



SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Safety of Research Reactors

SUBMITTED TO: International Atomic Energy Agency

International Atomic Energy Agency,

Bearing in mind that the safety standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while not legally binding, are developed with the aim of ensuring that the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and of radioactive materials are undertaken in a manner that enables States to meet their obligations under generally accepted principles of international law and rules such as those relating to environmental protection,

Recognizing that waste containing or contaminated with radionuclides arises from a number of activities involving the use of radioactive materials, such as the operation and decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the application of radionuclides in industry, medicine and research,

Reaffirming that radioactive waste is generated in the cleanup of sites affected by radioactive residues from various operations or from accidents, and can arise in the processing of raw materials containing naturally occurring radionuclides,

Declaring that waste processing includes pretreatment, treatment and conditioning of radioactive waste and is intended to produce a waste form compatible with the selected or likely disposal option; the type of processing necessary depends on the particular waste, its form and characteristics, and the overall strategy for waste management,

Believing that the processes and operations applied in predisposal management of radioactive waste contribute to ensuring that radioactive waste is dealt with in a manner that protects human health and the environment, now and in the future, without imposing undue burdens on future generations,

Noting with regret that significant radioactive contamination of areas in many States has resulted from inadequate practices for the management and disposal of radioactive waste, the intentional or accidental discharge of radioactive material to the environment and incidents involving radionuclides at nuclear installations and industrial research facilities,

1. *Expresses its hope* that to ensure an adequate level of safety of research

36 reactors, responsible parties shall perform safety assessments and environmental impact
37 assessments, prepare and implement appropriate safety procedures, establish and
38 implement a quality assurance program and shall keep records as required by the IAEA
39 regulatory body;

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41 2. *Calls upon* responsible parties to comply with legal and regulatory
42 requirements, including criteria for waste management and discharges established for
43 remediation programs;

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45 3. *Further invites* the IAEA regulatory body to investigate potentially
46 contaminated areas and to designate as contaminated areas those areas requiring
47 remediation, as well as to provide and maintain control mechanisms for the future use of
48 lands, structures or resources affected by contamination and by the ensuing remediation;

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50 4. *Requests* the Secretariat, within its available resources, to continue work on
51 exploring options to strengthen the International Nuclear Safety Arrangements for Civil
52 Research Reactors;

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54 5. *Recommends* the development of a Protocol to the Convention on Nuclear
55 Safety as a way of establishing a better international framework for the safety of civil
56 research reactors;

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58 6. *Welcomes* the development by the IAEA of a series of standards and safety
59 guides which specifically address research reactor safety covering such areas as design,
60 operation, quality assurance and ultimate decommissioning;

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62 7. *Notes* that some existing research reactor facilities declared operational are in
63 an extended shutdown condition and are not being maintained;

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65 8. *Further proclaims* that high priority must be given to reviewing the condition
66 of shutdown research reactors;

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68 9. *Emphasizes* the need for steps to raise the awareness of states to the issues and
69 to establish clearly the fundamental and internationally accepted safety regime for
70 research reactors;

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72 10. *Further requests* states to provide information on the condition of their
73 research reactor facilities to guide further development of international activity in this
74 area;

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76 11. *Further recommends* that the IAEA consider the establishment of an
77 international plan of action for research reactors involving the early development of an
78 assessment survey to determine the state of research reactors in terms of the operating
79 and regulatory arrangements or the future planning for utilization, shutting down or
80 decommissioning of research reactors.

Final Vote: 26 in favor / 4 opposed / 3 abstentions