

Introductory Remarks
Board of Governors Meeting
Agenda Item 3

2 March 2015

Vienna, Austria

Denis Flory
Deputy Director General

Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

International Atomic Energy Agency



Madam Chairperson, I would like to provide you with a brief introduction for item 3 of the Agenda regarding the activities related to strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety.

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

The draft Nuclear Safety Review 2015 highlights trends, issues and challenges of the previous year. It also highlights activities to assist Member States in building more robust regulatory infrastructures, progressing radiation protection programmes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and building the capacities and competences of their workforces.

In addition to the DG's statement, I also wanted to highlight that this year the Operational Safety Review Service (OSART) has observed significant improvements made by several member states in enhancing the ability of their nuclear power plants to withstand severe accidents and greatly reduce risks to the public. And Member States continued to work with the IAEA to systematically assess plant condition and undertake to support safe long term operation.

We encourage the sharing of information and experience in these areas to make nuclear power plants even safer.

I would also like to acknowledge the work being undertaken by Member States embarking on Nuclear Power Programs to develop the necessary nuclear safety infrastructure including an increased use of agency services such as the Design and Safety Assessment Review Service. It is also encouraging to see that these Member States recognize that developing safety infrastructure is a long journey and we at the IAEA are ready to assist them along the way. However, we noted the decrease of the number of requests for Site and External Events Design (SEED) missions, certainly suited for Member States embarking on Nuclear Power Programs.

I would also like to note that findings from recent Emergency Preparedness Review missions (EPREV) indicate challenges in allocation of EPR roles and responsibilities, at the operator, local, provincial/regional and national levels. In this respect, the International Conference on Global Emergency Preparedness and Response that we will organise in October this year, will provide a forum for networking and exchange of information and experiences, and will promote effective preparedness as a key to efficient response.

The Agency continues to provide significant support to Contracting Parties of the Joint Convention, who are fully involved in the preparations for its 5th Review Meeting, to be held here in Vienna, from 11 to 22 May 2015. Sixty three National Reports are available for review, and more than three thousand questions have already been exchanged within Contracting Parties through the Agency's special dedicated web site. With further regard to the final plenary session of this Review Meeting, the progress of lessons learnt by Contracting Parties from the Fukushima Daiichi accident will be discussed, focusing on safety related topics for spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

As usual, Member States' comments received before 10 April 2015 will be considered for the final version of the Nuclear Safety Review 2015.

B. Item 3b on the Agenda: Draft Safety Requirements

Further to DG Amano's statements, as noted there are six draft revised Safety Requirements publications submitted to the March Board.

The Safety Requirements on Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency apply for preparedness and response for a nuclear or radiological emergency in relation to all facilities, activities and sources of ionizing radiation with the potential for causing radiation exposure, environmental contamination or concern on the part of the public warranting protective actions and other response actions.

The revision of GS-R-2, *Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency*, takes into account experience gained from studying the responses to emergencies since 2002, including, but not limited to, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident in Japan in 2011, as well as findings from exercises conducted since 2002, and feedback obtained from Member States since 2002 on application of the requirements established in GS-R-2, now proposed as GSR Part 7 under the .

The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety includes an action headed: 'Review and strengthen IAEA Safety Standards and improve their implementation'.

This action called upon the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) and the IAEA Secretariat "to review, and revise as necessary...the relevant IAEA safety standards in a prioritised sequence.", and called on Member States "to utilize as broadly and effectively as possible the IAEA safety standards in an open, timely and transparent manner".

The review conducted included, among other things, the regulatory structure, emergency preparedness and response, and nuclear safety and engineering aspects (site selection and evaluation, assessment of extreme natural hazards, including their combined effects, management of severe accidents, station blackout, loss of heat sink, accumulation of explosive gases, the behaviour of nuclear fuel and the safety of spent fuel storage).

In 2011 the Secretariat commenced such a prioritised review of Safety Requirements publications in the IAEA Safety Standards Series on the basis of information that was available on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The review and revision process covered the following five Safety Requirements publications: Governmental, Legal and Regulatory Framework for Safety (IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 1, 2010), Site Evaluation for Nuclear Installations (No. NS-R-3, 2003), Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Design (No. SSR-2/1, 2012), Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Commissioning and Operation (No. SSR-2/2, 2011), and Safety Assessment for Facilities and Activities (No. GSR Part 4, 2009).

The Commission's conclusion on the review of the Safety Requirements, reflected in a letter from the CSS Chair to the Director General dated 6 January 2014, was that "the review has confirmed so far the adequacy of the current Safety Requirements. The review revealed no significant areas of weakness, and just a small set of amendments were proposed to strengthen the requirements and facilitate their implementation... The CSS also stressed that greater attention needs to be paid to the implementation of IAEA safety standards by and in Member States."

The review process for the lower level Safety Standards, namely the safety guides, has already been started. This review will also take into account the latest request transmitted by the Director General to the Commission on Safety Standards following the adoption of the Vienna Declaration by Contracting Parties to the CNS.

It is recommended that the Board:

— establish these draft revised Safety Requirements publications as Agency safety standards and authorize the Director General to promulgate them and to issue them as Safety Requirements publications in the IAEA Safety Standards Series.

Concluding Remarks

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your remarks.