

KEY MESSAGES ON RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

as of 11.00, 16 March
(21st day of war)

1. MILITARY SITUATION

The **Russian troops** continue simultaneously **attacking Ukraine** from the territory of **Russia, Belarus** and the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine's **Donetsk, Luhansk** regions and **Crimea**. This is full-scale **war, launched by Russia** against Ukraine, not a "conflict in Ukraine". **Proper wording** is critical, including within the international organizations. While highlighting the situation in Ukraine, a clear **reference** must always be done to **Russia as an aggressor**. We defend not only ourselves, **we protect the entire Europe**, as Putin will not stop in Ukraine:

- ✓ The **main directions of Russia's invasion** remain **Kyiv, Kharkiv, southern regions** of Ukraine, **Donetsk and Luhansk regions**;
- ✓ Russia fired more than 800 **missiles** at residential areas and military positions, attacks with **aviation, tanks and artillery**, and sends **subversion and reconnaissance groups**. **Amphibious landing** to the Odesa region of Ukraine remains possible;
- ✓ **Russia has significant air advantage**, which it actively uses by **attacking military positions and civilian infrastructure, killing dozens of civilians daily, bombing Ukrainian airports**. **We** urgently need **no-flight zone, or air defense systems and fighter planes**. This would significantly accelerate the end of war;
- ✓ **Several towns** were temporarily **occupied** (including Kherson and Melitopol). Some are **attacked and besieged** on the ground, with **severe damage to residential areas** and **numerous casualties among civilians** (Kharkiv, Mariupol, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Chernihiv).

The territory of **Belarus** is actively **used by Russia for its military purposes**:

- ✓ **missiles** are launched from the territory of Belarus, **airfield and rail networks** are used for transportation of Russian personnel, cargo and ammunition, **fuel** is supplied to the Russian troops on Ukrainian soil;
- ✓ **Direct engagement** of Belarus armed forces remains **highly probable**. On 11 March, the **Russian aircrafts entered Ukraine's air space and shelled three villages in Belarus** located on the border with Ukraine. This was a **false flag operation**, aimed at providing **pretext for Belarus direct engagement into Russia's war**;
- ✓ **Lukashenka's regime shares responsibility** with Kremlin for its war against Ukraine.

Despite significant military advantage, **Russia failed to reach its key goals**:

- ✓ **Ukraine did not surrender in three days**, as Kremlin was expecting. **Kyiv** as a political and military command centre **remains intact**;
- ✓ No big cities with the only exception of Kherson were taken. **Ukraine managed to establish defense** and counter-attack. Russian troops regroup and attempt to control the already captured positions;
- ✓ **No one greets Russia in Ukraine**. In the towns temporarily **under control of Russian troops, Ukrainian population is actively protesting** against them. In the city of **Kherson, Russian occupiers attempted to establish another fake "people's republic"**: both local residents and local authorities rejected this stage show.

Having failed to make Ukraine surrender after a "Blitzkrieg", Russia started searching for **fake pretexts to "justify" its war of aggression**:

- ✓ Despite Russia's false allegations, **Ukraine has neither intention, nor steps taken** aimed at creation of **nuclear weapon**. This was **confirmed by IAEA Director General** on 4 March;

- ✓ Various Russian officials **falsely accuse Ukraine of non-existent biological or chemical weapons**. This was **dismantled by the UN** High Representative for Disarmament Affairs as well as UN Member States at the UN SC briefing on 11 March.

We continue to fight and **we will win**:

- ✓ **Ukraine has activated its right for self-defense** according to the UN Charter Article 51;
- ✓ **Ukraine's Armed Forces** fight Russia's Armed Forces, inflicting devastating blows to them. **More than 100.000 Ukrainian citizens** have already joined the **territorial defence units**. Almost **20.000 volunteers** from 52 countries of the world are coming from abroad to join **Ukraine's International Legion**;
- ✓ **All Russian troops prepared for invasion** have **already** been **sent to Ukraine**. They were stopped everywhere and face severe **logistical challenges**. **Up to 40%** tactical groups **lost their combat capability**. Russia pursues **"hidden" mobilization** and searches for **mercenaries** and **private military companies** to replenish losses by forming additional units;
- ✓ The **Russian troops are suffering heavy losses**. As of **morning 16 March**, they constitute **more than 13.800 personnel** (ten times more than Ukrainian military losses), 84 aircrafts, 108 helicopters, 430 tanks, 1375 armored vehicles, 190 artillery systems, 70 MLRS, 43 anti-aircraft systems, 11 UAVs, 3 vessels/boats. **Up to 700** Russian military were taken **captive**. The moral and psychological state of the Russian troops remains low. More and more Russian soldiers **refuse to go to war**;
- ✓ **The Russian leadership attempts to conceal real losses** of the Russian troops in Ukraine, afraid of mass anti-war protests (including by blocking social networks, intimidating media, censorship, high fines and **imprisonment up to 15 years**, as well as using **mass graves for Russian military** killed in action). Still, truth cannot be hidden. On 2 March, the Russian side has recognized losses, but stated only a small part of them. On 9 March, Russia has recognized the **use of conscripts**;
- ✓ **92% of Ukrainian citizens** are convinced that **we will win** this defensive war against Russia. Mayors of Ukrainian towns reject Russia's proposals to surrender.

Russia's irresponsible actions pose the **gravest nuclear threats**:

- ✓ On 4 March, the **entire Europe was put on the brink of nuclear disaster**, when the **Russian troops began shelling** the largest in Europe **Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant**. Fortunately, Ukrainian firefighters managed to put the fire out. It was seized by Russia (400 military personnel and 50 military vehicles are stationed now), the situation remains very fragile. The Russian occupiers have declared that the Plant is now **under control of "Rosatom"**, which raises additional concerns on nuclear security;
- ✓ The **Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant** was **seized** by the Russian troops. They have already twice damaged its **power line**, which could lead to the **leak of radiation**. Both times, the Ukrainian repair teams restored the power line. The situation remains fragile;
- ✓ The **IAEA has lost connection with the monitoring systems** of guarantees **both in Chornobyl and Zaporizhzhya**;
- ✓ On 10 March, **Russian troops fired rockets** on facilities of **Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology**, which contain **nuclear material** and an **experimental reactor**;
- ✓ **Russia's nuclear-deterrence forces remain on alert**. Threats by nuclear war continue.

Russia flagrantly violates international law, including:

- ✓ Russian military vessels are **blocking access** and **deliberately attacking civil ships** along Ukraine's shore in the **Black Sea** in **violation of the international law of the sea**. **94 ships remain blocked** in the Ukrainian ports due to Russia's illegal actions;
- ✓ In **violation of the International Convention of the Safety of Life at Sea**, the humanitarian aid mission (the rescue ship 'Sapphire') was captured by Russian warships in the Serpent

(Zmiinyi) Island area and moved to the occupied port of Sevastopol. Two other Ukrainian **civil ships were de facto pirated by Russian warships**;

- ✓ In violation of the Hague conventions on the Laws and Customs of War on Land, Russia has mobilized **3.5 thousand persons** in the temporarily occupied parts of **Donetsk and Luhansk regions**. They were sent to the forward positions of the Russian troops;
- ✓ On 11 March, the **UN OHCHR confirmed** the use of **cluster munitions by Russian troops** in populated areas, **incompatible with the international humanitarian law principles**.

2. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Faced with military defeats, losses of personnel and vigorous resistance, the **Russian troops** began **indiscriminate attacks on Ukrainian cities** with missile strikes and heavy artillery. Being aware that it will not be able to win this war, **Russia deliberately destroys Ukraine's economy** to weaken our country:

- ✓ Since the start of war, Russia has sent **hundreds missiles** to the **residential areas**;
- ✓ Documents and maps seized by Ukrainian troops from Russian prisoners of war confirm that **bombardments of residential areas** had been **planned in advance**;
- ✓ Russian troops damage and destroy **bridges and roads**, attack **agricultural equipment** to prevent the start of the **sowing campaign**;
- ✓ **Extensive environmental damage** is also present, as water supply and sewerage systems and communications are targeted, port infrastructure along the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov is attacked, and nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered significant losses;
- ✓ The **number of civilians killed by Russian troops exceeds military losses**;
- ✓ These are **crimes against humanity**.

Humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating:

- ✓ The residential areas of such cities as **Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Mariupol, Melitopol, outskirts of Kyiv** and many others, are intensively shelled, leaving **daily dozens of innocent civilians killed and wounded**;
- ✓ The worst situation remains in the besieged city of **Mariupol**, in which **2357 civilians** lost their lives (as of 14 March) due to **Russian attacks and blockade**. The city's infrastructure including residential buildings and hospitals continues to be destroyed;
- ✓ The UN OHCHR recorded **1834 confirmed civilian casualties** in Ukraine: **691 killed and 1143 injured** (as of midnight **14 March**). The **OHCHR believes** that the **real figures are considerably higher**. Numbers according to official sources of Ukraine to be confirmed;
- ✓ According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, **103 children were killed** by Russian invaders, and more than 100 wounded (as of **16 March**);
- ✓ **Kindergartens and schools, universities and hospitals, airports and fuel stations, bridges and water reservoirs** are targeted. More than 400 educational institutions, 111 hospitals, more than **2700** residential buildings and 28 religious buildings were damaged or destroyed. In the city of Kharkiv alone, 600 houses were entirely destroyed;
- ✓ Many people have lost their homes. According to the **UNHCR data** (as of **15 March**), **2.8 mln persons left Ukraine**, and at least **2 mln became IDPs**;
- ✓ Such **towns** as Schastya and Stanytsia Luhanska near Luhansk, or Volnovakha in the Donetsk region, are now **nearly destroyed**;
- ✓ Faced with logistical challenges, **Russian troops** began **pillaging** local residents and **robbing humanitarian convoys**. The Russian army in Ukraine has been ordered to "switch to self-sufficiency". Kremlin-sanctioned looting.
- ✓ According to the **preliminary estimates of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine**, **damage to Ukraine's economy** has already reached **565 bln USD** (as of **15 March**);

- ✓ The main efforts are now focused on **establishment of humanitarian corridors**, which are **regularly violated by the Russian troops**. On 15 March, 29.000 persons managed to leave through the humanitarian corridors, including 20.000 by private cars from the besieged **Mariupol**. Tens of thousands leave the war-affected cities and towns daily;
- ✓ **Russia must not use civilians as hostages and human shield**. By exposing cities to indiscriminate shelling, creating a dire humanitarian situation, and firing at civilians during evacuation from the besieged Ukrainian cities to other places in Ukraine, Russia is forcing civilians to flee their homes and providing only a corridor to its territory or to Belarus, which could be considered as **forcible deportation of protected persons** according to IHL.

We urgently need humanitarian assistance:

- ✓ A number of steps have been taken to **simplify the procedure of delivery of humanitarian assistance** through the state border of Ukraine for the period of duration of martial law;
- ✓ As of 14 March, Ukraine received more than **50.000 tons of humanitarian aid**. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Ukrzaliznytsia (Ukrainian Railways) are currently operating as logistics headquarters. We are grateful to our partners and expect a more **active involvement of international organizations in humanitarian aid**, including establishment of **humanitarian corridors** blocked by the Russian troops, ensuring delivery of humanitarian relief to the **medical facilities**, and provision of **critical food supply** to the civilian population;
- ✓ **UN Humanitarian has launched emergency appeals** for a combined \$1.7 billion to urgently deliver humanitarian support to people in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries.

Russian military aggression threatens thousands of foreigners in Ukraine:

- ✓ We regret that while they had been warmly welcomed in our country, nowadays **Russian invasion put their lives at high risk**;
- ✓ **Despite Russia's propaganda, there is no discrimination** based on the race or nationality, including when it comes to the **crossing of the state border** by foreign citizens;
- ✓ **Foreign journalists Brent Renaud and Pierre Zakrzewski were killed by Russian troops. Several more were wounded**;
- ✓ We **call on all foreign governments to demand from President Putin that he immediately stops his war** in Ukraine.

War launched by Russia against Ukraine is not only the gravest military threat to international community, but a **severe challenge to global food security**:

- ✓ Ukraine's exports comprise 10% of all wheat, 16% of all corn and 55% of all sunflower oil in the world. Due to the war, **food exports from Ukraine are currently suspended**;
- ✓ **As war is unfolding, the situation will further deteriorate**. A large deficit of grain production and exports will cause a significant increase in world grain prices.
- ✓ **400 million lives** in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia are at risk of unstable access to food, malnutrition and famine;
- ✓ As of now, **Ukraine has sufficient basic foodstuffs** for the coming months. Still, if the war becomes protracted, **this can change**;
- ✓ It is urgent to stop Putin, stop the war, and **stop food terrorism**.

3. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

The world supports Ukraine. Russia becomes increasingly isolated:

- ✓ On 25 February, the Committee of Ministers of the **Council of Europe suspended** Russia's rights of representation in CMCE and PACE;
- ✓ On 2 March, the **UN GA** with **overwhelming majority of votes (141 YES** and only 5 NO, with 35 abstained) adopted the **Resolution on Russian invasion to Ukraine**;
- ✓ **13 Russian diplomats** were **expelled** from the Russian Mission to the UN;

- ✓ On 3 March, **Russia was suspended** from the **Council of the Baltic Sea States**;
- ✓ On 3 March, 45 **OSCE** participating States have invoked the **Moscow mechanism for Russia's war against Ukraine**;
- ✓ On 4 March, the **UN HR Council** adopted the **Resolution "Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression"** (32 YES, 2 NO and 13 Abstained);
- ✓ On 8 March, the **European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)** has condemned Russia's military invasion into Ukraine and **suspended Russia's Observer status**;
- ✓ On 8 March, the **OECD** decided to immediately **suspend the participation of Russia and Belarus**;
- ✓ Russia was **banned from many sport organizations**. In particular, all Russian teams were suspended from participation in both FIFA and UEFA competitions until further notice;
- ✓ On 10–11 March, the **IMO Extraordinary Council Session** **deplored Russia's attacks on commercial vessels** and their seizures, demanding that Russia cease its unlawful activities;
- ✓ On 15 March, the PACE took the decision to **cease Russia's membership in the Council of Europe** (216 YES, 0 NO and 3 Abstained);
- ✓ We appreciate the **visit** held to Kyiv on 15 March by the Heads of Governments of **Czechia, Poland and Slovenia**. Personal presence in the capital of defending country in war is a **strong message of support**.

Russia's diplomatic and politic isolation must continue:

- ✓ We call our partners to follow our example (**Ukraine has terminated diplomatic relations with Russia**) and to **expel Russia's ambassadors** immediately;
- ✓ The **international organizations** must consider **banning Russia's membership** for blatant violations of international law;
- ✓ **Countries, which support Russia's actions** in one way or another, should **bear the consequences** (Ukraine has recalled Ambassadors in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia for consultations following the unfriendly steps done by these countries).

We welcome all steps made by the international institutions to **bring Russia to justice**:

- ✓ On 26 February, **Ukraine submitted its application against Russia to the International Court of Justice**, requesting the Court to issue an order that Russia must cease its unlawful attack on Ukraine. Although **Russia has notified the ICJ that it does not intend to participate** in the process, this **does not prevent the hearing**;
- ✓ On 1 March, the **ECHR** decided to indicate to the **Government of Russia to refrain from military attacks against civilians and civilian objects**;
- ✓ **International Criminal Court** Prosecutor opened an investigation into the situation in Ukraine. The ICC investigators have already been sent to Ukraine to collect evidence;
- ✓ All cases of **violation** of the provisions of international and **international humanitarian law must be registered** by the respective international bodies.

Ending the war, launched by Russia, remains Ukraine's key priority. We urgently need **ceasefire and humanitarian corridors for civilians** to prevent further casualties:

- ✓ **Three rounds of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations** were held on 28 February, 3 and 7 March. The **working groups** were established, talks are held **by video link**. **The negotiations continue on 14–16 March**: ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian troops are in particular discussed. **No ultimatums will be accepted by Ukraine**, in particular on the territorial integrity. **Faced with military defeats on the ground, the Russian side has taken now more realistic stance in the talks**;
- ✓ We regret that the **Russian side took unconstructive stance** on Ukrainian proposals on cease-fire and humanitarian corridors during the **meeting of Minister Kuleba with Minister Lavrov** in Turkey on 10 March;

- ✓ On 3 March, the **Ukrainian Parliament** adopted a number of decisions and appeals, including to the **UN** on the need to send **peacekeeping forces** to Ukraine;
- ✓ We need **international legal long-term guarantees of security**. Such guarantees can be provided in particular by the **UN SC Member States and Ukraine's neighbors**, similar to the mechanism envisaged by the North Atlantic Treaty.

4. ACTIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Ukrainian people are **dying for the freedom of Ukraine and Europe**. We strive for a **full-fledged EU membership**:

- ✓ According to the polls, held on 1 March, **86% of Ukrainian citizens support joining the EU, and 76% support accession to NATO**;
- ✓ On 28 February, President of Ukraine signed an official application for the **EU membership for Ukraine within new urgent procedure**. **Ten EU countries** have already **supported** it. Our application should be considered **separately from Georgia and Moldova**;
- ✓ On 1 March, the **European Parliament** (637 votes pro, 13 votes contra, 26 abstained) **adopted Resolution**, calling on European institutions to work towards granting Ukraine the status of EU candidate country and imposing tougher sanctions against Russia;
- ✓ On 10–11 March, the **Informal meeting of EU heads of state or government** adopted the statement on Russian aggression against Ukraine, in which “**acknowledged the European aspirations and the European choice of Ukraine**, as stated in the Association Agreement”;
- ✓ We expect that **further steps** on the EU membership for Ukraine would be taken **as fast as possible**.

We are **grateful for the decisions already taken** by our friends and partners:

- ✓ for **arms**, military equipment and ammunitions sent over to us by our partners;
- ✓ for the decision of Turkey to **block the access of Russian warships to the Black Sea**;
- ✓ for introducing the **ban on Russian aircrafts** in the airspace (EU, USA, UK, Canada, North Macedonia, Moldova, Norway, USA, Iceland, Switzerland, Montenegro, Albania), as well as the supply, leasing, insurance and maintenance of aircrafts;
- ✓ for the **humanitarian support** provided for the citizens of Ukraine,
- ✓ for **fuel supplies** (Azerbaijan's SOCAR).

The **unprecedented sanctions** are of particular importance, **isolating Russia's economy** and severely **undermining its economic and financial capacities** to continue aggression. Atrocities, which continue to be committed by Russia in Ukraine, confirm that **sanctions must be further strengthened and expanded**. We **welcome** in particular the **4th sanctions package** adopted by the **EU COREPER** on 14 March:

- ✓ **Russia lost access** to half of its **gold and currency reserve**. The US has banned the **export of US dollars**, and the EU has banned the **supply of euro banknotes to Russia**;
- ✓ **Russian currency** has drastically depreciated, almost twice as of now;
- ✓ Russian companies go **bankrupt**;
- ✓ **Doing business with Russia** becomes **increasingly toxic**, causing severe reputational and business losses. As of 14 March, **209 Western companies** have already **left Russia**, and 378 made this partially. This process should continue, as Russia's economy has entered a stage of **rapid degradation**, and in several weeks the withdrawal of investments will be much more complicated;
- ✓ Experts estimate that about **3 mln Russian citizens** will become **unemployed**;
- ✓ Russia's **sovereign ratings** are downgraded, leading to default on public debt;
- ✓ Russia's economy will face **deep recession** (decline **7 – 9% in 2022** is expected according to the different forecasts).

Further actions need to be done immediately:

- ✓ **no-flight zone** over Ukraine to cease the shelling of civilians by Russia and ensure the safety of critical infrastructure such as Nuclear Power Plants;
- ✓ strengthening Ukraine's **air defense** system, including by providing **military aircrafts**;
- ✓ disconnect all Russian banks from **SWIFT**, first and foremost "Sberbank";
- ✓ expanding sanctions to **Lukashenka's regime in Belarus**;
- ✓ trade embargo on Russia, including in **oil and gas** sector (Russian exports of crude oil and gas is merely intact), as well as sales of **gold and minerals**. **Since the start of war, Russia received 12.6 bln EUR from the EU Member States for coal, oil and gas**;
- ✓ preventing Russia from the use of **crypto-currencies** to circumvent sanctions;
- ✓ **closure of ports for Russian vessels** (following the UK, Canada and Cyprus) and **ban for the ships** under the EU member-states and US flags to **come to the Russian sea ports**;
- ✓ **ban** of all Russian channels of **propaganda** broadcasting fakes on Russia's war on Ukraine;
- ✓ **supporting Ukraine** with weapons, protective equipment, ammunition, fuel, and whatever else necessary to counter the biggest army in the continent;
- ✓ **deputinizing the world**: ending Putin's influence in politics, diplomacy, business, sports, culture, research & other spheres;
- ✓ encouraging **private business to divest from Russian assets and currency**;
- ✓ imposing a **visa-regime for holders of Russian diplomatic passports**, blocking new visas and residency permits and revoking existing ones for **Russian officials and their families**;
- ✓ Prime Minister of Ukraine has officially appealed to the G7 countries regarding the status of Russia's and Belarus' membership in the **IMF and all World Bank organizations**.

The **war launched by President of Russia**, must be stopped. It is **not in the interest of Russian and Belarusian citizens**:

- ✓ We are grateful to the wide **Ukrainian community abroad**, which joined the Government of Ukraine in **delivering the truth on Russia's war in Europe**;
- ✓ **Anti-war demonstrations held by citizens of many nations throughout the world** demonstrate strong support to Ukraine in defending against Russia;
- ✓ It is critical to **keep informing Russian and Belarusian citizens on the aggressive war** conducted without their consent against Ukraine by their leaders;
- ✓ **Russian and Belarusian people are protesting against attacking Ukraine**. Thousands are detained.

5. ECONOMIC RECOVERY

One of Russia's key goals in the war it has launched is to **destroy Ukraine's economy**, to make us a "failed state", which would not be able to resist Russia's influence. According to the IMF report of 14 March, **Ukraine's GDP will contract 10% in 2022** if there's a prompt resolution to the war, and much more if it continues further. We must prevent this:

- ✓ Ukraine's **business and industry outside the war zone continue working** to support Ukraine's economy;
- ✓ On 15 March, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the law aimed at **supporting Ukrainian business in war time, including by cutting red tape and simplifying tax system**;
- ✓ The **Ukrainian government** established **four funds**: support to Ukrainian army and humanitarian assistance; restoration of destroyed infrastructure; re-launch of small and medium business; servicing external debt.

We are **grateful** for all **financial assistance** urgently provided to Ukraine. This **strengthens our resilience** to Russia's war:

- ✓ On 7 March, the **World Bank** has mobilized an Emergency Financing Package of **over 700 million USD** for Ukraine;

- ✓ On 9 March, the **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development** has announced an **initial 2 bln Euro resilience package** of measures to help citizens, companies and countries affected by the war against Ukraine. The Bank has also pledged to do all it can to help with the country's reconstruction, once conditions allow;
- ✓ According to the decision adopted on 9 March, the **IMF** has provided **1.4 billion USD** in **Emergency Financing Support to Ukraine**;
- ✓ **On 15 March, President Biden signed the bill with 13.6 billion USD** to aid Ukraine and support NATO in Eastern Europe.

We need to **restore Ukraine's economy after the end of war**. When Ukraine wins, we will need further significant support by the world in **rebuilding our country from Russia-brought destruction**:

- ✓ **Establishment of the international fund with the capital of at least 500 billion USD**;
- ✓ **Financial and technical support to strengthen Ukraine's defensive capacities** and prevent any further attempts by Russia to launch a war in Europe;
- ✓ Soonest possible **access to the EU structural funds** for the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine (taken into account submission of the application for the EU membership);
- ✓ **Launch by the EU of the new emergency financial assistance program for Ukraine** (in addition to current MFA program);
- ✓ **Massive investments, grants and contributions** to relaunch Ukraine's economic development.