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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole*

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its resolutions GC(43)/RES/15, GC(44)/RES/22, GC(45)/RES/12.A, GC(47)/RES/10.E and (49) RES/12.E,
- (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 that a number of Member States have expressed their interest 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,

* Possibly to be clustered with other draft resolutions recommended by the Committee.

- (g) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat in cooperation with interested Member States and international organizations, as outlined in the report of the Director General contained in document GC(51)4,
 - (h) Taking note of the results of the eighth meeting of the International Nuclear Desalination Advisory Group (INDAG), held in February 2006, and expressing its appreciation for INDAG's continued efforts,
 - (i) Recalling 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,
 - (j) Acknowledging that innovative SMRs are of particular interest also for non-electrical energy, particularly in the desalination of seawater,
 - (k) Noting IAEA-TECDOC-1536, "Status of Small Reactor Designs without On-site Refuelling", published in January 2007,
 - (l) Noting with appreciation that activities on nuclear desalination carried out by the Agency in a number of countries,
 - (m) Commending the efforts of the Secretariat in coordinating the development of nuclear reactor simulators for use on personal computers, and
 - (n) Welcoming the expert missions undertaken by the Agency aiming at revisiting the original work plans and reviewing the progress of feasibility studies for nuclear desalination projects in some Member States,
1. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions with interested Member 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:
 - (a) 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
 - (b) carry out, subject to the availability of 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 country;
 5. Requests the Director General and interested Member States to include in the feasibility studies, besides the technical aspects, the social and economic impacts of this technology;
 6. Further invites the Director General to raise seed funds and other appropriate funding from extrabudgetary resources in order to catalyze and contribute to the implementation of all Agency activities relating to nuclear desalination and the development of innovative SMRs;

7. Requests the Director General to note the high priority given by interested 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
8. 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 fifty-second (2008) regular session under an appropriate agenda item.