

**33 Years after the Chernobyl Disaster & 8 Years after the Fukushima Disaster:  
A Time for Reflection (International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day)**

*26 April 2019, 15:30-17:00 - International Environment House I | Room 3*

*Statement of Ukraine*

On behalf of Ukraine I would like to express the appreciation to the organizers for holding this event on the topic that is of high importance and relevance to our country.

33 years ago Chornobyl nuclear disaster occurred, affecting the whole continent. Implications of this human-made catastrophe are felt to this day. Chornobyl is not a historical event in Ukraine but a living reality for an unquantifiable number of people.

The nuclear disaster in Chornobyl has considerable impact on all spheres of human activities in Ukraine – environment, social protection, health care, economy. Until now more than 2.3 million people are still living in the contaminated areas.

Chornobyl remains a significant financial burden for Ukraine's budget. Ukraine alone has invested more than 20 billion dollars to combat the consequences of the catastrophe. At the same time we are thankful to our partners for their financial and technical support.

Step by step, we implement a series of important security and environmental projects to guarantee the transformation of the Exclusion Zone into a promising, wholesome territory. Ukraine works hard to further improve the legislation on radioactive waste management.

Overcoming the consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe continues to require an international solidarity, a well-coordinated effort by the entire world community for the sake of human security and the future of the forthcoming generations.

In our view, it is extremely important to keep the issue of Chornobyl on the agenda of the United Nations as well as other international organizations.

We also believe that we should focus more on the networking around specialized national scientific institutions to study long-term medical, radioecological, radiobiological and other consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe, that could be strengthened, for instance, by the participation of Geneva Environment Network.