information exchange on the security of transport of radioactive materials, fostered by the Secretariat;

10. Requests Member States to cooperate with the Agency in providing information required both for the effective operation of EVTRAM and INES and for an up-to-date safety webpage;

11. Expresses satisfaction with the progress that has been made in establishing a schedule for regular reviews of the Agency's Transport Regulations with a view to issuing a revised or amended version, as necessary, every two years, consistent with the schedules of the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and of the relevant international modal organizations;

12. Welcomes the progress made on the problems related to refusals of shipments of radioactive materials (in particular for medical applications), and looks forward to a satisfactory resolution of this issue;

13. Acknowledges the progress made in relation to education and training for the safe transport of radioactive materials, including the courses held this year for East Asia and the Pacific, and West Asia, and the proposed courses for Europe and Peru in 2005 and for Africa and Latin America in 2006, and requests the Director General to continue to strengthen and widen the Agency's efforts in this area, subject to the availability of resources; and

14. Requests the Director General to report at the forty-ninth (2005) regular session of the General Conference on the implementation of this resolution.

[adopted during the ninth plenary]

D.

The Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling General Conference resolutions GC(45)/RES/14, GC(46)/RES/13, GC(47)/RES/7.B and GC(47)/RES/8 relevant to the safety and security of radioactive sources,
- (b) Noting that radioactive sources are used throughout the world for a wide variety of beneficial purposes, for example, in industry, medicine, research, agriculture and education, and aware that the use of these radioactive sources can involve risks due to potential radiation exposure,
- (c) Recognizing the need to protect individuals, society and the environment from the harmful effects of possible accidents and malicious acts involving radioactive sources,
- (d) Mindful that every Member State might face the threat of radiological terrorism and would bear serious consequences if any were attacked,
- (e) Recalling the objectives and principles of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (IAEA/CODEOC/2004) and the revised IAEA Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (GC (47)/7, Annex 1),
- (f) Aware of the linkage between the safety and security of radioactive sources,
- (g) Mindful that every Member State should take the appropriate measures necessary to ensure that the radioactive sources, covered by the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, within its territory or under its jurisdiction or control are safely managed and securely protected during their useful lives and at the end of their useful lives, and recognizing the importance of fostering a safety and security culture in all organizations and among individuals engaged in the regulatory control or the management of radioactive sources,
- (h) Noting the Action Plan on Non Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction: Securing Radioactive Sources adopted by the G-8 at its Evian Summit in June 2003,
- (i) Recalling the findings of the conferences in Dijon (1998), Buenos Aires (2000) and Vienna (2003),
- (j) Recalling the findings of the International Conference on National Infrastructures for Radiation Safety held in Morocco (2003) and the progress of the IAEA Model Project to Upgrade National Radiation Protection Infrastructures, recognizing the need for adjustments to the Model Project in light of these findings and the guidance in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and recognizing that the establishment of effective and sustainable national regulatory infrastructures is essential for the control of radioactive sources,

- (k) Recognizing the work of the expert group convened by the Agency in March 2004 that led to the development of a Policy for Promoting Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation Sources, and
- (l) Stressing the importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to the security of radioactive sources,
- (m) Noting the statement of the 2004 Sea Island G-8 Summit which endorsed export and import control guidance for high-risk radioactive sources* and sought to ensure that effective controls are operational by the end of 2005 and applied in a harmonized and consistent manner,
- (n) Noting also the statement of the USA–EU 2004 Shannon Summit which encouraged every country to work towards following the guidance contained in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, endorsed export and import control guidance for high-risk radioactive sources*, announced that the United States and the European Union will work towards putting adequate export and import controls in place by the end of 2005 and apply them in a harmonized and consistent manner, and supported the IAEA Model Project to Upgrade National Radiation Protection Infrastructure and the action to expand and accelerate Model Project efforts, and
- (o) Taking note of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) and the Partners' Conference held 18-19 September 2004 in Vienna, the stated purpose of which was to build international support for national programmes on nuclear and radiological threat reduction,
1. Takes note of the progress reports submitted by the Director General in document GC(48)/INF/7 on the implementation of the revised International Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and commends the Secretariat for the work it has undertaken;
 2. Calls upon Member States to continue to provide political, financial and technical support, including in-kind contributions, to improve the safety and security of radioactive sources;
 3. Welcomes the Agency's programmes and renewed effort to assist Member States in establishing and strengthening regulatory systems for the control of radioactive sources;
 4. Welcomes the approval by the Board of Governors of the Policy for Promoting Effective and Sustainable National Regulatory Infrastructures for the Control of Radiation Sources, and encourages the Secretariat to implement the actions within available resources;
 5. Commends the Secretariat for the action it has taken, in cooperation with Member States, to locate, recover and secure high-risk vulnerable radioactive sources, and encourages the Secretariat to continue this work on a global basis;
 6. Commends the Secretariat for its efforts in updating the Regulatory Authority Information System (RAIS version 3.0), which includes software to develop national registries for radioactive sources, and making it available to all Member States, and encourages Member States to evaluate this system for their use;
 7. Continues to endorse the principles and objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while recognizing that the Code is not a legally binding instrument, welcomes the fact that more than 60 States have made political commitments with respect to the Code in line with resolution GC(47)/RES/7.B, and encourages other States to do so;

* Approved by the Board of Governors on 14 September 2004 as Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

8. Further welcomes the approval by the Board of Governors of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources (GC(48)/13), endorses this Guidance while recognizing that it is not legally binding, notes that more than 30 countries have made clear their intention to work towards effective import and export controls by 31 December 2005, and encourages States to act in accordance with the Guidance on a harmonized basis and to notify the Director General of their intention to do so as supplementary information to the Code of Conduct, recalling operative paragraph 6 of resolution GC(47)/RES/7.B;
9. Highlights that the Board of Governors at its September 2004 meetings underlined the importance that exporting States, in applying the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, in particular paragraphs 8 (c) and 11 (c), carry out the information exchange and consultations set out in paragraph 21 of the Guidance;
10. Requests the Secretariat to issue the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources as guidance supplementary to the Code of Conduct;
11. Looks forward to the *International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive sources: Towards a Global System for the Continuous Control of Sources throughout their Life Cycle*, to be held in Bordeaux, France, from 27 June to 1 July, 2005, invites Member States to participate in the Conference, and requests the Secretariat to report on its outcome to the forty-ninth regular session of the General Conference;
12. Urges the Secretariat to continue to use the regional and sub-regional country groupings in its activities to upgrade radiation protection infrastructure; and
13. Requests the Director General to submit a report to the General Conference at its forty-ninth session on activities undertaken by the Agency regarding the issues of this resolution.

[adopted during the tenth plenary]