

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 14 August 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.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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in Vienna

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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 10 August 2025, during a large-scale missile attack by the armed forces of the Russian Federation against civilian infrastructure in the city of Zaporizhzhia, the premises of the External Crisis Centre of the branch «Separate Subdivision «Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant» (ZNPP) were damaged and partially destroyed.

The External Crisis Centre is an integral component of ZNPP's nuclear and radiation safety architecture. Located in Zaporizhzhia and established in 2022 to strengthen off-site emergency preparedness under wartime conditions, it ensures round-the-clock monitoring of the radiation situation in the plant's observation zone on territory under Ukrainian control and coordinates information exchange among relevant services during crisis situations at and around the site.

Degrading or disabling such a centre erodes resilience and sustainability in emergency response, hampers situational awareness, and can delay the initiation of protective actions such as sheltering, stable iodine distribution, controlled evacuation, or traffic management.

This incident occurred against a backdrop of continuing nuclear safety and security vulnerabilities at ZNPP, including repeated losses of external power and other factors that reduce safety margins. Recent blackouts and losses of off-site power highlight the very thin safety margin for heat removal and other essential safety functions. In this context, any attack in the vicinity of nuclear installations—or against facilities and systems that support emergency preparedness and response—creates additional risks of cascading effects and must be unequivocally avoided.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

The Agency's Five Concrete Principles for the protection of ZNPP, presented by the Director General to the United Nations Security Council in May 2023, include the imperative that there be no attack of any kind from or against the plant, in particular targeting reactors, spent fuel storage, other critical infrastructure, or personnel. Off-site crisis-management and emergency-response capabilities that are integral to nuclear safety should be protected in the same spirit, as their impairment can undermine the Centre's and national authorities' ability to prevent or mitigate radiological consequences.

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.

