

Statement on the Safety of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine

On 04 October 2022, ENSREG held a fourth extraordinary meeting via videoconference to assess the nuclear safety situation in Ukraine and the implications of the Russian Federation's attempted illegal annexation of the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson for the safety of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. In particular, ENSREG:

- Expresses its deep concern over the continued precarious situation with regard to nuclear safety at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) due to Russia's actions in and around the site.
- Reiterates that Energoatom is the only legitimate licensee of the ZNPP and that the plant has to be operated as per license conditions and in accordance with Ukrainian legal and regulatory requirements, under the supervision of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU). The SNRIU must be able to perform its regulatory functions freely.
- Stresses that the operation of, or any other safety related activities at the ZNPP not authorized by the SNRIU is illegal under the international legal framework on nuclear safety.
- Underscores that the recent detention of the Director General of the ZNPP by the Russian forces directly jeopardizes the safety of ZNPP¹. It calls on the Russian Federation to place no obstacles to the management and staff of the plant in exercising their duties, to routine staff rotation or to the continuity of supplies and spare parts to the plant.
- Reminds that uninterrupted off-site power supply from the Ukrainian grid is essential for ensuring the safety of ZNPP and that it is therefore important that further disconnections from the Ukrainian grid are avoided.

ENSREG firmly supports the efforts of the IAEA Director General in regard to nuclear safety, security, and safeguards in Ukraine and asks that the IAEA presence at the ZNPP site be reinforced as soon as the security situation on site so permits.

ENSREG stands by the Ukrainian nuclear safety regulator and its staff, and the Ukrainian personnel at ZNPP who continue to operate under extremely difficult circumstances. We are ready to provide support as needed.

ENSREG considers that the Russian Federation's illegal seizure of the ZNPP and its actions in and around the site is the root cause of the current threats to nuclear safety there and that the risks of nuclear incidents will remain high as long as the Russian Federation remains present at the ZNPP site. Consequently, ENSREG calls for the withdrawal of the Russian forces and their military equipment from the ZNPP and for the plant to be handed back without delay to its rightful owner, under the supervision of the Ukrainian nuclear safety authorities.

¹ The Director General has crucial responsibilities in ensuring the nuclear safety and security of the plant including management of the response to any on-site nuclear emergency.