

FORTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA41.29

Agenda item 25

13 May 1988

30857

RADIONUCLIDES IN FOOD: WHO GUIDELINES FOR DERIVED INTERVENTION LEVELS

The Forty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General¹ on the work of WHO on guidelines for derived intervention levels concerning radioactive contamination of food;

Concerned by the potential hazards to health due to contamination of the food supply with radionuclides;

Recognizing the problem that such contamination poses to international trade in food;

Aware that the action undertaken by national authorities to protect the public following the serious nuclear accident in 1986 varied widely and caused considerable public confusion and concern;

Noting that most developing countries lack the means necessary for evaluation and control of radionuclide contamination of their environment and foodstuffs;

1. CALLS UPON Member States to utilize the WHO guidelines for derived intervention levels regarding radionuclides in food when developing their own plans and procedures for the protection of public health following accidental radioactive contamination of food supplies;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to continue to cooperate with Member States in the development and strengthening of national capabilities for the protection of public health following radioactive contamination of food supplies, including the development of derived intervention levels regarding radionuclides in food on the basis of the recommendations contained in the WHO guidelines, and the monitoring of food supplies;
 - (2) to provide support through WHO collaborating centres to Member States in case of radiological emergencies and in the preparation of plans and procedures for dealing with such emergencies;

¹ Document EB81/1988/REC/1, Annex 11.

(3) to intensify collaboration with other relevant international organizations and agencies, such as IAEA, FAO and UNEP, in establishing capabilities for the rapid exchange of information during emergencies and for radiation monitoring during normal and emergency conditions, and in harmonizing approaches to measure and control radioactive contamination for the protection of public health.

Fifteenth plenary meeting, 13 May 1988
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