



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# Arrangements for the Termination of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency

## Consultation with Interested Parties

### Lecture 11

# Introduction.

## GSR Part 7



*“The termination of a nuclear or radiological emergency shall be based on **a formal decision** that is made public and shall include **prior consultation with interested parties**, as appropriate.”*

*“The planning process [for termination of an emergency] shall include **... arrangements for consultation of interested parties ...**”*

### IAEA Safety Standards for protecting people and the environment

#### Preparedness and Response for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency

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#### General Safety Requirements No. GSR Part 7

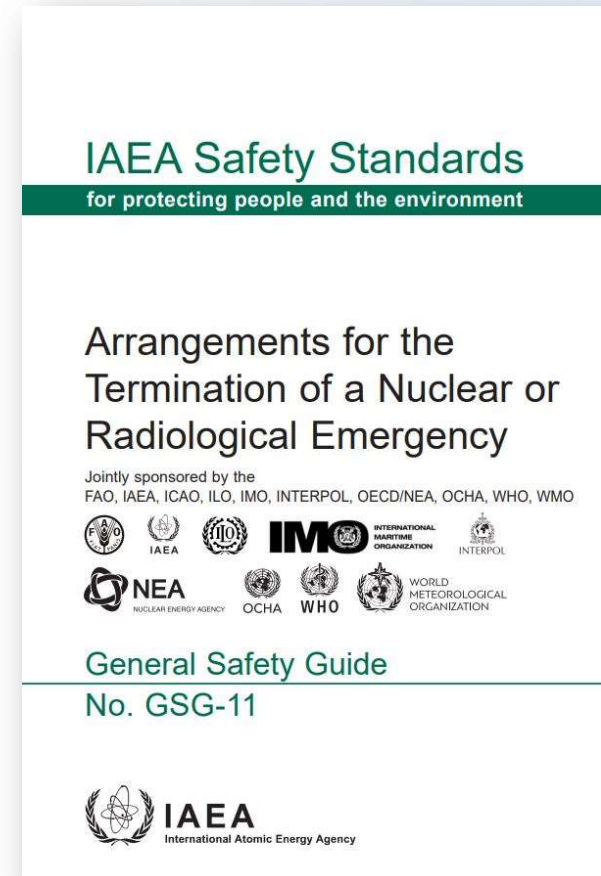


# Introduction.

## GSG-11, Section 3, General prerequisites



*“Consultation with interested parties is required before the termination of the emergency. This process **should not unduly impede timely and effective decision making** by the responsible authority with respect to the termination of the emergency; however, this process is intended to help increase **the public trust in and the public acceptance** of the decision to terminate the emergency.”*



# Purpose



- Explain the importance of the consultation with interested parties at the preparedness stage and during the transition phase.
- Provide details about the variation of the consultation process in form and extent throughout the various phases of an emergency.
- Elaborate elements to be considered for establishing an effective consultation mechanism.

# Learning objectives

- Recognize the importance of the consultation with interested parties.
- Identify interested parties and possible areas to consult them about.
- Distinguish between consultation processes at the preparedness stage, emergency response phase and transition phase.
- Recognize elements of an effective consultation mechanism.

# Contents



- Who are interested parties?
- The objective of consultation
  - Importance of building community resilience
- Areas of and responsibility for consultation
- Considerations for consultation at the preparedness stage and different phases of the response
- Elements of an effective consultation mechanism

# Who are interested parties?

*“Person, company, etc. with a concern or interest in the activities and performance of an organization, business, system, etc.”*



## IAEA Safety Glossary

Terminology Used in Nuclear Safety  
and Radiation Protection  
2007 Edition

### IAEA Safety Standards for protecting people and the environment

Radiation Protection and  
Safety of Radiation Sources:  
International Basic  
Safety Standards

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# Who are interested parties? (cont'd)



- Governmental agencies, regulatory bodies, emergency services (at local, regional and national level) as well as local authorities;
- Customers, owners, operators, employees, suppliers, partners, trade organizations and trade unions;
- The regulated industry or professionals;
- Other States, especially neighbouring State;
- Scientific bodies;
- Media;
- Members of the public (potentially or actually affected, general public, individuals, community groups and interest groups).



