

UNITED NATIONS



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UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION
(UNSCEAR)

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
P.O. BOX 500, A-1400 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**Remarks by UNSCEAR Chair Yoshiharu Yonekura
on the occasion of the 60th anniversary**

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman

As chair of this illustrious committee, and a member for many years, it fills me with pride to listen what the honourable guests before me had to say. I would like to reflect a little on the future.

The task that the Committee faces is an increasingly challenging one. While both availability and access to information has increased dramatically since the Committee was established 60 years ago - and will continue to do so, it is not appropriate to assume that all the information available will be true “good science”.

The Committee’s role in filtering, synthesizing and portraying the best scientific information is at the crux of its work in today’s ‘e-world’.

To be transparent, and maintain independence and integrity, is an imperative. I am proud to say that UNSCEAR has checks and balances in place, but will be open to more scrutiny on such matters in the future.

Another aspect that others have touched on, but I would like to highlight further...the importance of outreach. UNSCEAR is now recognized better than before in Japan. This is due to the intensive outreach activities after the nuclear accident. The major findings of its 2013 report have been used, quoted and acted upon. That has much to do with its efforts to share its findings by means of Japanese language material, dialogues and other outreach events. However, it is still not sufficient.

While the Committee produces one quality report after another, the findings must be broadcast to wider audiences, so that they can be understood and used appropriately. I encourage Member States to raise awareness of this particular issue in their capitals.

Finally, on behalf of the entire committee members, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the UNSCEAR secretariat, that without fail, provides constant support to the Committee. They carry a tremendous workload and are indeed, the backbone of this Committee. In all honesty, when I joined the committee 10 years ago, I was taken aback by the extremely limited resources available to the secretariat. A mechanism has been put in place to support activities – and I would request all Member States for their continuous support to the trust fund.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor and Governor of Vienna for hosting the reception, and all of you for coming to the 60th anniversary of UNSCEAR.