



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/40/806  
29 October 1985  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fortieth session  
Agenda item 74

### EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

#### Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Raimundo GONZALEZ (Chile)

1. The item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation: report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation" was included in the provisional agenda of the fortieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 39/94 of 14 December 1984.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1985, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 4 and 7 October (see A/SPC/40/SR.3 and 4). It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/40/417).
4. At the 3rd meeting, on 4 October, the representative of Japan introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/40/L.2), sponsored by the following Member States: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Poland, Samoa, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Uruguay. It was announced that Chile, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
5. At the 4th meeting, on 7 October, it was announced that Colombia, Ecuador, India, Sri Lanka and Swaziland had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.2 without a vote (see para. 7).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 39/94 of 14 December 1984, by which it, inter alia, requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1/

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations, resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment,

Taking note of the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit shorter reports with scientific supporting documents on the specialized topics mentioned in its report 2/ as soon as the relevant studies are completed,

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

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1/ A/40/417.

2/ A/38/142.

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. Endorses the Scientific Committee's intentions and plans for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the Scientific Committee's work and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their co-operation in this field;

8. Invites Member States and the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of the Scientific Committee's future reports to the General Assembly.

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