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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

Nuclear power applications

Draft resolution submitted by Canada, China, France, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(50)/RES/13.B and previous General Conference resolutions on strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications,
- (b) Noting that the Agency's objectives as outlined in Article II of the Statute include "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world",
- (c) Noting also that the Agency's statutory functions include "to encourage and assist research on, and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses", "to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information", and "to encourage the exchange and training of scientists and experts in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy", including the production of electric power, with due consideration for the needs of developing countries,
- (d) Stressing that the availability of energy and access to it are vital to human development,
- (e) Recognizing that the health of the planet's environment, including action to reduce air pollution and address the risk of global climate change, is a serious concern that must be regarded as a priority by all governments, and noting that nuclear power generation does not produce air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions during normal operation,
- (f) Recognizing the safety and security issues associated with nuclear energy, as well as the need to resolve the issues of managing radioactive waste in a sustainable manner, while also recognizing the continuing international efforts to address those issues,

- (g) Recognizing that a diverse portfolio of energy sources will be needed in the 21st century to allow access to sustainable energy and electricity resources in all regions of the world, and that Member States pursue different ways to achieve energy security and climate protection goals,
- (h) Acknowledging that each State has a right to define its national energy policy in accordance with its national requirements and its relevant international obligations,
- (i) Recalling the final statement of the President of the Paris International Ministerial Conference on “Nuclear Power for the 21st Century”, organized by the Agency in March 2005, where a wide range of views were expressed and where a vast majority of participants affirmed that nuclear power can make a major contribution to meeting energy needs and sustaining the world’s development in the 21st century, for a large number of both developed and developing countries,
- (j) Aware of the present role of nuclear power in providing 16 % of world electricity supply, and that a number of countries that have or are considering plans for nuclear energy believe it will make a crucial input to their sustainable development strategies and contribute to global energy security while reducing air pollution and addressing climate change, while others hold different views based on their assessments of benefits and risks,
- (k) Stressing in that regard the role and contribution of various nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste technology programmes, including furthering the understanding of future global nuclear scenarios, in promoting international cooperation on nuclear power, and noting various initiatives,
- (l) Confirming that the use of nuclear power must be accompanied by commitments to and ongoing implementation of effective levels of safety, security and safeguards, consistent with States’ national legislation and respective international obligations,
- (m) Recognizing the unique role which the Agency plays, and in particular the current role it is playing through the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), by bringing together all interested Member States to consider jointly innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycle systems,
- (n) Recognizing that the development and implementation of an appropriate infrastructure to support the successful introduction of nuclear power and its safe, secure and efficient use, taking into account relevant Agency standards, is an issue of central importance, especially for countries that are considering and planning for the introduction of nuclear power,
- (o) Noting the numerous requests received from Member States planning to introduce nuclear power generation for assistance in conducting energy studies to evaluate future energy options and in establishing appropriate technical, human, legal and administrative infrastructure, acknowledging the Agency’s role in this regard and the importance of the assistance it provides, and welcoming its activities in this field,
- (p) Welcoming the results of the International Conference on Knowledge Management in Nuclear Facilities, held in Vienna on 18-21 June 2007, which showed inter alia the growing importance of knowledge management in the current context of growing interest for nuclear power, acknowledging in that context the important contribution of Agency programmes and guidance, and encouraging the Secretariat to continue these activities,

- (q) Taking note of the Agency's activities related to the development and deployment of small and medium-size reactors, and encouraging it to further strengthen and focus these activities to help meet the demand from developing countries with small electrical grids in a cost-effective, safe and secure manner,
- (r) Taking note of the improved performance record of nuclear power plants globally, and recognizing the essential role which the Agency plays as the principal international forum for the exchange of information and experience on nuclear power plant operation, for their continual improvement among Member States and international organizations such as the OECD/NEA and NGOs such as WANO,
- (s) Confirming the important role of science and technology in addressing the continuing challenges of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, and in the management of nuclear waste,
- (t) Taking note of the "Nuclear Technology Review 2007" (GC(51)/INF/3) prepared by the Secretariat, and
- (u) Emphasizing the increasing importance of Agency databases and web-based systems for the exchange of and the access to nuclear safety information and knowledge for the general public as well as for dedicated experts,
1. Affirms the importance of the role of the Agency in facilitating, through international cooperation among interested Member States, the development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including the specific application of the generation of electric power, in assisting these States in that regard, in fostering international cooperation and in disseminating to the public well balanced information on nuclear energy;
 2. Underlines the importance of facilitating effective programmes in the areas of nuclear science, technology and applications related to nuclear power, aimed at pooling and further improving the scientific and technological capabilities of interested Member States through cooperation and coordinated research and development within the Agency, among Member States including through regional cooperation agreements, and between the Agency and interested Member States;
 3. Recognizes the importance of and endorses the Agency activities that meet the objective of fostering sustainable development and protecting the environment;
 4. Recommends that the Secretariat continue to implement efforts that contribute to a greater understanding and a well balanced picture of the role of nuclear science and technology in a global, sustainable development perspective, and in that context acknowledges its contribution to the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development held in New York in April 2007;
 5. Stresses the importance, when developing nuclear energy, including nuclear power and related fuel cycle activities, of ensuring safety, security, non-proliferation and environmental protection,
 6. Requests the Secretariat to continue to pursue, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with interested Member States, the Agency's activities in the areas of nuclear science and technology for nuclear power applications in Member States, with a view to strengthening infrastructures and fostering science, technology and engineering;
 7. Requests in particular the Secretariat to continue and strengthen, subject to the availability of resources, its efforts relating to nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste technology, focusing particularly

on technical areas where the needs for improvement, advances and enhanced international collaboration are greatest;

8. Welcomes the creation in the Secretariat of the Nuclear Power Support Group for the provision of coordinated support to interested Member States considering the introduction or expansion of nuclear power;

9. Welcomes the organization in Beijing in 2009 of a high-level international conference on the global nuclear energy status and future developments, with particular focus on nuclear power, and encourages interested Member States to participate in this important event;

10. Reiterates its request to the Director General to provide in a timely manner a report on the financing of nuclear power as an option in meeting energy needs, and encourages interested Member States to work towards addressing financial issues related to the introduction of nuclear power;

11. Notes with satisfaction the organization of workshops on vital topics related to the use of nuclear power, such as technologies and economics, the competitiveness of nuclear power and other energy technologies, desalination, partitioning and transmutation, as well as the training of many professionals from 49 Member States through various regional and national courses, and in that context welcomes the workshop that took place in December 2006 on Issues for the Introduction of Nuclear Power, and encourages the Agency to continue such activities.

12. Welcomes also the publication of documents on infrastructure issues, in particular the document “Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power” (NG-G-3.1), and encourages the Secretariat, within the framework of its existing programmes, to continue to undertake generic and country-specific assessments on approaches and options for addressing infrastructure requirements so as to provide guidance for the introduction of nuclear energy and its safe, secure and efficient use, for Member States that are interested in or planning for the introduction of nuclear energy in the 21st century;

13. Welcomes technical cooperation projects to assist Member States in energy analysis and planning, and in establishing the infrastructures required for the introduction of nuclear power, and calls on interested Member States to consider how they can contribute to the introduction of nuclear power in less developed countries through enhanced technical cooperation;

14. Reiterates its request to the Secretariat to provide, in addition to the Nuclear Technology Review, a separate biennial comprehensive report on the international status and prospects of nuclear power, beginning in 2008; and

15. Recommends that the Secretariat report to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its fifty-second (2008) regular session on developments relevant to this resolution.