

**Statement by Vice-Minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania  
Mr. Albinas Zananavičius**

**International Conference on Nuclear Security  
IAEA, Vienna, 20-24 May 2024**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to address the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future. Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We also join the statement, to be delivered by Ukraine. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

At the 2020 ICONS we focused on nuclear security challenges such as nuclear terrorism, misuse of nuclear and radioactive material as well as cyber-threats against nuclear facilities, the risk induced by non-state actors. We stress that the commitments agreed at the 2020 ICONS remain valid and must be implemented. We also express our appreciation to distinguished Co-Chairs of this Conference for their efforts to highlight new challenges in their Joint Statement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the last ICONS the international security landscape has drastically deteriorated. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is causing unprecedented nuclear security threats, with potentially catastrophic consequences worldwide. Russia's illegal seizure of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (Zaporizhzhia NPP), along with the potential threats to other Ukraine's nuclear power plants, directly resulting from Russia full-scale invasion against Ukraine, are of utmost concern. We cannot rule out the risk that radioactive materials may fall into the wrong hands, so we call the international community to assess this threat vector and maintain due vigilance and control measures, as well as common awareness.

Lithuania strongly urges Russia to end its war of aggression against Ukraine, withdraw its military and other personnel from the Zaporizhzhia NPP and all Ukrainian territory, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear security is closely interlinked with nuclear safety. Therefore, it is crucial to promote understanding of synergies between security and safety in nuclear installations. Strict adherence to international requirements, effective application of the IAEA safety standards and security guidance, and a strong commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity, and good neighbourliness are essential for ensuring safe and secure use of nuclear energy. In this regard, we would like to reiterate

our persistent concerns about the Belarusian NPP situated in proximity to our capital, Vilnius.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Considering the latest threats to nuclear security, we are looking forward to the IAEA technical document on nuclear safety and security in armed conflicts, with a view to continuing discussion on how to strengthen nuclear safety and security regimes, including emergency preparedness in situations of armed conflict.

Lithuania remains strongly committed to contribute to strengthening nuclear security culture, including by providing regional capacity building and training services in prevention, detection, response, and investigation of the nuclear security incidents. Since 2012, the Lithuanian Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence (NSCOE) has been providing its support to the national competent authorities and international partners such as the IAEA, Interpol and others on building operational capabilities and developing personnel competences in the field of nuclear security and is engaged in other cooperation activities.

Seeking to raise national and global awareness that the insider threat is credible and poses a serious threat to the security of nuclear and radioactive material, Lithuania has subscribed to the Joint Statement on Mitigating Insider Threats, INFCIRC/908, and is looking forward to its revised version. We are confident that the application of appropriate preventive measures will allow the international community to reduce and mitigate the insider threat in the nuclear security area.

And finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I reaffirm Lithuania's continuous support to the work of the IAEA, including in Ukraine, in sustaining and strengthening global nuclear security.

Thank You.