

STATEMENT
of the Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 65th IAEA General Conference
(20-24 September 2021, Vienna)

Mr/Madam President, Director General Grossi, distinguished delegates,

I am happy to participate once again in the IAEA General Conference and on behalf of Ukraine to deliver a national statement.

Mr/Madam President, I congratulate you upon your election to this important post. My delegation assures you of our full support.

Director General Grossi, your tenure coincides with an unprecedented historical period in terms of both, internal and external challenges. On behalf of Ukraine, I wish you to continue leading this Agency with your inherent focus, drive and inclusiveness.

I would like also to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Ukraine to welcome Federation of Saint Christopher (Saint Kitts) and Nevis as a new member state of the IAEA and wish every success in cooperation with the Agency.

Mr/Madam President,

This year the world marked 35th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. For half of its own lifetime, the IAEA has been assisting Ukraine in overcoming the consequences of this disaster.

As of today, Ukraine completed installation of the New Safe Confinement over the destroyed Chernobyl's Unit 4 and carried out hot tests at the Interim Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility. By these and other actions

we continue to ensure the highest level of nuclear safety at the Chernobyl site and convert the affected areas into an environmentally safe system.

We welcome the participation of DG Grossi in the high-level events in Ukraine this April in commemoration of the Chernobyl accident anniversary. This visit is a clear signal that the IAEA remain united with Ukraine in Chernobyl issues.

Mr/Madam President,

Ukraine recognizes the Agency's leading role in the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reconfirm our support for the activities of the Agency aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system, and welcome the efforts of the Agency with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to military purposes.

Ukraine remains committed to the objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and fulfills its obligations in accordance with the Ukraine's Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol thereto.

But we should not forget that for the eighth year in a row, Russia continues its armed aggression against Ukraine. Specific nuclear material remains uncontrolled and uninspected at the temporarily occupied by Russia territories of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Sevastopol city, as well as parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Aggressor, has created conditions, in which even minimal implementation of safeguards on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine is impossible.

It is an exceptional situation when one Member State prevents the Agency from fulfilling its statutory mandate on the territory of the other

Member State. It is especially alarming that this one is a nuclear-weapon state.

Mr/Madam President,

Nuclear Safety remains a top priority for Ukraine. We appreciate the Agency for its continuous efforts to help Member States maintain and improve their national standards of nuclear safety.

We believe that activities under Convention on Nuclear Safety, Joint Convention and other legal instruments provide good background for enhancing safety of peaceful nuclear energy use worldwide.

We recognize that the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program represents the fundamental mechanism through which the Agency helps States to build, strengthen and maintain capacities in the safe, peaceful and secure use of nuclear technology in support of sustainable development.

We appreciate continuous support of the Agency during pandemic times and for the technical assistance provided to many countries, including Ukraine, at the outbreak of COVID-19.

Ukraine welcomes IAEA's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative and its systematic and integrated approach to support early detection, and control of outbreaks of zoonotic diseases.

In closing, I would like to express Ukraine's appreciation of the continued progress shown by the Secretariat in strengthening communication and cooperation with Member States using modern information technologies. This is a good example of the excellent adaptation to emerging and unpredictable circumstances, in terms of both – the reorganization of the work of personnel and the continuation of its mandatory functions.

Thank you.