



Ref.: C.L.6.1995

International Conference on Health Consequences
of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Accidents,
20-23 November 1995, Geneva, Switzerland

The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments to the governments of Member States and, further to the Note Verbale dated 12 January 1995 on the above subject, has the honour to transmit herewith a call for papers and invitation to participate in the International Conference on Health Consequences of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Accidents, to be held from 20 to 23 November 1995 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The specifications contained in the attached Conference circular incorporate the advice and suggestions emanating from the Technical Advisory Meeting on the Programme of the Conference, which was held in Geneva from 9 to 10 February 1995, with the attendance of sponsoring governments, international organizations, and invited experts.

I would be grateful if this information could be brought to the attention of the authorities, institutions and persons that might be interested.

The Director-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the governments of Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 21 April 1995

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**International Conference on Health Consequences of the
Chernobyl and Other Radiological Accidents
20 - 23 November 1995, Geneva, Switzerland**

Co-sponsored by the Republic and Canton of Geneva, and
the Ministries of Health of Belarus*, Russian Federation*, and Ukraine*

**CONFERENCE CIRCULAR:
CALL FOR PAPERS
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

Conference Languages: English, French and Russian

Background

The health and environmental consequences attributed to the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine on 26 April 1986 have been subject to extensive investigation. However, opinions on the real consequences still differ. A clearer picture on the health consequences of this accident is expected to emanate from the pilot phase of the International Programme on the Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident (IPHECA). This phase came to an end in 1994 and a comprehensive report will be published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1995. This report will describe the actions taken in medical care, as well as the scientific findings during the first phase of IPHECA (1992-1994).

Concurrently with the publication of this report, the World Health Organization is planning to convene a major international conference entitled "Health Consequences of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Accidents", 20-23 November 1995, in Geneva, Switzerland. While focusing on IPHECA results, the Conference will also include results from other investigations of Chernobyl effects as well as from those on health consequences of other radiological accidents. The Conference will thus provide a forum for comprehensive

* To be confirmed

discussion and comparison of scientific findings in the field of health effects from ionizing radiation and will indicate where further research is required.

Relationship to other Conferences

The WHO Conference has to be seen in the context of two additional internationally sponsored conferences, namely the "First International Conference of the European Union, Belarus, Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident", to be convened in Minsk, 18-23 March 1996, and the Conference, "One Decade after Chernobyl: Summing Up the Radiological Consequences of the Accident", which is jointly sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Commission of the European Community (CEC) and WHO, and will be held in Vienna 8-12 April 1996. The CEC Conference will deal primarily with the results of 16 CEC projects, of which six focus on health consequences and dose assessment. Scientists working on the respective CEC projects are encouraged to submit abstracts on their research findings to the CEC Conference, whereas their colleagues in the IPHECA should submit them to the WHO Conference.

However, a summarizing report will also be presented on related IPHECA findings to the CEC Conference, in order to allow comparisons and stimulate discussion. Similarly, CEC summaries will be introduced into the WHO Conference.

Both the CEC and the WHO Conferences will provide conclusions and summaries to the Joint Vienna Conference, which addresses in particular decision- and policy-makers. In addition, a technical symposium and parallel poster sessions at the Vienna Conference will provide an opportunity to present additional findings on health consequences that could not be accommodated in the two prior conferences. Note, however, that only the WHO Conference deals with health consequences from radiological events other than Chernobyl. More details on the other conferences will be provided in separate Calls for Papers by the respective secretariats.

Submission of Abstracts and Papers

The WHO Conference will provide world-wide updating and exchange of information on health consequences from radiological events and emergencies such as:

- ◆ Chernobyl
- ◆ Hiroshima/Nagasaki
- ◆ Windscale
- ◆ Altai Area
- ◆ Techa River, radioactive waste disposal (1949-1952)
- ◆ Kyshtym Accident (1957) Chelybinsk Area, explosion of high-level radioactive waste tank
- ◆ Bravo Test, Bikini Atoll (1954):
 - a) Japanese fishermen
 - b) Marshall Islanders/US investigation
- ◆ Hanford Site

- ◆ Utah Weapons Tests, consideration of recently declassified material
- ◆ UK Weapons Tests
- ◆ Selected incidents with exposure of workers and/or the public, such as:
 - a) Goiania, Brazil
 - b) Morocco
 - c) Mexico

Conference objectives are outlined in **Enclosure 1**. Speakers and participants to this Conference are expected to come primarily from the following "Target Groups":

- ◆ Senior (medical/biological) researchers
- ◆ Medical research coordinators
- ◆ Radiation effects specialists
- ◆ Radiation protection officials
- ◆ Emergency planners

from organizations such as:

- ◆ ministries of health
- ◆ ministries of environmental affairs
- ◆ ministries of energy
- ◆ medical/biological research institutes
- ◆ environmental health institutes
- ◆ pertinent nongovernmental organizations

Special invitations will be issued to a number of speakers representing major programmes and sponsors for the WHO Conference. Keynote speakers will also be invited to introduce major sessions of the Conference. However, contributed papers are solicited for part of the plenary and for most of the technical and poster sessions of the Conference. These papers could deal with the following major topics:

- ◆ Epidemiological Registry, Data Management
- ◆ Reconstruction of Population and Individual Doses (results from CEC sponsored studies should be sent to CEC Conference)
- ◆ Public Health Lessons, Practical Remedial Measures
- ◆ Haematology
- ◆ Thyroid Diseases (results from CEC sponsored studies should be sent to CEC Conference)
- ◆ Other Health Effects such as:
 - ◆ Radiation burns
 - ◆ Malignancies (other than thyroid cancer and leukemia)
 - ◆ Genetic Effects
 - ◆ Brain Damage in Utero
 - ◆ Psycho-social Effects and Health Consequences from Evacuation
- ◆ Radiological effects on molecular and cellular levels

Organization of these topics into a tentative programme is provided in **Enclosure 2**. The programme will be finalized on the basis of papers submitted and selected.

Contributions concerning environmental effects, safety and regulatory consequences, as well as emergency planning, should be considered for submission to the Joint Conference in Vienna or to the CEC Conference.

Interested contributors are invited to submit abstracts, not exceeding 800 words, typed, in English, French or Russian. They should also indicate their preference for a poster or oral presentation. The text should be prepared in WordPerfect 5.1, as should any graphs. However, an equivalent of 150 words will be subtracted for each table and graph included. Additional "Instructions to Authors" are provided as **Enclosure 3**. Authors are advised that their contributions will be evaluated by a review group of experts under the auspices of WHO. In general, abstracts which reveal new or confirmatory findings on a sound scientific basis, are well summarized and comply with the objectives given in **Enclosure 1** will receive priority in the paper selection process.

Abstract originals should be sent by E-mail or as paper originals, plus diskettes, to the Secretariat of the Chernobyl Conference, at the Office of Global and Integrated Environmental Health, World Health Organization, 1211 Genève 27, Switzerland. The division's direct facsimile number is +41-22-791 4123, and the E-mail address is JOHNSONJ@WHO.CH. At the same time, a copy should be provided to the national authority/institution from which the author obtained this circular.

The deadline for submission of abstracts (in English, French or Russian) to the Secretariat has been extended to 3 July 1995

Notification of acceptance of abstracts and indication whether the presentation can be given orally or as a poster will be given to authors by 21 July 1995. Accepted presentations should then be submitted in full, as they will be presented at the Conference.

The deadline for submission of full papers (and complete descriptions (including layout) of the contents of poster presentations) is 6 October 1995. The posters shall be available on the first day of the Conference. Further details concerning the full papers and posters will be sent in due course to authors whose submissions have been selected by the Paper Review Committee. Authors must also complete the Registration Form (**Enclosure 4**).

Brief Conference Proceedings will essentially cover the plenary sessions and the major conclusions from the WHO Conference, taking account of the comprehensive IPHECA Report, which will be available separately. Accepted contributed papers will be published in a special issue of the *World Health Statistics Quarterly*, following the Conference.

Participation

Health effects experts and officials interested in the WHO Conference are requested to make their intention to participate known to the Conference Secretariat at their earliest convenience, by sending in a completed Registration Form (**Enclosure 4**). A copy of this registration form should be provided to the national authority/institution from which the invitation was obtained.

Only if an unusually high number of applications were to be received would there be a limitation on the number of participants, based on a "first-come/first-served" principle (using the date of original submission to the WHO Conference Secretariat). However, an adequate representation of the countries and programmes most contributing to and/or most affected by the subjects of the Conference will be considered at the same time.

Objectives of the WHO International Conference on Health Consequences of the Chernobyl and other Radiological Accidents

- ◆ Highlight major findings from IPHECA Phase I
- ◆ Compare IPHECA Phase I results with those of other studies on Chernobyl health effects
- ◆ Obtain improved (updated) understanding of the type, magnitude and severity of presently known and expected future health effects from the Chernobyl accident
- ◆ Add new results from investigations of health effects of other radiological accidents to complement the health effects picture
- ◆ Examine the effectiveness of remedial measures regarding health during and after accidents and propose future improvements
- ◆ Advance and/or confirm the state-of-the-art on the knowledge of radiation-related health effects
- ◆ Provide information to the ongoing or new investigations of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)
- ◆ Point out interesting trends and developments which need research attention in the future

Enclosure 2 - Tentative Conference Schedule

20 November Monday	21 November Tuesday	22 November Wednesday	23 November Thursday
<p>A.M. (10:00) Room II Plenary Session 1</p> <p>Host country welcome Opening speech Six overview papers on major programmes Three IPHECA countries, CEC, Japan, UNESCO</p>	<p>A.M. (9:00) Room II Plenary Session 3</p> <p>Haematology</p>	<p>A.M. (9:00) Room II Plenary Session 5</p> <p>Genetic Effects, Brain Damage <i>in Utero</i>, Psycho-social effects (jointly with UNESCO)</p>	<p>A.M. (9:00) Room II Plenary Session 7</p> <p>Basic Investigations and Future Health Effects Research</p>
<p>P.M. (14:00) Room II Plenary Session 2</p> <p>Epidemiological Registry, Data Management, Reconstruction of Population and Individual Doses</p>	<p>P.M. (14:00) Room II Plenary Session 4</p> <p>Thyroid Diseases</p>	<p>P.M. (14:00) Room II Plenary Session 6</p> <p>Acute Radiation Effects, Remedial and Public Health Measures</p>	<p>P.M. (14:00) Room II Plenary Session 8</p> <p>Concluding Session Reports on the Panels, Technical and Poster Sessions</p>
<p>Press Conference</p>	<p><u>All day</u></p> <p>Supporting poster and technical sessions (Lobby, rooms III & IV)</p>	<p><u>All day</u></p> <p>Supporting poster and technical sessions (Lobby, rooms III & IV)</p>	<p><u>Morning</u></p> <p>Supporting poster and technical sessions (Lobby, rooms III & IV)</p>

Guidelines for the preparation of abstracts submitted to the

"International Conference on Health Consequences of the Chernobyl and
other Radiological Accidents"

General

1. Abstracts should be typewritten using WordPerfect 5.1, in the following format: double-spacing, left margin at least 3 cm, no indentation of the first paragraph following a heading -- subsequent paragraphs should be indented, page numbers should be placed in the upper right hand corner. For style of titles and headings and list of references, see sections 3-10 below. A copy of the diskette should be submitted with the print-out which should be on A4 paper, one side only.

2. A manuscript should be assembled in the following order:

Page 1

Title

Author's name

Beginning of text

Subsequent pages:

Continuation of text

No bibliographical references would be preferred at this stage. However, if they appear essential to appreciate the contribution, only a few important ones should be listed.

(The short list of references should only cite published works (see Sections 5-9); for definition and treatment of unpublished works, see Section 10). Footnotes (on a separate sheet) - the first one should be the author's title and affiliation. (Please read Section 14 carefully before typing.)

Tables (each on a separate sheet) (see Section 15)

Figure titles

Figures (each on a separate sheet, with numerical values clearly indicated)

Title and headings

3. The title of the abstract should be in **bold upper and lower case**, flush with the left margin.

4. Headings should be used consistently, the same style being used for heading of equal importance. Main heading should be in **lower case, bold**, and flush with the left margin. Secondary headings should be in *lower case italics*, flush with the left margin, the text beginning on the next line, thus:

Selected quantitative indicators

In analysing the indicators ...

Tertiary headings should be in *lower case italics*, flush with the left margin; the text should begin on the same line, thus:

Data on quantitative indicators. Availability of data varies ...

Bibliographical references (if necessary for the abstract)

5. In the text, references to published works should be numbered consecutively *as they appear, by means of Arabic numerals, italicized and within parentheses*. Either of the following forms may be used:

Mulls & Potters (12) have reported

Several authors (7-12) have described ...

6. Works written by two authors should be mentioned under both names with an Ampersand (&) between them. Works written by more than two authors should be referred to by the name of the first author only, followed by the words "et al." (not underlined) in the text.

7. All published works referred to should be listed in numerical order at the end of the text on a separate sheet. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of all references, as these are not checked by the editorial staff.

Periodicals

8. References to articles in periodicals should contain the following elements: name(s) and initial(s) of author(s) (**in bold, upper and lower case**, e.g. **Clarke, M.**), title of the article, *full name of the journal in italics*, volume number (**bold**), issue number, first and last page numbers (e.g. 1607-1622), and the year of publication (in parentheses).

Example.

1. **Katler, H.D. et al.** Validation of postmortem interviews to ascertain selected causes of death in children. *International journal of epidemiology*, 20 (1): 360-386 (1990).

Books

9. References to books should include the names(s) and initial(s) of the author(s) in capital letters, the title of the book (*in italics*), the edition number (where appropriate), the place of publication, the name of the publisher, the year of publication, and (where appropriate), the volume and page numbers referred to.

Example:

3. **Cliff, A.D. & Haggett, P.** *Atlas of disease distribution, analytic approaches of epidemiological data.* Oxford, Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1988.

Unpublished works

10. Unpublished works (e.g. theses, WHO prefixed documents, papers presented at meetings or conferences, etc.) should be referred to in the text only, and should NOT be included in the reference list.

11. World Health Assembly and Executive Board documents should be treated as footnotes, not as references.

12. Details of a report that has been issued in written form (e.g. as an offset document) should be given only if copies are available to readers on request. In this case, full details should be given, but a brief mention may be made in the text in the following form:

It has been demonstrated (M. S. Richter, unpublished observations, 1988) that ...

13. Personal communications should be acknowledged in the text only (no footnote), as follows:

A.G. Clarke (personal communication, 1989) found that ...

Footnotes

14. Superscript lower case letters should be used for footnotes, using all the letters of the alphabet consecutively through the article. **Please do not go into Footnote mode in WordPerfect (CTRL+F7) as this does not convert into PageMaker;** simply type the footnote letter as superscript. The footnote should not be typewritten on the same page as that on which it is referred to, but should appear at the end of the paper, after the list of bibliographical references.

Tables and illustrations

15. The number of tables and illustrations should be strictly limited, only those that are essential to an understanding of the text being included. **(Please note that tables should be typed using simple tabs so that they can be converted to PageMaker; do not go into Columns/tables Alt/F7).** No vertical or horizontal line should be used; if necessary, they can be added at a later stage.
16. In the text, references to tables and figures should always be by number and underlined (e.g. Table 1, Fig. 3) and NOT in the form "the table above" or "the figure below".
17. Tables should be typewritten, each on a separate sheet of paper, and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numbers. They should be grouped in sequence at the end of the text, not incorporated into the text.
18. A concise title should appear above each table giving country and year if applicable. Table titles should be in **bold and centred**. They should be prepared using simple tabs only, WITHOUT going into Columns/Tables mode in WordPerfect. Column headings within tables should be as brief as possible. Footnotes should be keyed to the title of a table or to data in the table by means of small superscript letters. Numbers, asterisks, or other symbols should not be used.
19. If symbols are used in tables they should conform to the following key:
 - * Preliminary, approximate or estimated data.
 - ... Data not available.
 - Nil or magnitude negligible.
 - .. Category not applicable.
 - T Total.



World Health Organization

International Conference on Health Consequences of the Chernobyl and Other Radiological Accidents 20 - 23 November 1995, Geneva, Switzerland

Registration Form (please type if possible)

Title Family Name First Name

Position Division

Company/Organization

Address

City Post Code Country

Phone Fax E-mail

Major topics of interest to me are

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I do do not
plan to submit a paper.

Please do ... do not send me a brochure on hotels in Geneva. I understand that the Conference Secretariat will not be able to make arrangements with hotels on my behalf.

Signature

Send to:
Chernobyl Conference Secretariat
Office of Global and Integrated Environmental Health
World Health Organization
1211 Genève 27 - Switzerland

Fax: +41-22-791 4123