

The General Conference,

- (a) Conscious of the continuing food shortages and waste due to food spoilage and of the increasing incidence of food-borne diseases in various parts of the world,
- (b) Taking into account the benefits to many countries of using irradiation to reduce food spoilage, to control food-borne diseases and to facilitate international trade in food items,
- (c) Underlining the fact that the World Health Organization (WHO) has found irradiated food to be safe for human consumption and that many irradiated food items are already in use in several countries,
- (d) Recalling the endorsement by many Member States of the benefits of food irradiation at the International Conference on the Acceptance and Control of and Trade in Irradiated Food, held in December 1988,
- (e) Considering the widespread interest of Member States in the practical utilization of food irradiation as reflected in discussions of the Board of Governors,
- (f) Appreciating that the Agency and other United Nations organizations, such as FAO and WHO, possess considerable expertise and have developed worldwide standards in the area of food irradiation,
- (g) Emphasizing that the available information and expertise in the field of food irradiation should be utilized by the Agency for the benefit of Member States, especially the developing countries, and
- (h) Appreciating the work done by the Secretariat in response to resolution GC(XXXVI)/RES/588,

1. Endorses the Board of Governors' approval of the project proposal contained in document GOV/2669 and requests the Director General to ensure early implementation of the Plan of Action approved in document GC(XXXVII)/1068;
2. Requests the Director General, in consultation with other United Nations organizations, such as FAO and WHO, to pay particular attention to technical, legislative, public acceptance and financial aspects in the implementation of the proposals for the practical utilization of food irradiation in developing countries;
3. Also requests the Director General to assist other developing countries interested in the practical utilization of this technology;
4. Appeals to the Director General to notify other United Nations agencies, such as FAO, WHO and ITC, of this decision with a view to soliciting their co-operation; and
5. Requests further that the Director General report on the progress achieved to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its thirty-eighth regular session, in 1994.

*1 October 1993
Agenda item 15
GC(XXXVII)/OR.361, para 38*