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GENERAL CONFERENCE

Thirty-fifth regular session
Agenda item 12
(GC(XXXV)/982)
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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

Draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Denmark, France,
Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands,
Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its resolutions GC(XXXII)/RES/489, GC(XXXIII)RES/508 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/529,
- (b) Noting with appreciation the results of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power held in Vienna from 2 to 6 September 1991,
- (c) Reaffirming that nuclear safety should be enforced primarily at the national level, by the conscientious application of existing safety principles, standards and good practices at each plant, and within each national regulatory body, making the best use of national legal frameworks and working practices,
- (d) Reaffirming also the importance to the international community of ensuring that all nuclear installations are safe, well regulated and environmentally sound, and that firm plans are in place for the safe disposal of radioactive waste,
- (e) Noting in particular that the International Conference recognized the potential value of a step-by-step approach to a framework convention for the promotion of an international nuclear safety regime,

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(f) Noting also the action recommended by the Board of Governors on 12 September 1991, and

(g) Noting the report by the Director General on Member States' use of the Agency's services for advancing operational safety, the progress report on the revision of the Basic Safety Standards for Radiation Protection, and the other reports on the implementation of resolutions GC(XXXIV)/RES/529 and GC(XXXIII)/RES/508,

1. Reaffirms the vital necessity of continuing to promote the highest level of nuclear safety worldwide and of strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection;
2. Endorses the major findings, conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power;
3. Stresses the need to consider an integrated international approach to all aspects of nuclear safety, including safety objectives for nuclear waste;
4. Invites the Director General to prepare, for the Board's consideration in February, an outline of the possible contents of a nuclear safety framework convention, examining the merits of various options and taking into account the activities and roles of relevant international and intergovernmental bodies and drawing on the advice of standing groups like INSAG and NUSSAG, and also on expertise made available by Member States and competent international organizations;
5. Stresses the need to consider a more vigorous nuclear safety overview process with the objective of achieving a high safety performance in all operating nuclear installations;
6. Invites the Director General to initiate a process for developing a common basis on which the acceptable level of safety of all operating nuclear power plants built to earlier standard can be judged;
7. Recommends to Member States that they avail themselves fully of the Agency's services for advancing operational safety, including OSART and ASSET missions;
8. Urges Member States to use the Incident Reporting System and, in a timely manner, the International Nuclear Event Scale, as appropriate, for reporting all nuclear accidents or incidents;

9. Invites the Director General to set up a small group of experts to establish, using a step-by-step approach, safety criteria, based on - inter alia - the work of INSAG, for the design of future reactors, the group beginning with the development of safety principles which would evolve, in the long term, into a comprehensive set of criteria;
10. Requests the Director General to come forward with specific proposals, based on the findings of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power, for additional actions to be taken under the Agency's approved 1992 programme and for consideration within the framework of the 1993-94 biennial programme and the Medium-Term Plan;
11. Takes note of the report by the Board of Governors on liability for nuclear damage and reiterates the priority it attaches to the consideration of all aspects of the question of liability for damage arising from a nuclear accident, especially in the light of the requests from Parties to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage to convene a revision conference;
12. Welcomes with interest the report by the Director General on the important question of assessing the safety of WWER-440/230 plants and invites the Director General to continue his endeavours in this important field;
13. Takes note with appreciation of the report by the Director General on the International Chernobyl Project;
14. Takes note of the report by the Director General on the status and implementation of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and requests the Director General to pursue his efforts to promote the effective implementation of the two Conventions; and
15. Requests the Board of Governors and the Director General to report on the implementation of this resolution to it at its thirty-sixth session.

