



Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine to the UN at the UNGA Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on Agenda item 52 “Effects of atomic radiation” (November 2021)

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine recognizes the challenges faced by the Scientific Committee in undertaking its important work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic until nowadays.

In this regard, we take note of the decision of the Bureau to postpone the sixty-seventh session from July 2020 to November 2020, as a consequence of the pandemic, in order to allow for the fullest participation possible under these difficult circumstances.

I use this opportunity to commend the secretariat of the Scientific Committee for its ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective work of the Committee. This particularly refers to the successful holding of the sixty eighth session in current circumstances of logistical and other restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Since its establishment in 1955, the UNSCEAR has been undertaking broad assessments of the sources of ionizing radiation and its effects on human health and the environment. Ukraine welcomes the substantial contribution that the Committee has been making in providing wider knowledge and understanding in this regard.

We recognize that the high quality of the work and the scientific rigour of the Scientific Committee need to be maintained. Ensuring of the sufficient and predictable funding, as well as efficient management, of the secretariat of the Scientific Committee is a prerequisite for continuity of its work. The present functions and independent role of the Committee should be maintained.

Ukraine welcomes the continuation of the ad hoc working group on effects and mechanisms and the ad hoc working group on sources and exposure to assist the Scientific Committee in developing its future programme of work on the effects of radiation exposure and the biological mechanisms by which they occur, as well as on global estimates of radiation sources and levels of exposure and an updated strategy for data collection, analysis and dissemination.

Ukraine, as an active member of the UNSCEAR, stands ready to actively engage with the Committee to update and consolidate some of the findings and conclusions of the Committee’s assessment of the radiological consequences of the nuclear accidents.

Ukraine is ready to further contribute to the preparation and publication of the UNSCEAR's relevant documents, which will summarize the main themes and critiques, based on our national experience in this area and extensive research activities in dealing with the effects of radiation on human health and the environment.

In our view, UNSCEAR should continue its consultations with scientists and experts from interested Member States in the process of preparing its future scientific reports. In this regard, we welcome the readiness of Member States to provide the Scientific Committee with relevant information on the levels and effects of ionizing radiation. Such information should be given due consideration, particularly in the light of Committee's findings.

Against this background, Ukraine acknowledges the attendance by several Member States as observers at the previous, 65th through 68th sessions of the Committee.

At the same time, Ukraine strongly believes that the relevant decision about the adoption of an observer as a State Member of the Committee should be taken with due consideration to the principles laid out in Articles 1 and 2 of the UN Charter as well as the Secretary General's suggested framework of criteria and indicators for membership as included in SG 66/524.

I use this opportunity to draw your attention to the fact that the UNSCEAR Secretariat remains reluctant to recognise the official adoption in Ukraine of a revised system of romanization for geographical names and continues to use outdated, Soviet-era placenames when referring to Ukraine. Let me underline that this decision of the Secretariat contradicts the recommendations of the 10th United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names which adopted a Resolution X/9 "Romanization of Ukrainian geographical names".

Having said this, on behalf of the Government of Ukraine I request that the UNSCEAR review and, where necessary, amend the usage of outdated, Soviet-era placenames when referring to Ukraine. It is especially important in light of upcoming UNSCEAR sixty-ninth session. Please, remember: "ChOrnobył" not "Chernobyl".

I thank you, Mr.Chairperson.