

## **Radiation protection and safety of radiation sources: International Basic Safety Standards**

### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. WHO has contributed to the development of a robust framework of internationally agreed norms and standards for safe and effective use of radiation and has cosponsored the last two editions of the International Basic Safety Standards. The standards are published by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In late 2011, they were revised, WHO being responsible for the technical content of the safety requirements concerning radiation and health.

2. The IAEA's Board of Governors approved the revised International Basic Safety Standards in September 2011 and issued them as an interim edition *Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards* in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.<sup>1</sup> IAEA will publish the revised standards on behalf of the sponsoring United Nations organizations (FAO, IAEA, ILO, PAHO, WHO and UNEP) and two intergovernmental organizations (OECD/NEA and the European Union) once they have been adopted, approved, endorsed or noted, as appropriate, by the sponsoring organizations.

3. The International Basic Safety Standards are intended for use by Member States as a practical guide for the responsible authorities on the establishment of regulations and operational criteria and should be adapted to the local situation. However, the Standards are not intended to replace existing national laws or regulations.

### **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

4. The Board is invited to note the revised International Basic Safety Standards. This will accomplish the necessary action by WHO as a sponsor, on the basis of which the Director-General will inform the IAEA.

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<sup>1</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency, *Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources: International Basic Safety Standards*, IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 3 (Interim), IAEA, Vienna, 2011. The International Basic Safety Standards discussed in the present report are presented as a Safety Requirements publication, which is promulgated in the general safety requirements (GSR) category, within the IAEA Safety Standards Series. The publication is available at <http://www-pub.iaea.org/books/iaeabooks/8736/Radiation-Protection-and-Safety-of-Radiation-Sources-International-Basic-Safety-Standards-Interim-Edition> (accessed 4 May 2012). The printed book is available in English only. The companion CD includes translations of the text into Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish.