



## **IAEA Board of Governors – June 2024**

### **Agenda item 8**

### **Nuclear safety, security and safeguards in Ukraine**

#### **STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND**

---

Mr Chair,

Switzerland thanks the Director General for his comprehensive report and commends the Agency and its staff for its continued commitment to monitor the situation at the nuclear facilities in Ukraine in extremely challenging circumstances. The Agency's missions are essential for providing impartial and independent information as well as for ensuring nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Switzerland continues to support the Agency's efforts in Ukraine and we fully support the Five Principles as well as the Seven Pillars.

Mr Chair,

Switzerland is deeply concerned about the safety and security situation at nuclear facilities in Ukraine and in particular about Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). It is a matter of deep concern that all Seven Pillars are being fully or partially compromised and that the Five Principles have been violated for the first time since November 2022.

It is crucial to highlight that any attack on any nuclear power plant is irresponsible and unacceptable. The reports of the presence of armed troops and military equipment and an increase in military activities at and around the site are deeply troubling. We are also concerned about the recurring loss of the remaining off-site power lines, the difficult working and living conditions, the discriminatory administrative staffing requirements and the delays in the execution of important maintenance activities at the ZNPP. We note that all six reactor units are kept in cold shutdown mode which is in line with the regulatory orders of the competent regulator.

Importantly, the IAEA's experts at the ZNPP must be granted timely access to all areas. Limitations and delays in the provision of information and access undermine the observance of the Five Principles.

Mr Chair,

We reiterate our call on the parties to the conflict to refrain from conducting hostilities in the vicinity of and at nuclear power plants or other nuclear facilities. Switzerland calls on all parties to comply with international humanitarian law, and in particular with the Geneva Conventions and the First Additional Protocol. We underline the need for Russia and Ukraine to commit to fully respecting the Five Principles.

With the Russian military aggression against Ukraine being the root cause and trigger for this dangerous situation due to the military seizure and continued occupation by Russian troops of the Ukrainian ZNPP, we once again call on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory, including from the ZNPP, and to implement all relevant resolutions by the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference.

Finally, Mr Chair,

We request the DG to continue to closely monitor the situation and to continue to report to the Board.

Thank you.