

ICRP Committee 4 Meeting (October 3-5, 2025 – Abu Dhabi, UAE)

Introduction

The annual meeting of Committee 4 (C4) took place over two and half days in Abu Dhabi, supported by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR). It was organised in conjunction with the 8th Symposium on the System of Radiological Protection. The agenda covered the full C4 programme of work, with a particular focus on its development in the context of the review and revision of the next ICRP general recommendations.

Ongoing Task Groups (TG) activities

C4 continues its robust programme of work, welcoming new members for the new term. Notable completed TG work in 2025 with forthcoming publication includes *TG97: Application of the Commission's Recommendations for Surface and Near Surface Disposal of Solid Radioactive Waste* and *TG98: Radiological Protection in the Management of Exposure in Areas Contaminated by Past Activities*. The comments received during the public consultation this summer for *TG99: Reference Animals and Plants monographs* were integrated and discussed in the perspective of seeking approval. In cooperation with TG99/TG125, *TG105: Considering the Environment when Applying the System of Radiological Protection* is developing case studies with a dedicated C4 meeting planned at the beginning to 2026 to review current work. *TG106: Application of the Commission's Recommendations to Activities involving Mobile High Activity Sources* has made significant progress in developing the draft report and is planning a workshop for 2026. *TG114: Reasonableness and Tolerability in the System of Radiological Protection* continues to develop their draft report, addressing challenging issues (e.g., management of very low doses including topics such as trivial risk, clearance) and continues to publish in the literature. *TG120: Radiological Protection for Radiation Emergencies and Malicious Events* made strides finalizing their draft report by progressing with C4 critical review. A joint workshop envisioned is with NEA-DSA in Oslo (late 2026). *TG123: Classification of Harmful Radiation-induced Effects on Human Health for Radiological Protection Purposes* is currently reviewing collected information and will consider proposing changes to the classification of effects. *TG124: Application of the principle of justification* is exploring the feasibility of introducing a 3-tiered approach to justification for specific exposure situations as is currently done in medicine, for non-medical applications. TG124 will endeavour to better articulate the qualification and quantification of both justification and optimisation. *TG125: Ecosystem services in environmental radiological protection* has made significant progress in the preparation of the report. TG125 has introduced discussion on the nature of the anthropocentric approach which will serve as a bridge between protection of humans, the environment and support Sustainable Development. *TG127: Exposure situations and categories of exposure* continues to develop the draft report and is interacting with other TGs and the MC on the meaning of radiological criteria, the environment as a stand-alone category, clarification of the definition of occupational exposure, and how to practically apply the principle of justification and optimization. *TG128: Individualisation and stratification approaches in radiological protection* has held numerous technical discussions to inform the report outline, with drafting beginning recently. *TG129: Ethics in practice*, envisions an in-person meeting in conjunction with the workshop on environmental ethics (Sept 2026). In addition to TG work, C4 also has several productive working parties (WP). The *Working Party on Artificial Intelligence (AI)* has prepared guidance for ICRP on use of AI, for MC approval. The WP has also made significant progress developing a literature review, a survey on the use of AI, are planning a workshop in 2026. A new *WP on Environmental RP* was created and will coordinate with TG99/105/125 for contributing to the discussion on the primary aim of the system. The *WP on Sustainable Development* has proposed a ToR to be discussed by MC, will contribute to the technical meeting organized by the IAEA (Dec, 2025), and seek to clarify the interaction with SLOs.

Other key priorities for the next set of general recommendations

C4 will continue cross-Committee and cross-TG collaborations, international engagements, and participate in relevant workshops, ensuring their alignment with evolving ICRP recommendations and global needs. Key priorities for the coming years include close interactions between *TG114*, *TG124*, *TG127*, and *TG128*, as well as the link between the environmental groups (*TG99*, *TG105*, *TG125*, *WP on ERP*, *WP on SD*). On the horizon for C4 is a WP on the concept of dose limits which will be discussed during the MC meeting, application of the system of RP in Space through establishment of a TG or WP (based on the outcomes of *TG115: Risk and Dose Assessment for Radiological Protection of Astronauts*), and preliminary reflections on the application of the system of RP for emerging technologies. Transversal topics to be considered include updating definitions and the glossary, as well as coordination of TGs on fundamental concepts. Cross-cutting issues related to management of uncertainties, education and training, and communication through dialogue with stakeholders remain important topics for C4.

Two virtual C4 meetings are envisioned (Spring 2026, Fall 2026), with a dedicated meeting for TG105 tentatively scheduled (Winter, 2026). An in-person C4 meeting is tentatively scheduled (Dec 2026).