

Introductory Remarks

Board of Governors Meeting

Agenda Item 3

3 March 2014

Vienna, Austria

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Monsieur le President, I would like to provide you with a brief introduction for item 3 of the Agenda regarding the activities related to strengthening nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety.

A. Item 3a on the Agenda: the draft *Nuclear Safety Review 2014*

The draft Nuclear Safety Review 2014 addresses some of the challenges facing the international nuclear community in their continuous efforts to incorporate the many lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi Accident at all stages of new, existing, expanding, or phasing out nuclear safety programmes. We continue to see Member States striving to develop more robust regulatory infrastructures, progressing the safety of their radiation protection programmes and the safety and security of their radioactive sources, strengthening their emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and building their capacities and human competences necessary to sustain and grow the nuclear workforce. And, as we know, strengthening safety is a continuous pursuit and not a plateau to be reached once and forever. As a specific challenge identified in the NSR, is the fact that more than half of the research reactors are over 40 years. Ageing-related failures are one of the main causes of unanticipated shutdowns of many of these research reactors the operation of which is often crucial for the production of medical radioisotopes.

As usual, Member States' comments received before 11 April 2014 will be considered for the final version of the Nuclear Safety Review 2014.

B. Item 3b on the Agenda: Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety

Further to DG Amano's report on the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, I am pleased to mention that last month, the 6th International Experts' Meeting addressed radiation protection after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The meeting had over 200 participants from 69 Member States and 10 International Organizations; it focused very much on the importance of communication and public involvement in support of technical criteria to improve return to normality following a nuclear or radiological emergency.

Monsieur le President, the IAEA Fukushima Report is on track to be finalized by the end of 2014, with the plan to share this report in 2015. To this end, the fifth round of meetings of the Fukushima Report Working Groups took place last month gathering approximately 170 experts from over 40 Member

States and International Organizations, including the IAEA staff, and the Working Groups have made significant progress on the five chapters comprising the report.

C. Item 3c on the Agenda: Revision of No. WS-R-5 on the Decommissioning of Facilities.

The objective of this Safety Requirements publication on Decommissioning of Facilities is to establish the general safety requirements that must be fulfilled in the planning and implementation of decommissioning actions, for the termination of the authorization for decommissioning, and for the release of facilities from regulatory control for restricted or unrestricted use in the future. The publication is intended to be of use to regulatory bodies, operating organizations and decommissioning bodies for ensuring safety in the decommissioning of nuclear fuel cycle facilities and other facilities as relevant.

This Safety Requirements publication deals with all phases of decommissioning and also establishes requirements for the period from the design of a facility until after its planned permanent shutdown at the end of its operational lifetime. This Safety Requirements publication will supersede IAEA Safety Standards Series No. WS-R-5, Decommissioning of Facilities Using Radioactive Material, issued in 2006.

The draft Safety Requirements text was submitted to Member States for comment, the revised draft was approved by the Nuclear Safety Standards Committee and the Transport Safety Standards Committee in June 2013, and by the Radiation Safety Standards Committee and the Waste Safety Standards Committee in July 2013, and was endorsed by the Commission on Safety Standards in November 2013. This draft will be a new general (thematic) Safety Requirements publication in the revised structure of the IAEA Safety Standards Series.

It is recommended that the Board:

- establish it as an Agency safety standard and authorize the Director General to promulgate these Safety Requirements and to issue them as a Safety Requirements publication in the IAEA Safety Standards Series.

Concluding Remarks

Merci Monsieur le President.