

DECLARATION*

STANDING WITH UKRAINE

The Assembly,

1. **Standing firmly** with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people;
2. **Condemning in the strongest possible terms** Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of choice against Ukraine – the gravest aggression in Europe since World War II – and **reaffirming** its unwavering support for Ukraine's democracy, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;
3. **Reaffirming that** the forcible occupation and annexation of Ukrainian territories by Russia constitute an illegal and unjustifiable aggression, which violates fundamental principles of international law;
4. **Rejecting** Russia's efforts to legitimise the illegal occupation and annexation of territory through illegitimate referenda and elections;
5. **Determined** to hold accountable the Russian regime, its accomplices in the Belarusian regime and all other actors who have committed war crimes and bear responsibility for the deaths, suffering and destruction;
6. **Strongly condemning** the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including attacks against civilian populations and civilian infrastructure, the targeting of maternity wards, hospitals, residential buildings, theatres, kindergartens, schools and buildings used as temporary shelters for refugees, as well as the use of prohibited weapons, including cluster bombs, which violates international obligations and rules and as such must be stopped immediately;
7. **Deeply concerned** about the increased risks faced by the most vulnerable groups in times of conflict, in particular women and children, including the risk of sexual violence and human trafficking;
8. **Conveying its profound respect and admiration** for the remarkable bravery of the Armed Forces and security services of Ukraine and of volunteers, for the unity and resolve of the Ukrainian people as well as for the Ukrainian authorities' outstanding leadership in the face of this brutal aggression;
9. **Recognising** that, with its aggression against Ukraine, Russia seeks to crush Ukraine's democracy, intimidate other sovereign and democratic countries and, by extension, undermine the values that are fundamental to NATO and the entire democratic, civilised and peaceful world;
10. **Warning** the Russian regime that its policy and practices, including murder, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, rape and sexual assaults, severe physical injury to civilians, deliberate military attacks or threats of attacks on civilians and civilian areas, destruction of property, and attacks on hospitals, among others, which aim at removing by violent and terror-inspiring means the Ukrainian civilian population from certain geographic areas, constitute war crimes;

* Adopted by the Assembly at its Plenary Sitting in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Monday 30 May 2022.

11. **Stressing** that Putin's war of choice against Ukraine, unacceptable aggressive rhetoric against and ultimatums to NATO Allies and partners – including the implicit threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear escalation – confirm that Russia's actions represent today the gravest security threat to Europe's security and fit into a pattern of systematic attempts to undermine the rules-based international order;
12. **Convinced** that these actions mark a turning point and create a new strategic reality which NATO Allies and partners must adjust to immediately and for the long term;
13. **Affirming** that it will never recognise Russia's illegal claims in Ukraine nor any attempt by Russia to create illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Ukraine and **reaffirming** its full support for Ukraine's democratically elected government and parliament;
14. **Applauding** the unity of Allies and their key partners, including NATO's primary partner the European Union, in the face of Russian aggression, the practical and political support provided to Ukraine and the swift and necessary measures taken by the Alliance to strengthen its deterrence and defence posture;
15. **Resolved** to help bolster democracy in Allied and partner nations – more specifically among those partners at risk as a result of Russian activities – and continue to defend the fundamental principles of the rules-based international order, including the right of all nations to choose their own path;
16. **Reaffirming** its steadfast support for the path towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration, which the Ukrainian people have chosen and is anchored in Ukraine's Constitution;
17. **Grateful** for the support for Ukraine which many citizens around the world have expressed, including those who face harsh censorship and repression;
18. **URGES** member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to continue building a strong global coalition to support Ukraine with all possible assistance and to increase pressure on Russia to cease all military and hybrid operations and immediately withdraw its troops from Ukraine;
 - b. to maintain and increase massive, crippling and sustained sanctions for however long it takes until Russia reverses its illegal actions and withdraws all of its troops from all Ukraine's territory within its internationally recognised borders, including enlarging the list of sanctioned oligarchs and officials connected with the Russian regime as well as their families, propagandists and state media and the phasing out of coal, gas, oil and uranium imports from Russia;
 - c. to increase substantially the level of intelligence sharing and the supply of military equipment, particularly anti-aircraft, artillery, ammunition, anti-missile, and anti-ship systems, which Ukraine urgently needs to defend itself against Russian aggression;
 - d. to provide, in close cooperation with relevant international partners, further emergency humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and to step up support to Ukrainian refugees both within and outside of Ukraine;
 - e. to provide substantial short- and long-term financial and material assistance to Ukraine;
 - f. to continue and strengthen NATO's assistance for Ukraine's security and defence sector and cooperation with the Ukrainian armed forces;

- g. to agree on the next steps in support of Ukraine's NATO integration path;
- h. to demand that Russia unblocks exit routes for Ukrainian grain exports to avoid further devastating consequences on global food security;
- i. to expel Russian diplomats engaged in hostile activities, including spreading hate speech, disinformation and fuelling the conflict;
- j. to support the initiatives aimed at establishing accountability of the Russian Federation under international law, international human rights law and international criminal law, notably the investigations launched by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the European Union Member States, as well as the establishment of a special *ad hoc* international criminal tribunal to investigate and prosecute the crime of aggression against Ukraine and bringing the perpetrators to justice;
- k. to hold the Belarusian dictatorship accountable for its support of and role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine and to maintain and increase massive, crippling and sustained economic sanctions against the Belarusian regime;
- l. to continue making it very clear to Russia that the international community will never recognise the illegal and illegitimate occupation and annexation of Crimea, the "independence" of the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics and Russia's occupation of Ukraine's territorial waters nor any attempt by Russia to create illegitimate alternative administrative structures in Ukraine;
- m. to continue to press Russia to engage constructively in credible talks with Ukraine to achieve concrete results, starting with a sustainable ceasefire and a complete withdrawal of its troops from Ukrainian territory that fully respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;
- n. to reiterate that Ukraine decides its own future and that no decision about Ukraine will be taken without Ukraine;
- o. to continue seeking ways to engage with Russian civil society, both in Russia and abroad, supporting all initiatives aimed at resisting the Kremlin's aggressive policies;
- p. to remain vigilant and ensure effective information exchange on potential further Russian aggressive actions beyond Ukraine;
- q. to swiftly move to a "forward defence" posture, including the permanent deployment of a significant number of troops and equipment along NATO's Eastern flank, ensuring the capability and readiness to defend every inch of NATO territory;
- r. to step up political and practical, including military, support for other NATO aspirants and partners subject to Russian pressure and attempted intimidation;
- s. in the revised NATO Strategic Concept, to clearly identify Russia's revisionism and aggressive actions as the most immediate and principal threat to Euro-Atlantic security and respond by moving to "forward defence", adjusting adequately NATO's posture, NATO's defence plans, especially on the front line of NATO's Eastern Flank, command and control structure and military preparedness while placing shared democratic values at the heart of NATO's response to today's challenges, including through the establishment, within NATO, of a Democratic Resilience Centre.