



International Atomic Energy Agency

GENERAL CONFERENCE

GC(XXXIV)/RES/540
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Thirty-fourth regular session
Agenda item 16
(GC(XXXIV)/939)

PLAN FOR PRODUCING POTABLE WATER ECONOMICALLY

Resolution adopted during the 332nd plenary meeting on 21 September 1990

PLAN FOR PRODUCING POTABLE WATER ECONOMICALLY

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/515, in which the Conference requested the Director General "to assess the technical and economic potential for using nuclear heat reactors in sea water desalination in the light of the relevant experience gained during the past decade, to assess the interest of potential beneficiaries and technology holders, and to report - through the Board of Governors - to the Conference at its thirty-fourth (1990) regular session",
- (b) Considering the conclusions contained in the Attachment to document GC(XXXIV)/928, which confirm the worldwide need for potable water and the potential of nuclear reactors for producing potable water economically, and also the recommendations contained in the Attachment,
- (c) Noting that recent studies (of the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme) indicate that at least 80 countries, with 40 per cent of the world's population, are suffering from potable water shortages and that the situation is likely to become worse as a result of population growth, and
- (d) Stressing the obvious importance of adequate supplies of potable water for mankind,

1. Requests the Director General to contact appropriate United Nations agencies and international and national organizations and institutions with a view to assessing all available information on the future need for potable water relevant to nuclear desalination;
2. Further requests the Director General to assess in detail – within his competence and with the assistance of international and other organizations concerned and also making use of cost-free experts whenever possible – the costs of potable water production with various sizes of nuclear desalination plant at selected promising sites, with a comparison of the costs of desalination by nuclear and other means;
3. Further requests the Director General to include nuclear desalination as one of the activities in future programmes of the Agency in the process of preparing the Agency's programme and budget;
4. Decides to include in the agenda for the thirty-fifth regular session an item entitled "Plan for producing potable water economically"; and
5. Requests the Director General to present to the Conference at that session a report on progress in implementing the relevant recommendations contained in the Attachment to document GC(XXXIV)/928.