



Statement of the Czech Republic
IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 6 - 10 June 2022

Agenda item 9: The safety, security and safeguards implications of the situation in Ukraine

Mr. Chair,

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

Mr. Chair,

The Russian Federation has become the first country in the mankind's history that illegally occupies a nuclear power plant and gravely endangers nuclear facilities on the territory of another state. This is a really deplorable primacy, and it is even more deplorable taking into account that this is done by a nuclear state and a designated member of the Board of Governors.

The Czech Republic is gravely concerned about the Russian Federation's non-compliance with the Board's resolution and its continued disregard of the seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security, as set out by the IAEA Director General. Zaporozska is the largest NPP in Europe. As a result of the illegal occupation by Russian armed forces, the entire facility including nuclear material is out of control of the respective Ukrainian authorities, which represent the only entity with a full responsibility for safe and secure operation of Zaporozska NPP. The Russian Federation is the aggressor in Ukraine distorting operations at Zaporozska NPP, denying access to the Ukrainian authorities and the IAEA to exercise their mandate. We urge the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its military and other personnel from Zaporozska NPP so that the Ukrainian authorities can resume their

sovereign responsibilities and that the legitimate operating staff can conduct their duties without outside pressure and interference.

The Czech Republic denounces false, cynical and outrageous arguments repeated by the Russian Federation. We strongly condemn the Russian strategy of disinformation and information manipulation. Russia has no right to enter nor to occupy any nuclear facility beyond its own borders and any attempt to justify this unjustifiable action fails as any other Russian false claims.

The Russian Federation has lost its reputation on the international fora after its aggression against Ukraine and its disrespect for the UN Charter and international law. Russia is no longer a reliable partner in the IAEA after its violent actions against nuclear facilities in Ukraine and its failure to implement the resolution adopted by the Board on 3rd March. Nuclear and radioactive material belonging to Ukraine now in the hands of Russian armed forces and out of control of the responsible authorities including the IAEA oversight is of the grave concern and poses a serious risk as confirmed by the Director General at his opening statement.

Mr. Chair,

The Czech Republic condemns in the strongest terms unjustified and unprovoked military invasion of Russia against Ukraine. International community must hold Russia accountable for its aggression including endangering safety and security of nuclear facilities and threatening with nuclear weapons. The only right way for Russia is to immediately cease these unlawful acts and withdraw its military forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Chair,

The situation regarding nuclear facilities in Ukraine is serious and we fully support the work of the IAEA and its Director General to assist Ukraine in the area of nuclear safety and security and to ensure safeguards implementation during the ongoing military conflict. We fully support the Director General's efforts to dispatch, at the request of Ukraine, an IAEA-led international mission to Zaporozhska NPP at the earliest possibility. We encourage the Director General to issue a report to the Board on the implementation of the 3rd March resolution and include this as a standing item on the agenda of the upcoming Board meetings for an appropriate follow-up.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair