RASSC was requested by the CSS to advise on the implications for the development of the IAEA safety standards of the UNSCEAR Report *Attributing Health Effects to Ionizing Radiation Exposure and Inferring Risks*.

**Inputs**
- written submissions from Argentina, Belgium and Canada
- presentation by Secretary of UNSCEAR
- discussions over three RASSC meetings

**Electronic Working Group (EWG) to prepare response**
Request From Commission on Safety Standards - timeline

April 2014 – discussion at CSS

June 2014 – preliminary discussion at RASSC

December 2014 – discussion on papers from Belgium and Canada

June 2015 – presentation by Secretary of UNSCEAR; EWG established

December 2015 – draft prepared by EWG discussed by RASSC

January 2016 – final draft circulated for comment and approval
Conclusions from EWG

- RASSC considers that the UNSCEAR report “Attributing Health Effects to Ionizing Radiation Exposure and Inferring Risks” has no direct and immediate implications for the IAEA safety standards. As such, the UNSCEAR report reinforces the appropriateness of, and sound scientific basis for, the IAEA safety standards.

- The UNSCEAR report raises questions about communication with the public on issues such as exposure, health effects and future risks. It is important that radiation protection professionals better explain the sources of radiation to which the public are exposed and the magnitude of these exposures. The associated health risks, the uncertainties in the risk estimates and the system that is in place to protect against these risks also need to be explained. Both actual risks and perceived risks need to be addressed and put in context with the many beneficial uses of radiation in modern society.

- As the safety standards are subject to ongoing critical evaluation and review, it is important to maintain an open mind on the appropriateness and adequacy of the IAEA safety standards in the future. In particular, as new scientific evidence becomes available, it may be necessary to review the scientific basis for the IAEA safety standards.