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EXTENSIVE USE OF ISOTOPE HYDROLOGY FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

- (a) Appreciating the work done by the Agency in the area of isotope hydrology in response to resolution GC(39)/RES/16,
- (b) Recognizing that the quality and quantity of available water resources, particularly in arid and semi-arid zones, are inadequate and that the availability of clean water at a minimum level is essential for sustaining development,
- (c) Underlining that the availability of clean drinking water directly improves human health and hence contributes to the optimum utilization of economic resources,
- (d) Conscious of the proven techno-economic benefits of using isotope hydrology techniques in water resources management,
- (e) Aware that these techniques can be very valuable in studying processes like groundwater recharge, surface and sub-surface water interaction, water salination, seepage and pollution of water bodies and that their use should be integrated with conventional techniques,
- (f) Appreciating that special programmes are being initiated to re-orient and focus on the growing demands for water and improved protection of water quality, and
- (g) Noting that the initiatives taken by the Agency to strengthen the end-user benefits and socio-economic impact of the utilization of isotope techniques in water resources development and management in Member States, as mentioned in document GOV/2854-GC(40)/3, have been substantial,

1. Requests the Director General to continue to integrate the available expertise and resources of the Agency and Member States and to direct them towards concrete programmes for producing a visible impact by improving the quality and availability of water;
2. Requests the Agency to make efforts at the national and the international level to ensure that isotope hydrology forms an integral part of water resources development practices and management;
3. Further requests that the Agency identify and upgrade selected isotope hydrology laboratories in Member States to the level of regional laboratories so as to provide easy access to analytical facilities for field hydrologists in the Member States in the regions;
4. Requests that the Agency take steps, along with concerned United Nations agencies, to encourage the introduction, at the appropriate level, of isotope hydrology and isotope geochemistry in the university courses in hydrology in Member States so as to provide a stronger foundation for future growth in the area of water resources management;
5. Further requests that the Agency continue to explore the possibility of working in conjunction with other concerned international organizations and to solicit their technical and financial co-operation; and
6. Also requests the Director General to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-first regular session under an appropriate agenda item.