Communication received from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 15 August 2023, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.

2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.
The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the information about the actions of the Russian occupiers at the Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which are a gross violation of permitting documents and IAEA requirements.

On 10 August 2023, at the steam generator No. 3 of the power unit No. 4 of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, a leak of potentially radioactive water from the first to the second circuit was detected, which is a violation of the integrity of one of the physical barriers to the radiation propagation.

The occupation administration of the ZNPP made a decision to put power unit No. 4 of the ZNPP into a "cold shutdown" mode.

At the same time, according to available information, power unit No. 6 of the ZNPP is being transferred by the Russian occupiers to a "hot shutdown" mode.

These actions were initiated by the occupation administration of the ZNPP and are being carried out contrary to the requirements of the License No. EO 000169 on the right to carry out activities at the life cycle stage, which is called "operation of the Zaporizhzhia NPP nuclear installation, which provides for the operation of power unit No. 6 of the ZNPP only in a "cold shutdown" state".

Such actions on the part of the occupation administration of the ZNPP are a gross violation of the legislation that regulates the use of the nuclear energy, and IAEA safety requirements, in particular, Requirement No. 6: Operational limits and conditions of the Specific Safety Requirements No. SSR-2/2 (Rev. 1) of the Safety of Nuclear Power Plants: Commissioning and Operation.
The irresponsible actions of the Russian occupiers to heat up both power unit No. 4 and power unit No. 6, in the absence of appropriate maintenance and repair of the equipment of the ZNPP power units during the period of occupation as well as a significant shortage of personnel, have a negative impact on the safety of nuclear installations at the ZNPP site.

Such actions carry additional risks of failure of equipment, systems and elements important for safety, may initiate transient processes, which as a result may lead to disruption in normal operation and accidents, including those with severe damage to nuclear fuel.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 August 2023