

UNSCEAR GLOBAL SURVEY

Web version

April 2006

QUESTIONNAIRE

Global Survey on Exposures to Natural Radiation Sources

The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) was established by the United Nations General Assembly to assess and report levels and effects of ionizing radiation. Governments and organizations throughout the world rely on its reports to provide the basis for evaluating radiation risks and for establishing protective measures. In this regard, UNSCEAR collects and analyses data, *inter alia*, on global and regional exposures to natural radiation sources. The next UNSCEAR report to the General Assembly on this subject is envisaged for the year 2007. In order to prepare this report, Member States were requested in 2001 and 2004 to consider providing data to extend the previous UNSCEAR evaluation that was issued in the year 2000.

The General Assembly in its resolution A/60/98 of 8 December 2005 has expressed “its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States”, and invited them to “increase their cooperation in this field” and to provide “further relevant data about doses [...] from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly”.

This present document is to serve both as a reminder to those Member States who have not as yet responded to the request for information, and as an opportunity for others to consider providing additional or updated data.

UNSCEAR is placing increased emphasis on identifying regions within countries where the exposures from natural background differ appreciably from the nominal mean. In the present survey, in addition to providing information on the distribution within the country of numbers of people receiving doses in various categories, the Committee would appreciate receiving (if available) the similar information for various discrete subregions of the country that can be identified. An additional form has been provided in the present survey for this purpose.

Thus, the data solicited with this Questionnaire are formulated in two parts:

Form N1	Countrywide average levels
Form N2	High background areas

Copies of these forms accompany this covering letter. Responses may be provided directly using these forms or copies of them. However, UNSCEAR would appreciate receiving responses in electronic form, where this is possible. Electronic copies of these forms can be downloaded from the UNSCEAR web-site (www.unscear.org) or requested by addressing an e-mail to:

susan.habersack@unscear.org

You may not have available all the particular details requested in these questionnaires; however, do not let this deter you from returning these forms with such partial information as you can provide. It would also be useful if you could furnish the Committee with references to (or copies of) new publications from your country dealing with this subject.

In order for data to be analysed and published in the next UNSCEAR Report, completed questionnaires must be returned to the UNSCEAR Secretariat no later than **31 July 2006**.

All contributions will be acknowledged in the report to the General Assembly.

Any bibliography, reference documents, additional papers and reports that can be enclosed in support of the data would be particularly helpful and are welcomed. Also, please feel free to add comments to your answers or to supply any other information that you consider might be of interest to the review by UNSCEAR. Please return the completed questionnaire/forms, preferably by email to:

UNSCEAR Secretariat
Vienna International Centre
Wagramerstrasse 5
P.O.Box 500
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Email: susan.habersack@unscear.org