

Remarks at

SENIOR REGULATORS MEETING

19 September 2013

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to welcome you to this meeting of Senior Regulators, which is an annual feature of the IAEA General Conference. This meeting provides a forum for senior regulators from IAEA Member States, in order to exchange information and experience on current regulatory, policy and technical issues in nuclear safety and security. This meeting also promotes active interaction among senior policy makers in the wider nuclear community attending the General Conference.

During the past year, we all have been very active in implementing the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan, endorsed unanimously by the GC just two years ago. In this respect, some of the most significant activities which were reported to the Board of Governors last week and to the General Conference this week were:

- The two international experts' meetings (IEMs) on decommissioning and remediation after a nuclear accident and on human and organizational factors in nuclear safety, and the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems: Transforming Experience into Regulatory Improvements, hosted by Canada in Ottawa. Further IEMs will be conducted and reported to at next GC, and
- The creation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Expert Group (EPREG) which held its second meeting last month.

We have also organised two major international conferences at ministerial level:

- The International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts in Vienna this past July. This was the first such conference organised by the Agency at ministerial level, open to all IAEA Member States, and it was one of the largest conferences we ever organised. Ministers adopted a Declaration on strengthening nuclear security throughout the world and reaffirming the IAEA's central role.

- The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in December last year, where we released the three first reports on IEMs, which provided an excellent opportunity to share with the international community, knowledge and lessons learned from the Fukushima accident, to further enhance transparency and to discuss the progress of international efforts in strengthening nuclear safety, including through the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

Session I

Now turning to session I, one aspect of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan we will develop today, is the future development of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service, IRRS. Recent years witnessed a vigorous development of the IRRS programme. First and foremost, we have continued to implement IRRS missions in an increasing number of countries based on the request of Member States. With the assistance of an extensive number of international experts, we have analysed experiences and lessons learned from missions conducted since 2006 and have drawn conclusions for future enhancement of the programme. Many of the results of this analysis and enhancement of the programme shall be presented in the upcoming session, so, for now, I wish to highlight the most important developments.

The IRRS Guidelines have been revised and published in May 2013, and the IRRS process itself has been substantially streamlined on elements such as team assignments, mission schedules and

mission report templates, based on gained experience from experts who participated in past IRRS missions. This assists in increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the missions.

The IAEA self-assessment methodology and tool (self-assessment of regulatory infrastructure for safety; SARIS) have been further developed and enhanced, and it is now available on our website.

The analysis of past IRRS missions and the experience from IRRS teams (leaders, their deputies and reviewers) has highlighted further possible ways of enhancing the IRRS programme. Taking into account that IRRS missions rely heavily on the participation of high level experts provided by IAEA Member States, it is essential to ensure their appropriate training specific to the missions. I am pleased to inform you that the first Basic IRRS Training Course will be held in Vienna, on 21-24 October 2013. The course is open to 60 participants from all regions. The training will cover all aspects of the IRRS process, including the practical application of the IRRS Guidelines. I am sure you will discuss many other possible improvements for the future of the IRRS during this first session.

On session II

As is now the practice, and with even stronger legitimacy than ever following the July Conference on nuclear security, Member States' representatives from both the safety and security communities have been invited to take an active part in this meeting. Discussing safety/security interfaces is crucial. Nuclear safety and security practitioners share a common ultimate goal: to protect people, the environment and society from harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

Coming back to the July International Conference on Nuclear Security, it included government ministers; senior officials and policy makers responsible for nuclear security; experts and representatives from a wide range of technical disciplines and specialist organizations that contribute to nuclear security; representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with

relevant competencies; regulatory bodies and other national competent authorities; national security and crisis management agencies; law enforcement and border control agencies; and industry and other entities engaged in activities relevant to nuclear security.

This high level of participation, including some 1300 delegates, is a reflection of the importance of the value recognised to the Agency's role in nuclear security worldwide.

Regarding information and cyber security, which is the subject of the second session this morning, the IAEA was encouraged to develop additional guidance level documents, including Recommendation level guidance, to provide the basis for implementing regulations on information and cyber security. Your experience and discussion today on this matter will further help us in this endeavour.

Let me now come to the third session.

Regulatory oversight is an essential element of maintaining and improving nuclear safety and security, whether for nuclear power plants, for research reactors or for the use of radioactive sources in the medical, agricultural or industrial fields.

The global characteristics of an effective regulator are well known to you, the Senior Regulators present in this room:

- The crucial importance of independence, possibly the first lesson of the Fukushima accident,
- The absolute necessity to dispose of adequate human and financial resources,
- Competence, supported by a sound technical and scientific basis, without which regulation would be just one more bureaucratic activity, failing to reach its goal,
- And finally the legal authority and the power to carry out its responsibilities.

During the third session this afternoon, the focus will be on countries without Nuclear Power Programme, with a view to identifying their key challenges and to explore, together with

colleagues from the Department of Technical Cooperation, mechanisms to further enhance the radiation safety and security infrastructure and the effectiveness of the regulatory bodies.

I will now close by reiterating that the IAEA will remain your strong partner, in all aspects of your work.

I wish you every success with your deliberations and I look forward to learning about the outcome.

It is now my particular pleasure to give the floor to your Chairman for the meeting today and to welcome Carl-Magnus Larsson, the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, ARPANSA, since March 2010.

Dr Larsson studied chemistry and biology and subsequently completed his PhD in Botany in 1980. He became Associate Professor in Physiological Botany at Stockholm University (Sweden) 1984.

Following a career in science he took up a position with the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (SSI) in 1993 to work on environmental aspects of nuclear power. Apart from working for the National Chemicals Inspectorate for a year, Dr Larsson continued to work for SSI as Department Head, Deputy Director General and Director General until SSI and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate merged in 2008. In the new organisation, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, Dr Larsson held positions as Head of the Department of Radiation Protection and Head of the Department of Radioactive Materials.

Dr Larsson co-ordinated the multinational European Commission-supported research projects FASSET and ERICA (both on environmental assessment and protection) 2000 – 2007. He is a member of the Main Commission of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and he is currently the chair the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR). He is a member of the Commission on Safety Standards of the IAEA.

Carl-Magnus, the floor is yours now. Thank you for your attention.