

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1280

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 21 March 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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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.

The Russian Federation continues to systematically endanger nuclear security in Ukraine through repeated incursions of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) near Ukrainian nuclear facilities.

According to JSC "NNEGC "Energoatom", the operator of Ukraine's nuclear power plants, multiple UAV incursions have been documented, demonstrating a persistent pattern of provocative actions by Russia.

Near the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant, significant groups of unidentified UAVs were observed repeatedly between February 13 and March 11, 2025. Documented incidents include:

- February 13-14: Six UAVs detected
- February 14: Two UAVs detected
- February 17: Seven UAV detected
- February 18: Four UAVs detected
- February 20: Two UAVs detected.
- February 21: Five UAVs detected
- February 22: Three UAVs detected
- February 24: Three UAVs detected
- February 25: Two UAVs detected
- February 26: Fifteen UAVs detected
- February 28: Four UAVs detected
- March 1: Fifteen UAVs detected
- March 2: Two UAVs detected
- March 8: One UAV detected
- March 9: Four UAVs detected
- March 11: Eight UAVs detected

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Near the Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant, documented UAV incursions include:

- February 16: One UAV detected
- February 17: One UAV detected
- February 23: Four UAVs detected

Ukraine asserts that these UAV incursions by the Russian Federation constitute a grave breach of international nuclear safety and security norms. These overflights blatantly violate:

- IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles, including the responsibility for nuclear safety and the imperative to prevent nuclear accidents.
- IAEA Safety Requirements, specifically SSR-2/1 (Rev. 1), Requirement 17, which mandates protection of nuclear plants against human-induced external hazards,
- Nuclear Security Recommendations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, as outlined in INFCIRC/225/Rev.5 (Nuclear Security Series No. 13), which obliges states to counter airborne threats to nuclear facilities.
- The Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Safety, which require State Parties to maintain effective defences against safety hazards and prevent accidents with radiological consequences.

Ukraine urges the immediate cessation of these unlawful UAV operations, which pose an unacceptable risk of a nuclear incident. These provocations not only endanger Ukraine's national security but also undermine global nuclear safety and security, principles upheld by the IAEA and the international community.

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, 21 March 2025