

**76<sup>th</sup> session of the UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Fourth Committee Joint General Debate**

**“Effects of Atomic Radiation” (Agenda Item 52)**

\*\*\*

**INDIA STATEMENT**

India values the work undertaken by United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) on the uses of radiation in various aspects of life. The efforts of the Scientific Committee are vital to enhance understanding of nuclear radiation and help to dispel the unfounded fears that were often a source of public opposition to the adoption of nuclear energy, which remains an environment friendly source of energy with the potential to improve people’s quality of life.

As a founding member of the Scientific Committee, we continue to support the work of the Scientific Committee and share our knowledge, experience and technical expertise.

India appreciates the Scientific Committee’s initiative on taking up studies on the “Epidemiological studies of radiation and cancer” and “Public exposure to ionizing radiation from natural and other sources”. The studies should collect systematic information on the health effects of low-dose radiation, in order to re-examine the “linear no-threshold” and the “adoptive response” hypothesis. Research carried out by Indian scientists over a span of four decades indicate that the natural background radiation has not led to an increase in the cancer-related morbidity or mortality among the inhabitants.

India welcomes the substantive scientific reports adopted by the Scientific Committee during its 67<sup>th</sup> session and the 68<sup>th</sup> session. Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 Pandemic, these sessions were successfully conducted online under the able Chairmanship of Australia.

We appreciate that during the June Session, which also marked the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scientific Committee, it has been agreed to initiate a new evaluation on diseases of the circulatory system from radiation exposure this year, to be completed in 2025. We also welcome the appointment of Deputy Secretary for UNSCEAR in August 2021.

India supports the proposal to increase the Scientific Committee membership, purely based on scientific potential and contribution to the Committee. This would also reflect the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the Committee.

Madam Chair,

I will conclude by reaffirming India's continued support for the various programmes of Scientific Committee. India has participated in all Committee meetings constructively and will continue to do so in future as well. India stands ready to share with other member states, the knowledge gained on effects and risks of ionising radiation from its own experience and contribute to the discussions on the various issues that come up for consideration of the Committee.

I thank you.

\*\*\*