

## **SESSION I SUMMARY**

FIRST OF ALL, THIS SESSION IS A BIG SUCCESS WITH AROUND 200 PARTICIPANTS. THIS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE INTEREST OF MEMBER STATES IN THE IAEA SAFETY STANDARDS AND IN WORKING TOWARDS THEIR HARMONIZED USE.

AS INDICATED IN ALL PRESENTATIONS, THE IAEA SAFETY STANDARDS ARE RECOGNIZED NOW AS THE GLOBAL REFERENCE OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A HIGH LEVEL OF SAFETY. EXPERIENCE AT THE EU LEVEL HAS DEMONSTRATED HOW THEY CAN BE APPLIED. THE EU DIRECTIVE SHOWS THAT THEY CAN SERVE AS A BASIS FOR A BINDING LEGAL FRAMEWORK, WHILE ALLOWING FOR THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC NATIONAL CRITERIA AND TECHNOLOGICAL CHOICES. THIS EU DIRECTIVE PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER REGIONS.

AND THIS IS NOT REALLY A SURPRISE. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS REPRESENT THE WORLD CORPORATE MEMORY AFTER MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. THE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF FEEDBACK HELPS THE IAEA TO MAINTAIN AND UPDATE THIS CORPORATE MEMORY THUS PROVIDING AT ANY TIME THE UP-TO-DATE REFERENCE FOR ALL COUNTRIES AND PARTICULARLY COUNTRIES EMBARKING ON NUCLEAR POWER.

THE WORLDWIDE APPLICATION OF THE SAFETY FUNDAMENTALS AND THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IS KEY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HIGH LEVEL OF SAFETY WORLDWIDE AND FLEXIBILITY IS IMPORTANT WITH REGARDS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFETY GUIDES.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO MENTION KEY WORDS TO SUMMARIZE THE SESSION:

- **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT** IS THE OBJECTIVE. IT IS THUS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY (HARMONIZATION IS NOT STANDARDIZATION) AND TO FEED BACK TO THE AGENCY ANY LESSONS LEARNED WHEN USING THE IAEA SAFETY STANDARDS;
  
- **PROCESS:** HARMONIZATION IS A CONTINUING PROCESS. THE MANY REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES (WENRA, HERCA, MDEP, THE EU DIRECTIVE, EXCHANGES THROUGH IRRS, REPORTS ON FULFILLING THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE SAFETY RELATED CONVENTIONS, NETWORKING INITIATIVES...) USE THE IAEA SAFETY STANDARDS AS A BASIS. THIS WILL LEAD TO THEIR HARMONIZED USE. THIS PROCESS, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY LEADS TO HARMONIZATION, BUT ALSO LEADS TO ACHIEVING HIGH LEVEL OF SAFETY WORLDWIDE;
  
- **REGULATORY STABILITY:** HARMONIZATION WILL HELP TO ACHIEVE REGULATORY STABILITY. STRONG JUSTIFICATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE REVISION OF THE SAFETY STANDARDS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE FEEDBACK. IN PARTICULAR, LONG TERM STABILITY IS EXPECTED FOR THE OVERARCHING REQUIREMENTS, I.E. WHAT CONSTITUTES THE GLOBAL REFERENCE FOR HARMONIZATION;
  
- **PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE:** PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE WILL BE ENHANCED THROUGH HARMONIZED USE OF THE IAEA SAFETY STANDARDS.

ONE FURTHER ASPECT WHICH GOES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS SESSION BUT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED IS TO PURSUE EFFORTS TOWARDS HARMONIZATION IN TERMS OF NOT ONLY SAFETY, BUT ALSO SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDS.