

# ICRP CODE OF ETHICS

*Approved by the Main Commission on 2014 April 10*

ICRP is a charity registered in the United Kingdom established to provide independent recommendations and guidance on radiological protection for the public benefit. Its objective is to contribute to an appropriate level of protection against detrimental effects of ionising radiation exposure without unduly limiting the benefits associated with the use of radiation.

In developing its recommendations and guidance, ICRP considers advances in scientific knowledge, evolving social values, and practical experience. Its members are expected to be knowledgeable and experienced in one or more of the relevant subject areas and specialised fields of application and control of radiation in order to contribute to ICRP's objective. Members are also expected to discharge their responsibilities in accordance with high ethical standards. The basic elements of the ethical framework are outlined in this CODE OF ETHICS.

## **Committed to public benefit**

*ICRP acts to protect humans and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation*

Being committed to public benefit involves:

- Giving priority to protecting individuals, population groups, and the environment against harmful effects of radiation, while not unduly limiting the beneficial use of radiation
- Preserving the values associated with being a charity<sup>1</sup> and taking into account human rights, equity, vulnerable populations, and the environment in the development of recommendations and guidance
- Developing and updating recommendations and guidance in the light of most recent advances in our knowledge of radiation risks to humans and to the environment, and in application and control of radiation

## **Independent**

*ICRP acts independently of governments and organisations, including industry and other users of radiation*

Being independent involves:

- Relying primarily on its volunteer members to carry out the work required to develop recommendations and guidance on radiological protection
- Declining financial contributions that could imply a conflict of interest

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<sup>1</sup> See The essential trustee – what you need to know (CC3). UK Charity Commission.

## **Impartial**

*ICRP acts impartially in its development of recommendations and guidance*

Being impartial involves:

- Commitment of all members to work with honesty and integrity in the interest of radiological protection of humans and the environment, and not favour any commercial, personal or vested interests
- Declaration by all members of any affiliations or other factors that may give rise to conflict of interest when developing recommendations and guidance and, for members of the Main Commission, when acting as trustees
- Striving for a balanced membership with regard to gender, ethnicity, geographic origin, discipline, and experience to prevent bias in views and judgements

## **Transparent**

*ICRP engages stakeholders and strives to be transparent in its actions and judgements*

Being transparent involves:

- Maintaining an open and respectful dialogue with all stakeholders and working with them to promote radiological protection for the public benefit
- Conducting public consultations on recommendations and guidance prior to publication
- Accepting nominations for committee membership from external parties and selecting members on the basis of publically available criteria

## **Accountable**

*ICRP is accountable to the framework that governs the activities of a charity*

Being accountable involves:

- Acting responsibly and in accordance with the high standards expected of members of ICRP and, for members of the Main Commission, as trustees of the charity
- Managing financial resources and assets in accordance with good accounting principles
- Publicly reporting activities, finances, assets, and affiliations of Main Commission members in annual reports