



Statement by Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Director-General of the International Organizations DG of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for the UNGA Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on Agenda item 50 «Effects of atomic radiation» (November 2020)

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine recognizes the challenges faced by the Scientific Committee in undertaking its important work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, we take note of the decision of the Bureau to postpone the sixty-seventh session from July 2020 as a consequence of the pandemic, in order to allow for the fullest participation possible under these difficult circumstances.

I use this opportunity to commend the **United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation** and its secretariat for the efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective work amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since its establishment in 1955, the UNSCEAR has been undertaking broad assessments of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment. Ukraine welcomes the substantial contribution that the Committee has been making in providing wider knowledge and understanding in this regard. Ensuring the sufficient and predictable funding, as well as efficient management of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee is a **prerequisite for continuity of its work**.

Ukraine welcomes the fact that the scope of the Committee's researches continues to evolve. We note that three new scientific evaluations – on second primary cancer after radiation therapy, epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer; and public exposure due to ionizing radiation from natural and man-made sources – have been initiated in addition to four on-going projects.

Ukraine, as an **active member** of the UNSCEAR, stands ready to actively engage with the Committee to update and consolidate some of the findings and conclusions of the Committee's assessment of the radiological consequences of the nuclear accidents.

Ukraine is ready to further contribute to the preparation and publication of the UNSCEAR's relevant documents, based on our national experience and researches on the effects of radiation on human health and the environment.

In our view, UNSCEAR should continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports. In this regard, we welcome the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation. Such information should be given due consideration, particularly in the light of Committee's findings.

Against this background, Ukraine acknowledges the attendance by several Member States as observers at the previous, 65th and 66th sessions of the Committee, as well as their planned attendance at the 67th session scheduled for November 2020 in Vienna.

At the same time, Ukraine strongly believes that the relevant decision about the adoption of an observer as a State Member of the Committee should be taken with due consideration to the principles laid out in Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter as well as the Secretary General's suggested framework of criteria and indicators for membership as included in SG Report 66/524.

Ukraine recognizes the UNSCEAR's contribution to the development of states' legislation and norms in nuclear and radiation spheres.

The Government of Ukraine supports the UNSCEAR activities, including the methodology for estimating human exposures due to radioactive discharges, studies on radiation exposures from electricity generation, biological effects of selected internal emitters. We believe that the Committee should continue to maintain its present scientific function and independent role.

Thank you, Mr.Chairperson