



United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

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Mr President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank UN-HABITAT for the invitation to address this important Assembly. It provides an opportunity where both UN organizations can learn from each other and explore areas for collaboration in building a sustainable urban future in times of global crises.

UNSCEAR has been implementing its General Assembly mandate for over 67 years¹, undertaking scientific evaluation of sources, levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation to human health and to the environment. These evaluations provide an independent, objective and up-to-date scientific basis for radiation safety worldwide².

The evaluations cover radiation effects to the public, workers and the environment from both normal and accidental situations.³ Through its work, UNSCEAR can further contribute to implementation of the new Urban Agenda in the areas of safe housing, urban energy, water and sanitation, more specifically:

- a. Radon in homes, schools and workplaces – with the 2019 Report on lung cancer from exposure to radon⁴ and ongoing evaluations on epidemiological studies of radiation;
- b. Reducing disaster risks – with the studies on exposure of the public and workers arising from the Fukushima and Chernobyl accidents⁵,
- c. Promoting safe drinking water and food, and waste disposal by way of the ongoing evaluation of public exposure, that includes radioactivity in food, drinking water, building materials and radioactive waste disposal⁶;
- d. Promoting health care – through the 2020/2021 evaluations on medical⁷ and occupational exposures⁸ to ionizing radiation and future data collection in these fields, in particular in lower middle-income and low-income countries;

¹ Resolution 913(X) of 1955

² www.unscear.org

³ They deliver to four UN Sustainable Development Goals; (a) healthy lives and well-being for all ages, (b) conservation and sustainable use of the seas and marine resources, (c) protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and (d) strengthening and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

⁴ [UNSCEAR 2019 Annex-B.pdf](#)

⁵ [Levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the accident at the Fukushima ... \(unscear.org\)](#)

⁶ Report to the General Assembly A/77/48 (see [General Assembly \(unscear.org\)](#))

⁷ [Evaluation of medical exposure to ionizing radiation \(unscear.org\)](#)

⁸ [Evaluation of occupational exposure to ionizing radiation \(unscear.org\)](#)



- e. Sustainable management of hazardous materials – through the 2016 evaluation of radiation exposures from electricity generation⁹ and ongoing evaluation of public exposure from industries using naturally occurring radioactive materials.

In order to fulfil its mandate, the Committee relies on data and expertise from all Member States. To date 53 out of 104 nominating Member States have participated in UNSCEAR's survey on public exposure, to be completed in July 2023 and with your support and UN-HABITAT collaboration we could reach out to the remaining countries and less represented regions in this way contribute to the building of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

Thank you very much for your attention.

⁹ [UNSCEAR 2016 Annex-B-CORR](#) (including coal, natural gas, oil and nuclear power)