



FORTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Agenda item 32.1



COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS

Radiation pollution of foodstuffs

(Draft resolution proposed by the delegations of Cameroon, Tunisia
and Zaire)

The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Considering the increasing use of nuclear power as a source of energy;

Mindful of the possibility of accidental and unexpected failure of the safety measures usually taken to guard against radiation pollution;

Aware of the short- and long-term effects of radiation pollution of food and the environment on man, animals and plants;

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

Recalling the effects of nuclear accidents on the pollution of food;

Recalling further the possibility of control failures in any of the industrialized countries, particularly the food-exporting countries;

1. URGES the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission to specify the permissible limits of radioactivity in foodstuffs, and to ensure that they are enforced;
2. CALLS UPON food-exporting countries to take the necessary measures without delay to ensure that their products for export to developing countries do not contain radioactive substances above the permissible limits for human and animal consumption;
3. URGENTLY REQUESTS the Director-General and all national, international, nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations dealing with health to identify centres capable of examining suspected food efficiently and adequately, to ensure its safety for human and animal consumption before it is exported to Member States;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Forty-first World Health Assembly on the action taken to this effect.

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