United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

ONLINE launch of UNSCEAR Report

LEVELS AND EFFECTS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE DUE TO THE ACCIDENT AT THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER STATION:

IMPLICATIONS OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED SINCE THE UNSCEAR 2013 REPORT

Tuesday, 9 March 2021, 12–1.30 p.m. (CET)

Platform: Online/WebEx

In 2013, the Scientific Committee assessed radiation exposures of the public, workers and non-human biota that resulted from the 11 March 2011 accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan and reported its findings, including a commentary on the associated risks and effects, to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2013. A full report with scientific annexes was published by the United Nations in 2014.[1] Most of the scientific information used in the UNSCEAR report was limited to that published or disclosed by the end of October 2012.

Subsequently, a significant amount of relevant information has become available and been published, and in particular more extensive and detailed monitoring data. With time, questions were anticipated about the continuing validity of the conclusions in the UNSCEAR 2013 report. Accordingly, the Scientific Committee implemented a plan to maintain awareness of new scientific developments in the follow-up to the accident and published three white papers (2015, 2016 and 2017)[2] setting out evaluations of the implications of such developments for the period up to the end of 2016. Against this background, in 2018 the Committee decided to prepare a report summarizing all new information available up to the end of 2019 and assessing its implications for the findings of the UNSCEAR 2013 report.

The aim of this event is to present the key findings approved by the Scientific Committee at its sixty-seventh session (2–6 November 2020) with particular focus on the radiation exposures of the public and workers and their potential health implications. The event will also acknowledge the tenth anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi accident and highlight the trends and conclusions since the previous UNSCEAR 2013 Report.

The online event is aimed at scientific and diplomatic communities, decision makers and experts from United Nations Member States.

[1] https://www.unscear.org/docs/reports/2013/14-06336_Report_2013_Annex_A_Ebook_website.pdf.
[2] https://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/publications.html.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Secretary-General António Guterres video message on 10-year mark of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Opening Remarks from Ms. Gillian HIRTH, Chair, UNSCEAR

Technical Presentations on Public and Worker Exposure, and Health Implications

Questions and Answers

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To participate, kindly register in advance by Thursday, 4 March 2021, 4 p.m. (CET)

https://unov.webex.com/unov/onstage/g.php?MTID=eb4d69d04ce3a7a52a807608fc0a463e9

Questions can be posed in advance by 4 March 2021 to the UNSCEAR secretariat:

Ms. Yuko Shimizu (yuko.shimizu@un.org) and unscear@un.org

For further queries, or for help with any technical or registration issues, kindly contact:

Mr. Moritz Zimmermann (moritz.zimmermann@un.org)

SUMMARY OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Borislava Batandjieva-Metcalf has been serving as Secretary of UNSCEAR since April 2019. She has over twenty-five years of experience in radiation and nuclear safety. She began her career as an inspector with the Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and worked seven years with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) developing and supporting implementation of international safety standards on radioactive waste, decommissioning and contaminated site clean-up and remediation. After the IAEA, she worked as an independent consultant in radiation safety and licensing of radioactive waste management and new built projects before joining the European Commission as a Scientific Project Officer providing support on site radioactive waste, decommissioning and remediation safety projects in non-European Union countries. Ms Batandjieva-Metcalf continued work as a Policy Officer dealing with the European Union policy and EU law implementation in EU Member States. She represented the European Commission on the IAEA Waste Safety Standards Committee and was a Group Chair of 5th review meeting of the Joint Convention in 2015. She holds an MSc degree in nuclear and physical chemistry at the Comenius University in Bratislava and is a member of the Bulgarian Radiation Protection Society.

