



INDIA
भारत

73rd UNGA

Fourth Committee

Agenda 52

Effects of Atomic Radiation

INDIA STATEMENT

By

Mr. Deepak Misra, Minister

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, India would like to place on record its appreciation for the efforts put in by UN Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) to issues concerning effects of atomic radiation.

As India has previously stated, presumption of harm at all dose levels, however small, on the basis of 'Linear-No-Threshold hypothesis (LNT)' has generated some concern and fear of radiation among public and scientific community alike, even at levels comparable to natural background radiation. India would like to emphasize that there is a growing body of experimental and epidemiological evidence that does not support the LNT model of estimating health effects at low doses. This includes evidence from studies conducted by the Indian scientists in High Level Natural Background Radiation Areas (HNLRA) of south coast of India.

India is in favour of integrated studies of radiobiology and epidemiology at international level in order to collect more systematic information about health effects of low dose radiation and re-examine at LNT hypothesis.

India also wants to stress that the fear of risk due to exposure to low level radiation should not influence medical practitioners and patients to defer any justified medical examination involving small level of exposures to radiation. In the absence of clear scientific evidence, concerns over risks related to medical imaging procedures conducted with small doses, should be moderated.

Mr. Chairman,

Underlining another issue of importance, India urges UN Environmental Program to take proactive steps for timely appointment of Secretary, UNSCEAR. India welcomes that UNSCEAR has decided to review a possible

increase in the membership of scientific committee, which will enhance the United Nations regional networks in Asia and Africa.

India is of the opinion that the risk evaluation of radiation exposure by experts strongly influences the risk perception of the public. In this regard, India would once again like to commend UNSCEAR for its committed efforts to provide scientific foundation for all aspects related to atomic radiation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman!