



## **IAEA Board of Governors – November 2024**

### **Agenda item 6**

### **Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

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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, that certain activities continue to put the observance of the Five Principles at risk and that the nuclear safety and security situation remains precarious.

The continued presence of armed troops and military equipment at the ZNPP and the increased level of military activities around all Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plants (NPP) are problematic. The increasing fragility of the electrical grid and persistent instabilities in off-site power supply at all NPPs raise major concerns. In this context, Switzerland welcomes the expansion of the IAEA's assistance to help Ukraine ensure the stability of its critical energy infrastructure, notably the relevant substations. Furthermore, frequent reports of drones observed flying in close proximity to the operating NPPs are troubling.

It is of utmost importance that all reactors at ZNPP are and remain in cold shutdown as long as the nuclear safety and security situation remains unstable due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Therefore, we welcome the decision to make use of other sources to provide heating to the population around ZNPP this winter. 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 NPPs 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.

Russia holds the key to end this dangerous situation due to its 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.