The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

We appreciate UNHCR’s long-term presence and tireless efforts in Europe as well as its readiness to actively address humanitarian crises in the field.

The world is truly at a breaking point. Recent steps by the Russian Federation represent a blatant violation of international law, breach of the UN Charter and its principles, failure to uphold and abide by the norms created and enacted by the international community.

We condemn the unacceptable behaviour of the Russian Federation which sets the European continent back to times believed to be a part of its dark side of history. We urge Russia to immediately stop its military actions and to unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine.

From the humanitarian perspective, Russia has triggered a humanitarian crisis with many civilian casualties and soon millions of internally displaced persons and refugees. Russia must immediately start respecting international humanitarian law and stop causing further human suffering. In the current situation, Russia must allow for safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need.

The Czech Republic stands with Ukraine. To UNHCR’s efforts, we have contributed 1 million euro through our programme Aid in Place in Moldova. Currently, we provide bilateral in-kind and cash health related assistance worth almost another 1 million euro. The Czech Government has recently allocated over 12 million euro for continued urgent humanitarian aid focused on Ukraine and refugees from Ukraine in neighbouring countries. We are ready to receive refugees for which we have prepared a programme worth 60 million euro. For Ukrainians in our territory, we have significantly speeded up the visa regime, and re-opened the emergency scholarship programme.

So far, we have issued more than 57 thousand specialised visas and, not having external EU borders, it is assumed that already around 100 thousand persons are within the Czech territory. Reception capacities are facing increasing demand. In case of further movements, we will seek to expand cooperation and material assistance in the Czech Republic.

We will continue to support Ukrainians in their desire to decide their own destiny independently and to strive for a democratic future and Euro-Atlantic orientation for their country.