

IAEA Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 Vienna, Austria

Amsterdam, March 15th 2022

Dear Mr. Director General,

I am writing you regarding the threats to nuclear power plant safety in Ukraine. We are deeply concerned by the vulnerability and risks to Ukraine's operating nuclear plants from armed military attack. We are also concerned the effectiveness of the IAEA in fulfilling its role and its relationship with Ukraine's nuclear operator, regulator and government is compromised by its relationship to the State Atomic Energy Corporation of the Russian Federation (Rosenergoatom or ROSATOM).

On 2nd March Greenpeace International issued its first [assessment](#) on the risks and possible consequences to Ukraine's nuclear reactors, with a particular focus on the risks to the six reactors at Zaporozhia. Two days later the plant was attacked and seized by Russian military forces. On 12th March, Ukraine's State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate (SNRIU) [reported](#) that 11 Rosenergoatom or ROSATOM officials and technical personnel were at the Zaporozhzhia plant. The ROSATOM personnel include chief engineer of the Balakovo nuclear power plant Oleg Romanenko and the deputy chief engineer for repairs of the Rostov nuclear power plant Ivan Malakhov.

The next Russian military and strategic objective may be the three reactors at Yuzhnoukrainsk (South Ukraine), with major implications for nuclear plant safety. The threat to Ukraine's nuclear power program as a result of the war is likely to get worse, either through direct assault and/or the severe impact on civilian infrastructure, particularly the electricity grid.

Now, in what is a unique and disturbing development in the history of nuclear power, a major nuclear corporation, ROSATOM, with active commercial relationships worldwide, is actively engaged with its country's armed forces in the illegal seizure and occupation of another nation's nuclear plant at Zaporozhzhia.

The sharing of vital safety information between Ukraine's embattled nuclear operator, SNRIU and government with the IAEA must be conducted with the full trust and confidence that the Agency is not in any way compromised by its links to ROSATOM.

It is therefore of deep concern to Greenpeace that Mikhail Chudakov, the current Deputy Director General of the IAEA, is also a former Deputy Director General of ROSATOM. For two decades your Deputy Director held senior positions within ROSATOM, until his appointment to the IAEA in 2015. In our view the possibility that Deputy Director General Chudakov has any decision-making or information-sharing role during the current nuclear crisis in Ukraine raises legitimate questions about the IAEA and its relationship to ROSATOM. This directly undermines the effectiveness of the

IAEA, in particular in its relationship to Ukrainian nuclear authorities. As such, Deputy Director General Chudakov's current position is untenable. Consequently, we request:

- the immediate suspension of Mikhail Chudakov from both his Deputy Director and Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy functions;
- immediate clarification on what role, if any, Mikhail Chudakov has played in the IAEA response to the nuclear crisis in Ukraine; and
- full disclosure of communications between the Deputy Director and ROSATOM officials, since the start of the war on Ukraine.

There is no question that Deputy Director Chudakov brings years of experience and knowledge at ROSATOM which one could argue are important at this time. But that is the problem. ROSATOM or those connected to ROSATOM should have no role in the current crisis. The sole and legitimate responsibility for the safety of the 15 nuclear reactors in Ukraine lies with Energoatom, the SNRIU and the Government. To concede otherwise at this stage would be to legitimize the Russian military, ROSATOM and the Russian government's occupation and seizure of Zaporozhzhia and potentially other plants and, by extension, legitimize the illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory.

Given the urgency of this matter we urge you to act immediately.

Yours Sincerely,



Norma Torres
Executive Director
Greenpeace International