

Speaker: Kathleen Heppell-Masys –

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Canada wishes to take the floor to add its voice to the position that nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation are key contributors to the peaceful and trustworthy use of nuclear energy. The inalienable right of all States Parties to develop, research, produce and use of

nuclear energy science and technology for peaceful purposes requires robust safety and security standards.

Canada would like to underline our steadfast support and endorsement of IAEA DG Grossi's 7 Pillars of Nuclear Safety and Security, which he communicated in March 2022 as a result of Russia's unjustifiable war against

Ukraine. The ongoing situation in Ukraine highlights the urgent need for nuclear safety and security to be prioritized in Ukraine. We reiterate our full support for the IAEA as they continue to work towards addressing nuclear safety, security and safeguard concerns, while respecting full Ukrainian

sovereignty within their internationally recognized borders.

It is with significant and growing alarm that we note the continued shelling of the ZNPP as well as the seizure of Ukrainian nuclear facilities and other actions by Russian armed forces pose to the safety and security of these facilities, significantly raising the risk of a nuclear

accident or incident and endangering the population of Ukraine, neighbouring states, and the international community.

We welcome and support the IAEA's continued effort to strengthen nuclear security and safety in Ukraine and underline the importance of facilitating a visit to the ZNPP to address nuclear safety, security, and safeguards concerns

in a manner that respects full Ukrainian sovereignty over its territory.

We emphasize the importance for all states and international organization to continue to take active steps to enhance safety and security measures for all activities involving nuclear and advocate for the inclusion of language to this effect from the NPDI Working Paper 10

and the VG10 Working Paper 3 papers
that my colleagues have referenced
previously.