

International Meeting on Application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, 16-20 June 2014

Closing Remarks by Mr. Denis Flory, DDG-NS

Closing Session: 12:30hr, Friday, 20 June, Meeting Room: M2

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I thank you for your participation in the third triennial International Meeting on Application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors. We are especially pleased that participants from 40 Member States are here, evidence of the importance of the Code to the research reactor community.

Since it was adopted by the Board of Governors and endorsed by the General Conference in 2004, Member States have been encouraged to use the Code as the basis upon which to regulate and conduct research reactor activities. Subsequent General Conference resolutions have continued to endorse the principles and objectives of the Code.

We are pleased to see that, in the decade since its adoption, the high-level guidance for development and harmonization of policies, laws and regulations and “best practice” guidance for management of research reactor safety offered in the Code has gained widespread acceptance and improved implementation by Member States.

Since the code was adopted, we, at the Secretariat, have provided substantial support to Member States in applying the Code. Specifically, a series of meetings, including international meetings in 2008 and 2011, and a series of regional meetings in the years between the triennial international meetings have provided a forum for exchange of information and experience on its implementation.

In addition, Safety Requirements, Safety Guides and other safety documents that support application of the Code have been published. New documents are developed to meet changing needs, such as the Safety Reports providing guidance for performance of safety reassessment in light of the lessons learned from the Fukushima-Daiichi accident and for implementation of a management system in a research reactor operating organization.

The Agency has also engaged in an active programme of safety missions based on the Code of Conduct and the Safety Standards – in particular, the Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors (INSARR) – along with periodic Technical Meetings and workshops.

No amount of support from the Secretariat will be effective without a commitment of the Member State to apply the Code. While the Code is not legally binding, your presence at this meeting is evidence of the value that your government places on the Code. We are grateful for this evidence of commitment and for the hard work that went into the progress reported in your self-assessments

and country presentations at this meeting and we encourage all of you to continue to work towards full implementation of the Code. I encourage you to maintain your commitment to apply the Code and to support a suitable resolution at the forthcoming General Conference.

We appreciate your suggestions on possible revisions of the Code submitted with your self-assessment reports and those identified by the working groups during this meeting. The Secretariat will consider these suggestions with a view to determining whether they can be addressed through application of the latest IAEA Safety Standards or other guidance documents, or whether a revision to the Code is warranted.

Once again, I thank you for your participation in this meeting, and I wish you a safe, secure, and pleasant journey home.