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Prevention of armed conflict

**The situation in the temporarily occupied territories
of Ukraine**

Letter dated 25 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith information from the State Enterprise National Nuclear Energy Generating Company “Energoatom” (Ukraine) on the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 (a) and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergiy **Kyslytsya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 25 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Energoatom update on the state of affairs at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant occupied by the Russian Federation (as of 23 August 2022)

Until recently, perhaps no one could seriously imagine that nuclear facilities of one IAEA member state could be attacked with heavy weapons and forcibly seized by military of another IAEA member state. But that is exactly what is happening in Ukraine, where safety and security of nuclear facilities remain at highest risk.

Over more than 5 months of the unprovoked and unjustified full-fledged invasion of the Russian Federation to Ukraine the Russian military attacked a number of nuclear facilities in Ukraine damaging its infrastructure and trying to collapse the entire energy system of the country.

The most threatening situation to nuclear safety and security of nuclear facilities in Ukraine is at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP), which, with six power units, is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and the third in the world. On 4th March 2022 the occupier's army for the first time in the world history shelled with heavy weapons and seized nuclear power plant – the nuclear facilities located at the ZNPP site.

The Russian actions are of deliberate, well-planned and coordinated nature aimed at using the occupied ZNPP for the military purposes and blackmailing Ukraine and the world with potential explosions and destruction of power units of the ZNPP, holding the plant's workers and residents of the satellite town of Enerhodar hostage.

The Russians deployed military and heavy equipment – trucks, tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, as well as ammunition and explosives, not only on the plant site, but they put it directly into the turbine halls of the ZNPP creating hazard of major fire at these units. The Russian occupiers keep increasing the number of military at the plant. On 22 August 2022 the occupiers additionally brought two armored personnel carriers and six special cargoes to the repair zone of the plant. In total, about 50 units of military equipment are deployed at the plant now. Half a thousand Russian troops are constantly present on site. The occupiers are using the plant site on daily basis as a cover to shell the nearby towns and cities controlled by Ukraine. The invaders have also mined the coastline of the ZNPP outside the cooling pond and the coast of Kakhovka reservoir bordering the plant.

The Russians continue to kill Ukrainian people with their extremely deadly weapon – cruise missiles. In doing so, they systematically launch the missiles at low height over Ukrainian nuclear power plants that can potentially lead to a nuclear catastrophe of European or even global scale. So far, Ukraine recorded four cases when the cruise missiles of the “Kalibr” type flew precisely over the sites of Ukrainian NPPs.

On 5 August 2022 the occupying forces of the Russian Federation three times shelled the ZNPP site. Russian shells seriously damaged the nitrogen-oxygen station and the combined auxiliary building, as well as a high voltage line of 330 kV ZNPP – Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant. The risks remain of hydrogen leakage and dispersion of radioactive contaminants. The fire hazard is also high.

The next day Russian occupiers shelled the plant site again and damaged 3 radiation monitoring sensors. One plant worker got a shrapnel wound. Missiles hit

the ZNPP site directly next to the plant's dry storage of spent nuclear fuel. Obviously, the target was to hit the spent fuel containers located in an open storage area.

On 7 August 2022 the russian military damaged the 750 kV overhead line "ZNPP-Kakhovska substation", which activated safety trip of a unit. The power unit is currently being cooled down. Consequently, there is only one remaining direction of power delivery to the ZNPP. Should this line be damaged, it will result in the plant blackout.

These attacks are aimed at destroying the plant infrastructure, as well as disconnecting ZNPP from the energy system of Ukraine and cutting off electricity in the south of the country. They can bring the disaster on the scale of Fukushima and Chernobyl to Ukraine, Europe, and the world.

As of 23 August 2022 the ZNPP operates at risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards due to russian shelling. On 20 August 2022, as a result of russian shelling, one of the transitional galleries through which personnel transit from the special buildings to the power units (overpass) was damaged. Periodic shelling of the ZNPP by russian troops with the use of multiple launch rocket systems poses a serious risk to the safe operation of the plant.

The occupiers are constantly terrorizing local citizens and workers of the nuclear plant by kidnapping and torturing them. So far, hundreds of local citizens, including the plant employees, have been kidnapped and their current location remains unknown. On 14 August 2022 russian troops fired six shells at occupied Enerhodar, as a result of which an employee of the ZNPP was killed, and two people were wounded. One more plant employee was killed in Enerhodar as a result of russian attacks on 22 August 2022. The work of the plant employees is under the constant threat of the aggressor's tanks and guns, which increases the risk of human errors that can lead to disaster.

The acts of nuclear terrorism by the russian military are directly supported by the so-called specialists from Rosatom, who illegally entered Ukraine and illegally stay at the plant site and claim that the plant is now under the governance of Rosenergoatom – the operator of russian nuclear power plants. The russian occupiers from Rosatom directly coordinate actions to disconnect the ZNPP from the energy system of Ukraine by damaging all connecting power lines with artillery fire. The aggressor is trying to take full control of the ZNPP and force our personnel to work for russia.

The described crimes of the russian federation highlight the very real risk of a nuclear disaster, which could threaten the health of the population and the environment in Ukraine and beyond. By shelling and seizure of Ukrainian nuclear facilities the russian federation violates all existing norms of international law, nuclear and radiation safety requirements, specifically the UN Charter and the IAEA Statute. The russian actions have compromised or entirely violated all the IAEA's seven indispensable nuclear safety and security pillars.

The nuclear disaster can only be prevented by the aligned actions of security organizations, in particular of the United Nations and the IAEA, as well as constant pressure on russia by the international community to withdraw their weapons and personnel from the Europe's largest nuclear facility and ensure its complete demilitarization.

It is vital to restore the status of the nuclear power plant as a peaceful civilian nuclear facility. It is russia's continued control of the plant that raises the risk of a nuclear accident or incident and endangers the population of Ukraine, neighboring states and the international community.

We call on the world community to take decisive measures to prevent the crimes of the russian occupiers. What is happening at the ZNPP is nuclear terrorism. As such, the entire nuclear industry of the russian federation should be under sanctions, and russia itself should be on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

In his statement on 11 August 2022 the UN Secretary-General A. Guterres called to immediately cease all military activities in the immediate vicinity of the plant and urged the withdrawal of military personnel and equipment from the plant, which must not be used as part of military operation. These demands to the russian federation were supported by the G7 Statement of 10 August 2022 and the joint statement of EU delegation dated 12 August 2022, putting full responsibility on russia for its unlawful actions in Ukraine.

The main outcome of the joint international efforts must be withdrawal of the russian military and civilian personnel from the ZNPP territory, as well as from Enerhodar. This will definitely bring the plant to its safe and secure operation, as it was before the full-fledged russian war against Ukraine.
