

ICRP Committee 4 Meeting

November 6 and 10, 2023 – Tokyo, Japan

The Committee 4 (C4) annual meeting was held over two days in conjunction with the ICRP2023 Symposium. The agenda covered the Committee's entire programme of work, as well as interactions with Committees 1 and 3, no urgent questions having been identified with Committee 2. Discussion focused on essential items, thanks to the preparation conducted at the C4 summer meeting held virtually on 19 and 21 September 2023.

Finalising Task Group reports for updated recommendations on various building blocks

Committee 4 is finalising specific recommendations outcoming from three Task Groups that are nearing completion: (1) **TG97 on "Radiological Protection in Surface and Near-Surface Disposal of Solid Radioactive Waste"**, which report has just been approved for publication in 2024; (2) **TG98 on "Radiological Protection in the Management of Exposure in Areas Contaminated by Past Activities"**, which is consolidating its report after pre-consultation with the OECD NEA, the IAEA, and the EC, with a view to publication in early 2025; (3) **C3-C4 TG109 on "Ethics in Radiological Protection for Medical Diagnosis and Treatment"**, also approved for publication in 2024.

Organising interaction between TGs seems now essential, as shown by the cluster of TGs addressing environmental radiological protection: namely **TG99 on "Reference Animals and Plants (RAPs) Monographs"**, **TG105 on "Considering the Environment when Applying the System of Radiological Protection"**, **TG125 on "Ecosystems Services in Environmental RP"**, and part of **TG114 on "Application of Tolerability and Reasonableness in the System of Radiological Protection"**. The mechanism in place ensures the overall coherence and appropriate timing of the work in this field. Their respective publications are planned for 2025-2026, with an open event in autumn 2024. **TG106 on "Application of the Commission's Recommendations to Activities involving Mobile High Activity Sources"** and **TG120 on "Radiological Protection for Radiation Emergencies and Malicious Events"** will provide practical recommendations for application of the system in 2025-2026.

Other newly established TGs address priorities related to the application of the System: (1) **TG124 on application of the principle of justification**; (2) **TG127 on exposure situations and categories of exposure**, (3) **C1-C4 TG123 on "individualisation/stratification of radiological protection"** and (4) **all committees TG128 "individualisation/stratification in radiological protection: Implications and areas of Application"**. These TGs will provide in 2026-2027 most of the essential elements to support the forthcoming recommendations. C4 will form a **TG128 shadow group** to organise the C4 work and comments and liaise with the TG.

Reflecting on missing elements for the next set of recommendations, including policy impact assessment of the potential changes

Committee 4 has proposed to establish **a working party (WP) on "Artificial Intelligence in Radiological Protection"**. The WP aims to anticipate what the impacts of the AI tools/application could be on RP application, practice and operations. Its tasks will be to monitor and understand the advances of AI in RP, integrate AI experts from the industry and RP practitioners, consider ethical implications, formulate a draft policy ensuring alignment with ICRP values, and plan a dedicated event in the near future.

C4 also agreed with C3 to explore more in depth **"Ethics in practice"**, either generically or per application field.

C4 also interacted with the Special Liaison Organisations (SLOs) represented on the Committee to discuss further synergies. Candidate topics for exchange are: **demonstration of sustainability and how to contribute to the UN SDGs with the application of the RP system**, anticipating a **Policy Impact Assessment** of the changes potentially introduced as the results of the revision of the ICRP general recommendations, and preparing the needed elements in advance.

One virtual C4 meeting is planned for the second half of May or early June 2024. The annual face-to-face meeting will be hosted in Iwaki, Japan, by F-REI on 22-24 November 2024, preceded by a field visit on the 21st and a symposium with Japanese organisations and stakeholders on 25 November 2024.