**STATEMENT OF UKRAINE**

**for the ENSREG meeting on 24 March 2022**

Ukraine is one of the ten largest countries in the world in terms of nuclear energy use. As a country that has already paid a very high price for the Chornobyl disaster, Ukraine has been applying significant permanent efforts for decades to ensure the highest standards of nuclear and radiation safety and security. The results of those efforts are confirmed by the conclusions of many international missions, peer reviews, cooperation projects.

However, the conditions of the high safety standards of peaceful atom use have changed dramatically as a result of russian federation's full-scale military aggression against Ukraine.

As it is defined in the UN General Assembly resolutions of 2 March 2022 ES-11/1 "Aggression against Ukraine", Ukraine has been under a full-scale armed aggression launched by the russian federation.

Military seizure and destruction of nuclear installations has nothing to do with the assurance of the internationally recognized fundamental safety principles and requirements. It needs to be noted that Ukraine is no longer able to ensure Operator’s compliance with the nuclear and radiation safety requirements and to ensure regulatory control. The SNRIU has analyzed the current status of compliance/uncompliance with the IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles and Safety Requirements in connection with the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (Analysis attached).

The operational personnel at the seized facilities are exhausted due to constant pressure from the Russian military. There is no possibility of normal rest because they or their relatives are actually at the gunpoint. The risk of human failure is catastrophically increasing.

The situation is constantly deteriorating due to the fact that the repair and maintenance work are not possible, and there are no possibilities to deliver spare parts, equipment and qualified specific maintenance and repair personnel to the site.

At the same time, the situation is deteriorating significantly due to the looting of nuclear installations equipment and materials by the Russian military.

It is necessary to act now because the delay can lead to serious consequences. The SNRIU calls for the immediate establishment of an effective mechanism to ensure nuclear and radiation safety in the country as a whole, and at seized facilities in particular.

Following the current deterioration of the situation the Ukraine strongly requests the ENSREG and all European community to provide us with their support of the Ukrainian position regarding the Framework agreement between IAEA and SNRIU on the safety and security of nuclear installation in Ukraine in particular that which affected by the armed aggression of russian federation against Ukraine.

Under these circumstances and taking into account that there is no precedence in the World history that nuclear installations and facilities of such scale like in Ukraine are under the condition of armed aggression and military actions, the urgent international assistance to Ukraine on the safety and security of nuclear installations and facilities in Ukraine shall meets the priority demands of the Ukrainian as follows:

* to establish and coordinate provision of all necessary means for a security zone around every Ukrainian NPP, where there should not be any military personnel, armaments or equipment;
* to demand that the representatives of the Russian Rosatom entity and its affiliates currently present at the occupied Ukrainian NPPs or any other nuclear installation or facility immediately leave the respective sites and hand over operational control over such sites to the Ukrainian officials and IAEA;
* to fulfill the IAEA assistance to Ukraine in implementation of its safeguards obligations under the Safeguards Agreement on all nuclear materials at the Ukrainian nuclear facilities currently occupied by the Russian Federation Armed Forces until the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine ends;
* to assist in securing a rotation of the Ukrainian operating staff at the occupied nuclear installations;
* to ensure that any national of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, including as an employee of the IAEA, shall not take any part in the decision-making, preparation or conduct of any IAEA or other international missions or services to Ukraine under current circumstances.

These priority demands ultimate fulfillment will be the only possible condition to allow the implementation of the further IAEA and other international parties Proposals for Assistance and Support Measures.