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NSSG Key messages on nuclear safety and security to the G7 Leaders

The Nuclear Safety and Security Working Group (NSSG) wishes to raise to the Leaders the following nuclear safety and security issues in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

1/ The NSSG stresses the importance of the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) in the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and the need for the robust implementation by all states of the highest nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation standards to ensure the continued and responsible use of nuclear energy worldwide.

2/ The NSSG expects all States, in particular embarking countries, to take the necessary steps to be party to and fully implement the relevant international nuclear safety and security conventions and comprehensive safeguards agreements, including the IAEA additional protocol, and to empower an independent safety regulator. Of particular importance is the establishment of a solid legal framework respecting the requirements of independence and transparency with a clearly defined process for regulatory decisions.

The NSSG encourages embarking countries to host IAEA peer review missions and follow-ups missions as their nuclear programs develop, to assure maximum transparency on the outcomes of these missions, as appropriate, and to implement the corresponding recommendations.

3/ The NSSG is very concerned that no progress has been made on the restoration of the legal independence of the Ukrainian nuclear regulator (SNRIU) regarding licensing and inspections. The NSSG recalls also that the international support that Ukraine is able to receive is limited by the continued lack of legal SNRIU independence.

4/ The NSSG underlines the requirement to ensure the long term availability of sustainable high-level scientific expertise to support nuclear safety decisions by licensees and competent authorities. This availability is becoming a concern and is particularly acute as nuclear safety research facilities throughout the world are ageing and, for some of them, closing down.

The NSSG highlights that all nuclear safety organizations in G7 countries deem necessary to invest in science-based and long-term research dedicated to nuclear safety and radiation protection, and to foster international cooperation, including through the NEA and IAEA, in order to guarantee the availability and to optimize the use of research capacities and related skills. Governments need to support this effort in the long term.

5/ The NSSG highlights that ageing management constitutes a challenge as more than 20% of current nuclear power plants (NPPs) in the world are already 40 years old and beyond. The NSSG encourages benchmarking and information exchanges on the corresponding issues. The NSSG recognizes the value of the European Topical Peer Review (TPR) on ageing

management and encourages other countries, as appropriate, to engage in similar processes and to take their results into account during the revision of IAEA safety standards.

The NSSG also highlights the fact that it is crucial to consider an appropriate ageing management of all nuclear installations, such as the research reactors or facilities and nuclear fuel cycle facilities.

6/ The G7/NSSG welcomes the completion of the New Safe Confinement (NSC) project and, after the successful completion of the last commissioning tests, the imminent handover of the responsibility of the facility to Ukraine. It is a major milestone in the program funded by the international community to convert the Chernobyl site into a stable and environmentally safe condition. To achieve this outstanding result, the spirit of constructive collaboration that animated all the partners involved was decisive, starting from the EBRD in the role of manager of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund, the Customer SSE Chernobyl NPP, assisted by the Project Management Unit, and the Main Contractor together with some key sub-contractors, who have successfully implemented the NSC, a work of engineering without precedent in the field of nuclear construction./.