

Highlights from the Call for Action – Helsinki+50 meeting: update on the Situation in Ukraine¹

Wednesday, 12 July 2023, 14:00-16:00 CEST, Zoom

Opening Remarks

- Highlighted the successful nature of the Annual Session in Vancouver, which has demonstrated that the OSCE PA has the tools to help end the brutal war and that only working collaboratively will lead to solving these pressing challenges.
- Emphasized the importance of the new Ad Hoc Committee on Ukraine as it can be used as a platform for further dialogue and discussions of the developments surrounding the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Main points raised by panelists:

- Explained that the OSCE and its pS individually could assist Ukraine in many ways and specifically highlighted need for help in the form of water supply for civilians affected by the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam and in supporting and complementing the country's de-mining efforts.
- Explained the role of the IAEA in conducting inspections, supporting Ukrainian officials, and preventing a nuclear or radiological accident in Ukraine. Clarified how the IAEA maintains communication with both sides and is present in the occupied territories of UKR. Noted that since March 2022, DG Grossi visited Ukraine 8 times, while around 12 IAEA staff are constantly present in Ukraine.
- Described the seven pillars of nuclear safety that DG Grossi outlined at the beginning of the war and touched upon some key principles to prevent a nuclear disaster, which include no direct attack against the plant, ZNPP not to be used as storage for heavy weapons or military personnel, off-site power to the plant not to be put at risk, while ensuring that all components be protected from attacks and sabotage.
- Explained the current safety situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and that after the IAEA's most recent visit to the plant on June 15th, while there are ongoing safety

¹ The Highlights from the OSCE PA Call for Action - Helsinki +50 Meetings are not intended to be official conclusions, nor an exhaustive list of all issues or suggestions raised during the debate, but rather a compilation of points recorded for possible future reference. As this compilation is not exhaustive, any comments or suggested additions are welcome.

concerns, specifically the level of water in the cooling water, there is no immediate, pressing risk to the cooling of the six reactors. Overall, the situation remains precarious. Regular updates are available on the IAEA Web site.

- Noted with concern that Ukrainian employees of the Zaporizhzhia NPP are being urged to sign contracts with the Russian Federation.
- Described the activities of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) in Ukraine. SECI aims to make counties in Southeastern Europe attractive for investment, as the active participation of the private sector leads to economic and social growth. In Ukraine, SECI focuses on four regions, working with relevant Ukrainian ministries and coordinating activities with the OSCE, providing generators, medical supplies, water filtration, laptops, and cars to civilians. SECI is furthermore working on avoiding the mass brain drain that happened after the wars during the fall of Yugoslavia in the 1990s in the Balkans, as massive brain drain is detrimental to economic growth. Finally, SECI is working with the government on humanitarian de-mining efforts.

General Suggestions:

- pS can further aid the IAEA's efforts in Ukraine by first providing political support through statements and resolutions, and by supporting the IAEA through financial assistance; however, at this point, the political support is needed more than financial support.
- To prevent brain drain, increased investment in economic opportunities and education is much needed. The war has destroyed many of the schools in Ukraine, and most of the equipment has been stolen. Further investments in economic opportunities are paramount, as more job opportunities locally would prevent brain drain.
- The Black Sea Grain Initiative must be reviewed and renewed, as Russia is using it to blackmail the international community.
- Many international organizations and states are providing Ukraine with humanitarian aid; however, if pS are interested in providing direct aid to Ukraine, they should work directly with municipalities and communities, as they can best inform the pS of their exact needs.