

**Chair Christopher Hanson**  
**67<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference**  
**Remarks for Nuclear Safety at a Time of War:**  
**Capabilities, Coordination and Assistance to Ukraine**  
**Monday, September 25, 2023**

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Good afternoon. It's a pleasure to join so many of my colleagues in voicing our strong and ongoing support to our Ukrainian colleagues.

I'd like to add my voice to everyone here today by condemning, in the strongest terms, Russia's illegal occupation of Ukraine and calling for the immediate return of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to its rightful Ukrainian sovereign authority.

After listening to the informative presentations and discussions today, I'd like to reflect on two points.

First, I'd like to underscore the bravery and unfailing determination of our Ukrainian colleagues who are working to maintain the highest levels of safety, security, and safeguards throughout their nuclear program under dire circumstances. This cannot be overstated.

Second, I hope that this side event has demonstrated the very important fact that you are not alone in this fight. Your partners in Europe, North America, and elsewhere are standing with you. You can count on our continued support.

We've gotten a lot of important insights today about the nature of nuclear safety assistance to Ukraine across a variety of countries, agencies, and disciplines.

The USNRC has been proud to join its U.S. Government colleagues in providing both financial and technical assistance since the conflict began.

In 2022, we obligated funds to the IAEA's RANET program in support of SNRIU and its technical support organization, SSTC NRS, to accomplish its nuclear safety and security regulatory mission.

These funds were used to provide critical equipment, including portable power supply systems, laptops, cell phones, and vehicles, to help our regulatory colleagues in Ukraine continue to do important work even as they had to relocate their offices on little notice.

In the last year, we also provided funding through our bilateral assistance contract to upgrade Ukraine's Information and Emergency Center in response to the Russian invasion.

We are currently working to transfer funds to provide additional technical equipment, including computers, servers, and server room equipment, as well as technical support services.

This equipment will help facilitate effective coordination among SNRIU staff in multiple locations and maintain their ability to continue working if regular office space is once again disrupted.

As my colleagues have said, we greatly value the role of the IAEA's RANET system in helping to coordinate and deconflict assistance requests so we can all make the most effective use of our resources to get aid where it needs to go as quickly as possible.

We have also provided a variety of technical support in the area of physical security, including insider threat mitigation and cyber security.

I would note that the assistance I've just mentioned is directly related to the ongoing conflict. The USNRC is also working closely with SNRIU and SSTC NRS in a variety of technical areas focused on Ukraine's future. These include fuel modeling and design review, long-term operation, and potential licensing reviews of small modular and advanced reactor designs.

The NRC is proud to have had a long and fruitful relationship with SNRIU that began decades before the current conflict and will endure long into the future.

Together with our regulatory colleagues here today, the NRC stands with you, and we share your hope for a swift end to this war.

Thank you.