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Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

Resolution adopted on 24 September 2010 during the eleventh plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(53)/RES/10 and previous General Conference resolutions on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,
- (b) Recognizing that a global nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety culture is a key element of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, ionizing radiation and radioactive substances, and that continuous efforts are required to ensure its maintenance at the optimal level,
- (c) Acknowledging the Agency's statutory functions with respect to safety,
- (d) Emphasizing the important role of the Agency in enhancing nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety through its safety programmes and initiatives and in promoting international cooperation and sharing experience in this regard,
- (e) Recognizing the importance of Member States establishing and maintaining effective and sustainable regulatory infrastructures for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,
- (f) Noting with appreciation the Director General's report in document GC(54)/8 on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,
- (g) Emphasizing the vital need for sustainable, appropriate and predictable resourcing, as well as efficient management, of the Secretariat's work in the field of nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,
- (h) Recalling the objectives of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (the Joint Convention);

- (i) Recalling the obligations of States parties to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (the Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention), and recognizing the need for the establishment of mechanisms to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of these Conventions;
- (j) Recalling the objectives of the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors and the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources;
- (k) Recognizing the central role of the Agency's safety standards in providing guidance to Member States on matters related to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,
- (l) Underscoring that medical uses of ionizing radiation constitute by far the largest source of man-made exposure, and emphasizing the need for enhanced efforts to optimize radiation protection for patients in view of the increase in average annual doses from medical exposures, including through the sharing of experience at the international level,
- (m) Noting with interest United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/85 of 10 December 2009 related to the effects of atomic radiation, and recalling the Board decision in March 1960 (INFCIRC/18), which was reconfirmed in its 847th meeting, of 12 September 1994, related to the basis for the Agency's basic safety standards,
- (n) Recalling that States have under international law the obligation to protect and preserve the environment, including the marine and terrestrial environment, and emphasizing the importance of the Secretariat's continued collaboration with the contracting parties of international and regional instruments aimed at protecting the environment from radioactive wastes, such as the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter,
- (o) Recognizing that, historically, the safety record of civilian transport, including maritime transport, of radioactive materials has been excellent, and stressing the importance of international cooperation to enhance the safety of international transport,
- (p) Reaffirming maritime and air navigation rights and freedoms, as provided for in international law and as reflected in relevant international instruments,
- (q) Recalling the policy approved by the Board of reviewing the Agency's Transport Regulations, and revising the Regulations where a proposal is assessed as sufficiently important for safety by the Transport Safety Standards Committee (TRANSSC) and the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS),
- (r) Noting the potential impacts of changing global weather patterns on the transport of radioactive materials,
- (s) Noting the importance of security for the safe transport of radioactive material and the strong concern of some States in this regard, and stressing the need to take adequate measures to prevent the loss of control of radioactive material during transport, including to deter or defeat terrorist and other hostile or criminal actions directed against carriers of radioactive material, in accordance with international law,
- (t) Noting that the timely shipment of radioactive materials, particularly those having important uses in the medical, academic and industrial sectors, is being affected by incidents of

denial and delay of shipment in circumstances where the shipment complies with the Agency's Transport Regulations,

(u) Recalling resolution GC(53)/RES/10 and the previous resolutions which invited Member States shipping radioactive material to provide, as appropriate, assurances to potentially affected States, upon their request, that their national regulations take into account the Agency's Transport Regulations and to provide them with relevant information relating to shipments of such material, and noting that the information provided should in no case be contradictory to the measures of physical protection and safety,

(v) Recognizing the need to strengthen national capacities to ensure safety in uranium mining and processing, particularly in Member States entering or re-entering the uranium mining industry, and to address the remediation of contaminated sites,

(w) Emphasizing the importance of education and training in establishing and maintaining an adequate nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety infrastructure, and noting the Secretariat's actions in developing strategies for sustainable education and training in this regard, including the safety and security of radioactive sources,

(x) Noting the importance of ensuring the highest level of nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety for the protection of people, property and the environment, and recognizing that potential nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies, regardless of their origin, may lead to significant radiological and other serious consequences over wide geographical areas, thereby requiring an international response,

