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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(40)/RES/15,
 - (b) Recognizing that the Agency has well demonstrated the importance of isotope techniques for water resources development and management, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, and also for the evaluation of pollutant transport in groundwater and surface water systems,
 - (c) Conscious of the proven techno-economic benefits of isotope hydrology in water resources management when used in conjunction with well established conventional hydrological investigations and modern methods like remote sensing,
 - (d) Noting that the initiatives taken by the Agency, as mentioned in document GOV/2937-GC(41)/14, go in the right direction as regards strengthening the end-user benefits and socio-economic impact of the utilization of isotope techniques in water resources management in Member States, and
 - (e) Aware that, owing to a variety of constraints, isotope techniques are still not fully integrated with field hydrology in many developing countries,
1. Requests the Director General to continue to make efforts directed towards fuller utilization of isotope techniques for water resources development and management in developing countries, including measures to control groundwater and surface water pollution;
 2. Requests the Agency to ensure, through appropriate programmes, that national and international organizations dealing directly with water resources management are fully informed of the role of isotope techniques;

3. Further requests the Agency to help Member States to obtain easy access to isotope analysis facilities by upgrading selected isotope hydrology laboratories to the level of regional laboratories in the near future;
4. Also requests the Agency to take steps, along with other relevant United Nations Agencies, to introduce, at appropriate levels at universities in Member States, courses in hydrology designed to provide future hydrologists with an early insight into the potential of isotope techniques; and
5. Requests the Director General to report on achievements in implementing this resolution to the Board of Governors and to the General Conference at its forty-third session under an appropriate agenda item.