## Who are interested parties? (cont'd)

- Recognizing the specific interested parties to be consulted will vary based on:
  - Aspects to be consulted about;
  - Time when this consultation is to take place:
    - E.g. at preparedness stage and different phases of the response.
  - Timeframe allowing for an effective consultation;
  - Processes to be applied.

# Discussion



Why should interested parties be consulted in relation to the termination of the emergency and associated arrangements for the transition phase?

## Why should interested parties be consulted?

- Nuclear or radiological emergencies can be disruptive;
- Successful emergency management:
  - **Protects effectively** people and the environment;
  - **Facilitates the recovery** of individuals and the overall community in a manner that sustains their physical, emotional, social and economic well-being.

***“To prepare, to the extent practicable, for the resumption of normal social and economic activity.”***

GSR Part 7

## Why should interested parties be consulted? (cont'd)

- Increases trust, credibility and societal acceptance;
- Fosters relationships with community leaders;
- Allows the community's capabilities as well as its needs to be understood;
- Enhances the community resilience to nuclear or radiological emergencies.

# Community resilience

*“The capacity of a community to be able to recover quickly and easily from the consequences of a nuclear or radiological emergency.”*



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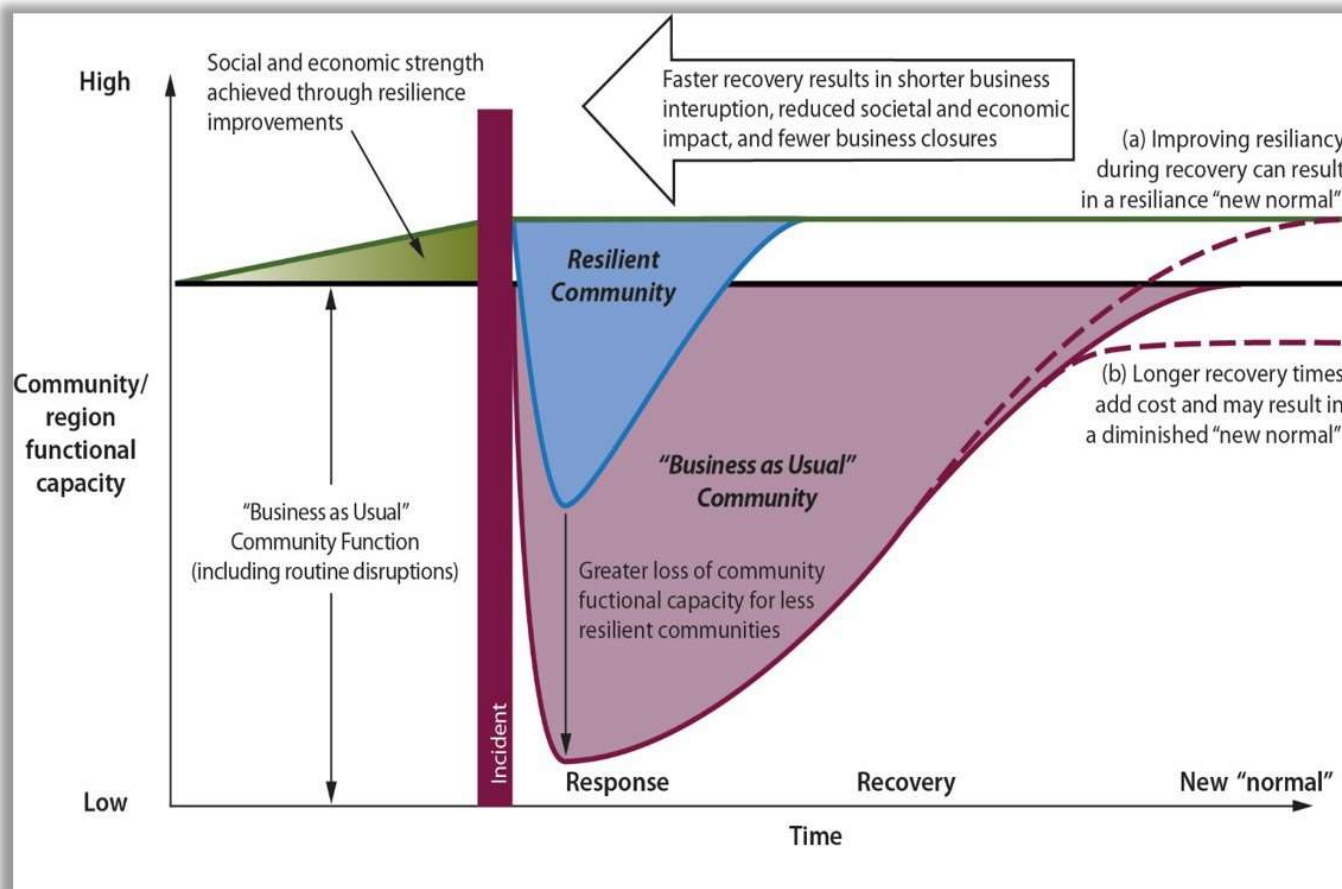
# Community resilience (cont'd)



- Depends on:
  - Adequate emergency preparedness and response at all levels;
  - Effectiveness of consultation mechanisms with relevant interested parties.



# Community resilience (cont'd)



*Image reproduced from Hynes, DHS (2001); Ross, ORNL; CARRI 2008*

## New Normality

The objective of the long-term recovery is to return the community to an acceptable normality in the most expedient manner, with a goal to re-establish and sustain the local economic viability.

**Community resilience is a measure of an effective recovery (NCRP Report 175, 2014).**



# Discussion



What aspects of emergency preparedness and response for the transition phase would the interested parties be interested in?

# Subjects for consultation

- Things that need to be discussed with and made known to interested parties at the preparedness stage:
  - The **rationale for options** selected in the protection strategy:
    - Including **objectives to be attained during the transition phase** and **in the longer term**.
  - **Consequences and limitations** of protective actions and strategies including:
    - **Implications** on personal behaviours and habits;
    - **Criteria for lifting specific protective actions**.

## Subjects for consultation (cont'd)

- Things that need to be discussed with and made known to interested parties at preparedness stage:
  - The **dynamic nature** of emergencies and the **need to adapt** the protection strategy and management options in response:
    - Need for **flexibility** in implementing established arrangements;
    - Possible **need for longer term recovery** after the emergency is ended and what this may encompass.

# Consultation means

- Individual and public hearings;
- Dialogue;
- Working group meetings;
- Web-based or paper questionnaires;
- Seeking public comments and comments from group representatives on different documentation:
  - E.g. through discussion papers.
- Media monitoring;

# Responsibility

*“The responsibility for ensuring that the public and other relevant interested parties have been consulted **should lie with the relevant organizations, at all levels, in line with the predetermined consultation mechanism and responsibilities.**”*



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# Discussion



When is it appropriate to consult interested parties in relation to arrangements for the resumption of normal social and economic activity?

# Consultation at preparedness stage

- Start as **early as possible** at the preparedness stage:
  - To be developed with the aim of continuing it throughout the **transition phase** and after **the termination of the emergency**, as appropriate;
  - To be coordinated applying a well defined **coordinating mechanism**.



# Consultation during response

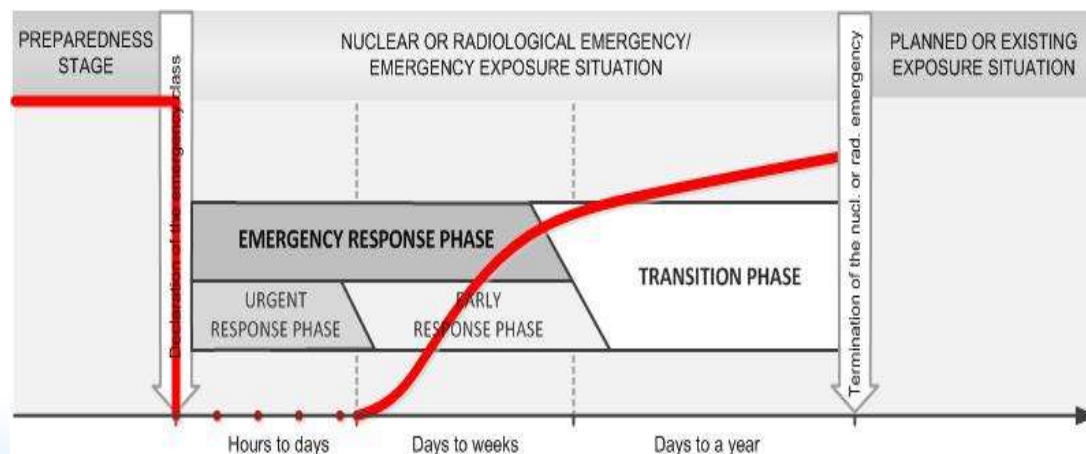
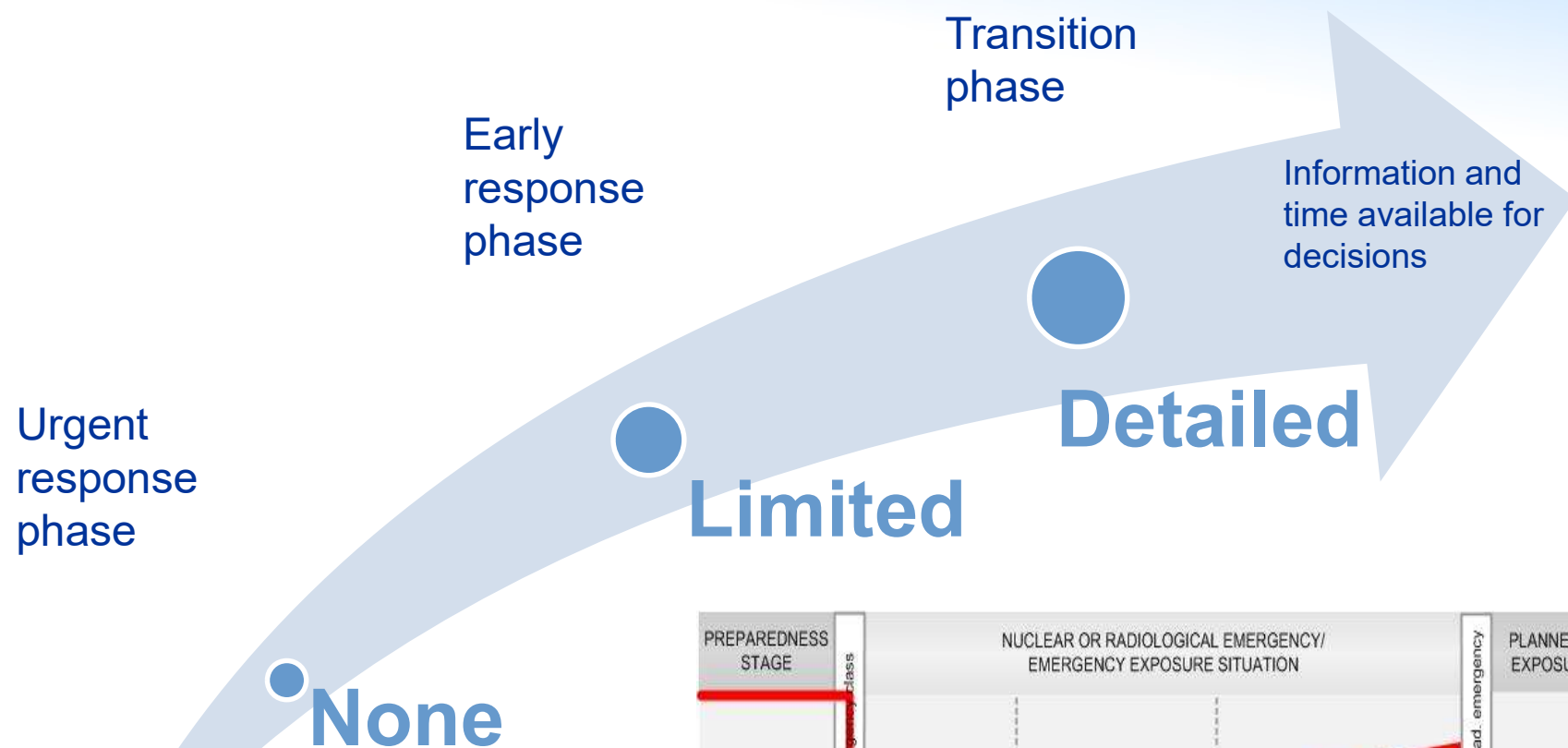


Image reproduced from GSG-11, IAEA, Vienna (2018)

# Consultation in the transition phase



- Consultation with relevant interested parties during the transition phase:
  - Aims to enable the **progressive engagement** of interested parties;
  - **Improves efficiency** of recovery efforts;
  - Provides for **public reassurance** and **building trust**.

# Example subjects for consultation in the transition phase



- Status of the conditions for terminating the emergency:
  - Including social and economic aspects.
- Changes in protection strategy in place:
  - Including the status of the conditions for lifting specific protective actions, timeframes in which the lifting may take place and to whom this would apply.
- Changes in personal behaviours and habits, timeframes in which they may apply, and available alternatives.

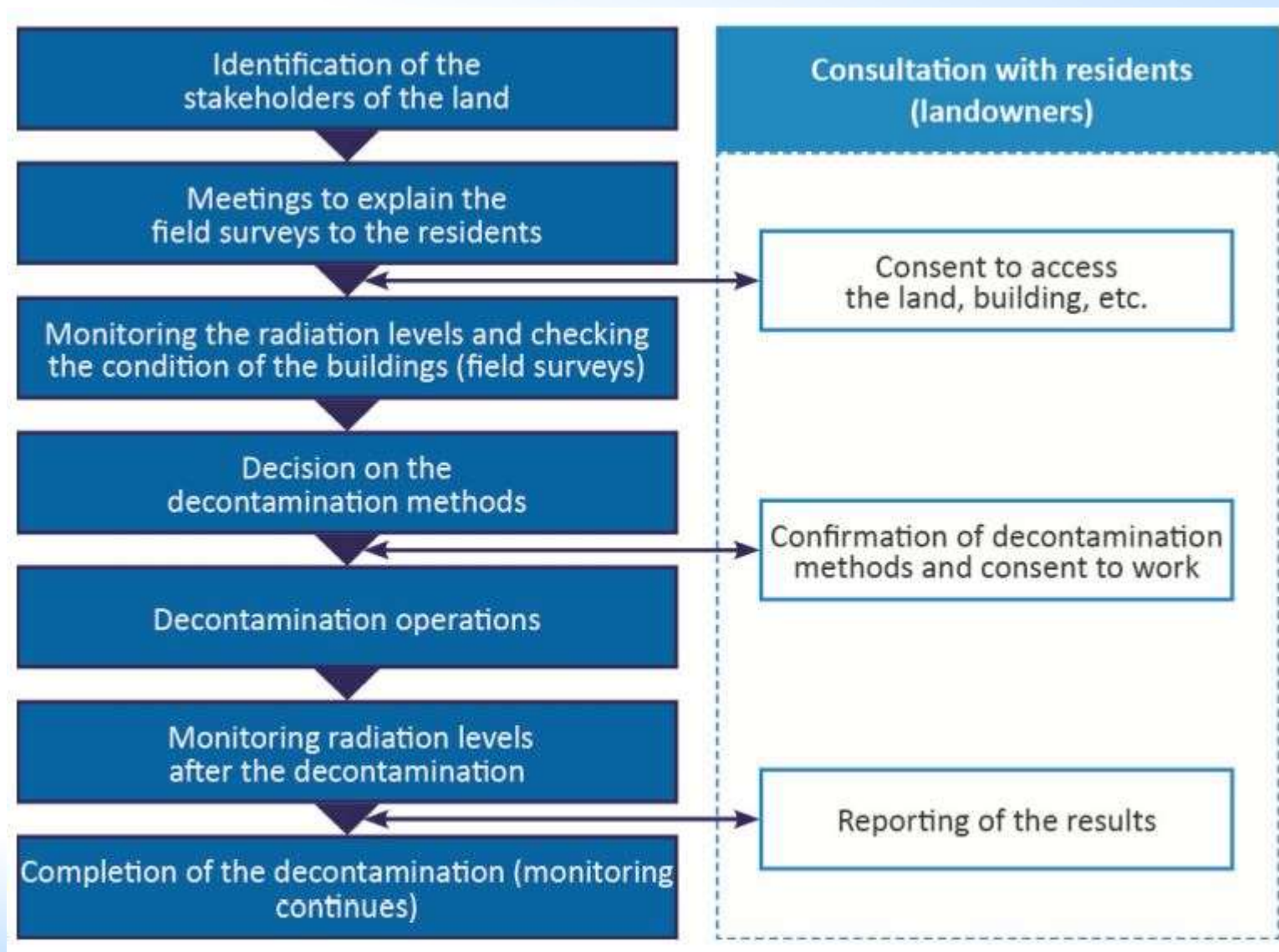
## Example subjects for consultation in the transition phase (cont'd)



- Options for dealing with the residual contamination, including monitoring, taking account of:
  - Time, economic impacts, technical feasibility, social implications, effectiveness;
  - Implications for waste disposal, environmental damage.
- Self-help actions;

# Example involvement of interested parties

## Fukushima Daiichi accident 2011



*Image reproduced from The Fukushima Daiichi Accident, IAEA, Vienna (2015)*

## Exercise – Who, Why, How, When, Responsibility?



WHO	WHY	HOW	WHEN	Responsibility
(Potentially) Affected communities				
Representatives of trade and industry				
Authorities in neighbouring countries				
Authorities in any country				
General public				

# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism

- Identify the legal basis for consultation:
  - Including where the responsibilities lies.
- Define clear objectives of the consultation:
  - Why?
- Identify documentation necessary to be made available for consultation:
  - E.g. plans, strategy, guidance, regulations, etc.



## Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism (cont'd)

- Identify who the relevant interested parties are:
  - At preparedness stage and during the response;
  - Ensuring balanced representation among relevant parties.
- Identify effective means of consultation:
  - E.g. public meetings, formal hearings, etc.
  - Consider timeframes for consultation.

# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism (cont'd)



- Elaborate a transparent process for obtaining feedback:
  - Directly or through representative consultative bodies;
  - Consider different subjects and documents;
  - Appropriate sign-off mechanism for key documents.

# Considerations for an effective consultation mechanism (cont'd)



- Plan means for reviewing and assessing the result of the consultation, including:
  - Authorities and expertise involved in the process;
  - Mechanism for obtaining their input.
- Apply the results of the consultation in the decision making processes:
  - Process for announcing final decision;
  - Keep responsibility for decision making with the responsible authority.

# Discussion



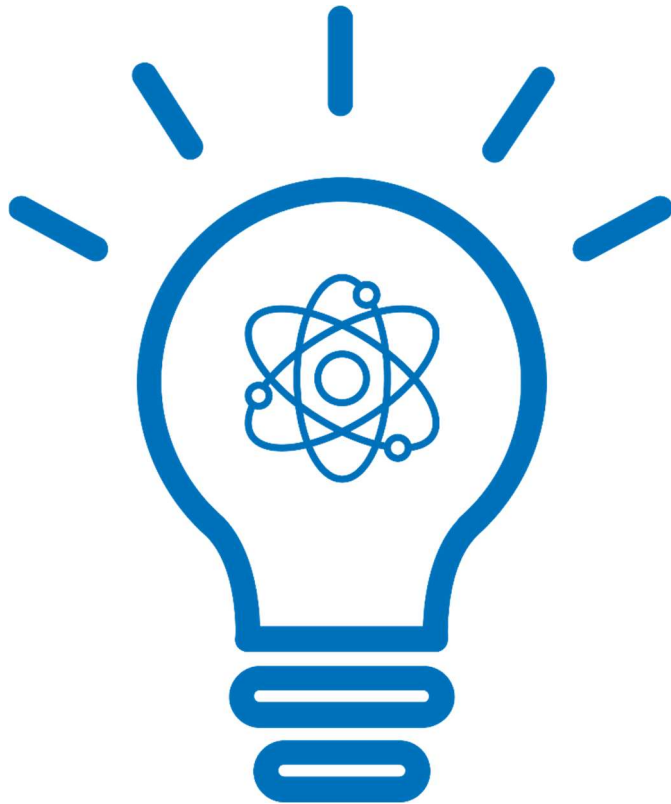
- What is the difference between consultation and communication, if any? How are they related?

# Communication for effective consultation



- Effective consultation is based on effective communication:
  - Communicate openly and transparently any relevant information;
  - Include clear explanation, using simple and easily understandable language.

# Summary



- Effective consultation mechanism needs to be developed during preparedness stage.
- The focus for engagement of interested parties in response is in the transition phase, where it will not jeopardize the effectiveness of the emergency response.
- Feedback from interested parties need to be taken into account in the decision making, with responsibility for decision making with the responsible authority.



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*Thank you!*