

ENSREG: Europe Nuclear Safety Conference

**Cooperation brings the best results**

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**Director General**



**IAEA**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

It's a pleasure to be part of today's event. The communication between ENSREG and the IAEA has been excellent, especially over these past critical months. For example, IAEA colleagues participated in your exceptional virtual meetings on the situation in Ukraine, and you have been assiduous in keeping us in the loop. I thank you for that.

Together we have the common goal of assisting Ukraine in keeping intact the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security. I welcome that your statements have made that very clear.

I would like to take this opportunity also to acknowledge the steadfast support of the European Commission for the IAEA's indispensable work in safety and security.

The determination and courage of the people of Ukraine – and the people of Ukraine's nuclear sector – have been evident and inspiring. I have been in regular contact with Ukraine's operator and regulator. Through the IAEA's missions to South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant and Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and Exclusion Zone, we now have a comprehensive programme of assistance for Ukraine. We are working with Ukraine remotely and on the ground. There has been progress. In Chernobyl, the transmission of safeguards data and radiation measurements were restored. Our technical follow-up mission to Chernobyl made some important advances, including to assess the situation of its radioactive waste and spent fuel.

Meanwhile, we are coordinating countries' assistance to Ukraine by matching Ukraine's needs with their offers. It's a way to minimize duplication and get Ukraine what it needs efficiently and quickly. This is another important area where collaboration pays off.

Friends,

One of the reasons I'm not in Brussels with you, though I would like to be, is that I'm working to assist Ukraine in improving the very difficult situation at Zaporizhzhya NPP. It is critically important that my teams of safeguards inspectors, and of safety and security experts, travel to Zaporizhzhya NPP. Ukraine's government has requested it at the highest levels. It's the mandate of the IAEA to answer that call and it's my responsibility as Director General to see it through.

I know you will discuss the situation in Ukraine in an extraordinary session today during which you'll get more details about what the IAEA is doing. So let me move to another topic that I know is important to many of you: how to ensure that nuclear energy safely and securely helps those countries that choose it as a source of reliable, low-carbon energy.

Small Modular Reactors offer potential opportunities for many countries, not only here in Europe, but also in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The IAEA's Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative, or NHSI for short, brings together policy makers, regulators, designers, vendors and operators to develop common regulatory and industrial approaches to facilitate their safe and secure deployment.

Leveraging the IAEA's global reach and expertise, we now have a real chance to get it done. Many of you are part of the effort. I'm grateful for your commitment and look forward to the collaboration ahead of us.

Together we are keeping our focus on the immediate tasks at hand, while maintaining sight of the further horizon. I thank you for that and I wish you fruitful discussions.