

**Joint Statement at the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear  
Weapons**

*Geneva, 22 July 2024*

**Mr. President,**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of: Albania, Argentina Austria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, the Principality of Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, the United States of America, the European Union, Uruguay and my own country, Ukraine.

We as States Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), condemn in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of the UN Charter, including the ongoing temporary control or occupation by the Russian Federation of parts of the territory of Ukraine.

This aggression directly threatens non-proliferation and disarmament efforts and undermines international peace and security. Russia's irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, its posture of strategic intimidation and its undermining of arms control regimes are unacceptable.

We reaffirm our commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, and urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces and other personnel from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

We condemn Russia's reckless and indiscriminate attacks against Ukraine's civilians and civilian infrastructure, including critical energy infrastructure, which increase the risk of a nuclear accident or incident at Ukraine's nuclear facilities.

We renew our unequivocal condemnation of Russia's illegal and unprecedented forceful seizure of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) – the largest in Europe - and the presence of the Russian military and other personnel at the ZNPP for more than two years. We stress that direct threats to the safety and security of the site and its civilian personnel significantly raise the risk of a nuclear accident or incident, endangering the population of Ukraine, neighbouring States and the international community.

We welcome the continued efforts of the IAEA Director General to address the risks to nuclear safety and security caused by the aggression of the Russian

Federation against Ukraine as well as to implement safeguards at the ZNPP, including through the continued and reinforced physical presence of the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to the ZNPP.

We emphasize that the IAEA Director General's "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during armed conflict" and "five concrete principles" to prevent a nuclear accident at ZNPP must be carried out in full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

We reiterate our demand that the Russian Federation urgently withdraw its military and other personnel from the ZNPP and immediately return the plant to the full control of the sovereign and competent authorities of Ukraine to ensure its safety and security. This will enable the IAEA to conduct safe, efficient, and effective safeguards implementation in accordance with Ukraine's comprehensive safeguards agreement and Additional Protocol, consistent with the call by the IAEA General Conference and Board of Governors. Until Russia returns Ukraine's ZNPP to the full control of Ukraine's sovereign and competent authorities, Russia must provide the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to the ZNPP a timely and full access to all areas of the plant and requested information to allow the IAEA to report fully on the nuclear safety and security situation at the site.

We also urge the Russian Federation to immediately remove all military equipment and weapons within and near the perimeter of the ZNPP.

**Mr. President,**

We welcome the recent Summit on Peace in Ukraine, held on 15-16 June in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, which addressed nuclear safety and security as a critical priority.

In this regard, we reaffirm the relevant provisions of the Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework, supported by 92 states and international organizations to date and still open. We underscore that any use of nuclear energy and nuclear installations must be safe, secure, safeguarded, and environmentally sound. Ukrainian nuclear power plants and installations, including the ZNPP, must operate safely and securely under the full sovereign control of Ukraine, in line with the IAEA Director General's "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict," derived from IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance, and five concrete principles to help ensure nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP. Any threat or use of nuclear weapons by Russia in the context of the ongoing war against Ukraine is unacceptable. We therefore condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's irresponsible and threatening nuclear rhetoric as well as its posture of strategic intimidation, including its announced deployment of nuclear weapons in Belarus.

We also welcome the adoption, on 11 July, of the UNGA resolution on "Safety and security of nuclear facilities of Ukraine", adopted with 99 countries in favour, demanding that Russia "urgently withdraw" its military and other personnel from

the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and “immediately return” the plant to full Ukrainian control.

We once again call on the States Party to the relevant international legal instruments, including the NPT, to strengthen international cooperation in case of a radiological emergency, including through supporting Ukraine with the maintenance of security at its nuclear facilities. We also call for continued efforts to hold Russia to account for its irresponsible actions that place all of us at risk.

**I thank you**