



# International Radiation Protection Association

To all IRPA Associate Societies

21 May 2020

Dear Associate Society Colleagues ,

## **Consultation on a draft 'IRPA Statement on Reasonableness in Optimisation of Protection'**

I am sure that we all agree that optimisation of protection, the second fundamental principle of radiation protection, is a dominant force in our day to day application of the practice of protection. It is also clear that the judgements associated with determining what is 'Reasonable', i.e. the 'R' in ALARA, are key to this process.

Over recent times there have been concerns over some of the interpretations of what is indeed 'reasonable', and there has been significant international interest in exploring this concept. Given the central importance of these judgements, the IRPA Executive Council has decided to prepare a **Statement on Reasonableness in Optimisation of Protection**. Our aim is to identify the key factors that generically underpin such judgements, and to give appropriate guidance. In doing this we recognise that the range of situations requiring optimisation is huge, and many factors need to be taken into account in each local situation. What we are seeking in this IRPA initiative is to focus on the key underpinning factors that should be present in most, if not all, such situations.

The draft of the proposed Statement is attached for your consideration. You are strongly requested to review and comment on the draft. We would appreciate receiving your responses by no later than **13 September**.

Please send responses to both myself ([coates@irpa.net](mailto:coates@irpa.net)) and the Executive Officer ([exec.off@irpa.net](mailto:exec.off@irpa.net)).

With best regards,

**Roger Coates**

Roger Coates  
IRPA President

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