



## Security Council briefing on Nuclear Security in Ukraine 15 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier  
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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I will now make a statement in my national capacity. I start by thanking Mr Grossi for his informative briefing.

Malta is deeply concerned about the recent drone strikes against the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. They are an unprecedented escalation and the first direct military action against the Plant since November 2022. No military strikes can ever be allowed against nuclear facilities, let alone against the largest nuclear power plant in Europe.

The situation around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been precarious for over two years. This is an unacceptable threat to nuclear safety and security with potential catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences for Ukraine, its neighbouring states, and beyond.



While the Agency reported no structural damages to essential systems and components, the incident had the potential to undermine the integrity of the reactor's containment system, dramatically increasing the risk to nuclear safety. These military actions have put the lives of operational staff and IAEA personnel in grave danger and this must be prevented at all costs.

Malta reaffirms its full support for the IAEA's Five Concrete principles to ensure nuclear safety and security at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, as well as the Seven Pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict. They represent an indispensable framework for our collective security and must be respected.

Our position has remained consistent. We support the Agency's presence at all nuclear facilities in Ukraine, including at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, where its staff should be granted full access to all areas of the Plant.



We commend the IAEA's continued efforts to find a permanent solution for the safety and integrity of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, including through the courageous and invaluable work of the Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia.

We must also note that we would not be discussing this issue had the Russian Federation not invaded Ukraine and illegally seized the plant. The militarisation of the largest nuclear power plant in Europe by the Russian Federation is deplorable. Full control of the plant should be returned to the legitimate Ukrainian authorities.

In this connection, we recall the IAEA Board of Governors resolutions of 3 March, 15 September, and 17 November 2022, which called on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its military and other personnel from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We further welcome the Agency's clear position of compliance with resolution 11/4 of the UN General Assembly, which reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and condemned the attempted illegal annexation of its four regions.



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To conclude, the IAEA is the International Body entrusted with the promotion of nuclear safety and security, and we should all adhere to its positions and respect its work. We call on the Russian Federation to do the same.

I thank you.