

The Ethical Foundations of the Radiological Protection System

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The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has established Task Group 94 under Committee 4 to develop a report on the ethical foundations of the system of radiological protection. The report is to consolidate the basis of ICRP recommendations, to improve the understanding of the system, and to provide a basis for communication on radiation risk and its perception. Through large series of workshops organised by the Commission in cooperation with the International Radiation Protection Association and its Associate Societies involving radiation protection professionals and specialists of ethics around the world, Task Group 94 has identified the key ethical and social values underpinning the system of radiological protection. The purpose of eliciting the ethical principles and values of radiological protection system is not only to clarify the rationale for recommendations made by the Commission, but also to assist in discussions related to its practical implementation. A clear understanding of the ethical principles will help to resolve dilemmas caused by potential conflicts in actions that might be considered, or decisions that must be made. Task Group 94 is developing case studies for various radiological protection practices such as medical, worker and nuclear safety, waste management, accidents, and environmental protection.