

accident cases and aim to limit radiation resulting from them to one milli-sievert per year - a goal taken directly from the present thinking of the ICRP. Such an approach takes us beyond the difficult debate of the relative merits of one method or the other for coping with accidents and focusses the Committee's attention where we believe it should be - on developing guidelines that protect the earth's citizens. It has the additional advantage of allowing designers to find the best solutions relevant to their particular system.

We offer this approach in the sincere hope that it can lead us out of previous impasses. It is not too technical, and it achieves a balance between flexibility on the one hand and workable, effective safety criteria on the other. It allows users of nuclear power sources to find their own effective measures to achieve certain defined levels of safety, and it ensures that designers are not able to completely ignore the consequences of accident situations. Finally, it precludes the planned disposal of nuclear power sources through uncontrolled re-entry of these space objects to earth. We look forward to working with other delegations to achieve consensus on the issue.

In meetings of the Sub-committees in the past year, the growing problem of space debris has been raised by many delegations as a source of concern to many delegations. This explains why, Canada, along with Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Nigeria, the Netherlands and Sweden have proposed to add their issue as an agenda item for the Scientific and Technical Sub-committee. We also look forward to further discussing the issue in the year to come.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we pledge our continuous support to the work of the Committee and hope that laws and institutions will adapt to meet the growing challenge of the peaceful use of outer space.