Background note for the NUSSC Working Group to review SF-1

The Action to review SF-1 with which we are charged:

“The CSS recommends that the SSCs undertake a review of SF-1 at the June/July 2018 meetings and report back at the 44th CSS meeting in November 2018.”

This in turn is derived from a Recommendation of a Consultancy Meeting in February 2018: “SF-1 be reviewed to take into account the significant issues raised in this meeting…and to make it coherent and consistent with GSR Part 3 and GSR Part 7, with ICRP recommendations and with the findings of the UNSCEAR 2012 report.”

Background:

The starting point basis for this action is a 2012 UNSCEAR report “Attributing Health Effects to Ionizing Radiation Exposure and Inferring Risks” which had been the subject of multiple discussions at CSS and at RASSC. The discussions led to the formation of a CSS Working Group whose recommendation to form a Consultancy was accepted by CSS 42 and which met in February 2018 and reported to CSS 43, which raised action 43.04 on the SSCs included the Consultancy’s report as Annex VI (see here).

Discussion and recommendation:

When reviewing SF-1, we should consider such things as whether:
- any new principles are needed;
- any existing principles should be clarified or otherwise improved;
- some principles could be combined or separated;
- any principle strays into the area of offering requirements or guidance;
- the level of detail of each principle is adequate;
- any overarching requirements exist which cannot be linked back to a principle.

It is not the intent at this time to revise SF-1 but in considering the above points, we might also like to consider whether any deficiencies we identify could be handled by other means, such as by preparing a Background Note, or adding an Appendix or Annex to SF-1

Other documents which describe safety principles and hence may inform our deliberations include INSAG-12 (see here), ONR Guide ‘Fundamental Principles’ (see here), the WENRA Safety Reference Levels 2014 (see here) and CNSC Regulatory Policy P-299 ‘Regulatory Fundamentals’ (see here); see also the Security Fundamentals (here).

Overall, we should be very cautious in our deliberations and not propose making wholesale revisions but should carefully consider if some focussed changes or additions might be justified.

Prepared by P. Webster, NUSSC Chair, 2018-08-08