

India Statement on “Effects of Atomic Radiation” (Agenda Item 50)
at the
Fourth Committee Joint General debate
of the
75th session of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Chairperson,

India appreciates the efforts taken by United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), since its inception to understand effects and risk of exposure to ionising radiation and instilling confidence in the public with respect to uses of radiation in various aspects of life.

India welcomes the appointment of Scientific Secretary and also the establishment of the post of Deputy Secretary with the belief that it will contribute towards effective functioning of the Scientific Committee. India hopes that the recruitment of the Deputy Secretary will be completed soon. We assure our technical cooperation for the work of the Scientific Committee by way of extending technical expertise.

We welcome the launch of the UNSCEAR Newsletter in February 2020. We are confident that it will help in disseminating information about the work of the Committee to Member States, policy and decision makers, the public and other relevant organizations.

India appreciates the two substantive scientific reports adopted by the Scientific Committee during its sixty-sixth session in 2019, under the able Chairmanship of Australia, on health effects and inference of risk due to radiation exposure and on lung cancer from exposure to radon. The reports will help to revisit the existing guidelines for the radiation protection program.

Mr. Chairperson,

We take note of the UNSCEAR Bureau’s decision to postpone the holding of the sixty-seventh session due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to hold it as a formal online meeting from November 2-6, 2020. In this regard, we welcome the Chair’s efforts to report on the inter-sessional activities through a note and an oral report to the General Assembly.

India would like to state that there is a growing body of researchers, who based on experimental and epidemiological evidence, does not support the Linear No Threshold (LNT) model of estimating health effects at low doses. In this regard, India reemphasises its earlier stand of integrated study of radiobiology and epidemiology at international level in order to collect more systematic information about health effects of low dose radiation and revisiting LNT hypothesis and its application.

India encourages the enrolment of new members and their active participation in scientific committee, as application of radiation is touching every aspects of human life across the globe.

India assures its continued support for the various programmes of UNSCEAR including through participation in its meetings. India stands ready to share with other member states, the knowledge gained on effects and risks of ionising radiation from its own experience and engage constructively on the various issues that come up for consideration of the Committee.

Mr. Chairperson,

India would once again like to commend UNSCEAR for its efforts to provide scientific foundation for all the aspects related to atomic radiation.

Thank you.
