



IAEA Board of Governors – March 2024

Agenda item 8

Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Thank you, Mr Chair,

Switzerland thanks the Director General for his comprehensive report and commends the Agency for its continued commitment to monitor the situation at the nuclear facilities in Ukraine. The Agency's missions at all Ukrainian NPPs and Chernobyl are essential in providing impartial and independent information as well as in ensuring nuclear safety and security and in implementing safeguards in Ukraine. We express our gratitude to and admiration for the brave Agency staff members who serve in these missions.

Switzerland continues to support the Agency's efforts in political, practical and financial terms. We fully support the five concrete principles to protect the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) as well as the seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during armed conflict. We welcome the Director General's continued reporting of the observance of the Five Principles and note that the Agency did not find any indications that the Five Principles were not being observed. Switzerland reiterates its call on Russia and Ukraine to commit to respecting these Five Principles and to refrain from putting them at risk.

Mr Chair,

We are deeply concerned over the continued occupation of the ZNPP, and the precarious situation at the site. Six out of the Seven Pillars were either fully or partially compromised during the reporting period. There were eight occurrences of total loss of off-site power since the start of the conflict.

This is deeply concerning and highlights the fragile nuclear safety and security situation at ZNPP. We also note with concern that reactor units are kept in hot shutdown mode, in violation of the regulatory orders of the competent regulator. Moreover, the continued difficult working and living conditions for the staff, the discriminatory administrative staffing requirements, the delays in the execution of important maintenance activities as well as the continuation of explosions reported in the vicinity of or at ZNPP underline how precarious the situation is. The fact that the IAEA's Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhya has been prevented timely access to some areas of significance for their mission and limitations and delays in the provision of information are worrying and undermine the observance of the Five Principles. We emphasize the importance of timely and unrestricted access enabling the Agency to fully confirm that all Five Principles are being observed at all times.

We reiterate our call on the parties to the conflict to refrain from conducting hostilities in the vicinity of and at nuclear power plants or other nuclear facilities. Switzerland calls on the parties to comply with international humanitarian law, and in particular with the Geneva Conventions and the First Additional Protocol with its provisions on the protection of civilian infrastructure and special protection of works and installations containing dangerous forces.

Finally, Mr Chair,

We once again call on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory, including from the ZNPP, and to fully implement the resolution adopted by the 2023 IAEA General Conference as well as the resolutions adopted by the Board of Governors on Ukraine.

We request the DG to continue to closely monitor the situation and to continue to report to the Board.

Thank you.