

STATEMENT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CHERNOBYL FORUM

held 18–20 April 2005

at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Headquarters, Vienna

This final meeting of the Chernobyl Forum was held two years after its establishment in 2003 on the initiative of the IAEA and in cooperation with FAO, UN-OCHA, UNDP, UNEP, UNSCEAR, WHO and The World Bank, as well as the competent authorities of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine. The Chernobyl Forum was established with a view to contributing to the implementation of the UN strategy launched in 2002 on the *Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident – A Strategy for Recovery*.

In his opening speech, Mr. T. Taniguchi, Deputy Director General of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of the IAEA, stated that according to their commitment made during the 1st Forum meeting in 2003, two UN systems organizations, IAEA and WHO, have conducted a series of expert meetings of the expert groups “Environment” and “Health” during the two last years, which have considered the environmental and health consequences of the Chernobyl accident as well as remediation and health care programmes, see Annex 1. The technical reports on these issues as well as their respective Executive Summaries were distributed for Forum members’ comments prior to the commencement of the present meeting.

The practical aim of this 3rd Chernobyl Forum meeting was to consider the Forum’s technical reports drafted by the expert groups in 2003–2004. Another important issue for consideration was organization of the International Conference entitled “Chernobyl: Looking Back to Go Forwards”, to be held in Vienna on 6 and 7 September 2005, prior to the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. This meeting, involving international, governmental and public representatives, experts and mass media, should present the Forum’s findings and recommendations as consensus within the United Nations system to a wide audience.

This 3rd Forum meeting was attended by all of the parties who initially established the Forum, except for UN-OCHA from which apologies were received because of the recent transition of respective responsibilities to UNDP. The meeting was chaired by Dr. B. Bennett, Chairman of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), Hiroshima, Japan. The complete list of meeting participants is attached (Annex 2).

The meeting discussed the following items:

- Reports from the Forum’s expert groups “Environment” (EGE) and “Health” (EGH);
- Preparation for the International Conference “Chernobyl: Looking Back to Go Forwards”;
- Publication of the Forum’s reports;
- Planning of the Chernobyl Forum activities in 2005–2006 aiming at dissemination of the Forum’s findings and recommendations.

After detailed discussion of the above agenda items, the meeting came to the following conclusions:

- To approve the Forum’s technical reports on environmental and health consequences of the Chernobyl accident, as well as remediation and health care programmes prepared by the expert groups in 2003–2004 with amendments discussed during the meeting;

- To consider the approved reports with amendments as a common position of the Forum members, i.e., of the eight UN organizations and the three more affected countries, regarding environmental and health consequences of the Chernobyl accident as well as recommended future actions, i.e. as consensus within the United Nations system;
- To complete preparation of the shortened version (digest) of the Forum report readable for the public by end of June 2005. This important document should include summaries of the Forum reports on environmental and health issues as well as the summary of the updated UN Report-2002 on social and economic issues *Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident – A Strategy for Recovery*. The digest should be published both in English and Russian and widely distributed during and after the forthcoming Conference;
- To prepare a special brief report with the Forum’s recommendations to the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine on their future remediation, health care, social and economic rehabilitation programmes for the areas affected by the Chernobyl accident;
- To organize the International Conference entitled “Chernobyl: Looking Back to Go Forwards” at the Austria Centre Vienna on 6 and 7 September 2005 aiming at informing Governments and the general public about Forum’s findings and recommendations (see Annex 3);
- To widely disseminate the Forum’s findings and recommendations during 2005–2006 and afterwards through:
 - UN organizations, national governmental bodies and non-governmental organizations,
 - International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN),
 - Mass media, including international and national TV programmes,
 - Special lectures/presentations for the populations of the affected regions,
 - IAEA WorldAtom, Chernobyl Website of the UN, and a special website to be created on the Forum;
- To publish the full technical Forum Reports in 2005 or early 2006;
- To request the IAEA, WHO and UNDP Secretariats to provide for full-scale regular funding necessary to complete the Forum activities including the Conference (see Annex 4);
- To accept the Work Plan of the Chernobyl Forum for 2005–2006 (see Annex 1).

The prime expectation from the Chernobyl Forum and the consequent International Conference is that their authoritative statements and recommendations represent United Nations wide consensus on the matter and will thus contribute to a better public understanding of the accident’s consequences. The Forum’s reports are aimed at assisting the affected countries in optimizing their activities related to the remediation of land contaminated with long-lived radionuclides and in providing health care to people affected by the accident. The current Forum activities are well supported by the Governments and international organizations involved.

