

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 5 September 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.



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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.

According to official reports of the Ukrainian operator and the IAEA's own observations, multiple incidents of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and missile overflights have been recorded in close vicinity to Ukrainian nuclear power plants in recent weeks.

Such cases include direct UAV overflights above the premises and high-voltage switchyards of the Rivne and Khmelnytsky NPPs. IAEA teams further reported the presence of drones within the monitoring zones of nuclear sites. In the same period, as confirmed in the IAEA Director General's Update 312 of 4 September 2025, one of the off-site power lines at the South Ukraine NPP was disconnected from the grid due to the damage.

Since the beginning of 2025 such incidents have become more frequent, systematic and regular. The IAEA Director General has repeatedly highlighted in his public statements the apparent increase in the use of drones near Ukrainian nuclear facilities. These developments confirm that we are facing not isolated events but a deliberate pattern of hostile actions in the airspace around nuclear installations.

The Permanent Mission underscores that these actions of the Russian Federation constitute a clear violation of international obligations in the areas of nuclear safety and nuclear security. They are incompatible with the "seven indispensable pillars" of nuclear safety outlined by the IAEA Director General. They run counter to the Agency's safety standards and nuclear security guidance, including recommendations on the protection of nuclear installations

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against external hazards and sabotage. The regular presence of UAVs and missiles above or near nuclear facilities directly undermines their physical integrity and the secure supply of off-site power. These actions erode nuclear safety and security.

The consequences of such actions have already materialised. On 4 July 2025 the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant lost all external power supply due to the disconnection of its sole remaining 750 kV line. This resulted in the ninth full blackout of the plant since the start of the occupation. For more than three and a half hours the safety systems of the plant were sustained only by emergency diesel generators. This event once again demonstrated the critical vulnerability of a nuclear facility to external impacts and the real risk of a nuclear accident with transboundary consequences.

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, 05 September 2025