Ms. Gillian Hirth was elected as the Chair of UNSCEAR in its sixty-sixth session, in 2019. She is currently the Deputy CEO of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). After completing a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization, she worked for the Australian Defence Organization for seven years in the field of hazardous materials and environmental management. She moved to ARPANSA in 2010 and undertook a number of roles, including working on the UNSCEAR 2013 Report before commencing as the Director of the Monitoring and Emergency Response Section in March 2014, a position she held until August 2016 when she was appointed as Head of the Radiation Health Services Branch. Ms. Hirth is the current Australian representative on the Commission on Safety Standards of IAEA. She is also a member of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (Committee 4), and is a member of the Board of Council of the International Union of Radioecology. She holds a PhD in environmental radiochemistry at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Neale Kelly is the Project Manager of UNSCEAR's Fukushima Follow-up project. He was also the coordinating lead writer for the UNSCEAR 2013 Report on the levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the nuclear accident after the 2011 great east-Japan earthquake and tsunami and has coordinated the follow-up activities that have culminated in the publication of three White Papers (2015, 2016 and 2017) and the UNSCEAR 2020 Report. Before that he was managing the EURATOM research programme on radiation protection, and supporting the European Commission in developing cooperation projects to enhance radiation and nuclear safety. He has been a member of numerous national and international working groups and committees, including being a member of the International Advisory Committee for IAEA's Chernobyl Project, and a member of the IAEA's assessment of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. He graduated with a BSc in Physics followed by a PhD in Cosmic Ray Physics at the University of Durham in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Mikhail I. Balonov is a member of the expert group of UNSCEAR's Fukushima Follow-up project, with responsibility for public exposure doses. He is currently Chief Research Scientist at the Research Institute of Radiation Hygiene (RIRH), St. Petersburg, Russian Federation and has more than fifty years of work experience in the field of radiation protection of the public. This includes the unique experience of population protection after the nuclear accidents at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station. Included in his work experience are seven years of work (2000–2006) at IAEA as Head of the Unit for Safety of Radioactive Discharges, where he developed international safety standards and technical reports on control of environmental radioactivity, radionuclides in food and drinking water. He led for twelve years (1988–2000) the Department of Radioecology at RIRH following the Chernobyl accident. He was a member of Committee 2 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (2001–2013), and a Scientific Secretary of the United Nations Chernobyl Forum (2003–2005). He holds a Dr. Sc. in Radiobiology and Radiation Hygiene and a PhD in Biophysics.

Mr. Florian Gering is a member of the expert group of UNSCEAR's Fukushima Follow-up project and was a contributing writer to the UNSCEAR 2013 Report. Since 2003, he has been with the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS), in Munich, Germany in the field of nuclear and radiological emergency management. He is the Head of the radiological assessment group, responsible for radiological assessments in nuclear and radiological emergencies, operation and development of decision support systems and international communication (since 2011), and Deputy Head of the "Emergency Management" department. He also serves as a representative of BfS in the crisis management group of the German Commission on Radiological Protection. He is Chair of the international RODOS User Group (since 2004); Vice-Chair of the European Platform on preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery (since 2013); former member of the OECD/NEA Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters; member of the HERCA Working Group on Emergencies; and member of the World Health Organization expert panel on Fukushima (2011/2012). He studied Physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany, and holds a PhD from the Leopold-Franzens-University in Innsbruck, Austria.

Mr. George Etherington is a member of the expert group of UNSCEAR's Fukushima Follow-up project, leading the work on evaluation of worker doses. He was also involved as lead writer for UNSCEAR's Fukushima worker assessment, published in 2014. He was a Senior Scientific Group Leader of the Internal Dosimetry Group from 1990 until his retirement from Public Health England (PHE) in March 2017. He was also Head of PHE-CRCE's Dosimetry Service for assessment of internal dose and was responsible for CRCE's experimental research programme investigating the biokinetics of inhaled radionuclides in humans. He was also involved in Task Group activities of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (Committee 2) and a member of an ISO Working Group on internal dose assessment. He is also a highly experienced project manager.

Mr. Roy Shore is a member of the expert group of UNSCEAR's Fukushima Follow-up project leading the evaluation on health implications. He is a Professor Emeritus at New York University Grossman School of Medicine and formerly served as the Chief of Research at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in Hiroshima, Japan. His research interests focus on the human epidemiological effects of radiation on both cancer and non-cancer outcomes, especially at low doses and low-dose rates. He has served as a member of Committee 1 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements in the United States

and on various UNSCEAR expert groups and the United States National Academy of Sciences.