RESOLUTION CG/Res.476

PREVENTION OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TREATY OF TLALETELOCO

The General Conference,

Taking into consideration the Memorandum of the Secretary General (Doc. CG/592) regarding the Prevention of Radioactive Contamination of the Marine Environment within the Framework of the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

Bearing in mind that the Secretary General of OPANAL, by General Conference mandate (Resolution 357-XV), informed the Member States of Resolution A.748 (18) of the International Maritime Organization, which approved the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships, requesting the opinion of the Member States on the technical and legal measures to prevent the radioactive contamination of the marine environment in the Zone of Application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

Recalling paragraph 26 of the Santiago Declaration issued at the XV Presidential Summit of the Rio Group on 17 and 18 August 2001, which reads: “We manifest our concern for the risks related to the transit of radioactive materials and dangerous wastes by sea routes near coasts or navigable waterways in the member countries, given the potential damage to the health of coastal populations and to the ecosystems of the maritime and Antarctic environment. Consequently, we urge the international community to continue to work towards completing the current international legal order in the matter of the safety measures applicable to this type of transportation;”
Also recalling Resolutions 223 (X), 252 (XI), 278 (XII), 299 (XIII), 331 (XIV), 357 (XV), 390 (XVI), 420 (XVII) and 444 (XVIII);

Taking into account the opinion of the Secretary General in his Memorandum to the General Conference (Doc. CG/592) of the fundamental importance of the matter and having received just 16 responses from the Member States regarding it, which makes it very difficult to reach any definitive conclusions,

Resolves:

1. To thank the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela for their responses and observations made regarding the resolutions that the OPANAL General Conference has been approving concerning this important matter.

2. To exhort the Governments of the Member Status that have yet to do so, to express their opinions regarding the technical and legal measures to effectively prevent the radioactive contamination of the marine environment in the Zone of Application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

3. To invite the Member States to participate in the different international fora with a view to improving the international measures and regulations regarding the issue of the transportation of radioactive materials, as well as harmonizing regional and national legislation in this area.

4. To request the Secretary General to transmit the text of this resolution to the Member States and inform the Council of OPANAL on the opinions received to subsequently study how to follow up on the item.

(Adopted at the 107th Session held on November 8, 2005)