Dear RASSC Members,

**IRPA Consultation on the System of Protection**

It is a pleasure to provide to you a copy of IRPA’s latest publication: “IRPA Consultation: Is the System of Protection ‘Fit for Purpose’ and can it be readily communicated? Views of the Radiation Protection Professionals”. This represents the outcome of IRPA’s largest consultation exercise with our Associate Societies and the individual radiation protection practitioners around the world, which commenced in 2015.

The consultation was focussed on seeking views from the professional radiation protection community on the effectiveness of the system of protection and its ability to be widely communicated and understood by interested parties.

In our world of radiation protection, what is often referred to as ‘the system of protection’ has many stakeholders. ICRP can be regarded as the principal owner of the system and having the prime responsibility for its development. Many international organisations, and in particular the IAEA, have a key role in formulating standards and guidance supporting implementation of the system. However, the practical implementation of radiation protection is undertaken by thousands of practitioners around the world, including operators, medical personnel, regulators, researchers and specialist advisors, who have this crucial day to day role, including communicating requirements and approaches to a wide range of lay persons. It is IRPA’s task to ensure that this practical experience is able to be fed back into the ongoing development of the system.

The system of protection is constantly evolving and its development is a responsibility shared by many international organisations. IRPA therefore invites RASSC and IAEA, together with our other international partners, to consider the views expressed in this report, as we move forward collectively to improve the system of protection. IRPA accepts that evolution is a long term process, and that any changes must be duly considered and discussed by all stakeholders.

We therefore look forward to working with you over the coming period in the spirit of mutual cooperation in order to explore the issues raised in this report. The report has been submitted for publication as a Memorandum in the Journal of Radiological Protection, and we expect that it will therefore shortly be available in the free access scientific literature.
With best regards

Roger Coates

Roger Coates
IRPA President