

**Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC) - Thirty-ninth Meeting
and
Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC) - Thirty- ninth Meeting**

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

by

D. Flory, DDG, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

30 June 2015

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all here to Vienna for the joint meeting of the Nuclear Safety Standards Committee (NUSSC) and the Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC).

I would like to take the opportunity to bring you up to date with a number of events that have taken place over the past few months and to flag an important upcoming meeting.

The Diplomatic Conference on the CNS

At the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the CNS in April 2014, the Contracting Parties attending the meeting decided by a two-thirds majority to convene a Diplomatic Conference within one year to consider a proposal by Switzerland to amend the CNS.

The Diplomatic Conference was convened on 9 February 2015 and was attended by 71 Contracting Parties. The Conference elected Ambassador Grossi as President of the Conference by acclamation.

Having concluded that it would not be possible to reach consensus on the proposed amendment, the Conference adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety. This Declaration includes principles for the implementation of the Convention to prevent accidents and mitigate radiological consequences. More details on the preparation and outcomes of the Conference will be given in a separate presentation later this week.

As requested by the Vienna Declaration, the Director General transmitted the Declaration to the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards for its consideration, with the four safety standards committees under its aegis, of the technical elements contained therein with a view to incorporating them as appropriate into the relevant IAEA Safety Standards. Conclusions made by CSS in that respect will be provided later today.

The Director General, as requested by the Vienna Declaration, also published the text of the Declaration as an Information Circular (document INFCIRC/872).

The fifth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention

Regarding the Joint Convention, the fifth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties took place from 11 to 22 May 2015, at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, and was attended by 61

Contracting Parties. Topics discussed were wide, focusing on the progress made since the Fourth Review Meeting with regard to the safety measures adopted in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, including disused sealed sources. Discussions also touched international cooperation in finding solutions for the long term management, including disposal of different types of radioactive waste and/or spent fuel. A large number of overarching issues have been identified, and several were agreed by Contracting Parties to be reported, as appropriate at the Sixth Review Meeting. Within them we can identify:

- Staffing, staff development, reliability of funding, and other human resource areas;
- Maintaining or increasing public involvement and engagement on waste management, to provide public confidence and acceptance;
- Developing and implementing a holistic and sustainable management strategy for radioactive waste and spent fuel at an early stage; and
- Management of disused sealed sources.

Contracting Parties decided on a number of actions with a view to, inter alia, encourage adherence to the Joint Convention and for the active participation of Contracting Parties in the peer review process. In addition, Contracting Parties decided to hold an Extraordinary Meeting prior to the Organisational Meeting for the Sixth Review Meeting in May 2017, to address some of the issues identified previously. In this respect, one topic in your agenda will bring to you more details on the outcomes of the last Joint Convention Meeting.

The Fukushima Daiichi accident

At its June meeting, the Board of Governors took note of the Director General's report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident for its subsequent release at the 59th regular session of the General Conference.

This report consists of an Executive Summary and a Summary Report and will be released at the upcoming General Conference in September. The report is the result of an extensive international effort involving some 180 experts from 42 Member States and several international bodies. It draws on five detailed technical volumes which will be issued before the General Conference. We are planning a side event during the GC dedicated to these documents (Report by the DG and five detailed technical volumes)

The report represents an authoritative, factual and balanced assessment of what happened at Fukushima Daiichi that should also be accessible for a non-technical audience.

The creation of an EPR Safety Standards Committee (EPReSC)

The Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security (DDG-NS), established a number of topical Safety Standards Committees (SSCs) in 1996 to ensure greater transparency, consensus, quality, coherence and consistency of Agency safety standards. These are the present NUSSC, RASSC, WASSC and TRANSSC

The CSS, created at the same time by the Director General, was given a special overview role with regard to Agency safety standards to provide advice to the Director General on the overall programme on regulatory aspects of safety.

Later In 2012 I established the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) in the area of nuclear security.

The current representation in the SSCs shows that only a very small number of Member States have nominated EPR experts as representatives in the SSCs.

Based on:

- The need to ensure the involvement of a senior EPR subject matter experts in the process of establishing Agency safety standards.
- The requests since 2004 from the "EPR International Action Plan" to establish an Emergency Preparedness and Response Standards Committee under the CSS,

supported by five GC resolutions, by EPREG recommendation, by the 4th Meeting of the Representatives of Competent Authorities under the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions, and finally the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety,

I presented information on the establishment of EPRESC to the members of the CSS at its last meeting in April, and later informed the Board of Governors through GOV/INF/2015/9 of the creation of EPRESC.

EPRESC will be established as a standing body of senior experts in the area of nuclear or radiological EPR. All Member States will be invited to nominate a senior expert involved in EPR at the national level. ToRs will be similar to the ToRs of existing SSCs.

The international Conference on Spent Fuel Management took place at the IAEA Headquarters, from 15 to 19 June, jointly organized by the Department of Nuclear Energy and the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. The conference focused on the integrated approach to the back end of the fuel cycle. It was attended by more than 250 participants from the industry, but also by regulators and operators. A presentation on the main outcomes of this conference will be given during this joint session of the NUSC and WASSC.

The International Conference on Operational Safety

The International Conference on Operational Safety took place at the IAEA Headquarters, last week, to review the progress of operational safety improvements being introduced in the light of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident and to foster the exchange of information on operational safety performance and operating experience at NPPs. A presentation on the insights of the conference on the NPP operational Safety Standards will be provided later during this session.

The Organizational Meeting of the 7th CNS Review Meeting

The Organizational Meeting will take place on 15 October 2015 at the IAEA Headquarters in order to allocate Contracting Parties to Country Groups and elect the Officers of the 7th Review Meeting.

I would like also to inform you about **upcoming International Conferences** in the field of nuclear safety:

- on Global Emergency Preparedness and Response 19 – 23 October 2015. Vienna, Austria
- on Research Reactors: Safe Management and Effective Utilization 16–20 November 2015. Vienna, Austria
- on Human and Organizational Aspects of Assuring Nuclear Safety – Exploring 30 Years of Safety Culture 22–26 February 2016. Vienna, Austria
- on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems: Towards a Systematic Approach to Safety from 11 – 15 April 2016 in Vienna;
- on advancing the global implementation of decommissioning and environmental remediation programmes from 23 to 26 May 2016 in Madrid, Spain; and
- on the Safety of radioactive waste management from 21 to 25 November 2016 and its venue will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you for taking the time to work with us and to allow us benefit from your experience and advice. I wish you all an enjoyable stay here in Vienna.