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MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MATTERS RELATING TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

(a) REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION GC(XXXIII)/RES/508

Report submitted in response to the request made in operative paragraph 4 of resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/508

1. In September 1988, the General Conference, having referred – in preambular paragraph (d) of resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/489 – to a 15 August 1988 letter of the Director General concerning the revised NUSS Codes (copy appended to this document), stated – in operative paragraph 3 of that resolution – that it considered "that the NUSS Codes are international guides for assisting, as appropriate, States with a nuclear power programme in place or in preparation in the formulating and implementing of national regulations and in carrying out actions concerning the safety of nuclear power plants". It went on – in operative paragraph 4 – to invite Member States "to inform the Agency, on a voluntary basis, whether or to what extent the relevant requirements of their national legislation and regulations are consistent with the revised Codes" and – in operative paragraph 5 – to request the Director General "to inform Member States regularly, as appropriate, about the information received in connection with paragraph 4".

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2. In September 1989, the Conference – in operative paragraph 4 of resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/508 – requested the Director General "to report through the Board to its thirty-fourth session on the information received from Member States in connection with paragraph 5 of resolution GC(XXXII)/RES/489".

3. As of 30 June 1990, twenty-six Member States had formally replied to the Director General's letter of 15 August 1988 mentioned in paragraph 1 above. Twenty-two of them already have nuclear power programmes or are planning to establish such programmes; in the other four, the emphasis is mainly on national regulatory systems for radiation protection for non-power applications of atomic energy.

4. The replies indicate a consensus that the revised Codes are suitable for use by, or provide useful guidance to, Member States in the development or revision of national legislation and regulations. Most of the Member States which replied stated that they were using, or intended to use, the revised Codes for that purpose, the extent of use varying with their regulatory requirements: for Member States which are in the process of developing nuclear regulatory systems, use of the revised Codes is extensive; Member States with well developed nuclear regulatory systems have used the revised Codes to a lesser extent. Two Member States reported the adoption of several of the revised Codes after minor adaptations needed in order to ensure compatibility with other national legal requirements or to make some of the general NUSS requirements more specific.

5. Most of the Member States with well developed national regulations for the safety of nuclear power considered that there was general consistency^{*/} between their regulations and the revised Codes. However, two of these Member States were less definitive in this respect. In one case, a systematic comparison is not yet completed; however, the Member State in question participated actively in the revision of the Codes. In the other case, the Member State in question reported that its authorities were using the Codes in a complementary manner.

6. From an analysis of the replies and in the light of consultations within the nuclear community, the Secretariat concludes that the NUSS documentation (the revised Codes together with the Safety Guides) constitutes an internationally recognized frame of reference for the safety of nuclear power plants.

^{*/} The use of expressions such as "generally consistent" or "basically consistent" in the replies suggests that direct comparisons are not easy as there is a certain latitude for interpretation at the level of the revised Codes and of national regulations, the latter normally being backed up by more specific requirements at the level of guidelines or technical standards; also, the subject scope may differ somewhat as between the revised Codes and a Member State's national regulations.



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IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:
PRIERE DE RAPPELER LA REFERENCE:

J2.03.2 Circ.

15 August 1988

Sir,

The Codes of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) Programme were reviewed and revised by Government experts under IAEA auspices during the past year and were adopted in their revised form by the Board of Governors of the IAEA on 9 June 1988. The Board authorized me to promulgate the revised NUSS Codes as part of the IAEA's safety standards to be applied, as appropriate, to operations assisted by the Agency. The Board also authorized me to recommend to all Member States to take the revised Codes into consideration in formulating and implementing national regulations and in carrying out actions concerning the safety of nuclear power plants.

In my foreword to the revised NUSS Codes I stated that the Codes establish the objectives and basic requirements that must be met to ensure adequate safety in the operation of nuclear power plants, and expressed the hope that they would be accepted and used by Member States as a basis for regulation of the safety of power reactors within their national legal and regulatory framework.

In the light of the above, it would be useful if you could inform me whether your Government considers the enclosed revised Codes to be appropriate international safety standards for use by States as guidance in formulating and implementing national requirements relating to the safety of nuclear power plants, and more specifically whether the relevant requirements of your national legislation and regulations are consistent with the revised Codes.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Enclosures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hans Blix".

Hans Blix
Director General

