

KEY MESSAGES ON RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

as of 11.00, 22 March
(26th day of war)

1. WAR SITUATION

The **Russian troops** continue simultaneously (albeit with different intensity) **attacking Ukraine** from the territory of **Russia, Belarus** and the temporarily occupied parts of Ukraine's **Donetsk, Luhansk** regions and **Crimea**. This is a full-scale **war against Ukraine (international armed conflict), launched by Russia**, not a "conflict in Ukraine". **Proper wording** is critical. While highlighting the situation in Ukraine, a clear **reference** must always be done to **Russia as an aggressor. We protect the entire Europe**, not only ourselves, 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 nearly 1000 **missiles** at residential areas and military positions, attacks with **aviation** (1403 airstrikes as of 19 March), **tanks** and **artillery**, and sends **subversion and reconnaissance groups**. Just on 18 March, it made 4 missile strikes with 14 missiles, and over 40 air raids. Ukraine became a testing ground for Russian missiles of different types;
- Russian **warships** shell the coast line. Ukraine's coast of the Azov Sea now is temporarily blocked by Russia. **Amphibious landing** to the Odesa region remains possible;
- **Russia has significant air advantage**, which it actively uses by **attacking military positions and civilian objects and 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);
- Russia organizes **cyber attacks** and **fake news campaigns** aimed to sow panic in Ukrainian towns and cut off Ukrainian citizens from the official information sources;
- There are **no places left in Ukraine without an overt military threat**, be it shellings or infiltration of sabotage groups, members of which continue to be detained in all regions.

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 in the next few days**. 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. The Russian troops intimidate local

residents, and hunt for activists, journalists and local authorities able to organize protests against temporary occupation.

Kremlin attempts to **conceal truth about war** and **real losses** of the Russian troops in Ukraine:

- Afraid of mass anti-war protests, the Russian authorities **block social networks, intimidate media, introduce censorship, high fines and imprisonment** up to 15 years for delivering true information about the war started against Ukraine;
- Russian troops use **mobile crematoriums** and **mass graves** for those killed in actions;
- There are reports on **failed parachutes of Russian pilots** shot down by Ukrainian defenders. This may indicate the deliberate actions by the Russian command to prevent their capture and evidence about war crimes;
- The **Russian side is not trying to take its captured soldiers out of Ukraine**. Instead, their families are already receiving reports of their deaths or disappearances, although they are still alive and in captivity. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on the mothers of Russian soldiers to turn to Ukraine to learn about the fate of their children;
- Still, the **truth cannot be hidden**. On 2 March, the Russian side recognized losses, but stated only a small part of them. On 9 March, Russia recognized the use of conscripts.

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 briefings on 11 and 18 March;
- **Russia's claims** that Ukraine needs to be “**demilitarized**” sound even more **absurd**, looking at the numbers of troops, heavy weapons and aircrafts sent by it to invade Ukraine.

Ukraine has activated its right for self-defense according to the UN Charter Article 51. We continue to fight and **we will win**:

- **Ukraine's Armed Forces** fight Russia's Armed Forces, inflicting devastating blows to them. **More than 100.000 Ukrainian citizens** joined the **territorial defence units**. Almost **20.000 volunteers** from dozens of countries are joining **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 21 March**, they constitute about **15,000 personnel** (ten times more than Ukrainian military losses), 97 aircrafts, 121 helicopters, 498 tanks, 1535 armored vehicles, 240 artillery systems, 80 MLRS, 45 anti-aircraft systems, 24 UAVs, 3 vessels/boats. **Up to 1000** 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**;
- On 18 March, the Ukrainian Armed Forces **destroyed the Russian command post** in Chornobayivka. Russian Lieutenant General Andrei Mordvichev, commander of the 8th Army of the Southern Military District, was also eliminated. This was the **sixth commander of the Russian forces eliminated** since the beginning of the invasion;
- Attacking Ukraine, **Russia has almost exhausted its stocks of missiles**. Its military-industrial complex has to work 24/7 to replenish them;
- **93% of Ukrainian citizens** (as of 18 March) are convinced that **we will win** this defensive war against Russia. Mayors of Ukrainian towns reject Russia's proposals to surrender;

- On 19 March, the **National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine** took the decision to **suspend during the martial law any activity of several political parties, linked to Russia.**