(y) Commending the progress made by the Secretariat, Member States and other international organizations in the implementation of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies, and recognizing the need to fully implement the strategies identified for long term sustainability and enhancement of the international capabilities for responding to such events,

(z) Recognizing the importance of having in place effective and coherent nuclear liability mechanisms at the national and global levels to ensure prompt compensation, if necessary, for damage inter alia to people, property and the environment, including actual economic loss due to a nuclear accident or incident, taking fully into account legal and technical considerations, and believing that the principle of strict liability should apply in the event of a nuclear accident or incident, including during the transport of radioactive material, and

(aa) Recalling the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Brussels Convention supplementary to the Paris Convention, the Joint Protocol Related to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention and the protocols amending these conventions, and the objectives thereof, and noting also the intention of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage to establish a worldwide nuclear liability regime based on the principles of nuclear liability law, without prejudice to other liability regimes,

1.

General

1. Urges the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its efforts to maintain and improve nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, focusing particularly on mandatory activities and on technical areas and regions where the need is greatest;

2. Requests the Director General to continue the current programme to assist Member States in developing and improving their national infrastructure, including legislative and regulatory frameworks, for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety;
3. Requests the Secretariat to continue to establish its safety priorities using an integrated assessment process, taking into account the advice of the relevant standing bodies, and to incorporate the results into the delivery of its review services;
4. Encourages the Secretariat and Member States, if they so desire, to make effective use of the Agency's technical cooperation resources for the further enhancement of safety;
5. Acknowledges that safety measures and security measures have in common the aim of protecting human life and health and the environment, calls upon the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to ensure coordination of its safety activities and security activities, and encourages Member States to work actively to ensure that neither safety nor security is compromised;
6. Recalls that the Agency is authorized by its Statute:
 - (i) to establish or adopt, in consultation and, where appropriate, in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, standards of safety; and,
 - (ii) to provide for the application of these standards, inter alia at the request of a State to any of that State's relevant activities,and, in this regard,
 - (iii) welcomes the activities of the Commission on Safety Standards and the Safety Standards Committees, supported by the Secretariat, in developing and endorsing the safety standards being established by the Board and the Director General, and
 - (iv) notes with appreciation the various specialized and ad hoc services rendered by the Secretariat to provide for the application of these standards at the request of a State by, inter alia, appraising its compliance in specific situations; and
 - (v) encourages Member States to make use of such services, as appropriate
7. Recognizes the importance of an effective regulatory body as an essential element of national nuclear infrastructure, urges Member States to continue to increase regulatory effectiveness in the field of nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and to continue sharing findings and lessons learned in their regulatory area, including promoting cooperation and coordination among regulatory bodies;
8. Encourages Member States and the Secretariat to promote recognition of the importance of technical and scientific support organizations in enhancing nuclear safety;
9. Recognizes that the Agency is developing guidance on *Establishing a Nuclear Safety Infrastructure for a National Nuclear Power Programme*, and encourages Member States embarking on new nuclear power programmes to take timely and proactive steps, based upon gradual and systematic application of Agency safety standards, to establish and sustain a strong safety culture and a competent regulatory body with effective independence and the necessary human and financial resources to fulfil its responsibilities;
10. Welcomes the maturing regional safety fora and related networks, and encourages the Secretariat to assist in the establishment of similar fora and networks in regions where they do not exist, further encourages Member States to join relevant fora and networks, and also looks forward to

the launch by the Secretariat of the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) and the international Regulatory Network (RegNet);

11. Welcomes the international conferences on safety-related issues held by the Agency and requests the Secretariat to report to the policy-making organs the conclusions and recommendations from these conferences, as well as the Secretariat's proposed follow-up actions;

12. Notes the Agency's efforts in upgrading the Regulatory Authority Information System (RAIS) to assist Member States in improving regulatory control and inventories of radiation sources, and encourages Member States to evaluate the upgraded RAIS for use;

13. Recognizes that there are ongoing projects to construct transportable nuclear power plants, requests the Secretariat to facilitate information exchange on this issue, and encourages the Secretariat and Member States to continue considering the safety and security aspects related to such facilities throughout their life cycle, including through INPRO;

