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Thirty-eighth session  
Agenda item 68

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Edouard LINGANI (Upper Volta)

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 thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 37/87 of 10 December 1982.
2. At its 3rd and 4th plenary meetings, on 23 September 1983, 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 6 and 7 October (see A/SPC/38/SR.3 and 4). It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (A/38/142).
4. At the 3rd meeting, on 6 October, the representative of Argentina introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/38/L.2), sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Uruguay.
5. At the 4th meeting, on 7 October, it was announced that Canada, Denmark, and Sri Lanka had become sponsors of the draft resolution.
6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.2 without a vote (see para. 7).

RECOMENDATION 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 37/87 of 10 December 1982, by which the Assembly, 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 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 28 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;

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 the review at its next session of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth 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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