

**Statement by Mr Albinas Zananavicius, Vice-minister of Energy
of the Republic of Lithuania, at the 67th Session of the
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Using this opportunity allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, on the election as the President of the 67th General Conference.

Madam President,

Lithuania fully associates itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the European Union. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following.

Let me begin by mentioning that this year commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the famous President's D. D. Eisenhower's speech which evoked the world to establish the IAEA as the "Atoms for Peace" organization within the UN family.

However, it is hard to believe, that 70 years later one Permanent Member of the UN Security Council and the designated member of the IAEA Board of Governors – the Russian Federation – decided to start the unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and its nuclear facilities this way violating its own obligations and commitments to the Agency and posing a negative effect on the entire UN system.

Madam President,

Zaporizhzhia region is **Ukraine**, and the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is **Ukrainian**. We thank the IAEA Director General for mentioning the Agency's compliance with the 2022 October 12, UNGA Resolution [A/RES/ES-11/4] in his latest report on the situation in Ukraine to the Board of Governors. The annexation of four regions of Ukraine by Russia and the efforts to legitimize it has no validity under international law.

We praise the DG and the Agency staff for their courageous and tireless work preventing a possible nuclear accident at the Zaporizhzhia NPP occupied by Russia. We value Director General's efforts in establishing the seven indispensable pillars and five concrete principles in ensuring nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP and strongly condemn Russia for deliberately compromising them.

Madam President,

We reiterate our call for Russia to immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions, withdraw all its military and other personnel from the ZNPP and the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence within its internationally recognised borders. We also condemn Belarus for its support to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Madam President,

Lithuania reiterates its persistent concern that the newly Russian-built Belarusian NPP continues its commissioning despite unresolved nuclear safety issues, so demonstrating disrespect to the international safety standards and recommendations. Lack of safety culture and deficit of transparency and openness, unrevealed repetitive equipment failures and delayed safety improvement remain matters of utmost concern for our country, and we retain the position that the Belarusian NPP should not be in operation.

Madam President,

Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes is unacceptable; therefore, we join the international community in a call upon the DPRK to refrain from actions that threaten international peace and security and to take steps aimed at pursuing complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Latest reports by the IAEA show that Iran continues to develop its nuclear programme, which increases proliferation risks in the region and beyond. Iran expands its nuclear activities, including by installing additional enrichment capacity, deploying advanced centrifuges, and accumulating enriched uranium exceeding JCPOA limits. We strongly urge Iran to reverse its nuclear trajectory and return, without any further delay, to full implementation of the JCPOA.

Madam President,

My country continues the decommissioning of Ignalina NPP under an immediate dismantling strategy while maintaining the highest level of nuclear and radiation safety. Earlier this year Ignalina NPP has successfully completed cleaning of its two RBMK type reactors' fuel storage pools. This way, both units of the Ignalina NPP were completely released from fissile materials and all spent nuclear fuel is stored safely in dry storage facilities. This allows the NPP to continue progress on the complex decommissioning and dismantling activities.

In July this year, the IAEA ARTEMIS mission has assessed the progress made by Lithuania in the process of selecting potentially suitable sites for a deep geological repository. The mission concluded that Lithuania is safely planning a deep geological repository project for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel and long-lived radioactive waste. We are pleased to receive mission's recommendations and suggestions, which will help us to overcome our future challenges and will guide us forward.

We think it is important for all states to invite corresponding Agency missions in due time, and even more important – to timely and fully implement recommendations and suggestions and make mission reports and implementation results public.

Madam President,

We implement IAEA radiation protection standards in planned, emergency and existing exposure situations in Lithuania in order to ensure the reduction of population exposure doses. We remain committed to paying a great attention to the justification and optimisation of medical exposure.

And finally, Madam President,

I reaffirm Lithuania's continuous support to the work of Agency which plays a crucial role in ensuring radiation protection and nuclear safety, security, and safeguards worldwide.

I thank you.