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Agenda item 31 (a)

Prevention of armed conflict: prevention of armed conflict

Letter dated 30 August 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you a copy of the statement of the Presidium of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in connection with threats to nuclear safety at certain nuclear power plants (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 31 (a).

(Signed) Valentin **Rybakov**



Annex to the letter dated 30 August 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Presidium of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in connection with threats to nuclear safety at certain nuclear power plants

20 August 2024

The Presidium of the Council of the Republic of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus expresses its deep concern in connection with reports of possible attacks and provocations by the Armed Forces of Ukraine against a number of nuclear facilities, in particular the Kursk and Zaporozhye nuclear power plants.

We condemn the deranged strikes against the energy infrastructure of the city of Energodar and the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, which have resulted, according to expert assessments, in the deterioration of the nuclear safety situation at the plant.

Belarus, as the country most affected by the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, is more aware than any other country of the grave long-term consequences of human-caused disasters at nuclear facilities. In terms of the scale of the radioactive release and its consequences, the Chernobyl disaster far surpassed the most serious anthropogenic accidents that have occurred before or since. More than 20 countries have been affected to varying degrees by the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

With time, the international community has also come to a deeper understanding of the scale of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, leading to the proclamation by the General Assembly of 26 April as International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day.

Despite repeated calls for restraint issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the situation around the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant remains complicated.

Today, as the conflict in Ukraine escalates once again, we are compelled to recall the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, in which it is noted, among other things, that acts of nuclear terrorism may result in the gravest consequences and may pose a threat to international peace and security.

We call on parliaments and parliamentary organizations to unite in their efforts to prevent and combat acts of nuclear terrorism, including by promoting strengthened international cooperation among States in developing and adopting effective practical measures to prevent such acts and to prosecute and punish those responsible.

We also call on the leaders of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency to respond immediately and in the strongest possible terms to threats to nuclear safety at nuclear power plants resulting from attacks against the plants and the supporting infrastructure. This issue should remain the focus of close public attention and be the subject of regular reports on the situation and the preventive measures being taken.