

# TEN YEARS OLD

**A decade of work has now been completed. On 29 July 1957 a Statute drawn up by members of the United Nations Organization came into force. Its first nine words said simply "The Parties hereto establish an International Atomic Energy Agency".**

At the beginning of October 1957 the first session of the General Conference, held in Vienna, set the first programmes in motion in a spirit of unanimous approval of the ideals, the methods and the procedures laid down in the Statute. There are twenty-three Articles in it.

## THE OBJECTIVES

These are clear. "The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose".

## THE FUNCTIONS

Authority was given :

- \* To encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes throughout the world. If requested, to act as an intermediary in arranging services or the supply of materials, equipment or facilities by one member of the Agency for another. To perform any operation or service useful in research on, or development or practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes.
- \* To make provision for the needs of research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including the production of electric power, with due consideration for the needs of developing areas of the world.
- \* To foster the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful uses of atomic energy.
- \* To encourage the exchange and training of scientists and experts.
- \* To establish and administer safeguards designed to ensure that special fissionable and other materials, services, equipment, facilities and information made available by the Agency or at its request or under its supervision or control are not used in such a way as to further any military purpose.

To apply safeguards, at the request of the parties, to any bilateral or multilateral arrangement, or at the request of a State, to any of that State's activities in atomic energy.

- \* To establish or adopt, in consultation and, where appropriate, in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property (including such standards for labour conditions).

To provide for the application of these standards to its own operations as well as to the operations making use of materials, services, equipment, facilities and information made available by the Agency or at its request or under its control or supervision.

To provide for the application of these standards, at the request of the parties, to operations under any bilateral or multilateral arrangement, or, at the request of a State, to any of that State's activities in atomic energy.

- \* To acquire or establish any facilities, plant and equipment useful in carrying out its authorized functions, whenever those otherwise available to it in the area concerned are inadequate or available only on terms deemed unsatisfactory.

In carrying out its functions, the Agency shall:

- \* Conduct its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations to promote peace and international co-operation, and in conformity with the policies of the United Nations furthering the establishment of safeguarded world-wide disarmament and in conformity with any international agreements entered into pursuant to such policies.
- \* Establish control over special fissionable material received, in order to ensure that they are used only for peaceful purposes.
- \* Allocate its resources in such a manner as to secure efficient utilization and the greatest possible general benefit in all areas of the world, bearing in mind the special needs of the developing areas.
- \* Submit reports on its activities annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations and, when appropriate, to the Security Council. If questions within the competence of the Security Council should arise, the Agency shall notify the Security Council, as the organ bearing the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. (In the Article dealing with details of safeguards it is made mandatory that any non-compliance under an agreement be reported to all members, to the Security Council and to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Further action, should the non-compliance continue, can be curtailment or suspension of assistance, return of materials and equipment, and suspension from membership).
- \* Submit reports to the Economic and Social Council and other organs of the United Nations on matters within their competence.
- \* Assistance shall not be subject to any political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with statutory provisions.
- \* Carry out activities with due observance of the sovereign rights of States, subject to the provisions of the Statute and agreements concluded in accordance with it.

## MEMBERSHIP

Initial membership consisted of States which signed the Statute within ninety days after it was opened for signature, and deposited an instrument of ratification. The number at that stage was 26.

Subsequent membership results from the deposition of an instrument of acceptance of the Statute after membership has been approved by the General Conference on the recommendation of the Board of Governors, both of which shall determine that the State concerned is able and willing to carry out the obligations of membership and to act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The number is now 97.

\* The Agency is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its members.

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## FULFILLING THE ATOMIC PROMISE

### TEN YEARS HISTORY GIVES POINTERS FOR THE FUTURE

Ten years is a short period in human history, and a short period in the life of an international organization. Nevertheless the ten years now completed by the International Atomic Energy Agency has seen much work accomplished and has brought greater realization than ever before of the promise held out by the atom for peaceful benefits leading to the promotion of peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

Demonstrations are already in progress of the contributions which can be made by nuclear techniques to aid the solution of universal problems. They can help to make more food and water available, to raise living standards in developing areas, to combat disease and to provide the power which in the long run will be the best answer of all to the questions posed by growing populations.

Many of these possibilities were not clearly in view when, on 29 July 1957 the Agency came legally into being with the ratification of its Statute by 26 countries. At that time the control of hazards and the development of power were mainly in mind. They are still vital considerations and great progress has