

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolutions GC(XXXIII)/RES/515, GC(XXXIV)/RES/540, GC(XXXV)/RES/563, GC(XXXVI)/RES/592, GC(XXXVII)/RES/617, GC(XXXVIII)/RES/7 and GC(39)/RES/15,
- (b) Noting the study on the "Technical and economic evaluation of potable water production through the desalination of sea water by using nuclear energy or other means" attached to document GC(XXXVI)/1013, which concludes that the use of nuclear energy as an alternative option to the use of fossil fuelled plants for supplying energy for sea water desalination is technically feasible and in general economically competitive, and document GOV/INF/708,
- (c) Noting the main conclusion of the Advisory Group on Demonstration Facilities, attached to document GC(XXXVIII)/8, which includes the conclusion that there is a need to establish a programme for identifying a practical set of options from which one or more demonstration facilities with well-defined objectives might be chosen,
- (d) Noting also the interest of a number of Member States in activities relating to sea water desalination using nuclear energy as reflected in document GC(XXXVII)/INF/323,
- (e) Aware that the acute shortage of potable water in some Member States remains a major problem,
- (f) Underlining the vital importance of sufficient potable water supplies for mankind and of regional and international co-operation in solving the problem of potable water shortages in Member States and the interest of potential beneficiaries and technology holders in the provision of low-cost potable water,
- (g) Welcoming the holding of an international symposium on sea water desalination in the Republic of Korea next year and inviting Member States to promote international co-operation and collaboration in this area,
- (h) Taking note with interest of the World Bank President's call to hold in 1997 a world conference on water in order that a strategy and partnership be established by governments, the private and the public sector, and international organizations, and
- (i) Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Director General contained in document GC(40)/4,

1. Welcomes the progress made in this regard, and especially the completion of the two-phase Options Identification Programme described in document GC(39)/12, which aims at evaluating data relevant to a demonstration and analysing the most practical options for demonstration;
2. Requests the Director General to continue consultations with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations concerning the main conclusions of the "Technical and economic evaluation of potable water production through the desalination of sea water by using nuclear energy or other means";
3. Stresses the vital importance of producing potable water and further requests the Director General to assign appropriate priority to the nuclear desalination of sea water in the process of preparing the Agency's programme and budget;
4. Invites the Director General to establish an advisory body on the Agency's activities relating to nuclear desalination with the participation of interested Member States and to take appropriate measures to assist Member States concerned in the process of preparatory actions for demonstration projects; and
5. 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 forty-first session under an appropriate agenda item.

*20 September 1996  
Agenda item 14  
GC(40)/OR.10, para. 27*