

STATEMENT
BY MINISTER OF ENERGY OF UKRAINE
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at the 68th General Conference
of the International Atomic Energy Agency
Agenda Item 7 General Debate
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Mr/Madam President,
Director General,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

A year has passed, and I am once again honoured to address you from this distinguished rostrum on this 936th day of Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine.

During the past year Ukraine has suffered unprecedented attacks by Russia on energy system with severe destructions and damages. We lost lives of our brave soldiers, who defended our country, lives of our power engineers who restored power equipment after the Russian attacks and ensured reliable operation of nuclear power plants, lives of peaceful civilians and children – the future of Ukraine.

But we continue to stand and withstand this evil of the 21st century.

Distinguished delegates,

It is 10 years now since Russia occupied Crimea and Sevastopol Research Reactor in 2014 and 2 and a half years after the occupation of Zaporizhzhia NPP in 2022 and from then on, we all live under the threat of a major nuclear accident.

While the whole world is on its way to sustainable development, advances nuclear technologies and commissions new nuclear power generation capacities, Russia, in a barbarian way, is deliberately destroying Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia NPP, demonstrating full disrespect to the international law system, undermining its effectiveness.

The situation at Zaporizhzhia NPP is getting worse with all seven indispensable nuclear safety and security pillars and five principles on its protection being violated.

The occupiers continue to militarize the plant and the adjacent occupied territories, using them as a cover for artillery strikes on the territories and settlements controlled by Ukraine. The IAEA experts, present at the plant, constantly record the sounds of shelling and explosions near the ZNPP site.

Step by step, Russia is doing everything in its power to ensure that the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant will never operate again.

On 11th of August 2024, a fire broke out at a technical water supply facility at the Zaporizhzhia NPP site. This event caused a fire at cooling tower No. 1, which is located about one kilometre from the plant's power units. Luckily, this incident had no consequences for nuclear safety of the plant and radiation levels remained unchanged as the cooling towers are not in operation.

We are grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency and in particular to Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi for all his efforts to stabilize the situation

and keep it under the control. We would like also to thank the IAEA experts for their brave presence at the Zaporizhzhia NPP and other nuclear power plants of Ukraine, making a significant contribution to the nuclear safety and security.

Distinguished delegates,

Despite all efforts, our response to nuclear terrorism is insufficient. Otherwise, there would be no massive missile attacks like the one on 08th of July 2024 on the National specialized children's hospital OKHMATDYT- the deliberate target of Russia.

OKHMATDYT is the largest children's hospital in Ukraine, which treats up to 20 000 children annually. It is well known for saving lives of thousands of children with severe illnesses, including oncology. OKHMATDYT is a beneficiary of IAEA Technical Cooperation projects aimed at supporting radiotherapy in Ukraine.

At the moment of missile attack there were 27 sources of ionizing radiation in the oncology department that were miraculously not damaged.

Just think for a second what the consequences would be if radiation sources were affected!

This heinous attack by Russia on children's medical institution is another manifestation of Russia's gross violation of its commitments and obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as complete disregard for international legal order.

Russia has no place in the civilized world and must be kept isolated.

Distinguished delegates,

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the Ukrainian NPPs have been in blackout for 12 times due to the damages of substations and power lines caused by Russia's shelling.

Losing grid connection with NPPs means increased risk of a potential nuclear and radiation accident. It also means blackouts for millions of Ukrainians, which is a sad reality for us today.

I would like to recall the most recent large-scale shelling of Ukraine on 26th of August this year, when Russia used 236 air strike devices, including 127 missiles and 109 drones. The entire attack was targeted at Ukraine's energy system: generation facilities, power lines, including open switchgears and substations of Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

This Russian attack had a direct impact on Ukrainian nuclear power plants, including emergency shutdowns. It was only thanks to the professional actions of the personnel that a nuclear incident was avoided.

The total cost of the attack was estimated at \$1.2-1.3 billion.

How many useful things could have been done by investing these funds in the development of nuclear science and technology, medicine, food safety and other research areas for the benefit of all mankind.

How much longer will we observe Russia's deliberate violation of the IAEA Statute, deliberate and repeated disregard for resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference?

Russia does not deserve the privileged status within the Agency and its Board of Governors. It cannot be regarded as a state with the most advanced atomic energy technology, because the most advanced technology envisages, among other things, ensuring nuclear safety and security.

Russia purposefully creates unprecedented nuclear unsafety and insecurity. The IAEA's motto is 'Atoms for Peace and Development', so what kind of peace and development does Russia bring to the Agency?

The risks are too high to delay making the right decisions and implementing the right measures.

We call on countries to unite efforts under the auspices of the IAEA, because the response to the aggressor must be powerful and unanimous.

We must do everything to prevent any military threat to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the future.

It is time now to entrust IAEA with more power for stronger actions.

Distinguished delegates,

Our ultimate and the only goal in this war of aggression of Russia against Ukraine is to return our internationally recognized territories and our Zaporizhzhia NPP, since only under Ukrainian control the largest nuclear power plant in Europe will be safe and secure.

We are very grateful for all the assistance from the Agency and the Member-States to support safe operation of NPPs in Ukraine, to recover the Exclusion

Zone and Chernobyl NPP after occupation, to support our healthcare system as well as to recover the Kherson region after the destruction of Kakhovka Dam.

I would like to thank all countries for solidarity and support.

We are deeply grateful to all countries that joined Item 1 of Ukraine's Peace Formula devoted to Radiation and Nuclear Safety, which is the only way to restore peace and justice.

We call on countries that have not yet done so to come to the light side, because truth and law always prevail.

Thank you very much for your attention!