



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

**by**

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to the United Nations**

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Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union. Allow me to add some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Last week I said in this very hall that Slovakia had considered the debate on the situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine unfortunately very timely and urgent due to a massive pressure on the Ukrainian sovereignty. That was before the large-scale attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine and its innocent citizens.

Today we are here as the consequence of the Russian Federation's abuse of its right to veto, which prevented the Security Council from exercising its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Russian Federation can silence the Security Council's action, but cannot silence the voice of the international community, truth and its accountability for the committed invasion. This relates also to the outrageous narrative that we heard from the Russian Permanent Representative earlier today.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which is a blatant violation of international law. We denounce also Belarus for facilitating Russia's assault against Ukraine. We likewise reiterate our condemnation of the Russian selective "**à la carte menu**" application of the UN Charter, which it uses as **a napkin after the main course**. And, last but not least, we strongly condemn the order of President Putin to put nuclear forces on alert. This type of action does not belong to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but to the dustbin of history.

Once again we express our strong solidarity with Ukraine and its brave citizens. Slovakia witnessed a similar painful experience in its history, namely in 1968, when Soviet tanks came to Czechoslovakia under the guise of “brotherly assistance” to crush the so-called Prague Spring. We categorically reject the narrative of President Putin and the alleged need for demilitarisation and denazification of Ukraine, which is based on disinformation, fake news and distortion of history. Slovakia is in favour of the toughest sanctions against the Russian Federation, as well as on its highest representatives, including its exclusion from the SWIFT mechanism.

We would also like to praise those brave Russian citizens who have expressed their disagreement with Kremlin's policy despite the consequent severe violations of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. According to various reports about 6,000 peaceful protesters have been detained so far in Russia. Unlike the leadership of their Government, they show us the meaning of conscience and basic moral principles.

The principal position of Slovakia remains based on unwavering support to the political sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of our neighbour, Ukraine.

Slovakia joins the urgent calls for an immediate cessation of military activities of the Russian Federation in Ukraine and withdrawal of all Russian troops from the whole territory of Ukraine, including from the territory of the self-proclaimed separatist territories of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, as well as Crimea, which remain the territory of Ukraine.

Slovakia stresses that the Russian Federation will ultimately bear serious consequences for the gross use of force and for the situation that has arisen. We call on the Russian Federation to respect humanitarian law and to allow humanitarian access for all people in

need. We are particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. In this regard, Slovakia fully supports and will continue supporting initiatives and activities to help refugees from Ukraine fleeing Russian's invasion of their country, including by welcoming them in Slovakia - to our towns and villages, our homes, our families. Slovakia adopted various legislative measures facilitating provision of temporary refuge and basic services for people crossing our border. Our government and individual citizens are determined to continue providing strong humanitarian support to relieve suffering of Ukrainian people from the Russian aggression. The Slovak Embassy in Kiev extends its assistance also for citizens of third countries living in Ukraine, who need help.

We have co-sponsored and we will vote Yes on the draft resolution before us.

Thank you, Slava Ukraini!