

# Information Circular

**INFCIRC/1304**

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**General Distribution**

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## Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 18 July 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.

On 15 July 2025, the IAEA Secretariat circulated among Member States document INFCIRC/1303, which contains criticism of the Director General's report GOV/2025/26 concerning nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine.

Ukraine considers the content of INFCIRC/1303 as politically motivated, legally groundless, and technically unfounded. It constitutes yet another attempt to distort the objective assessments presented by the IAEA Secretariat and to divert attention from the real source of threats to nuclear safety and security in Ukraine.

Contrary to the assertions made in the circulated note, the Director General's report GOV/2025/26 is based on the mandate provided by the Agency's Statute and reinforced by successive resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference. These resolutions, adopted with the broad support of the Agency's membership, explicitly request the Director General to continue monitoring and reporting on the situation of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine, including the status of energy infrastructure essential for the safe operation of nuclear facilities.

The allegation that the Secretariat has exceeded its statutory functions is not only erroneous, but also indicative of an attempt to obstruct objective oversight of the situation created by the illegal actions of the occupying power.

The Director General's report GOV/2025/26 on nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine stands on a firm international legal foundation. It reflects and implements the will of the international community as expressed through decisions and resolutions of the United Nations and the IAEA.

**Secretariat**

**International Atomic Energy Agency****Vienna**

In fulfilling its reporting obligations, the Secretariat of the IAEA acts in accordance with Article III of the Statute of the Agency, which entrusts it with the responsibility to ensure the application of safeguards and to report on matters relevant to nuclear safety and security. Furthermore, under the 1957 Agreement on the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Secretariat is obliged to respect the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly. This includes resolutions such as A/RES/ES-11/4, which reaffirm Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The Director General's report GOV/2025/26 is therefore not only consistent with the Agency's technical mandate but also aligned with its institutional obligations as part of the United Nations system.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine further expresses its full confidence in the professionalism, technical credibility, and impartiality of the IAEA Secretariat. The IAEA Director General and Secretariat have demonstrated exemplary dedication in addressing the unprecedented nuclear safety challenges caused by Russia's invasion. Far from being «biased», as the Russian Federation baselessly alleges, the Agency's work has been lauded by the international community for its objectivity and adherence to fact. The continuous on-site presence of IAEA experts in Ukraine – including the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ) – ensures that essential, fact-based and impartial information about the situation at ZNPP and other facilities is available to all Member States.

Ukraine rejects in the strongest terms the implications in INFCIRC/1303 regarding the ownership and regulatory status of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The ZNPP is located on the sovereign territory of Ukraine and remains subject to the comprehensive safeguards agreement between Ukraine and the IAEA. The so-called «federal oversight» and involvement of unauthorized entities, such as Rostekhnadzor, have no legal basis and are not recognized by the international community. The IAEA Secretariat has a duty to reflect the position of the United Nations and its own policy-making organs, which have consistently affirmed Ukraine's sovereignty over the plant and rejected the Russian Federation's attempted annexation and seizure.

Accusations that the Secretariat has ignored «objective Russian data» or relied on «false claims by Kyiv» are unsubstantiated and seek to discredit the professionalism of the IAEA's experts. The Agency's reports are the product of direct observation by international staff deployed on-site and are supported by verified data, consistent technical methodology, and impartial analysis. The inclusion of factual findings, whether related to restricted access, observable corrosion, or operational limitations, reflects the Agency's adherence to high standards of transparency and technical precision. The Russian Federation's repeated efforts to challenge these reports are motivated not by genuine concern for safety, but by its desire to conceal the consequences of its unlawful military presence at a nuclear site.

The Russian narrative portraying Ukraine as the source of provocations near the ZNPP is politically cynical and entirely disconnected from the factual situation on the ground. The only reason the ZNPP is in a situation of elevated risk is because it is occupied by foreign armed forces, heavily militarized, and cut off from its legitimate operator and regulator. The IAEA Secretariat has consistently noted that at least six of the Director General's Seven Indispensable Pillars for nuclear safety and security are compromised at the ZNPP.

The Russian Federation's unlawful presence at the ZNPP, including the attempted seizure and external control of a functioning nuclear power plant on foreign soil, constitutes an unprecedented act of nuclear piracy. Such actions have no precedent in the history of the IAEA and would not have arisen in the first place had the Russian Federation not violated the core principles of international law by invading Ukraine and stealing its civilian nuclear infrastructure. The entire situation at the ZNPP is a consequence of this aggression, and efforts to discredit the IAEA's reporting only serve to normalize an illegal occupation and ongoing nuclear blackmail.

Rotations of ISAMZ are being carried out under conditions unilaterally imposed by the occupying side. Even under such conditions imposed by the Russian Federation, the Mission remains unable to fully implement its mandate, as the occupants systematically restricts access and seeks to conceal its unlawful activities at the ZNPP.

Equally absurd are the insinuations that the Agency is politically biased or that its standards are selectively applied. The Director General's Seven Pillars and Five Concrete Principles are based on universally accepted safety norms and their application to the ZNPP is a matter of professional necessity. Ukraine has welcomed and facilitated

the Agency's presence at all its nuclear facilities and continues to cooperate fully with IAEA experts, despite the extremely challenging conditions caused by the ongoing Russian war against Ukraine. That cooperation stands in stark contrast to the environment at the ZNPP, where the presence of armed personnel and lack of transparency remain persistent concerns.

Attempts to discredit the Agency's reporting by pointing to «untied screws» or questioning observed staffing levels only reinforce the impression that the occupying side seeks to divert attention from systemic violations and safety deficits. The IAEA Secretariat's role is not to validate political narratives, but to report objectively on the nuclear safety situation on the ground. That is precisely what GOV/2025/26 does, and it is precisely why the Russian Federation seeks to undermine it.

Ukraine expresses its full support for the IAEA Secretariat, its Director General, and the Agency's staff working tirelessly to uphold safety, security, and the safeguards system under unprecedented circumstances. The integrity of the Agency's reporting and the neutrality of its professionals must be protected from politically motivated attacks. INFCIRC/1303 represents not only an attempt to rewrite reality, but also a direct challenge to the credibility of the Agency as a whole.

In light of the above, Ukraine urges all Member States to resolutely reaffirm their support for the IAEA's mandate, its professional independence, and its continued reporting on the safety and security situation in Ukraine. Ukraine reiterates its call for the immediate withdrawal of all unauthorized personnel from the ZNPP and the full restoration of regulatory control to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine 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, 18 July 2025