

**Message from Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General,
World Health Organization
delivered by Dr. Maria del Rosario Perez,
Scientist, Radiation Programme**

Distinguished representatives of Governments and international organizations,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the World Health Organization it is a great pleasure for me to congratulate the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the commemoration of its 60th anniversary.

During the past six decades, UNSCEAR has been the most comprehensive and reliable source of information about the levels and effects of the exposure to ionizing radiation worldwide.

WHO has observer status with UNSCEAR from its inception in 1955, and greatly appreciates the successful longstanding cooperation in the field of radiation and health.

In 1972 the 25th World Health Assembly approved a resolution on the medical use of ionizing radiation (WHA25.57) that explicitly requested the Director-General of WHO to cooperate with UNSCEAR and other international organizations in evaluating the world situation as regards the medical use of ionizing radiation and the effects of radiation on populations.

WHO relies on the Committee's estimates as a scientific basis for evaluating radiation risks when setting norms and standards, developing evidence-based policy positions, providing guidance and identifying research priorities for protection of public, patients and workers.

WHO acknowledges the importance of UNSCEAR reports and the exchange of information that helps clarify the border between benefits and risks when it comes to exposure to radiation.

An example of our fruitful collaboration and teamwork was the reciprocal and complementary contributions for the development of UNSCEAR and WHO reports related with the Chernobyl and Fukushima-Daichi nuclear accidents. Our successful cooperation also included the evaluation of risks of the exposure to radon and other natural radiation sources as well as the assessment and communication of radiation risks in children.

Collecting dose data and trends on medical exposures and making them globally available to support decision making and resource allocation requires international cooperation. Over the last 30 years WHO and UNSCEAR have actively worked together on the evaluation of levels and trends of ionizing radiation exposure in medicine. The practical arrangements for cooperation signed in 2012 further strengthened ability to support each other's work. As a result of this, UNSCEAR and WHO are now conducting a global survey on medical radiation exposure together.

We look forward to continuing and strengthening our collaboration in the future.

I would like to end by conveying, once again, WHO's sincere congratulations to UNSCEAR on its 60th anniversary.

Thank you very much.