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A « revision » to the 1959 WHO-IAEA agreement has to be asked for by at least 2 member states with the support from NGOs. It is to this effect that the collectiv "Independent WHO" proposes this **Resolution** to different member states along with a new aim and new devices meant to ensure public health and research, both in the the field of ionising radiation.

## **Resolution**

### **Health care for populations affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe and establishment of an independent WHO Commission on Radiation and Health**

*Recalling* that the worst industrial accident in history occurred twenty two years ago in Chernobyl, Ukraine, with radioactive fallout contaminating large parts of the Northern hemisphere and affecting most seriously the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus.

*Recognizing* that full information on the health consequences of industrial activities including those of the nuclear industry, is required for the protection of human health and the prevention of avoidable disease and premature death.

*Acknowledging* that such information must be complete, up to date, unbiased and based upon studies undertaken by independent academic and research institutions.

*Concerned* that the WHO may have been constrained in fulfilling its constitutional mandate in relation to the health consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe by the 1959 Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

*Recognizing* that the WHO/IAEA agreement in practice subordinates WHO to decisions taken by the IAEA whose statutes specify that its main goal is “to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world”.

*Concerned* that populations in the most affected areas have not received adequate attention in terms of health care, material and social support and protection from continuing radioactive contamination.

*Noting* the multiple, serious health problems of populations in the most contaminated areas with two groups in particular requiring urgent assistance:

- (1) the 600,000 -1 million “liquidators” sent to extinguish the fire and construct the sarcophagus, a large proportion of whom have died or are seriously ill, *and*,
- (2) the children, whose developing immune, digestive and nervous systems and internal organs are acutely vulnerable to radiocontamination.

## **REQUESTS the WHO**

1. To take immediate action, in collaboration with appropriate partners including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to ensure that medical care, treatment and adequate radioprotection are provided to populations in the affected areas.
2. As a priority, to coordinate with appropriate partners, the importation of uncontaminated food to meet all nutritional needs of the populations living in the affected areas and the implementation of interventions (such as daily administration of apple pectin) known to facilitate elimination of radioactive isotopes and significantly reduce radioactive doses delivered to sensitive cells/organs.
3. To establish a Commission on Radiation and Health made up of independent experts with no connections, financial or otherwise, to industry or industry associations, to review available evidence on the health consequences of the Chernobyl accident, including all studies undertaken by independent researchers, and to report their findings to the World Health Assembly in May 2010.
4. Within the Commission, to establish working groups to examine and report on evidence available and gaps in research in relation to different aspects of radiation and health, and as a priority, a working group on the health consequences of chronic, low dose, internal radiation and a working group on damage to the human genome from both internal and external sources.
5. To publish and make available in full, the proceedings of the Geneva 1995 and Kiev 2001 international consultations on the health consequences of Chernobyl.
6. To review the 1959 agreement between the WHO and the IAEA and to propose amendments which will ensure that WHO may fulfil its constitutional mandate in the area of radiation and health as follows: “to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work”, “to promote and conduct research in the field of health” and “to provide information, counsel and assistance in the field of health” (Article 2a, n and q).

## **URGES Member States**

1. To commission independent research to investigate radiocontamination, including that resulting from the Chernobyl accident, in their national territories and the health consequences for their populations; and to report their findings to the newly established WHO Commission on Radiation and Health.