

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 31 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by Germany in connection with the Security Council briefing on threats to international peace and security which was held on 30 May 2023 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antje Leendertse



Annex to the letter dated 31 May 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

**Security Council, nuclear safety and security in Ukraine,
30 May 2023**

We thank you for convening us on the urgent matter of the nuclear safety and security implications of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

We thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, for his briefing. Pending full liberation of the sites, we support the IAEA's efforts to reduce the risk of a nuclear catastrophe.

Before Russia started its war of aggression, Ukrainian nuclear power plants produced almost half of Ukraine's energy supply.

Russia's illegal invasion, occupation, its shelling and mining, and its harassment of Ukrainian staff have turned these plants into nuclear safety hazards.

On 2 March 2022, Director General Grossi outlined "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security in an armed conflict".

Two days later Russian forces took control of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and have ever since violated these principles.

Russia also ignored three resolutions of the IAEA's Board of Governors, affirming that any armed attack against peaceful nuclear facilities constitutes a breach of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We applaud the courage, professionalism, and commitment of Ukrainian staff who have prevented a nuclear catastrophe so far and who continue to work under unbearable conditions.

However, the risks will remain dangerously high as long as Russian military personnel and equipment and Rosatom personnel remain at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

In accordance with resolution [ES-11/4](#) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its emergency special session in October 2022 and resolution [ES-11/6](#) adopted in February 2023, we rigorously reject Russia's attempts to take ownership of the plant.

We strongly urge Russia to withdraw all its military equipment and personnel from the plant and hand over and restore full control to Ukraine, the rightful owner.

In addition, Russia proves its irresponsible behaviour as well because it is moving ahead relentlessly with its plan to deploy nuclear weapons in Belarus.

Once again, we strongly urge the Russian Federation to cease its nuclear rhetoric, to put an end to its war of aggression against Ukraine, to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to withdraw immediately from its internationally recognized borders without preconditions.

The world would expect that Russia, as a permanent member of the Security Council and as a nuclear weapons State, would bear special responsibility for nuclear security. It is unfortunate that the very contrary is the case, posing a threat not only to Ukraine.

As China repeatedly committed to preventing and condemning armed attacks against peaceful nuclear facilities, we call on China to use its influence to end Russia's occupation of Ukraine's peaceful nuclear facilities and to stop its dangerous nuclear rhetoric and escalation.