Russia's irresponsible actions pose the gravest nuclear and chemical contamination 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. Russian military seized it (400 military personnel and 50 military vehicles are stationed now) and declared that the Plant is now **under control of "Rosatom"**;
- 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 **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**;
- **On 20 March the site of PJSC "SumyHimProm" was shelled, which caused ammonia leakage from a 50-ton tank.**
- **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** (five as of 16 March) 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 continues to mobilize thousands of residents** of the temporarily occupied parts of **Donetsk and Luhansk regions**. The mobilization age on those territories was increased to 65 years. They are sent to the forward positions of the Russian troops as **cannon fodder**;
- 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**;
- Russia's attacks **target residential areas, air bomb shelters for civilians, medical infrastructure**, and transport means used for medical, humanitarian support and evacuation purposes;
- The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine launched a portal with information on the **destruction of cultural and historical monuments** of Ukraine by Russian aggressors. These materials will prove in the International Criminal Court Russia's real goal, which is **extermination of Ukrainian nation, culture, history and identity**;
- There is evidence of civilians being forcibly transferred to Russia's territory from Mariupol.

Responsibility for Russia's war against Ukraine lies with the **entire Russian society, not only president Putin** and his proxies. All of them must bear the consequences:

- The decision to start a war of aggression was taken by Putin. At the same time, **71% of Russians support this war** and mass killings of Ukrainians. This is shared responsibility;
- Russian soldiers murder Ukrainian citizens, Russian journalists make propaganda, Russian officials and enterprises work to support Putin's decisions. **This is not a one man show**;
- **European politicians and corporations** drawing separating lines between Putin and "ordinary Russians" simply **try to justify** doing business as usual and **making bloody money by trading with Russia** even in the time of war, which is financed by such a business;

- According to a case study conducted in March by Active Group and published on 16 March, **86.6% of Russians support the idea of Russian aggression against EU countries**. The main next target after Ukraine, 75.5% of Russian respondents chose Poland, 41% of respondents voted for an attack on the Baltic countries, 39.6% - one of the Warsaw Pact countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, former Czechoslovakia), 32.4% - Georgia, 28.8% - Moldova.

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**:

- 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**;
- **Extensive environmental damage** is also present, as water supply and sewage 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**;
- While retreating, **Russian troops plant mines** in the previously seized Ukrainian territories, leaving them **even in the children toys**;
- 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**, which is now **almost destroyed**. Daily, **50-100 aviation bombs** are dropped by Russians. **Thousands of civilians** lost their lives due to Russian attacks and blockade. **Russia's crimes** include **bombardment of a drama theatre** where up to 1300 civilians were being sheltered, of an art school, which served as a shelter for around 400 civilians, and **seizure of a hospital** with 400 civilians in it used as a human shield;
- The UN OHCHR recorded **2,361 confirmed civilian casualties in Ukraine: 902 killed and 1,459 injured (as of midnight 19 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, **115 children were killed** by Russian invaders, and more than **148 wounded (as of morning 21 March)**;
- **Kindergartens and schools, universities and hospitals, airports and fuel stations, bridges and water reservoirs** are targeted. 489 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;
- According to the UNHCR, **~10 mln people have fled their homes** in Ukraine: **~6.5 mln people have been displaced** inside Ukraine, and **~3.4 mln left** the country;
- 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.
- The main efforts are now focused on **establishment of humanitarian corridors**, which are **regularly violated by the Russian troops**. On **20 March**, 4 out of 7 planned corridors have worked over 7.300 persons have left the sieged cities, including Mariupol. 8 corridors are planned for 21 March;

- **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.

Ukraine and its partners are currently working on draft resolution on humanitarian situation in Ukraine. If the UN Security Council fails to adopt such resolution due to the Russian “veto”, Ukraine shall proceed with the adoption at the UNGA emergency special session.

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;
- According to the Office of President of Ukraine, as of 16 March, Ukraine received in 10 days of March **70.000 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;
- The **UN Flash Appeal for Ukraine** requested **1.14 bln USD** to support the initial 3 months of the response to help six million of the most vulnerable in Ukraine. As of 18 March, donors raised 408 million USD or 36 per cent of the funds requested. In addition, **UNHCR** appealed for **550 mln USD** to support Ukrainian refugees fleeing neighboring 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.

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 16 March, **Russia was excluded from the Council of Europe**, after 26 years of membership;
- On 27 February, by a recorded vote of 11 in favour to 1 against (Russia), with 3 abstentions (China, India, UAE), the **UN SC adopted a resolution** calling on the **UN GA Emergency Special session on Ukraine**, effectively taking over the functions of the UN SC. 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**;
- 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 **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 16 March, the FIDE Council suspended the national teams of Russia and Belarus from participation in official FIDE chess tournaments;
- 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;
- 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**;
- On 17 March, the **Danube Commission** at its extraordinary meeting adopted the decision to **suspend Russia's representation**;
- On 17 March, the **European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations** has **indefinitely suspended Russia and Belarus** from membership.

