

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 7 March 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Security Council**

We have the honour to transmit a joint statement by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in relation to the Security Council meeting of 4 March 2022 on the letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council ([S/2014/136](#)) (see annex).

We would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Sven Jürgenson**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia

(Signed) **Andrejs Pildegovičs**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia

(Signed) **Rytis Paulauskas**

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania



Annex to the letter dated 7 March 2022 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Republic of Lithuania on behalf of three Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – in relation to the Security Council meeting of 4 March 2022, New York

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing Russian military aggression against Ukraine. It is a blatant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It severely undermines European and global security and stability.

The shelling and seizure of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant site by the armed forces of the Russian Federation is a gross violation of international agreements within the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). If, at any point, the safety and security protocols at the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant and other nuclear sites in Ukraine are disturbed, this could cause radioactive damage across large territories and have irreparable consequences for Europe's environment. Thousands of people – including civilians who are currently unable to evacuate the area near the plant owing to ongoing shelling and fighting – would be hurt by this.

In the course of the military advancement, Russian troops also took control over the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. It has been several days already that the nuclear power plant staff have had difficulties performing their critically important duties – to operate, monitor and maintain the site, ensuring its nuclear safety and security and radiological protection. This is an extremely serious violation of the conventions on nuclear safety and IAEA safety standards.

Military aggression also poses a threat to other civilian nuclear installations in Ukraine. There are 15 nuclear reactors operating in Ukraine. Also, there are other nuclear and radioactive installations such as spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive waste storage and disposal sites. Any one of them at any moment could come under attack or be damaged by accident. The European continent is as close as ever to the brink of a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe.

Safety arrangements around nuclear power plants are needed immediately, as well as humanitarian corridors from Russian army-controlled or -shelled areas. We demand that all parties fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population and civilian objects, refraining from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population.

Under the circumstances of war, Ukraine might not be able to fulfil its obligations in full scope, therefore, we encourage IAEA to assume a proactive role and exercise its powers to raise maximum awareness and to mitigate the imminent nuclear safety and security hazards in Ukraine. We welcome the decision of IAEA to put its Incident and Emergency Centre in full response mode owing to the situation at the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. We hear about the readiness of the IAEA authorities to go to the Chornobyl nuclear power plant and facilitate negotiations between Ukraine and Russia regarding the safety of nuclear facilities.

We find it extremely important that Ukraine get IAEA assistance to also monitor the situation at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant, including its exclusion zone, and also at other nuclear installations in Ukraine outside of government control. In this regard, the creation of an international task force under the auspices of IAEA might

be considered, if needed. We thank the Ukrainian nuclear regulator for its important work and regular updates from the ground.

We call for an immediate international response to Russia's nuclear security violations. We commend the quick response from IAEA and encourage IAEA to continue these efforts. The actions of the Russian Federation must be duly assessed against the relevant provisions of international law in order to hold the Russian Federation accountable. We strongly request the Agency to perform the mentioned assessment and to submit it to the IAEA Board of Governors. We call upon Russia to withdraw its armed forces from the nuclear power plant and to allow the creation of a safety zone.

We demand that all parties allow for safe and unfettered passage to destinations outside of Ukraine and facilitate the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Ukraine.

This is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. Russia, with its aggression, threatens peace and security globally. An attack on a nuclear reactor can threaten human life on a large scale and can have devastating environmental and, moreover, human consequences.

We call upon the Russian Federation to cease its attacks immediately and abide by the General Assembly resolution entitled "Aggression against Ukraine", supported by 141 States at the eleventh emergency special session.
