WHO Report on activities relevant for RASSC
40th Meeting of the Radiation Safety Standards Committee (RASSC), Vienna, Austria, June 2016
Reported period: November 2015 to June 2016

Introduction
The World Health Organization (WHO) is the coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. WHO has a decentralized structure with 147 country offices, six regional offices and its headquarters in Geneva. Its governing body is the World Health Assembly (WHA), made up of delegates from the 194 WHO Member States (MS). WHO has a radiation programme within the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health (HQ FWC/PHE).

Radon and NORM exposures
WHO is working to support its Member States for the implementation of international standards for radiation protection in existing exposure situations. The WHO International Radon Project maintains a RADON listserv as a platform for sharing information about radon-related health research or resources, legislation, policies and upcoming meetings. To date, the listserv includes 224 participants from 47 countries. The WHO factsheet on "Radon and health" has been updated (Spring 2016). The factsheet "Ionizing radiation, health effects and protective measures" has been updated (April 2016).

Control of radioactivity in food and drinking water
WHO has cooperated with the IAEA and FAO in the development of the TECDOC 1788, contributed to the IAEA Regional Workshop on Control of Public Exposure in Compliance with the Int. BSS (Cape Town, South Africa, May 2016) and is co-sponsoring the NORM VIII Symposium (Oct. 2016, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). The WHO Water & Sanitation programme is working on the development of guidance on radiological aspects for the WHO GDWQ and held an expert meeting to develop Q&As, case studies, message mapping (Geneva, Dec 2015).

Medical exposure
WHO is supporting the implementation of the Bonn Call for Action under the framework of its Global Initiative on Radiation Safety in Health Care Settings. WHO provided technical support to AFROSAFE Campaign including participation in the USOFARI Conference on paediatric imaging (Uganda, Nov 2015), and contribution to the organization of the IAEA RTC on RP in Paediatric Imaging (Nairobi, Kenya, Nov 2015) and IAEA Regional Workshop on Use of Imaging Referral Guidelines for African countries (Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 2015). WHO participated in the ECR2016 and EUROSAFE-related activities (Vienna, Austria, March 2016). A joint IRPA-WHO-IOMP project on Radiation Safety Culture in Medicine (RSCM) is being conducted and in this context, an European Regional Workshop on RSCM was hosted by WHO (Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 2015).

1 http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs371/en/
2 TECDOC 1788 Criteria for Radionuclide Activity Concentrations for Food and Drinking Water http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/TE-1788_web.pdf (WHO staff from Food Safety and Water & Sanitation programmes collaborated with the WHO Radiation programme for the review of the draft)
5 Uganda Society for Advancement of Radiology and Imaging (USOFARI) by its network of Patients for Patient Safety http://www.who.int/patientsafety/patients_for_patient/regional_champions/en/
7 More information about the project http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/medical_radiation_exposure/culture/en/
WHO cosponsored the ICRM2016 and organized special sessions on BSS implementation in diagnostic radiology and Bonn Call for Action in cooperation with IAEA (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Feb 2016). WHO is working in cooperation with PAHO, IAEA, IRPA, ICRP and FORO, in the preparation of the Iberoamerican Conference on RP in Medicine (CIPRaM Madrid 2016), hosted by the Government of Spain through the MSSSI and the CSN. A meeting of the CIPRaM Coordinating Committee was held (Madrid, Spain, March 2016), and the conference programme is now finalized and the CIPRaM website launched. WHO published the document “Communicating Radiation Risk in Paediatric Imaging”, launched during a Webinar (April 2016). WHO cooperates with the IAEA and HERCA to promote implementation and use of clinical imaging guidelines (IAEA TM & HERCA Multi-stakeholder meeting, Vienna, Austria, March 2016). HERCA WP in Medical Applications (Madrid, Spain, April 2016). WHO contributed to the IAEA TM on Patient Dose Monitoring (Vienna, Austria, May 2016).

Emergency Preparedness and Response

WHO continues working to support the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and strengthen national capacities for radiation emergency preparedness and response (EPR) in its Member States. Activities conducted by the WHO Radiation Program and its two global expert networks - i.e. REMPAN and BioDoseNet - will be reported by WHO during the next EPReSC meeting (Vienna, Austria, June 2016).

Inter-Agency Cooperation

As a member of the IACRS, WHO participated in meetings (18th Regular meeting, Luxembourg, Nov. 2015; 18.2 Extraordinary Meeting, Vienna, Austria, June 2016), and contributed to the BSS Implementation Task Group including cooperation with the IAEA for the organization of the 2nd African Workshop on the BSS Implementation (Accra, Ghana, Nov 2015). WHO cosponsored the International IRPA-14 Congress (Cape Town, South Africa, May 2016); a WHO delegation attended the meeting and contributed to sessions related to international standards, public health response in emergencies and RP in medical exposures. WHO co-authored 4 contributed papers and organized 2 workshops in cooperation with UNSCEAR and IAEA. WHO participated in the 74th meeting of NEA CRPPH (Paris, France, April 2016) and in the Euratom Art 31 Group of Experts meeting (June 2016). A bilateral IAEA-WHO meeting was held to review ongoing and future activities and explore areas/mechanisms for enhancing cooperation in the future (WHO HQ Geneva, Switzerland, March 2016). WHO is currently developing a draft publication, the Fundamental Safety Principles for Protection against Non-Ionizing Radiation that will provide a unified set of principles based on current understanding of the effects of non-ionizing radiation and possible associated risks for human health. The text in this draft publication has been adapted (with permission) from the IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles, IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SF-1, IAEA, Vienna, (2006), and the WHO wishes to express its appreciation to the IAEA. WHO is represented at this 40th RASSC meeting and looks forward to continuing its cooperation with the IAEA on the development and implementation of radiation safety standards worldwide.

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8 Conference hosted by the King Faisal Hospital. [http://www.radmed.org/]
9 Conference website [http://cipram-madrid-2016.es/]
13 Inter-Agency Committee on Radiation Safety (IACRS) [http://www.iacrs-rp.org/](http://www.iacrs-rp.org/)