



Thirteenth session
Agenda item 25

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

- (a) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE STRENGTHENING AND WIDENING OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Dr. Franz MATSCH (Austria)

1. By resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, the General Assembly established a Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and entrusted to it, inter alia, the task of collating in its report information on the effects of radiation on man and his environment.
2. On 14 November 1957, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1147 (XII), whereby it requested the Scientific Committee to complete its report at the earliest possible date and to make it available to all Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and to the second conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The General Assembly also decided to include the Committee's report in the agenda of its thirteenth session.
3. On 13 June 1958, the report of the Committee (A/3838)^{1/} was transmitted to the Secretary-General. In accordance with the Committee's decision, the Secretary-General distributed on 10 August 1958, together with the Committee's report, a working paper (A/3858) entitled "An Approach to a General Method of Computing Doses and Effects from Fall-out."

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 17.

4. In August, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/3864 and Add.1) on the strengthening and widening of scientific activities in the field of atomic radiation.
5. At the 752nd plenary meeting on 22 September, the General Assembly decided to include in the agenda of the thirteenth session the item entitled: "Effects of atomic radiation: (a) Report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation; (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening and widening of scientific activities in this field," and referred it to the First Committee for consideration and report.
6. The First Committee considered the item at its 1011th to 1014th meetings, held from 5 to 8 December 1958.
7. The representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization attended the meetings of the Committee. The representatives of IAEA, UNESCO and WHO made statements before the Committee.
8. On 1 December, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, India, Japan Mexico, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/C.1/L.227 and Corr.1) whereby the General Assembly would: (a) commend the Committee for its work and valuable report; (b) express its appreciation to the United Nations agencies, to the international non-governmental and the national scientific organizations, and to the individual scientists who had assisted the Committee in its work; (c) urge all concerned to take note of the suggestions made and the views expressed in the Committee's report; (d) decide to request the Committee to continue its work and to report to the General Assembly as appropriate; (e) request the Committee to consult with the other agencies and organizations concerned on projects within its sphere of activities so as to avoid duplication of work and to ensure effective co-ordination; (f) call upon all concerned to assist the Committee by making available to it reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation

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upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them, and by pursuing such investigations as may broaden world scientific knowledge in this sphere and by transmitting their results to the Committee; (g) request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with the assistance necessary to the conduct of its work.

9. At the 1014th meeting on 8 December, the twelve-Power draft resolution (A/C.1/L.227 and Corr.1) was adopted unanimously.

10. The First Committee therefore recommends the adoption by the General Assembly of the following resolution:

Effects of Atomic Radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955,

Noting with satisfaction the unanimously adopted report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation^{1/}

Recalling also its resolution 1147 (XII) of 14 November 1957 which requested the Secretary-General in consultation with the Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to "consider the question of the strengthening and widening of scientific activities in this field",

Taking note of the Secretary-General's report^{2/} prepared in response to the above-mentioned resolution,

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for its work and the valuable report which it has presented;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations agencies, to the international non-governmental and the national scientific organizations, and to the individual scientists who have assisted the Committee in its work;

3. Urges all concerned to take note of the suggestions made and the views expressed in the report of the Committee;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/3838).

2/ A/3864 and Add.1.

4. Decides to request the Committee to continue its useful work, and to report to the General Assembly as appropriate;

5. Requests the Committee to consult with the other agencies and organizations concerned on projects within its sphere of activities so as to avoid duplication of work and to ensure effective co-ordination;

6. Calls upon all concerned to assist the Committee by making available to it reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-term effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them, and by pursuing such investigations as may broaden world scientific knowledge in this sphere and by transmitting their results to the Committee;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with the assistance necessary to the conduct of its work.
