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Statement of the Czech Republic
IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 2. March 2022

**Agenda: The safety, security and safeguards implications of the situation
in Ukraine**

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the EU.

The Czech Republic condemns in the strongest terms Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Russia must immediately cease its military actions and unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

We express our unwavering support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the illegally annexed Crimea.

Russia must stop its blatant violation of the UN Charter and international law.

We are very concerned by Russia's decision to raise its nuclear alert level. We call on Russia to immediately de-escalate and return to the previous alert level of its nuclear arsenal.

We further condemn the involvement of Belarus in the aggression against Ukraine. We call on Belarus to abide by its international obligations and commitments, including as a non-nuclear weapon State under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. Chairman,

Russia's military actions in Ukraine, including forcefully seizing control over Ukrainian nuclear facilities, pose a serious threat to the safety and security of these facilities and their civilian personnel. It significantly raises the risk of nuclear incidents and accidents. Should anything happen, Russia must be attributed full responsibility.

Furthermore, Russia's aggression hinders the Agency's ability to conduct safeguards verification activities in Ukraine. We call on Russian Federation to immediately cease these unlawful acts and withdraw its military forces in order to restore full control of Ukraine over all nuclear facilities and material within its international recognized borders.

We thank the Director General for his reports and updates. We also thank the Safety Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine and its dedicated staff for continuously providing information under these extremely difficult circumstances.

Mr. Chairman,

The Czech Republic fully supports the resolution put forward for adoption by the IAEA Board of Governors. We call on all fellow Members of this Board to manifest strong support for the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the Statute of the IAEA and vote for this resolution.

Thank you.