

FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING HEALTH-BASED EMF STANDARDS



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PREFACE

Understanding the health impact of electromagnetic fields (EMF) falls within the mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the area of environmental health. WHO aims to help Member States achieve safe, sustainable and health-enhancing human environments, protected from biological, chemical and physical hazards. In this context, the International EMF Project was established at WHO in 1996 in response to general concern over health effects of EMF exposure.

WHO's International EMF Project has provided a unique opportunity to bring together over sixty countries to identify criteria for EMF standards setting and to develop the *Framework for Developing Health-based EMF Standards*. The aim of the EMF Project is to encourage the establishment of exposure limits and other control measures that provide the same or similar level of health protection for all people. Meetings on standards development were held in all six WHO regions to obtain input from scientists and government officials around the globe for inclusion into this Framework.

While WHO strongly promotes the use of international standards, some countries feel the need to develop or refine their own standards. This Framework is intended for national advisory and/or regulatory bodies that are developing new standards for EMF, reviewing the basis of their standards, or reconsidering specific quantitative values such as reference levels and safety factors. The overall purpose of this Framework is to provide advice on how to develop science-based exposure limits that will protect the health of the public and workers from EMF exposure.

Further information about the International EMF project can be obtained from WHO's web site at: <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/en/>.

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