

# INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

## **International Atomic Energy Agency**

### *Resolutions adopted by the IAEA General Conference (2000)*

The 44th Session of the IAEA General Conference was held in Vienna from 18 to 22 September 2000 with delegations from 130 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. In Resolution No. 11, “Measures to Strengthen International Co-operation in Nuclear, Radiation and Waste Safety”, the General Conference appeals to all Members which have not taken the necessary steps to become Party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, to do so as well as to consider means of ensuring wide application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. It also urges the Agency Secretariat to complete the corpus of IAEA safety standards. Resolution No. 12, “The Safety of Radioactive Waste Management”, invites Member States to take the decisions necessary for the implementation of a national radioactive waste management policy. Resolution No. 13, “Education and Training in Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and Waste Management”, stresses the importance of education and training in this area and urges the Secretariat to strengthen its current efforts in this field. Resolution No. 14, “The Safety of Nuclear Research Reactors”, calls upon all Member States with research reactors to ensure that those reactors are subject to strict safety and radiation protection arrangements. Resolution No. 15, “Radiological Criteria for Long-lived Radionuclides in Commodities (especially Foodstuffs and Wood)”, requests the Secretariat to develop such radiological criteria in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialised agencies concerned. Lastly, Resolution No. 17, “Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials”, encourages Member States to bring their national regulatory documents governing such transport into line with the 1996 edition of the IAEA Transport Regulations, and also requests that Member States make use where appropriate of the Transport Safety Appraisal Service established by the IAEA Secretariat with a view to achieving the highest possible levels of safety during the transport of radioactive materials.

#### *Strengthening IAEA Technical Co-operation Activities*

Resolution No. 18 encourages the continuation of the Agency’s Technical Co-operation Strategy 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 the achievement of sustainable development, particularly in the least developed countries.

#### *Strengthening the IAEA's Safeguards System*

In Resolution No. 19, "Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of the Safeguards System and Application of the Model Protocol", the General Conference welcomes the fact that 53 states and other parties to safeguards agreements have signed Additional Protocols aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards systems. It urges all Signatories to bring these Protocols into force as soon as possible. In Resolution No. 25, "Outcomes of the NPT Review Conference Relevant to the Activities of the IAEA", the General Conference notes with appreciation that the Parties to the NPT were able to adopt by consensus a final document which includes both forward-looking elements and a thorough review of the operation of the Treaty.

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

Resolution No. 26 expresses the General Conference's concern that the Agency remains unable to verify the correctness and completeness of the initial declaration of nuclear material made by the DPRK. It urges the DPRK to come into full compliance with its 1992 Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, to co-operate fully and promptly with the Agency in its implementation and to take all steps the Agency deems 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 comes into full compliance with the Agreement.

#### *Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East*

Resolution No. 28 reaffirms the urgent need for states in the Middle East to accept forthwith 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*

Resolution No. 20 welcomes the Agency's ongoing activities in the fields of prevention, response and information exchange in support of efforts against illegal trafficking and invites all states to participate in the illicit trafficking database programme.

#### *Nuclear Inspections in Iraq*

In Resolution No. 27, the General Conference invites Iraq to implement all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and to guarantee the necessary access to enable the Agency to carry out its mandate. It urges Iraq to submit the semi-annual declarations required by the Agency's ongoing monitoring and verification plan, and requests the IAEA to focus initially on regaining a level of knowledge of the status of Iraq's nuclear-related assets, along with any other aspect of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme that may come to its attention.

## **European Union**

### ***Amendments to the 1990 Regulation on Imports of Agricultural Products originating in Third Countries following the Chernobyl Accident (2000)***

The European Commission has adopted two Regulations modifying the provisions relating to the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 737/90 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. 45).

First, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1609/2000 of 24 July 2000 (EC OJ L 185, 25 July 2000) establishes a new list of products excluded from the application of Regulation (EEC) No. 737/90. Most agricultural products currently imported from third countries into the European Union are free of radioactive contamination from the Chernobyl accident or are so slightly contaminated as to pose a negligible risk to health.

Secondly, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1627/2000 of 24 July 2000 (EC OJ L 187, 26 July 2000) amends Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1661/1999 of 27 July 1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 737/90 (see *Nuclear Law Bulletin* No. 64) by adding a number of customs offices on French territory to the list of customs offices in which products listed in Annex I of the Council Regulation may be declared for free circulation in the European Union.

### ***Commission Recommendation on the Monitoring of the Levels of Radioactivity in the Environment by the Member States of the European Union (2000)***

On 8 June 2000, the European Commission adopted Recommendation 2000/473/Euratom on the application of Article 36 of the Euratom Treaty concerning the monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in the environment for the purpose of assessing the exposure of the population as a whole (EC OJ L 191, 27 July 2000).

The Member States are required to inform the Commission of the levels of radioactivity to which the population as a whole is exposed in every Member State. The Recommendation lays down details as regards this reporting procedure. It includes *inter alia* requirements for the monitoring networks, types of measurements and periodicity.

### ***Transfer of responsibilities for nuclear safety issues (2000)***

In September 2000, the European Commission adopted a decision which aims to withdraw responsibilities for nuclear safety issues from its Directorate General for the Environment. Nuclear safety issues will now be assigned to the following Directorates: the Directorate General for Transport and Energy will be responsible for nuclear safety within the European Union; the Directorate General for Enlargement for safety issues in the framework of assistance to EU candidate countries; and the Directorate General for External Relations for nuclear safety issues in the New Independent States.