

OPENING STATEMENT

FORO side event

“The Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulators (FORO) and the NEW NETWORK for sharing results, experiences and best practices in radiation, nuclear safety and security”

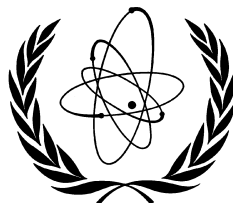
IAEA, room M6

Tuesday, 17 September 2013

10:15h – 12:00h

Denis Flory, DDG-NS

(FORO invites to a wine and cheese at the restaurant at 12:00h)



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Buenos días, señoras y señores, distinguidos delegados y colegas. Es un gran placer dirigirme a ustedes en el evento informativo del FORO y su NUEVA RED para compartir resultados, experiencias y buenas prácticas en seguridad radiológica, nuclear y física en la región desde una perspectiva reguladora.

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates and colleagues. It is a great pleasure to address you in the side event of FORO and the NEW NETWORK for sharing results, experience and best practices on radiation, nuclear safety and security.

Points to make:

- **Synergies and continued collaboration**
- **The new network – enhancing collaboration**
- **Future of FORO/IAEA cooperation**

The Ibero American Forum of Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulatory Agencies (the FORO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (Agency) have a long relationship of cooperation in areas of mutual interest aimed at achieving a high level of radiation and nuclear safety in a sustainable manner.

In May 2003, when the FORO decided to develop a Web site to efficiently share regulatory information, experiences, good practices and lessons learned, the Agency was the right partner to implement this vision in a technical programme by means of an extrabudgetary programme (EBP). The Agency's EBP, funded by voluntary contributions of the FORO's members

and administrated by the Agency in close cooperation with FORO, is a crucial instrument to meet the FORO's technical programme in priority safety areas and promote synergies between the programmes of both, the IAEA and the FORO.

Since then, the Agency-FORO collaboration, recognized in a Practical Arrangements document signed in 2010 in English and in 2011 in Spanish has been increasing along the years.

The EBP programme, which started with a single project, the FORO's Web page, expanded with other projects in the areas of the safe use of radiation in medicine, prevention, detection and management of orphan sources in scrap metal, safety and regulatory control of life extension in nuclear power plants, emergency preparedness and response, safety culture in the use of radiation sources, and the development of a training programme for regulatory staff on nuclear reactor safety.

The Agency has been contributing to FORO's work by providing advice on the appropriate standards for each particular activity, on the already existing or ongoing international work and on the means of ensuring an added value and making a difference with the FORO's activity.

Dissemination to all countries of the region is being carried out through the Agency's programme on nuclear and radiation safety and the Agency's technical cooperation programme in close collaboration with FORO. The results are communicated through workshops, conferences and technical meetings with the participation of experts of the FORO and the Agency

technical officers. Since in all FORO's activities the scientific reference is the Agency and its Safety Standards, the FORO's proactive approach is significantly contributing to increase the outreach of the Agency Statutory function.

The outputs of the several joint Agency/FORO activities in radiological and nuclear safety have been published by the Agency – three technical documents were issued and two additional documents are in the pipeline for publication, the results of technical projects have been widely disseminated to other Latin American countries and the incorporation of the outcomes of FORO projects into Agency projects brings this work to other professional associations and organizations of the region. These outputs are just part of this collaboration which aims to enhance technical cooperation, but also contributes to the discussions of policy and strategies at highest level.

The future will see increased synergy.

Released in July 2013, the new version of the FORO Web site – *the new RED* – with its improved collaborative features is the open the door for collaboration and networking with other countries in the Ibero American region. It is expected that it enhances further sharing and exchanging information on new or existing nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security issues of regulatory interest and contributes to the development of national systems of regulation, authorization and control of activities involving the use of ionizing radiation.

The Agency follows with keen interest the evolution and activities of the FORO and greatly appreciates its step by step expansion of FORO to integrate new member countries from the region.

Collaborative efforts, like the FORO, are crucial to meet the current challenges we face today. Therefore, the Agency also looks forward to the implementation of key activities on competence building and towards the development of a methodology guiding project development and implementation towards replicating successful dynamics and, at same time, capturing and disseminating lessons learned and good practices from radiation protection and nuclear safety projects within the region.

Al concluir mi intervención, les aseguro el compromiso permanente de mi departamento para el uso seguro de la energía nuclear y la continua cooperación con FORO.

Muchas Gracias!

In concluding my remarks, I assure you of the continued commitment of my department to safe and secure use of nuclear energy and continued cooperation with FORO.

Thank you!