

**TECHNICAL MEETING**

**Integration of Safety Culture into Regulatory Practices and the  
Regulatory Decision Making Process**

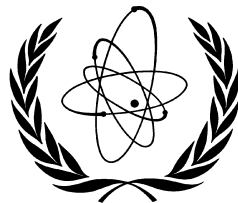
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**Denis Flory**

**Deputy Director General**

**Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, my dear colleagues,

and welcome to this Technical Meeting on “Integration of Safety Culture into Regulatory Practices and the Regulatory Decision Making Process”.

Let me start by looking back at the three major nuclear accidents that have taken place in our recent history: Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi. Three avoidable accidents – all of which were unexpected.

All three accidents revealed that it is not solely the technology that fails.

In particular, one of the main lessons learnt from Chernobyl was the importance of a strong safety culture: since 1986 safety culture has been an essential part of nuclear safety.

We are organizing this Technical Meeting (TM) as part of our commitment and efforts towards providing senior regulators with a forum for sharing experience on how safety performance can be enhanced through culture, leadership and management for safety, and how safety culture can be integrated into regulatory practices and decision making processes.

The UN Secretary General’s statement to the IAEA’s 58th General Conference, delivered in his name by the UN high representative for disarmament affairs, noted that:

“The aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi accident has justifiably continued to dominate the international conversation on nuclear safety. There is a growing recognition that the use of nuclear power requires a strong nuclear safety culture, including the adoption and implementation of effective international safety standards.”

Back at the **55th** session of the **IAEA General Conference in September 2011**, the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan was unanimously endorsed by Member States to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide. In this context, a number of achievements were accomplished and we have organized to date seven international experts meetings, and a number of international conferences and Technical Meetings. The importance of establishing **effective nuclear safety regulatory regimes**, has been emphasized in all these meetings:

1. The Second Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in Vienna, in August 2012, identified **safety culture as one of the areas where regulatory processes need to be improved**.
2. The Third International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems, which was held in Ottawa, in April 2013, played a vital role in recognizing and acknowledging the importance of, and commitment to, **safety culture and adopting different approaches on incorporating safety and security culture considerations into regulatory processes**. The participating **regulators stressed the need to take steps to strengthen their organizations’ regulatory programs and processes and to continuously promote and improve internal safety culture, as well as the importance of reporting openly and regularly on the progress of such efforts**.
3. At the fifth International Experts’ Meeting on Human and Organizational Factors in Nuclear Safety in the Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, held in Vienna, in May 2013, importance of **assessing and continuously enhancing a regulatory body’s internal safety culture** was discussed and brought to focus.
4. The IAEA Report on Strengthening Nuclear Regulatory Effectiveness in the Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, which was published in 2013, draws on the information from several IAEA activities carried out since 2011 in this area with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness of nuclear regulatory bodies. The Report identifies the following lessons learned for strengthening the effectiveness of national regulatory bodies with regard to safety culture:

- Regulatory bodies should consider ***safety culture in their regulatory processes....***;
- Regulatory bodies should engage in ***dialogue with licensees to enhance the understanding of safety culture*** and ***seek licensees' commitment to perform self-assessments and independent peer assessments of safety culture ....***;
- The Fukushima Daiichi accident highlighted the importance of regulatory body **independence** and a ***regulatory safety culture for effective regulatory oversight of the safety*** of nuclear installations.

At the IAEA, in close collaboration with Member States, we have taken measures to respond to these challenges and to implement a number of initiatives in the area of safety culture, which will be shared with you during this meeting.

Countries with established regulatory regimes, as well as those expanding or introducing nuclear power programmes, are looking at new methodologies and tools for safety: conducting self-assessment and independent assessment, ensuring an adequate oversight of licensees' safety culture programmes...

During this week, practical implementation of safety culture initiatives will be shared and lessons learned will be discussed, in order to draw conclusions to be used for further enhancement of safety performance through culture, leadership and management for safety. The outcome of this meeting will be used in developing further guidance for Member States.

Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to all of you for contributing to this TM and wish you three fruitful days of discussions and exchange of experience.

Thank you for your attention.