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STRENGTHENING OF THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Resolution adopted on 3 October 1997 during the 9th plenary meeting

STRENGTHENING OF THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(40)/RES/13 on "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities",
- (b) Noting that the objectives of the Agency as stated in Article II of the Statute are "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to ensure that the assistance provided is not used to further any military purpose,
- (c) Noting also that one of the statutory functions of the Agency is to "encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world",
- (d) Considering that an expansion of technical co-operation activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will contribute to the well-being of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency,
- (e) Stressing the importance of the transfer of nuclear technology to the developing countries for enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby generating rapid economic development,
- (f) Conscious of the great potential of nuclear power for meeting energy requirements in many countries and the need to protect the environment,

(g) Desiring that the Agency's resources for technical co-operation activities be assured, predictable and sufficient to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute,

(h) Emphasizing the need to maintain an appropriate balance between the promotional activities and other statutory activities of the Agency,

(i) Recognizing that human resources development is an important component of technical co-operation activities, and

(j) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat as outlined in document GOV/2922-GC(41)/4, and especially new developments relating to technical co-operation among development countries (TCDC),

1. Stresses the need, in conformity with the Statute, to strengthen technical co-operation activities and also their effectiveness and efficiency;

2. Notes that the agreement reached on Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) will come to an end with the 1997-98 cycle and requests the Board of Governors to initiate negotiations among Member States with a view to ensuring sufficient funding for technical co-operation activities at least for another three-year cycle;

3. Requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the technical co-operation activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving the scientific and technological capabilities of developing countries, account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned, in the fields of peaceful applications of nuclear energy, including both the applications of nuclear methods and techniques and the production of electricity, and at achieving sustainable development;

4. Emphasizes that these programmes should contribute to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, and particularly in least developed countries;

5. Requests the Director General to continue to take account of the view of the General Conference on this question when requesting Member States to pledge their respective shares of the Technical Co-operation Fund targets and to make timely payments to the Fund;

6. Requests the Director General to consult with Member States on the identification of regional centres of excellence, including criteria, so as to facilitate and enhance technical and scientific co-operation among developing countries; and

7. Requests the Director General and the Board of Governors to remain seized of this matter and further requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its forty-second session on the implementation of this resolution under an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities".