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Excess of Childhood Thyroid Cancer Indicates UNSCEAR is Out of Science

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Reporting to the General Assembly, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, UNSCEAR, was set up in 1955. After the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the dominant sources of artificial radiation have been the nuclear facilities, especially after some of their catastrophic explosions. Six years after the Chernobyl accident (1986), childhood thyroid cancer remarkably increased, as shown by annual and regional distribution of cases, and they had extending features to other organs (Kazakov et al., Nature 1992). At the time, international organizations, including UNSCEAR, refused the conclusions showing cancer increase; and it took almost 20 years for them to admit the scientific evidences. Eventually, children thyroid cancer was recognized as a result of the disaster, as the symptoms could hardly observed among children who were born after the accident. Now, six years have passed since the accident at TEPCO Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power-plant, where three cores melted. Only in Fukushima prefecture, more than 190 thyroid cancers were diagnosed by the end of September 2017 among 380,000 persons who were 18 years old and under in 2011. By comparison with previously reported prevalence in the same age group, excess several tens fold was found after first examination (Tsuda et al., Epidemiology 2016). After second examination, similar excess was found, meaning that it was not a statistical artefact by the screening effect or any over-diagnosis, as it has been often proposed to discard any form of evidence. UNSCEAR stated that they do not consider that the study challenges their 2013 report, which concluded that the increase in radiation-induced thyroid cancer could be discarded, because absorbed doses to the thyroid were substantially lower than those after the Chernobyl (UNSCEAR 2016, 111&112 paragraphs). On top of dubious claims, UNSCEAR ignored the core result of scientific paper in Epidemiology (Tsuda et al.), and the replies from the authors to 7 critical comments from state-sponsored research and pressure groups. They instead solely publicized the 7 critical comments without any scientific and epidemiological discussions. The 2016 UNSCEAR report fell in the same biased trap as it did after Chernobyl, deliberately ignoring sound scientific evidences, “choosing” convenient data, and thus violating basic scientific rules, fundamental ethics, and failing their mission and the United Nation. The 2016 UNSCEAR has consequently endangered once again the life of innocent population in the world.