

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

International Atomic Energy Agency

Resolutions adopted by the IAEA General Conference (1999)

The 43rd Session of the IAEA General Conference was held in Vienna from 27 September to 1 October 1999 with delegations from 111 Member States and representatives of various international organisations in attendance. Resolutions were adopted *inter alia* in the following areas:

Nuclear, Radiation and Waste Safety

The Conference adopted a number of Resolutions to strengthen international co-operation in these fields. Resolution No. 10, "Safety of Radiation Sources and Security of Radioactive Materials", notes the General Conference's appreciation for the report on how national safety systems in these areas can be operated at a high level of effectiveness and urges the IAEA Secretariat to implement the related action plan. Resolution No. 11, "Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials", encourages the Member States to make use where appropriate of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service established by the Agency Secretariat with a view to achieving the highest possible levels of safety during the transport of radioactive materials. In Resolution No. 12, "The Radiological Protection of Patients", the General Conference, concerned about the numerous cases of accidental overexposure of radiotherapy patients, requests the Secretariat to organise, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, an international meeting on the radiological protection of patients for the purpose of an exchange of information and the development of recommendations regarding the radiological protection of patients. Lastly, in Resolution No. 13, the General Conference expresses its satisfaction in the outcome of the First Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (the report of this review meeting is reproduced in the chapter "Texts" of *Nuclear Law Bulletin* No. 63). It welcomes the ongoing development of the Agency's review services addressing the national implementation of obligations under, on the one hand, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and, on the other, the Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. The General Conference invites those States which have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the above-mentioned Conventions to do so. It also encourages co-operation between States with a view to organising international intercomparison exercises relating to measurements for the control of occupational and other exposures.

Strengthening IAEA Technical Co-operation

This Resolution encourages the continuation of the Agency's policy on the development of effective programmes aimed at improving the scientific, technological and regulatory capabilities of developing countries, through provision of support regarding peaceful uses of atomic energy and nuclear technologies and production of nuclear energy. The Resolution emphasises that these programmes should contribute to achieving sustainable development, particularly in the least developed countries.

Strengthening the IAEA's Safeguards System

In this Resolution, the General Conference welcomes the fact that 45 States and other Parties to IAEA safeguards agreements have signed Additional Protocols aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system. It requests all concerned States and other Parties to sign Additional Protocols promptly and urges all signatories to bring these Protocols into force as soon as possible.

Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

This Resolution expresses the General Conference's concern over the DPRK's continuing non-compliance with its 1992 IAEA Safeguards Agreement. It calls upon the DPRK to fully comply with it, to co-operate with the Agency on its implementation and to take all steps the Agency may deem necessary to preserve information relevant to verifying the accuracy and completeness of the DPRK's initial report on the inventory of nuclear material subject to safeguards, until the DPRK is in full compliance with the Agreement.

Non-proliferation Safeguards in the Middle East

This Resolution affirms the urgent need for States in the Middle East to forthwith accept the application of full-scope Agency safeguards to all their nuclear activities as a step towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in that region. In this respect, it calls upon all States concerned to take the steps required for the establishment of such a zone and to adhere to international non-proliferation regimes.

Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Materials

This Resolution welcomes the IAEA's activities in the fields of prevention, response, training as well as information exchange in support of efforts against illegal trafficking, and supports continuing work in this area.

Nuclear Inspections in Iraq

In this Resolution, the General Conference expresses its concern about the Agency's inability to carry out its ongoing monitoring and verification activities related to Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme, and it invites Iraq to comply with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The Resolution also emphasises the importance of maintaining the Agency's rights of access with a view to resumption of its monitoring activities in Iraq in accordance with its mandate.

European Union

Regulation laying down detailed rules for the application of the 1990 Regulation on imports of agricultural products originating in third countries following the Chernobyl accident (1999)

On 27 July 1999, the European Commission adopted Regulation No. 1661/1999 (Official Journal of 29 July 1999) laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 737/90 of 22 March 1990 on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries, following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power-station (see *Nuclear Law Bulletin* No. 42).

This Regulation updates and completes the rules for application of the 1990 Regulation in order to strengthen the provisions governing the sampling of various agricultural products and their biological analysis. Checks, carried out by the importing Member State, on the radiocaesium content of certain agricultural products ensure that the maximum permitted levels laid down by the 1990 Regulation are observed. This Regulation furthermore establishes more stringent controls for certain specific products such as animals for slaughter, and mushrooms.

In the event of failure to comply with the maximum permitted levels, the competent authorities of the Member State may require the product concerned to be destroyed or to be returned to its country of origin. A procedure for exchange of information is established between the European Commission and the Member States, dealing with cases of non-compliance with the stated levels.

Recommendation on a classification system for solid radioactive waste (1999)

On 15 September 1999, the European Commission adopted Recommendation 1999/669 on a classification system for solid radioactive waste (Official Journal of 13 October 1999). This Recommendation aims to harmonise methods of classification of such radioactive waste between Member States in order to facilitate their co-operation within the common market and the free movement of goods and services. This system will be used to provide information to the public, the national and international institutions and the non-governmental organisations on solid radioactive waste.

The Member States and their nuclear industry are invited to adopt a common classification system of radioactive waste in order to improve national and international communication as well as to facilitate information management in this field.

The European Commission proposes a classification system for radioactive waste management based on the characteristics and properties of the waste involved, as well as their potential effects on the public and the environment. Three principal categories are listed:

- transition radioactive waste;
- low and intermediate level waste, including short-lived waste and long-lived waste;
- high level waste.

The Recommendation provides that national systems of waste classification may be used in parallel with the community system until 1 January 2002.

