

## Opening Comments for the 7<sup>th</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency I welcome you here to Vienna for the Seventh Meeting of the International Steering Committee for denial of shipments of radioactive material. As members of this International Committee, you represent both regulatory and industry bodies, along with UN organizations. This mix of technical experts enables this steering committee to address the very important – sometimes vital - issue of denial of shipment of radioactive material. I would like to acknowledge the efforts to date and the achievements, including those which will be reported at this meeting.

Since 2006, when the first Steering Committee Meeting was held, many proactive steps have been taken that have helped address the issues of denials. This is now the seventh meeting, instances of denials are still occurring, and we need to discuss our future actions.

You will review several aspects of denial during the week, and I am particularly pleased to welcome Bill Brach, the chair of the Transport Safety Standards Committee to this meeting. He will be able to feed back to TRANSSEC any issues regarding regulatory barriers to shipments. Safety regulations (and also security regulations, since you will also touch on a security document at this meeting) are not intended to stop companies from transporting radioactive material, but to ALLOW them to do so in a safe, secure, and effective manner. The

sub-title of our Conference last October was “Creating a safe, secure and sustainable network”. If there was no radioactive material in transport then it would be both safe and secure, but this would fail to meet that important third strand of sustainability. The conference was important to your work, in that it identified the need for harmonisation between UN bodies, Member States, safety and security, and of course industry, in order to deliver the sustainable framework.

We have come a long way together. I would like to focus on two major achievements over the past few years.

- First is the development of National and Regional Networks through which members of industry and regulatory bodies maintain a high degree of communication. This network is a valuable resource, allowing a bottom-up solution of individual problems encountered when shipping radioactive material. Issues can only be resolved by active and committed participation and support by National Focal Points, Regional Coordinators, Industries and UN Organizations.
- In addition, a top-down approach brings also benefits in terms of establishing a communication strategy, and suitable training material. A good example was the brochure made available for the transport conference late last year.

I am pleased also to inform you that several Technical Cooperation and Extra Budgetary projects that will involve training and sharing information on denial of transport came into being this year.

The framework is in place for your work, resources are available, it is now time to deliver change.

It is our intention to aim at the time of the 2013 General Conference as a target when, through our collective efforts, we can hopefully eliminate the denials to the extent that it is no longer an issue worthy of reporting. The eighth steering committee – the next one – should be the last one.

I encourage you to set your mind to delivering substantial change in the following year; to “stiffen the sinews” for one last year of hard work. If you are hunters, you will understand that a suitable image would be that of the time to go for the catch, and I would like to yell: “Taiaut”.

I wish you well over the next three days. You will be busy; however the work has an end in sight. I have no doubt that as a result of this meeting the steering committee will be well placed to achieve your goals. I would now like to hand over to the current chair, Mr Ulric Schwela from the Tantalum Niobium Institute. I would like to thank him for his support, as he initiates this meeting. Ulric...