

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1272

Date: 14 February 2025

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 14 February 2025, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



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Nº4131/35-197-17220

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

In the early hours of 14 February 2025, at approximately 01:54 a.m., the Russian Federation launched an attack drone equipped with a high-explosive warhead, struck the New Safe Confinement (NSC) structure at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP). The NSC serves as the principal protective barrier over the Shelter Object, which encloses Reactor Unit 4, the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster—the worst nuclear catastrophe in human history.

The attack resulted in a direct impact on the protective shell of the NSC at an elevation of 87 meters. The explosion caused significant structural damage to both the outer and inner cladding of the NSC Arch, along with critical equipment from the main crane system. Furthermore, the strike triggered a fire that affected approximately 40 square meters of the structure. Emergency response teams, including personnel from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine and the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant, successfully extinguished the fire. However, residual smoke persisted, and a hole in the NSC cladding now threatens the integrity of the Shelter Object's protective function.

Preliminary assessments indicate that the safe operational conditions of the NSC and the Shelter Object have been compromised, necessitating urgent evaluation of the extent of the damage and the potential risk to nuclear safety. The attack was documented by experts of the IAEA's permanent monitoring mission stationed at the ChNPP.

According to the information, provided by Ukrainian regulator – SNRIU, radiation levels at the site remain stable and

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are being continuously monitored. However, the long-term consequences of this attack remain uncertain and require immediate international inspection.

Beyond the physical destruction, this act of aggression poses severe humanitarian and environmental risks. Any further damage to the confinement structure, power supply systems, or radiation monitoring equipment could lead to uncontrolled releases of radioactive material, endangering the health and safety of populations in Ukraine, neighbouring countries, and potentially across Europe. The attack further exacerbates the psychological distress among affected communities, many of whom still suffer from the long-lasting consequences of the 1986 disaster.

This incident is a direct consequence of Russia's reckless policy, which on a daily basis directs attack drones over Ukraine's nuclear facilities, including the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. Such actions pose an ongoing and escalating threat to nuclear safety and security.

Moreover, this escalation highlights Russia's continued defiance of fundamental international principles designed to protect nuclear facilities from military aggression. The Chornobyl nuclear power plant, like all nuclear facilities, must remain protected in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the IAEA Safety Principles.

It is worth recalling that the Chornobyl NSC was constructed with financial contributions from the International Chernobyl Cooperation Account, managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, with the objective of ensuring the long-term environmental safety of the site. Russia's attack on this critical facility represents a direct assault on international nuclear security and an unacceptable act of nuclear terrorism.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 14 February 2025