



Meeting on the International Systems of Ionizing and Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection: A Commitment to Collaborate

Munich, Germany, 26 - 28 June 2023

Participating organizations: The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The systems of radiation protection (RP) for ionizing and non-ionizing radiation are developed by ICRP and ICNIRP, respectively. Both aim to protect people and the environment from potentially harmful effects of exposure to radiation, while recognizing the benefits associated with some of these exposures.

Building on previous interactions and the 2017 meeting¹, WHO organized a joint meeting with ICNIRP, ICRP, ILO and IRPA in Munich, Germany, from 26 to 28 June 2023. The objectives were to increase mutual understanding of the approaches and systems of RP, and to explore possibilities for continued collaboration.

Over three days, the organizations exchanged information and views on the:

- scientific bases underpinning the RP systems,
- similarities in dealing with threshold and non-threshold effects,
- impact of scientific uncertainties,
- role of ethical values in RP,
- application of principles of protection,
- communication approaches,
- further development of the RP systems, and
- connection with United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

As ionizing and non-ionizing RP share significant common ground, ICRP and ICNIRP have reached an agreement to enhance collaboration between them and with other organisations representing similar interests. The focus is on opportunities to strengthen specific projects, share knowledge and lessons learned, in particular:

¹ Statement: Meeting on the International Systems of Radiation Protection: Bringing together Protection against Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation, November 8-10, 2017: <https://irpa.net/docs/IRPA%20ICRP-ICNIRP%202017%20Meeting%20Statement.pdf>

- increase networking through common meetings, including joint sessions at international conferences,
- participate in each other's activities through observer/representative status, and
- develop joint documents that address areas of common interest for both systems of protection.