



IAEA Board of Governors – September 2024

Agenda item 9

Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Mr Chair,

Switzerland thanks the Director General for his latest report and commends the Agency for its continued commitment to nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine. My delegation fully supports the Five Principles, the Seven Pillars and the Agency's efforts in Ukraine.

Mr Chair,

Any attack on any nuclear power plant is irresponsible and unacceptable. This is why Switzerland is deeply concerned about the safety and security situation at nuclear facilities in Ukraine and in particular about Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). We deplore the fact that all Seven Pillars are still being fully or partially compromised.

The continued presence of armed troops and military equipment and another increase in military activities at and around the ZNPP are problematic. We are concerned about the reported fire at one of the cooling towers. Any kind of fire on the site or in its vicinity poses the risk of fire spreading to facilities essential for nuclear safety or security. We are also concerned about the reported instabilities in off-site power supply.

It is of utmost importance that all reactors are and remain in cold shutdown as long as the nuclear safety and security situation at ZNPP remains unstable due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The IAEA's experts at the ZNPP must always be granted timely access to all areas of the plant. Limitations and delays in the provision of information and access

undermine the observance of the Five Principles and the work of the Agency in Ukraine.

Mr Chair,

We have repeatedly called on the parties to the conflict to refrain from conducting any hostilities in the vicinity of nuclear power plants or other nuclear facilities. All parties must comply with international humanitarian law, and in particular with the Geneva Conventions and the First Additional Protocol. We call on Russia and Ukraine to fully respect the Five Principles.

The Russian Federation holds the key to end this dangerous situation due to the continued occupation of the Ukrainian ZNPP by Russian troops. Switzerland once again calls on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory, including from the ZNPP, and to implement all relevant resolutions by the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference – to the benefit of nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine and the region.

Thank you.