THE WORK PLAN FOR THE CHERNOBYL FORUM IN 2003-2006

Nr.	Meeting type	Tentative dates	Tentative location	Responsible organisation	Expected outcome
1	First (organisational) Forum Meeting	3-5 February 2003	Vienna	IAEA	Terms of Reference, Work Plan for 2003-2004
2	1 st meeting of the Expert Group "Environment" (EGE)	30 June-4 July 2003	Vienna	IAEA	Consensus statements on release/deposition, terrestrial, aquatic and urban ecosystem contamination
3	1 st meeting of the Expert Group "Health" (EGH)	1-3 December 2003	Geneva	WHO	Consensus statement on radiation-induced thyroid cancer
4	2 nd meeting of the Expert Group "Environment"	15-19 December 2003	Vienna	IAEA	Consensus statements on countermeasures/remediation and human exposure issues
5	3 ^d meeting of the Expert Group "Environment"	26-29 January 2004	Vienna	IAEA	Consensus statements on radiation-induced effects in biota (plants and animals)
6	Second Forum Meeting	10-12 March 2004	Vienna	IAEA	Review of draft expert statements; further Work Plan for 2004-2006
7	2 nd meeting of the Expert Group "Health"	5-7 April 2004	Geneva	WHO	Consensus statements on radiation-induced carcinogenic effects (except of thyroid cancer)
8	4 th meeting of the Expert Group "Environment"	14-18 June 2004	Vienna	IAEA	Completion of the EGE report; Conclusions and Recommendations
9	3 ^d and final meeting of the Expert Group "Health"	13-15 September 2004	Geneva	WHO	Consensus statements on non-cancer health effects and relevant health care programmes; Conclusions and Recommendations
10	Planning meeting for the International Conference	27-28 September 2004	Vienna	IAEA, WHO	Action plan for the International Conference preparation and performance
11	5 th meeting of the Expert Group "Environment"	14-18 October 2004	Vienna	IAEA	Consensus statements on environmental aspects of Shelter remediation and waste management

Nr.	Meeting type	Tentative dates	Tentative location	Responsible organisation	Expected outcome
12	CSM for completion and editing the Forum Environmental Report	29 November – 3 December 2004	Vienna	IAEA	Editing of the Forum Report from EGE
13	CSM for completion and editing the Forum Health Report	19–21 January 2005	Geneva	WHO	Editing of the Forum Report from EGH
14	6 th and final meeting of the Expert Group “Environment”	31 January – 4 February 2005	Vienna	IAEA	Completion of the report on environmental aspects of Shelter remediation and waste management
15	Distribution of the Forum Report to Forum participants for comments	February 2005	Vienna, Geneva	IAEA, WHO	Comments from the UN organisations, affected states and expert group participants
16	Conversion of the Forum Report to a Digest	March – June 2005	Vienna	IAEA	Shortened version of the Forum Report readable for an educated audience
17	Third Forum Meeting, including 2nd Preparatory meeting for the International Conference	18–20 April 2005	Vienna	IAEA	Reviewing of the Forum Reports from EGE and EGH; monitoring of the International Conference preparation
18	The International Conference “Chernobyl: Looking Back to Go Forwards”	6–7 September 2005	Vienna	IAEA, WHO, UNDP	Public discussion of the Forum’s findings and recommendations; dissemination of the Digest Forum Report
19	Wide dissemination of the Forum’s findings and recommendations	2005–2006	Worldwide	IAEA, WHO, UNDP, ICRIN	Forum’s findings and recommendations widely distributed through UN and national bodies, mass media, ICRIN
20	Publication of the full Forum Report	2005–2006	Vienna, Geneva	IAEA, WHO, UNDP	Full Forum Report available for the scientific community

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE
THIRD MEETING OF THE CHERNOBYL FORUM**

**held 18–20 April 2005
in Meeting Room A7, IAEA Headquarters, Vienna
(754-J9-CS32-05CT02478)**

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**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“CHERNOBYL: LOOKING BACK TO GO FORWARDS”**

**TO BE HELD AT THE AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER
2005**

Time	Day 1 6 September 2005	Time	Day 2 7 September 2005
08:30– 10:00	Registration Distribution of Forum reports	09:00– 11:30	Social and economic consequences and strategy for recovery: presentation; Q/A
10:00– 10:30	Opening of the Conference		
10:30– 11:15	Statements of the UN Organizations (IAEA, WHO, UNDP)		
11:15– 12:00	Statements of the affected countries (Belarus, Russia, Ukraine);	11:45– 12:00	Chairman’s Conclusions
12:00– 14:00	Press Conference	12:00	Press Briefing
14:00– 15:00	Environmental consequences and remediation: presentation; Q/A		
15:00– 16:00	Health consequences and health care: presentation; Q/A		
16:30– 18:00	Panel discussion on Environmental and Health consequences		

**TENTATIVE COSTS FOR PREPARATION AND PERFORMANCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “CHERNOBYL: LOOKING BACK TO GO
FORWARDS”**

TO BE HELD IN AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA ON 6 AND 7 SEPTEMBER 2005

Rent of the Austria Center Vienna premises -	\$20 000
Invited speakers and chairperson (2 IAEA + 1 WHO + 3 UNDP = 6 persons)	\$15 000
Grantees from the 3 affected countries and some developing countries (~20 to 30 persons)	\$40 000–\$60 000
Translation of Forum materials in Russian	\$5 000
Two-day interpretation	\$5 000
Reception	\$5 000
Printing of the Forum’s materials	\$10 000

TOTAL ~ \$100 000–\$120 000