

# Information Circular

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**General Distribution**

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## Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 2 April 2025, 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.



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations  
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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.

Three years ago, in early April 2022, Ukraine restored full control over the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone, following its temporary occupation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation. This occupation, lasting from 24 February to 31 March 2022, resulted in numerous documented violations of international humanitarian law and nuclear safety standards.

During the occupation, the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant (ChNPP) was cut off from regular communication with the Ukrainian nuclear regulator and the IAEA. Staff were held hostage under duress for weeks, and the normal rotation of operational personnel was obstructed. The occupiers looted or destroyed critical technical equipment, damaged monitoring systems, and mined surrounding areas. These actions significantly undermined the safety and security regime of the Chornobyl site, posing a grave risk of a radiological incident. Ukraine continues to document the material and environmental consequences of this illegal occupation.

Another tragic milestone in the history of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant occurred on 14 February 2025, when the facility was struck by a Russian Geran-2 drone. The deliberate assault – despite ChNPP's non-operational status – further endangered the safety of the site and constituted a blatant violation of the principles of nuclear safety and international humanitarian law.

An independent assessment conducted by Greenpeace experts in March 2025 determined that the drone strike caused significant damage to the New Safe Confinement (NSC) structure over the Shelter Object of Reactor Unit 4.

**Secretariat**  
**International Atomic Energy Agency**

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Approximately 50% of the northern roof structure was seriously damaged, along with damage to the southern roof and side walls. The fire resulting from the attack compromised the roof's cladding material and critical structural elements, including the crane system. There is also a potential risk of corrosion due to the ingress of snow and water under the NSC arch. As a result, the structure no longer functions according to its design and licensing parameters.

Greenpeace nuclear experts have indicated that the NSC – built with significant international investment to safely contain radioactive materials and facilitate the careful dismantling of the original sarcophagus and reactor over a 100-year period – may now require extensive repairs or even full replacement. Given the high radiation levels above the sarcophagus, repair efforts will be extremely challenging, potentially necessitating the relocation of the entire NSC structure back to its original construction site for refurbishment, which would incur substantial financial and logistical costs.

Furthermore, McKenzie Intelligence Services, commissioned by Greenpeace, confirmed that the drone used in the attack was a Russian-manufactured Geran-2, exclusively employed by Russian forces. The analysis concluded that the drone was almost certainly pre-programmed to strike the ChNPP on the night of 14 February 2025.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine reiterates that any attack on a nuclear facility, regardless of its operational status, constitutes an act of nuclear terrorism and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Ukraine calls on the IAEA Secretariat and the Director General to continue closely monitoring the situation in and around the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone and to respond appropriately to such grave incidents.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly 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 01 April 2025