Russia's diplomatic and political 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 (as, for instance, the Council of Europe did);
- **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);
- The global web movement Avaaz posted an **online petition** calling on world leaders to **bring Putin to international responsibility for crimes in Ukraine**. As of **10:00 21 March, it was signed by around 1.160.000** people from all over the world, out of the target number of 2 mln signatories. Every hour, the number increases by an average of **10.000** people.

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 did not prevent the hearing. **On 16 March, the ICJ ordered Russia to immediately stop the invasion**, the order being binding under international law. Russia must comply immediately, as ignoring the ICJ will isolate Russia even further;
- 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 arrived 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:

- **Four rounds of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations** were held on 28 February, 3 March, 7 March, and 14–16 March. The **working groups** were established, talks are held **daily by video link**. **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 legally binding 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. They need to be strong enough to prevent any further attempts by Russia to attack Ukraine.

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**;
- **Majority** (nearly 71% according to the recent polls) **of the EU citizens** also support Ukraine's membership;
- 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 **further steps** on EU membership for Ukraine to be taken **as fast as possible**.

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

- 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);
- for the decision by the Swedish Port Workers' Union to **declare a blockade of ships to and from Russia**, ships carrying Russian goods and ships belonging to Russia;
- as part of its fourth package of sanctions against Russia released on 18 March, the **European Commission** confirmed that it had **banned imports of iron and steel products** from Russia, and **revoked the most-favored-nation trade regime**.

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**:

- 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 – 14% 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, as well as sales of **gold** and **minerals**. According to the International Energy Agency, due to sanctions, 3 mln barrels per day of Russian oil and products may not find their way to market beginning in April. Still, currently, since the start of war, **Russia** has already **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;
- **monitor any attempts by Russian citizens to avoid sanctions** (as was the case with the Swiss "Dukascopy Bank" which was issuing Visa/Mastercard cards to Russian residents until it was disclosed by Ukrainian journalists);
- **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**;
- **excluding Russia from the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering** and designating it on **FATF's black list** without delay.

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 pressure and influence:

- Since the start of war, a **major part of economic activity has stalled**: nearly 30% of Ukraine's economy does not function. Many **industrial plants** located primarily in **eastern Ukraine** suspended their work. **Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports** in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov disrupts Ukraine's export;
- Russian troops damage and destroy **bridges** and **roads**, attack **agricultural equipment** to prevent the start of the **sowing campaign**;
- The Ukrainian Government estimates that **overall direct economic losses** in Ukraine **caused by Russia's military aggression** has already reached **565 bln USD** (as of 15 March);
- 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.

The Russian war against Ukraine is a **threat to global food security**. **Defending Ukraine also protects the world from hunger and famine.**

- Ukraine's exports comprise about 10% of all wheat, 16% of all corn and 55% of all sunflower oil in the world;
- Due to the military actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, a large-scale humanitarian crisis will commence in the world in the near future;
- Russian invaders are blocking Ukrainian ports and deliberately destroying agricultural machinery. Food exports from Ukraine are partially suspended;
- In addition to Ukraine, the crisis is beginning to affect numerous other countries that import grain crops. 400 million lives in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia are at risk of unstable access to food, malnutrition and famine;
- **Even being under Russia's attack Ukraine is determined to start the sowing campaign according to the plan.**

We must do our utmost to **thwart Russia's plans** and to **keep Ukraine in line**:

- Ukraine's **business and industry outside the war zone continue working** to support Ukraine's economy. Those enterprises which need to be **relocated** from the battle zone (700 applications as of 19 March), were offered support by the Government;
- 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 authorities started preparing **support to the spring sowing campaign where the current situation allows**, including by ensuring state reimbursement for interest on loans to cover any expenses related to the agricultural activities;
- 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 and technical 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;
- On 16 March, **Ukraine** has finally **joined ENTSO-E**. This will **significantly enhance** our **energy independence** and prevent any blackmailing in this sphere from Russia and Belarus;

- On 18 March, President of the EU Commission announced **second disbursement of 300 mln Euro** to Ukraine under the **new emergency Macro-Financial Assistance programme**.

We need to **restore Ukraine's economy** when we win. 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);
- **Massive investments, grants and contributions** to relaunch Ukraine's economy.