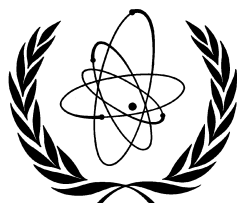


Remarks at
Senior Regulators' Meeting
09:00 AM, Thursday 20 September 2018
Room C3, seventh floor, C Building

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Department of Nuclear Safety and Security



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues, good morning!

Welcome to the annual Senior Regulators' Meeting on the margins of the IAEA General Conference. The exchange of information and experience on regulatory, policy and technical issues that will be conducted here helps strengthen nuclear safety and security.

Nuclear safety and security are national responsibilities. But countries recognise the importance of international cooperation in these areas. The Agency is where most of that cooperation takes place.

The Agency's safety standards and security guidance are a solid basis for this cooperation, as they are based on global knowledge and experience. I encourage all Member States to ensure broad application of these documents. Wide implementation is a must for the documents to live up to their potential of strengthening nuclear safety and security.

A high level of nuclear safety and security is possible only when regulators are strong and independent and operate under a robust legal framework. This requires regulatory bodies to be sufficiently financed and staffed with well-trained professionals. The IAEA offers valuable resources to help Member States achieve this. I encourage you to use them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Safety measures and security measures both aim to protect human life and health, and the environment. In many countries, the same regulator is responsible for both nuclear safety and nuclear security. But regardless whether this is the case, the officials responsible for each area must cooperate. There can be cases in which measures intended to strengthen safety could have a negative effect on security, or vice versa. The risk for this is reduced through effective cooperation between safety and security communities. Such cooperation also helps all see the many ways in which the two strengthen each other.

In all things nuclear and radiation, safety and security always come first.

This is a principle reinforced by regulators. You are crucial for your countries' continuing work to improve nuclear safety and nuclear security.

The Agency's resources are also important for this work. Our documents, peer review and advisory services, and education and training all aim to support countries as they work to fulfil their responsibility for nuclear safety and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is part of the Agency's work to enable countries to share experiences and best practices.

We will have two sessions today. This morning will be dedicated to an emerging challenge: occupational radiation protection in veterinary medicine. ARPANSA's Chief Radiation Health Scientist and Deputy Chief Executive Officer Gillian Hirth will chair the session.

In the afternoon, we will discuss the role of the regulator in the national framework for preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies. There are many different solutions in this field. Discussing challenges, lessons learned and good practices will enable all of us to learn from each other. The Chairperson of the Czech State Office for Nuclear Safety, Dana Drábová, will chair the session.

I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you.