

IRPA 12

Stakeholder Engagement in Decision  
Aiding in Radiological Protection –  
IRPA Guiding Principles

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# Why do we need principles? IRPA 12

## The professional reason:

- Involving stakeholders **appropriately** whether they be other professionals or artisans like doctors, engineers, technicians and ecologists, or the workers, local community or general public, should be an integral part of the radiological protection processes of justification and optimisation.
- Justification is about weighing up benefits against costs; in things that effect peoples lives, their health, their wealth and their well-being, or their environment, why not involve them.
- Optimisation is about weighing up options. Where these options affect people or their environment, why not involve them.
- Attention to both of these fundamental principles of RP in the context of stakeholder involvement leads to solutions which are more widely agreed and owned and are therefore more sustainable.

# Why adopt this set of principles? IRPA 12

- Not the output from academic studies or a wish list draw up by idealists, they represent the distillation of a huge amount of real life experience and lessons learnt the hard way
- Fought over and debated by a representative group of your fellow RP professionals
- validated by actual non-RP stakeholders and with reference to authoritative research.

# What is being asked of me? IRPA 12

These guiding principles are intended to **aid members of IRPA Associate Societies in promoting** the participation of all relevant parties in the process of reaching decisions involving radiological protection which may impact on the well being and quality of life of workers and members of the public, and on the environment. **In promoting this approach,** radiological protection professionals will **aim to** develop trust and credibility throughout the decision making process in order to improve the sustainability of any final decisions. You are asked to endeavour to make them a day to day reality.

# What are these principles?

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- 1. Identify opportunities for engagement and ensure the level of engagement is proportionate to the nature of the radiation protection issues and their context.**
- 2. Initiate the process as early as possible, and develop a sustainable implementation plan.**
- 3. Enable an open, inclusive and transparent stakeholder engagement process.**
- 4. Seek out and involve relevant stakeholders and experts.**
- 5. Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all participants, and the rules for cooperation are clearly defined.**

(continued)

# **What are these principles? IRPA 12**

- 6. Collectively develop objectives for the stakeholder engagement process, based on a shared understanding of issues and boundaries.**
- 7. Develop a culture which values a shared language and understanding, and favours collective learning.**
- 8. Respect and value the expression of different perspectives.**
- 9. Ensure a regular feedback mechanism is in place to inform and improve current and future stakeholder engagement processes.**
- 10. Apply the IRPA Code of Ethics in their actions within these processes to the best of their knowledge**

# So what comes next?

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- Final tidying up, will then be posted on the IRPA website
- Period of bedding in these principles
- Extra explanatory guidance, publication of case studies, sharing of experience and lessons, training and development, dialogue with others involved in wider stakeholder dialogue and public participatory processes and practices
- You as professionals to embrace stakeholder involvement; to enthuse about it, **endeavour** to practice it for real, to embed in your approach and to promote it to others
- A working document, to be refined and improved in the light of growing experience.

# Acknowledgements

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# Parting Thought

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And please consider that;

**No professional however  
specialist their area or however  
expert they are, can be or should  
be an island.**

Thank you for your attention.