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ICRP Committee 4 Meeting 15-19 November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

Committee 4 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) met in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 19 November 2010. The meeting was hosted by the World Health Organization headquarters (WHO) which is an official observer organisation to ICRP Committees. ICRP and WHO have a long history of fruitful cooperation in topics related to radiation protection and public health.

Besides reviewing its current programme of work, the Committee devoted significant time to further clarifying how the basic radiation protection principles and the dose criteria recommended in the new recommendations of the Commission apply to protection of the public and workers according to the three exposure situations defined in Publication 103, i.e. planned, existing and emergency exposure situations.

The Committee reviewed several draft reports under preparation:

- Protection against enhanced exposure from industrial processes using NORM, prepared by Task Group 76 chaired by Peter Burns (Australia)
- Protection in disposal of long lived solid radioactive waste prepared by Task Group 80 chaired by Wolfgang Weiss (Germany)
- Protection against radon exposure prepared by Task Group 81 chaired by Jean-François Lecomte (France)
- The ICRP approach to integrate human and environmental protection prepared by the joint Committee 4 Committee 5 Task Group 82 co-chaired by Jan Pentreath (UK) and Jacques Lochard (France)

The Committee also discussed the general orientation to be given to Task Group 71 on protection in security screening chaired by Don Cool (USA), for which terms of reference have recently been revised by the Main Commission, as well as the newly created Task Group 83 on the protection of aircraft crew from cosmic radiation exposure chaired by Jacques Lochard (France).

Acting as a key point of contact with other international and professional organisations concerned with protection against ionising radiation, the Committee also considered working mechanisms to improve in practice its cooperation with these organisations.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, from 24 to 28 October 2011 at the occasion of the general meeting of the Main Commission with its 5 Committees.