Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 17 July 2024, 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 following.

The ongoing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to undermine nuclear safety and security at Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

Over the last week, Russia has increased missile and drone attacks against Ukrainian civilian and critical infrastructure, including energy generating facilities, aiming to cause power outage across Ukraine.

Russian Shahed-type strike drones have been spotted near Ukrainian nuclear power plants. In particular, on 10 July 2024, around 02:00-04:05 a.m., five Shahed-type drones were detected at a distance of 25 km from the site of the Rivne Nuclear Power Plant. On the same day, from around 10:15 to 11:43 p.m., five more Shahed-type drones were detected at a distance of approximately 4 km from the site of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant. On 11 July 2024, at 00:48 a.m., another Shahed-type drone was detected at a distance of about 1,4 km from the 750 kV open switchgear (VRP-750) at the site of the Khmelnitssky Nuclear Power Plant.
The intensification of Russian drone attacks in close proximity to Ukrainian nuclear facilities are even more concerning given the non-precision character of the Shahed-type drones. The recent incident with the crash and explosion of a Russian Shahed drone after it crossed the air border of Belarus confirms it. This suggests the uncertainty of the drones' targets and potential damage they cause.

Russia's irresponsible actions grossly violate the first of the five concrete principles of the IAEA Director General, as well as give rise to deep concern about the dangers that threaten not only the frontline Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, but also other Ukrainian nuclear facilities.

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 Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 17 July 2024