



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



Message from Acting Executive Director Ibrahim Thiaw delivered by Jan Dusík, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP, Regional Office for Europe

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

My heartfelt congratulations to UNSCEAR on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. My apologies that I cannot be here to celebrate this occasion with you all.

Let me convey my appreciation to the Committee, the scientists and the governments who, with their expertise and support, have bolstered UNSCEAR's well-deserved reputation for impartiality and integrity. It has been earned through high quality scientific work.

Environmental issues are more prominent now on the global agenda than ever before. Yet there is a generally poor understanding of the risks and effects of radiation on the part of the general public and decision makers. UNSCEAR has made important contributions to foster better understanding on this important issue.

In particular, UNSCEAR's assessment of levels and effects of exposure following the 2011 accident at Fukushima, and its forthcoming assessment on radiation exposure resulting from electricity generation will both be useful in the ongoing debate on the energy mix.

Another example is the UNEP booklet, "Radiation: Effects and Sources", which is a layperson's guide to understanding this complex subject. I encourage you to ask your neighbours and friends to read it, since I am sure you are already well-versed in the subject!

I welcome and encourage other such initiatives, that help present information coherently and transparently to a variety of audiences. Dedicated and superior scientific effort goes into preparing the authoritative reports of the Committee, and it is critical that their findings be made known widely. I urge Member States to continue to support the UNEP trust fund, which helps the outreach work and special projects of this small, but effective office.

Policy makers and governments worldwide value the work of UNSCEAR as an important information source for underpinning policy exchanges on future energy scenarios.

I am confident that the Committee's foundation of excellence, authority and impartiality will endure and continue to provide even greater service to the international community long into the future.

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