14. Welcomes the valuable work of the International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX), looks forward to the continuation of INLEX's work and its further outreach efforts to promote awareness of and adherence to nuclear liability instruments, and requests the Secretariat to report at appropriate times on the continuing work of INLEX;

15. Encourages Member States, as appropriate, to give due consideration to the possibility of joining international nuclear liability instruments;

16. Requests the Secretariat to undertake in-house coordination to fulfil the immediate, medium-term and longer-term resource requirements, including financing, of the Agency's safety activities, and to consider prioritization, cost savings, and innovative means of financing;

17. Further requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this resolution be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources;

18. Requests the Director General to report in detail at its fifty-fifth (2011) regular session on implementation of this resolution, further requests that the report be tailored to the General Conference resolution, and also include other relevant developments in the intervening period;

2.

The Agency's Safety Standards Programme

19. Encourages Member States to use the safety standards issued by the IAEA in their national regulatory programmes;

20. Underlines the importance of prioritizing and streamlining the establishment of safety standards in accordance with the Strategies and Processes for the Establishment of any new IAEA Safety Standards (SPESS) and a roadmap for the long-term structure for the safety standards approved by the Commission on Safety Standards;

21. Notes that the draft revised International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS) were submitted to Member States and cosponsoring organizations for comment in January 2010, and requests that the Secretariat incorporates comments provided in order that a consolidated revised BSS be submitted to the Safety Standards Committees at their meetings in November and December 2010;

22. Urges the Secretariat:

- i. to continue to use the estimates of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) for the development of the Agency safety standards, to continue to base such standards, as much as possible, on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and to maintain close cooperation with UNSCEAR and ICRP to these ends, and
- ii. to cooperate closely with UNSCEAR on the development and use of such databases — that also support UNSCEAR assessments — as an Information System on occupational Exposure in Medicine, Industry and Research (ISEMIR), a database on Discharges of Radionuclides to the Atmosphere and the Aquatic Environment (DIRATA), the Directory of RAdiotherapy Centres (DIRAC) and the NUClear Medicine DATAbase (NUMDAB);

23. Requests the Secretariat, given the importance of the Safety Standards Committees, to facilitate the effective participation of all interested Member States in those committees;

3.

Nuclear Installation Safety

24. Notes that all States currently operating nuclear power plants are Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and urges all Member States commissioning, constructing or planning nuclear power plants, or considering a nuclear power programme, to become Parties to the Convention;

25. Calls upon all Member States with nuclear installations, which have not yet done so, to establish effective operational experience feedback programmes, and to share freely their experience, assessments and lessons learned, including through the submission of incident reports to the Agency's web-based incident reporting systems;

26. Welcomes further strengthening of the Secretariat's efforts in fostering cooperation between Member States on the seismic safety of nuclear installations through the International Seismic Safety Centre (ISSC) within the Agency, and further encourages Member States to actively participate in sharing relevant experience;

27. Continues to endorse the principles and objectives of the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors, encourages Member States constructing, operating or decommissioning research reactors or with research reactors in extended shutdown to participate in international and regional meetings on the application of the Code and to apply the guidance in the Code, and further encourages Member States to promote regional activities to enhance the safety of the operation, utilization, shutdown and decommissioning of research reactors;

28. Welcomes the publication of safety standards on the safety of uranium fuel fabrication facilities, encourages the Agency to continue to develop a comprehensive set of fuel cycle safety standards, and further encourages the Secretariat to facilitate the exchange of experience of operating such facilities;

29. Further encourages Member States to exchange regulatory information with regard to new nuclear power plant designs and design certification;

4.

Radiation Safety

30. Notes the advances and increasing use of radiodiagnostics and radiotherapy and the need to exchange information, welcomes the Secretariat's continued progress in implementing the

International Action Plan for the Radiological Protection of Patients, and encourages safety authorities to set out requirements for recording, notification and investigation of incidents in the medical use of radiation;

31. Encourages Member States to take advantage of regional technical cooperation projects on medical exposure, and further encourages networking and information-sharing among medical professionals using ionizing radiation;

32. Welcomes the achievement of objectives under the joint IAEA-International Labour Organization (ILO) International Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection, and encourages the Agency and ILO Secretariats to continue their productive cooperation and evaluate the need for further actions;

5.

