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# Statement by Russian Defence Ministry : Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation

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Hostilities unleashed by Ukrainian sabotage groups on the day of IAEA experts' visit with artillery shelling of Zaporozhye NPP by AFU leave no doubt that Zelensky regime had prepared this military provocation well in advance.

It was the completion of preparations for the seizure of Zaporozhye NPP by Ukrainian subversives on the day of IAEA experts' visit that was the reason for the cancellation of Mr. Grossi's visit to the plant on August 31 which was replaced by his "unscheduled" meeting with Mr. Zelensky.

It is obvious that if the Kiev regime's operation to seize the plant were to succeed, IAEA head Rafael Grossi and the mission experts would become a "human shield" for the Ukrainian saboteurs to prevent any action by units of the Russian Armed Forces to destroy them.

The role of IAEA mission would then be limited to fixing the new status quo - "Zaporozhye NPP has been taken over by Kiev", with a new wave of loud statements from Washington and European

capitals calling on Russia to ensure a "demilitarised zone" around the NPP, where IAEA monitors would remain under the protection of the Ukrainian military.

This provocation was thwarted by the effective actions of units of the Russian Armed Forces and National Guard. At present IAEA mission led by Rafael Grossi has arrived at the nuclear power plant and started its planned work with full security ensured by the Russian side. The position of Mr. Grossi and his team, who went to the plant despite Kiev's provocations and shelling by AFU, is worthy of respect.

In this regard, we understand perfectly the undertaking of silence of all western sponsors of Zelensky's regime, which actually confirms their secret participation in the preparation of today's provocation at Zaporozhye NPP. At the same time, the absence of a public response from UN Secretary General António Guterres in Vienna to Kiev's actions near Zaporozhye NPP causes justified bewilderment.

Such silence not only casts a shadow and questions the objectivity of the UN approaches to the situation around Zaporozhye NPP, but also leads to further escalation of the situation there with full impunity for the Kiev regime.

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