

RES 3.069 Status of floating atomic power stations in the world's oceans

NOTING WITH CONCERN that the construction of the first floating atomic power station in the world is expected to be completed in 2005 in Severodvinsk (Arkhangelskaya oblast of the Russian Federation) with governmental support, and that talks with several countries are under way on the terms of leasing of such stations;

CONSIDERING that any additional input of artificial radionuclides in the ocean is liable to cause a threat to biodiversity and to legitimate uses of the sea;

AWARE that any atomic power station inevitably represents a powerful source of radioactive and thermal discharges and emissions to its surrounding environment;

RECALLING the need to prevent the proliferation of fissile materials in the world for the sake of promoting global security, including the reduction of the threat of international terrorism; and

RECALLING FURTHER that any deliberate disposal at sea of wastes or other matter from vessels, aircraft, platforms or other man-made structures at sea is regulated worldwide by the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London, 1972), and that such disposal at sea of all radioactive wastes is prohibited in accordance with Annex I of this convention as amended by Resolution LC.51(16) of November 1993;

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

1. URGES the Government of the Russian Federation to renounce all plans to construct floating atomic power stations and instead to make increased use of opportunities for developing alternative clean and safe sources of energy for ensuring power supply to remote regions;
2. RECALLS the Government of the Russian Federation's commitment to lift its reservation to Resolution LC.51(16) whereby Annexes I and II to the London Convention, 1972 were amended to prohibit disposal at sea of all radioactive wastes;
3. CALLS UPON the Government of the Russian Federation to act in accordance with this commitment, and to lift expeditiously its reservation to Resolution LC.51(16);
4. ALSO CALLS UPON all states which have not yet done so to ratify the London Convention, 1972 and its 1996 Protocol;
5. URGES all states to refrain from considering the use of floating atomic power stations from any country, including the purchase of power, and to inform competent international organizations of their unwillingness to accept such floating atomic power stations in the vicinity of their territorial seas, their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), as well as internal waters;
6. CALLS UPON all relevant international organizations to review any plan for the building and use of floating atomic power stations with the aim of preventing the proliferation of fissile materials as well as marine pollution;
7. CALLS UPON the Contracting Parties to the London Convention, 1972, as well as relevant regional instruments (including the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, and the Arctic Council, among others) to consider the compatibility of their provisions with plans to build, lease or otherwise deploy floating atomic power stations; and

8. REQUESTS the IUCN Director General to draw this resolution to the attention of the Government of the Russian Federation, the secretariats of and meetings of Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972, UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, UNEP Governing Council and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, particularly those with whom IUCN enjoys observer status, and to keep Union members informed of progress on this issue as a matter of urgency during the 2005–2008 intersessional period.

The Department of State, United States, provided the following statement for the record:

State and agency members United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the US General Statement on the IUCN Resolution Process.