Transport Safety

33. Urges Member States that do not have national regulatory documents governing the transport of radioactive material to adopt and implement such documents expeditiously, and further urges all Member States to ensure that such regulatory documents are in conformity with the current edition of the Agency's Transport Regulations;

34. Stresses the importance of having effective liability mechanisms in place to ensure prompt compensation for damage to people, property and the environment as well as actual economic loss due to a radiological accident or incident during the transport of radioactive material, including maritime transport, notes the application of the principles of nuclear liability, including strict liability, in the event of a nuclear accident or incident during the transport of radioactive material, and welcomes the continuing valuable work of INLEX, including the examination of the application and scope of the international nuclear liability regime and the consideration and identification of further specific actions to address any gaps in scope and coverage of the regime;

35. Welcomes the practice of some shipping States and operators of providing in a timely manner information and responses to relevant coastal States in advance of shipments for the purpose of addressing concerns regarding safety and security, including emergency preparedness, and invites others to do so in order to improve mutual understanding and confidence regarding shipments of radioactive material, and notes that the information and responses provided should in no case be contradictory to measures of physical protection and safety;

36. Emphasizes the importance of maintaining dialogue and consultation aimed at improving mutual understanding, confidence building and enhanced communication in relation to the safe maritime transport of radioactive material, and in this context welcomes the informal discussions on communication held since July 2003, including in September 2010, between relevant shipping States and coastal States, with Agency involvement, notes the intention of those States to hold further discussions with Agency involvement, looks forward to further progress towards addressing and understanding concerns of coastal and shipping States, welcomes the discussions at the bilateral level between relevant shipping and coastal States on issues of mutual concern, and expresses the hope that further enhancements to mutual confidence, particularly through voluntary communication practices, with due regard to particular circumstances, will result;

37. Welcomes the completion of the Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies and looks forward to further measures to improve the international emergency response capabilities, especially with respect to potential maritime incidents, and encourages the Secretariat to discuss with interested Member States how appropriate information can be made available to authorities responding to an emergency that has

occurred during the transport of radioactive material, taking fully into account the requirements of physical protection and safety;

38. Welcomes the Secretariat initiative to develop guidance for coastal States on how to respond to a maritime emergency involving radioactive material;

39. Notes the Agency's work on the security of radioactive material during transport and welcomes the development and provision of relevant training courses, and encourages Member States to make this training available;

40. Notes the work of the Agency, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, in examining the effects of varying climatic conditions on container safety and encourages the Secretariat to facilitate the development of new fissile-excepted material requirements for the transport of radioactive material;

41. Welcomes networks of competent authorities whose goal is to support the harmonized implementation of the Agency's transport safety standards, and calls upon Member States to use these networks to build capacity in the effective regulation of the safe transport of radioactive material;

42. Notes the development by the International Steering Committee on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material of an action plan, urges the Secretariat to actively facilitate implementation of the action plan, calls upon Member States to each nominate a national focal point on denials of shipment of radioactive material to assist the Steering Committee in its work, welcomes the creation of regional action plans and networks to address key issues, encourages further regional workshops, welcomes the efforts to address problems related to denials of air shipments of radioactive material (in particular for medical applications), looks forward to a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue, and in this context further calls upon Member States to facilitate the transport of such radioactive material when it is carried out in compliance with the Agency's Transport Regulations;

43. Acknowledges the progress made in relation to education and training for the safe transport of radioactive material, including the preparation and translation of training materials into official languages, and requests the Director General to continue to strengthen and widen the Agency's efforts in this area, including through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), in particular to ensure synergy between regional training courses and the Agency's work related to denials of shipment, involving to the extent possible experts from the regions concerned;

44. Looks forward to the International Conference on the Safety and Security of Transport of Radioactive Material: The Next Fifty Years of Transport – Creating a Safe, Secure and Sustainable Framework, to be held in Vienna in October 2011, requests that the conference take account of the transport safety and security issues identified in this resolution, and requests the Secretariat to report the conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference;

6.

The Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management

45. Welcomes the increase in the number of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention from 32 at the first Review Meeting to 56 by the time of the fifty-fourth General Conference session, and urges Member States to consider becoming parties to the Joint Convention;

46. Notes the importance of regional activities for promoting the benefits of the Joint Convention, encourages Member States that are Contracting Parties to continue such efforts through extrabudgetary contributions, and recognizes the valuable role of the Agency in assisting Member States to become Contracting Parties;

47. Continues to welcome the continuing efforts of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention to enhance the transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the review process;

48. Requests the Secretariat to begin preparatory work on the development of a non-binding instrument, including the convening of an open-ended group of technical and legal experts to undertake exploratory discussions in line with the findings of the Consultancy Meeting on the Establishment of an International Agreement on the Transboundary Movement of Scrap Metal Containing Radioactive Material held in Vienna in July 2010;

7.

The Safe Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Other Facilities Using Radioactive Material

49. Encourages Member States to ensure that plans for the decommissioning of facilities are developed and mechanisms are put in place for establishment and maintenance of the resources necessary to implement these plans;

50. Acknowledges the successful work of the International Decommissioning Network (IDN) in training and the exchange of knowledge and information, and encourages its further development;

51. Notes the progress made on the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites in Iraq, welcomes and encourages Member States' continuing support for this work, and encourages the Secretariat to continue its technical support for the project in question;

8.

Safety in Uranium Mining and Processing and Remediation of Contaminated Sites

52. Encourages Member States, where necessary, to strengthen the development and implementation of appropriate safety standards in the uranium production cycle, and requests the Secretariat to assist Member States in using such safety standards;

53. Emphasizes the need to address shortfalls in the availability of experienced and trained personnel in order to ensure safety in uranium production worldwide, and encourages the Secretariat to respond to requests for assistance from Member States, particularly those entering or re-entering the uranium mining industry;

54. Notes the successful completion of the baseline document that identifies the need and priorities for environmental impact assessments at legacy uranium production sites in Central Asia, encourages interested Member States to participate in a multilateral initiative to remediate those sites, supports the Agency's involvement in this international initiative as technical coordinator, encourages Member States to participate in the technical meeting to launch an international working forum for the regulatory supervision of legacy contaminated sites in October 2010, and requests the Secretariat to report on further developments;

9.

Education and Training in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety

55. Underlines the fundamental importance of sustainable programmes for education and training in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, remaining convinced that such education and training is a key component of safety infrastructure, and encourages Member States to develop national strategies for training and education;

56. Emphasizes the need to address, in a timely manner, shortfalls in the availability and sustainability of trained and experienced personnel in order to ensure safety in the projected expansion

of nuclear power generation worldwide, and encourages the Secretariat to assist Member States in this context, where possible and appropriate, upon their request;

57. Encourages Member States to promote knowledge management, including higher education programmes, to enhance nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and to provide for the transfer of knowledge from experts leaving the field to younger generations of professionals;

58. Welcomes the ongoing commitment of the Secretariat and Member States to the implementation of the Strategy for Education and Training in Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, and calls upon the Secretariat to strengthen and expand its programme of training and education activities, while focusing on building institutional capacity and technical and managerial capabilities in Member States;

59. Supports the Secretariat's continued focus on developing sustainable educational training programmes in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, including by identifying training needs through Education and Training Appraisal (EduTA) missions, drawing up programmes to meet training requirements, continuing the development of up-to-date training materials including e-learning and multimedia materials, establishing national and regional training centres and networks, and further developing a network of trainers, regional training centres and 'train-the-trainer' workshops, and encourages the Secretariat to implement the relevant technical support;

60. Welcomes the Secretariat's progress toward long-term agreements on education and training in radiation protection and nuclear safety, and looks forward to further long-term agreements conditional on the outcomes of EduTA missions;

10.

Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources

61. Commends the many national and multinational efforts to recover and maintain control of vulnerable and orphan sources, and encourages the Secretariat and Member States to strengthen and continue these efforts, and invites Member States to consider establishing radiation detection systems as appropriate;

62. Continues to endorse the principles and objectives of the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, notes that, as at 30 June 2010, 99 States had notified the Director General of their intention to act in accordance with the Code, and urges other States to make such a notification;

63. Underlines the important role of the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources for the establishment of continuous control of radioactive sources, notes that, as at 30 June 2010, 59 States had notified the Director General of their intention to act in accordance with the Guidance, encourages other States to make such a notification, reiterates the need for States to implement the Guidance in a harmonized and consistent fashion, and requests the Secretariat to continue to provide support to facilitate States' implementation of the Guidance;

64. Welcomes the progress made by many Member States in working towards sustainable control of radioactive sources through implementing the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources;

65. Takes note of the report of the Chairman of the Open-ended Meeting of Technical and Legal Experts for Sharing of Information on States' Implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of

Radioactive Sources held in Austria in May 2010, calls for the report to be made available in all official languages of the Agency, notes the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, and requests the Secretariat to implement those recommendations, particularly the organization of the forthcoming international conference on the safety and security of radioactive sources, and encourages Member States to express an interest in hosting this conference;

66. Encourages Member States to support the review meetings on the Code of Conduct and its supplementary Guidance to ensure their maintenance, looks forward to the process for review of the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, and requests the Secretariat to continue to foster information exchange on implementation of the Code of Conduct and its supplementary Guidance;

11.

Nuclear and Radiological Incident and Emergency Preparedness and Response

67. Urges all Member States to become Parties to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (the Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (the Assistance Convention), thereby contributing to a broader and stronger international emergency response capability, to the benefit of all Member States;

68. Recognizes that implementation of the Assistance Convention and the Early Notification Convention may be further enhanced, and therefore requests the Secretariat to consider consolidating the cooperative arrangements for international nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response;

69. Continues to encourage all Member States to enhance, where necessary, their own preparedness and response capabilities for nuclear and radiological incidents and emergencies, by improving capabilities to prevent accidents, to respond to emergencies and to mitigate any harmful consequences and, where necessary, to request support from the Secretariat or from other Member States in developing national capabilities consistent with international standards, and urges all Member States to take part in these exercises and consider hosting the upcoming ConvEx-3 exercise;

70. Emphasizes the importance of well developed national emergency response capabilities as the foundation of a well functioning international assistance regime, welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat and Member States in this respect, requests the Secretariat to continue, in collaboration with Member States, the work towards streamlining a system of international assistance, including by considering common and compatible guidelines, and further requests the Secretariat to identify mechanisms for the timely allocation of resources for international assistance in the event of nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies;

71. Welcomes the support by Member States for the Secretariat's implementation of the Response and Assistance Network (RANET), and in particular the registration by 19 Member States of assistance capabilities in the event of nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies, and strongly urges States Parties to the Assistance Convention to support the fulfilment by the Agency of its obligations under the Convention by registering their internationally available response capabilities under RANET;

72. Welcomes the conclusion of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies, and requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with Member States, relevant international organizations and the National Competent Authorities Coordinating Group, to implement the recommendation in the final report of the Action Plan;

73. Requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to finalize and implement a global and unified system for reporting and sharing information on nuclear and radiological accidents and incidents, and to act upon the feedback provided by Member States on the system's functionality and usability;
74. Urges Member States to designate International Nuclear and Radiological Events Scale (INES) national officers and utilize the scale;
75. Requests the Secretariat to report to the General Conference on its efforts to improve the capabilities of the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre, to better enable it to fulfil the Agency's functions under the Conventions, including as coordinator and facilitator of cooperation among Member States in the area of emergency preparedness and response;
76. Encourages representatives of competent authorities from Member States to participate and engage actively in Meetings of Representatives of Competent Authorities identified under the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions; and
77. Requests the Secretariat to continue improving methods of exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of emergency preparedness and response and strongly encourages Member States to participate actively in this exchange.