



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

PC.DEL/577/16
29 April 2016

ENGLISH only

**Statement on “The 30th Anniversary of the accident
at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant”**

As delivered by the Delegation of Ukraine
to the 1098th meeting of the Permanent Council,
28 April 2016

Mr. Chairman,

On 26 April 2016 Ukraine and the world commemorated 30th anniversary since the accident at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant, paying tribute to those, who mitigated the consequences of the catastrophe, and its victims. This year has been declared in Ukraine as a Year of remembrance of the liquidators and victims of the Chornobyl disaster.

The disastrous implications of the explosion rippled across entire Ukraine and far beyond. Over 2300 towns and villages were contaminated with radioactive materials. More than 1.9 million Ukrainians were recognized as suffered persons, including over 418 000 children and 108 000 disabled. Over 35 000 families in Ukraine receive pensions because of Chornobyl-related loss of their breadwinners.

The present Shelter over the Chornobyl NPP Unit 4 ruins was built as a temporary solution. It is of paramount importance to accomplish the task of building a new safe confinement, thus ensuring environmental safety in Chornobyl and surrounding areas.

International assistance allowed to elaborate a programme to transform the Shelter into an environmentally safe site. As the result, the Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP) was agreed between Ukraine and the G7/EU in mid-1997.

According to the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone

Management among 22 primary tasks, stipulated by the SIP, 17 tasks have been successfully fulfilled, 3 – are underway, 2 – were moved outside the framework of the Plan. Construction of a new safe confinement is expected to be completed by November 2017. The meeting of the Joint Committee “Ukraine – European Bank for Reconstruction and Development” (EBRD) took place in Kyiv to review the financial standing of the Chornobyl Shelter Fund (CSF) and to discuss the status of projects implementation in the area of construction a New Safe Confinement – Chornobyl Shelter and a storage facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel in Ukraine.

We highly value the steadfast support of the international community, in particular the donor countries, to Ukraine in overcoming the consequences of the Chornobyl disaster. We are grateful for the additional pledges made by the international donors at the Donor conference on 25 April 2016 in Kyiv.

We appreciate the solidarity offered these days across the world. We view them as recognition of common responsibility for preventing the repetition of such tragedies in the future and ensuring nuclear safety and security. We are disappointed that it was not possible to adopt an OSCE Permanent Council Declaration on the matter because of the position of two delegations which did not accept reference to observance of international standards of nuclear safety.

Distinguished colleagues,

This sad anniversary offers an important opportunity to sharpen the attention on complex problems of recovery and the needs of the affected areas and to mobilize the international assistance to complement the national mitigation efforts. It also serves as an important reminder about possible tragic results and consequences of technological failures in human activity.

While advancing efforts to eliminate the consequences of the Chornobyl accident, Ukraine today also defends itself from the Russian Federation, which has illegally occupied Ukraine’s Crimea and fuelled conflict in Donbas. This aggression had undermined confidence of non-nuclear states in the nuclear non-proliferation regime and created a threat of recurrence of the nuclear disaster in

our country as Russia attacked Ukrainian forces just several hundred kilometres away from the nuclear power plant in Zaporizzhya. The enhanced security measures at the Ukrainian nuclear power plants have been undertaken to effectively protect them from any likelihood of subversive attacks in this “hybrid war”.

Given the OSCE active engagement in addressing the conflict in Donbas stemming from the Russian aggression against Ukraine we consider the issue of environmental threats and challenges in times of conflict must be placed high on the agenda of the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman.