



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7677/Add.1
30 October 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fourth session
Agenda item 31 (a)

CONFERENCE OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

Since the completion of the Secretary-General's report, information has been received from the United Nations Development Programme on its participation in the development of nuclear technology. The information is reproduced herewith.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

The United Nations Development Programme
and the development of nuclear technology

The United Nations Development Programme has already carried out a considerable number of projects under both components in efforts to assist the developing countries to use nuclear technology to further their own development. Under the UNDP Special Fund component, for example, the Governing Council of UNDP had, by September 1969, earmarked funds in the amount of \$3.66 million for four projects for which the International Atomic Energy Agency is the participating and executing agency. Two of these projects have already been successfully completed. In Yugoslavia, a UNDP Special Fund project with a UNDP contribution of \$546,000 helped to develop the country's nuclear research techniques for increasing agricultural production through research in soil fertility, plant nutrition and breeding, and animal nutrition and health. In the Philippines,

a three-year pre-investment study on the use of energy, including nuclear power in Lugon, determined that nuclear plants of a certain size could be economic and recommended that the Government begin using nuclear plants and develop its capacity to utilize nuclear power alongside conventional types of energy. The final report on this project was issued by IAEA in 1966. Two more UNDP Special Fund projects are being executed by IAEA. In India, \$1.4 million has been earmarked by UNDP in a project to establish a national nuclear research laboratory at Delhi to promote training in nuclear research and the application thereof to the solution of various agricultural problems, including the control of insect pests, mutation in agricultural crops and soil fertility studies. A regional project in Central America with UNDP earmarkings of \$870,000 aims to eradicate the Mediterranean Fruit Fly by radiation-induced sterilization of this destructive pest.

Under the Technical Assistance component of UNDP expenditures by IAEA on projects in the field of atomic energy development were some \$9 million during the decade 1959-1968. In 1968, expenditures by IAEA on UNDP Technical Assistance projects totalled over \$1.6 million, including \$.26 million for regional projects. In that year, there were technical assistance projects in nuclear technology in forty countries. Many of the projects were aimed at developing the application of isotopes and irradiation in agriculture and medicine. In others, experts advised developing countries on nuclear physics, nuclear chemistry, nuclear engineering and technology, and safety in nuclear energy. In most projects, experts formed the bulk of assistance provided, but some fellowships were also awarded.

The Governing Council's policy has not been to approve autonomous programmes such as would seem to be implied by the proposed "nuclear technology research and development programme". However, the activities referred to above constitute an on-going programme of assistance and reflect the interest which is showed by UNDP and the developing countries in the use of nuclear technology. This programme of activities could be strengthened to conform to the intention of the resolution of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States if the Governments of developing countries assign sufficiently high priority to additional activities in this field when requesting assistance from UNDP. This appears already to be

/...

happening. In addition to a growing amount of technical assistance projects being carried out, an increasing number of formal requests for UNDP (Special Fund) assistance in the nuclear field are currently under consideration. Meanwhile UNDP has observed meetings of the expert working group, appointed by the Secretary-General, which, under General Assembly resolution 2456 A (XXIII), is reporting on the possible contribution of nuclear technology to the economic and scientific advancement of the developing countries.

In the course of the deliberations of the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapon States, interest appeared to centre on three major fields of technical assistance to the States concerned. These fields were respectively: large-scale applications of nuclear energy for the production of electric power and for water desalination; the industrial use of isotopes and of ionizing radiations; and the peaceful use of nuclear explosives.

The Administrator of UNDP has already expressed his opinion^{1/} that, in view of the limited funds at present available to the United Nations Development Programme, the Governing Council would agree that the Programme resources can most appropriately be applied to pre-investment studies in the field of large-scale nuclear energy; to training, research, and industrial advisory functions in the field of isotopes and ionizing radiations; and to technical and economic studies in the field of peaceful nuclear explosives, only if this field reaches the stage of practical application in the case of the non-nuclear-weapon States. Naturally, in considering requests for assistance in the field of atomic energy, the Governing Council is likely to continue to be guided, as in other fields, by its usual criteria of project soundness and priority, including the ability of the requesting Government to provide the appropriate counterpart facilities and qualified national staff, and taking account of the likelihood of investment follow-up in appropriate cases.

^{1/} A/7364, section B.