

**FOR DECISION****FIFTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA****Report of the Director-General****Second Supplementary Report:  
International Basic Safety Standards for  
Protection against Ionizing Radiation and  
for the Safety of Radiation Sources**

1. At its 261st (November 1994) Session, the Committee on Sectoral and Technical Meetings and Related Issues of the Governing Body was informed of the process which led to the elaboration of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS), jointly sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>1</sup> The Committee recommended that the Governing Body approve publication of the Standards, which it did on 17 November 1994.\*
2. The IAEA's Board of Governors approved the Standards on 12 September 1994. They were endorsed by PAHO on 28 September 1994. The Director-General of the FAO confirmed the FAO's technical endorsement of the Standards on 14 November 1994. The WHO completed its adoption process on 27 January 1995 and the Steering Committee of the OECD/NEA approved the Standards on 2 May 1995. After having completed this process of authorization, the Standards were published by the IAEA in 1996 (BSS – 1996 edition), Safety Series No. 115.
3. Since then all the sponsoring organizations have worked in their own field of competence and jointly to assist member States in the implementation of the requirements of the Standards. The ILO has focused on occupational radiation protection and the promotion of the active involvement of employers, workers and their respective organizations. For the purpose of avoiding duplication of effort, providing uniform guidance and allowing an effective use of resources, the ILO has centred its radiation protection activities on cooperation with the IAEA and other international organizations aiming at the elaboration of a number of publications relevant to the radiation protection of workers.

<sup>1</sup> GB.261/STM/14/13 (Nov. 1994).

\* Reference: GB.261/8/26.

- 4.** An “International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection: Protecting Workers against Exposure to Ionizing Radiation” took place at ILO headquarters from 26 to 30 August 2002. It was hosted by the Government of Switzerland, organized by the IAEA and convened jointly with the ILO. It was co-sponsored by the European Commission and was held with the cooperation of the WHO, OECD, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) and the International Society of Radiology. The International Conference was attended by 324 participants from 70 countries and 13 organizations.<sup>2</sup> Its recommendations highlighted the cooperation between the IAEA and the ILO, suggested the formulation and implementation of an international action plan for occupational radiation protection and referred specifically to the ILO Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115).
- 5.** Following the findings and the recommendations of this first International Conference, the IAEA General Conference in September 2002 made a request for the Agency’s Director-General to look into the possibility of IAEA cooperation with the ILO and other relevant bodies on formulating and implementing, subject to the availability of resources, an international action plan for occupational radiation protection.<sup>3</sup> A draft international action plan was elaborated and adopted by the General Conference of the IAEA in 2003.<sup>4</sup> The Action Plan for Occupational Radiation Protection places the ILO Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115), in focus and refers in this connection to the safety requirements on occupational exposure contained in the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and the Safety of Radiation Sources (BSS – 1996 edition). This remark is particularly relevant in view of the references to “knowledge available at the time” and “current knowledge”, included in Article 3, paragraph 1, and Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 (No. 115). To facilitate the implementation of the international action plan, a steering committee was established consisting of representatives of member States, the European Community (EC), IAEA, ICFTU, ILO, IOE and WHO. The IAEA General Conferences in 2004 and 2006 twice welcomed the implementation of the action plan and encouraged the Agency and the ILO secretariat to continue their productive cooperation.<sup>5</sup>
- 6.** Ten years have passed since the publication of the Standards (BSS – 1996 edition), and in 2005 the IAEA General Conference encouraged the Agency secretariat to undertake a review of them.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, a thorough review has been conducted by the IAEA with the participation of the co-sponsors and other international organizations which might co-sponsor the revised the BSS and has come to the conclusion that, while no single issue creates a compelling need to revise the BSS, there is a case to be made for revision to deal with the many improvements that have been suggested. A secretariat has been established, addressing the September 2006 IAEA General Conference Resolution<sup>7</sup> “... that the

<sup>2</sup> IAEA – Board of Governors/General Conference: GOV/2002/35 Add.2 – GC(46)/11/Add.2, 6 Sep. 2002.

<sup>3</sup> IAEA General Conference Resolution: GC(46)/RES/9, para. 17, Sep. 2002.

<sup>4</sup> IAEA Board of Governors /General Conference: GOV/2003/47 – GC(47)/7, 4 Aug. 2003.

<sup>5</sup> IAEA General Conference Resolutions: GC(48)/RES/10, para. 20, and GC(50)/RES/10, para. 31.

<sup>6</sup> IAEA General Conference Resolution: GC(49)/RES/9, para. 10.

<sup>7</sup> IAEA General Conference Resolution: GC(50)/RES/10, para. 16.

revision of the BSS is to be co-ordinated by a secretariat established by the Agency with the participation of the co-sponsors, and urges that secretariat to carefully consider and justify potential changes, taking into account their implications for national regulations”.

7. The IAEA is to start the drafting process to revise the Standards (BSS – 1996 edition) and invites all the current and potential (EC and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) co-sponsors to participate. The intention is to proceed as with the elaboration of the current Standards (BSS – 1996 edition). This would include:
  - (i) development of the draft standards through ad hoc drafting working meetings and technical committee meetings in 2007 and 2008;
  - (ii) review and approval by the IAEA Safety Standards Committees;
  - (iii) revision of the draft, taking into account the comments by member States, representatives of employers and workers, co-sponsoring organizations and other stakeholder organizations;
  - (iv) appointment of experts nominated after consultations with the Employers’ and Workers’ groups of the Governing Body to participate in the technical committee meetings alongside the Office;
  - (v) approval by the IAEA Safety Standards Committees and by the IAEA Board of Governors;
  - (vi) approval or endorsement by the other co-sponsoring organizations; and
  - (vii) approval of the publication of the revised Standards by the ILO Governing Body.
8. Direct involvement of employers’ and workers’ organizations alongside governments in the revision of the Standards is very important. The Office will work with the IAEA and other co-sponsoring organizations to extend invitations to the international employers’ and workers’ organizations having consultative status with the ILO, as well as to the International Social Security Association (ISSA), so that they can be represented at the technical committee meetings.
9. ***The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information included in this paper and invite the Employers’ and Workers’ groups of the ILO Governing Body to appoint one expert and one alternative each for participation in the technical committee meetings which are tasked with revising the BSS.***

Geneva, 31 January 2007.

*Point for decision:* Paragraph 9.