

Statement of Ukraine
delivered by the Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine
Ms Svitlana Grynchuk
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS-2024)
(20-24 May 2024, Vienna, Austria)

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

Ukraine fully aligns with the European Union statement as delivered by Czech Republic.

We regret that no consensus was reached and Ministerial Declaration was not adopted and we would like to thank Co-Presidents for their efforts and we align ourselves with a Statement of the Co-Presidents.

Despite all the progress we have made over the years in nuclear security and physical protection, NPPs can become targets of armed aggression and illegal seizure, as happened to Ukraine and the Sevastopol Research Reactor in 2014 and in 2022, when Russia illegally seized Europe's largest nuclear power plant – Zaporizhzhia NPP and created unprecedented risks for nuclear safety and security and continues to create such risks every day.

What is happening in Ukraine now is nuclear terrorism, which no one could have prevented and our country can neither enjoy all the benefits of nuclear energy nor maintain public confidence in safe and secure future of nuclear energy.

Russia, on a daily basis, is destroying our thermal and hydro power stations, power transmission lines, transformers and other elements of energy system of Ukraine with nuclear remaining a major source of energy for the country.

Ukraine sees its future with nuclear energy and we want to be confident that this future will be safe and secure.

Therefore, we call upon the Agency to intensify its efforts and revise nuclear security standards towards strengthening to ensure countries' nuclear security regimes readiness to withstand in all possible circumstances, including armed conflict, to ensure that counties will be held accountable for their violations.

It is time for transformation of international nuclear security framework and international instruments to correspond to the current challenges and threats and consider, to the extent possible, all future ones.

We are grateful to the International Atomic Energy Agency and Member States for uniting their efforts and providing assistance to Ukraine.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Czech Republic for its dedicated leadership in implementing Item 1 "Radiation and Nuclear Safety" of Ukraine's Peace Formula and we are grateful to Co-Chairs from Sweden, France and Japan and all the countries participating in this working group for their support on our way to restoration of peace and justice.

We have to make Russia immediately withdraw its military forces and other unauthorized personnel from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and to fully respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you for your attention.