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## Reform for an Independent and Effective Regulator: Synopsis

*Getachew Wollel Tiruneh*

*Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority*

*P.O.Box 20486 code 1000, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia*

*Corresponding author: E-mail: gwollel@yahoo.com, Fax: +251 11 662 04 95*

*Tel: +251 11 662 04 89*

*+251 911648955(mobile)*

IAEA Member states are facing the challenges of coping up with the global demands of regulatory effectiveness in the face of fast growing applications of radiation/nuclear technologies and associated risks that are calling for sound legal frame work and establishment of effective regulatory regime with proportionate infrastructure to ensure safety and security. This requires member states to revise suitability of the national policy framework, applicable international policies, and international obligations and proceed in the policy formulation regarding the use and regulatory aspects of the technology.

However such policy directive of a nation should take into account the nation's legislative system, the law of the land and other norms such as sovereignty, traditions and cultures of the people. This policy formulation should comprise of radioactive waste management in agreement with the land use policy, public safety and Environmental Protection. Nations need to enable revision or modification of the policy in accordance to global directions or new issues or emerging challenges.

The legal frame work is fundamental for setting up effectively independent regulatory infrastructure, for proper policy implementation and development of strategies. The Establishment or reform of a regulatory Authority, its level of empowerment and independence to act, the provisions for enabling infrastructure such as radiation protection services including radioactive waste management, research and development and university backed development of manpower should converge for the effect.

Freedom of action, effective independence<sup>1</sup>, that grants confidence in the line of command with accountability- visa-vice power hierarchy, avoiding conflict of interest that might arise due to strong link with an institution that plays a promotional role, avoiding role mix-up with services that support the user and technology transfer, professional trust and independence with all the ethical responsibility should be ensured in the legislative tools.

The leadership role and the question of being visionary should not fall to trap of unrealistic dream unless with continual self assessment<sup>2</sup>, getting others on board and hard work. Possibilities come with setting and implementation of studied strategic goals and their translation to action plans that lead towards achievement. Sector based Policies and safety and security principles are defined, associated standards and criteria are established by a vehicle of responsible leadership. This calls for harmony at the workplace, nationally, regionally and globally.

Reform through Business Process Re-design (BPR) is like closing ones eye to the recent past and opening wide to a new world. Reform needs to question 'what else is possible?' open wide and learn from the benchmarks and make attitudinal paradigm shift to attain the new personality. The world today requires asking and exchanging lessons with country 'x' for harmony and effectiveness. This paper assesses experience of chosen nuclear regulators and recommends approaches useful to overcome the challenges.

**References**

- [1] INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Legal and Governmental Infrastructure For Nuclear, Radiation, Radioactive Waste and Transport Safety, Safety Standards Series No. GS-R-1
- [2] INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, Fundamental Safety Principles, Safety Fundamentals, No.SF-1