**Stakeholders Awareness Raising Programs on the safety and security of radioactive sources: Challenges and Opportunities**

A case Review of Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority stakeholder Communication and Consultation Practices

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Abstract

The use of radioactive sources technologies in fields of medicine, academics, and industry, as well as for generating electricity is widespread and virtually indispensable to modern society. Yet, to the many benefits afforded by radioactive sources equipped technologies industrial accidents and hazards in medical overexposures, radioactive waste disposal, environmental radioactivity, personnel errors and violations of procedures and malevolent use are actual risks that could be encountered by countries. An increased awareness of the need for safety and security of radioactive sources which builds on the assumption of transmitting knowledge and information needed to understand the significance of safety and security of radioactive sources by stakeholders, promotion of social dialogue and opening up enormous possibilities to maximize collaboration with stakeholders is a cross-cutting activity that unites all safety and security efforts of radioactive sources. Sustainability and resilience in the safety and security of radioactive sources can best be achieved by creating informed stakeholders and participatory communication programs for a safer community and environment. This study aims at examining the critical challenges that could be encountered while the regulatory body carries out awareness-raising campaigns in its effort to reach out the stakeholders and the public regularly and possible opportunities to be explored from awareness-raising programs short-term and long-term outcomes. Perceived lack of awareness problems and impacts of accelerated technological evolution on awareness- raising campaigns on the safety and security of radioactive sources within an appropriate framework of radiation safety and security will also be addressed.

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**24**. Raising awareness of industry, civil society, international organizations and other stakeholders about the safety and security of radioactive sources, including sustainability and resilience in unplanned situations (e.g., pandemics and natural disasters)