

Statement by Pakistan delegation on the Effects of Atomic Radiation in the Fourth Committee (75th UNGA)

We would like to appreciate UNSCEAR and its secretariat for continuing their activities in pursuance of the mandate even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The successful conduct of online consultancy sessions to manage the Committee's work is highly commendable.

Scientific Committee's service spanning over 6 decades is worthy of appreciation. It has made valuable contribution in promoting wider knowledge and understanding about the levels, effects and risks of atomic and ionizing radiation on human beings and our environment. It has also been providing scientific foundation to Member States for formulating international standards for protection against ionizing radiation.

Being a member of the Scientific Committee, Pakistan is fully cognizant of its important role.

Pakistan uses nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and has developed a robust national infrastructure including policies and procedures for protection of workers, and general public.

In this regard, we rely on UNSCEAR reports and IAEA standards as reference for developing our own national regulations.

Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) is an independent regulatory body which is responsible for controlling, regulating and supervising all matters related to radiation and nuclear safety in the facilities operated by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (the PAEC) and its associated organizations.

As a responsible member of the international community and in line with the findings of UNSCEAR, we have made it mandatory for all our nuclear facilities to have procedures and policies in place that ensure the safety of people and the environment. These facilities are also required to develop comprehensive environmental monitoring programmes for regular observation of radiation levels in their vicinity. Based on the experience of UNSCEAR's surveys on medical and occupations exposures, Pakistan is considering to update the format and mechanism for collection of relevant data in the country.

Pakistan looks forward to completion of ongoing evaluation of the Committee on "Biological Mechanisms for the Inference of Cancer Risk", "Levels and Effects of Radiation Exposure due to Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident" and "Medical Exposure

due to Ionizing Radiation” and believes that their findings will be very useful for updating relevant national framework for regulatory control of ionizing radiation.

We have always actively participated in the UNSCEAR sessions. Our National Contact Person designated for collection of radiation and exposure data within the county participates in both the Representative Meetings and the Annual Sessions in Vienna.

We look forward to the 67th and 68th Sessions of the Committee this month and in 2021 respectively.
