



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

**UN General Assembly
Ukraine: Eleventh Emergency Special Session**

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Mr. President,

Slovakia is gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, which unfortunately progressively further deteriorates. The conflict has already resulted in significant human costs, including a growing number of civilian casualties and damage to critical civilian infrastructure, including water and sanitation infrastructure, school and health facilities. The numbers of those killed or wounded civilians are shocking, but we are afraid that the reality is actually much worse and the violence is far from over.

We are particularly concerned about the situation of vulnerable groups, including women and children. According to UNICEF's last situation report of 18 March, 2,9 million children are in need of humanitarian assistance. This is also the proof of a living hell the Ukrainian people are enduring as stated by the Secretary General yesterday.

Ukraine needs our help and it needs it now. Slovakia welcomes all initiatives in this regard to urgently deliver humanitarian aid to people in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries by the United Nations and humanitarian partners. On the other hand, we are truly shocked by numerous reports that Russia deliberately attacks civilians and struck civilian targets in Ukraine, including hospitals, kindergartens and schools. This kind of action is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes a war crime.

Last Friday, Boris Romantschenko who survived the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. has been killed during Russian shelling of his apartment. In this regard, the pretext of the Russian invasion of Ukraine based on "denazification" cannot be more hypocritical.

Slovakia as a neighbouring and thus directly affected country is particularly alarmed by the refugee crisis as a result of the Russian aggression. More than 3,5 million refugees from Ukraine have already

crossed into neighbouring countries since the beginning of the aggression of the Russian Federation. Out of that, about 252 thousand have entered Slovakia so far.

I would like to express our full support to all initiatives and activities assisting refugees from Ukraine fleeing the Russian invasion. They are welcome to Slovakia. We have adopted numerous legislative measures facilitating the provision of temporary refuge and basic services for people crossing our border. Our Government, our humanitarian organisations, municipalities, businesses, as well as individual citizens are determined to continue providing strong humanitarian support to relieve the suffering of the Ukrainian people. We stand in solidarity with them, as a close friend and good neighbour in these most challenging times. Causing all this suffering is cynical and barbaric!

To conclude, let me reiterate that the aggressor accountable for this situation is evident. Slovakia calls on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its hostilities against Ukraine, in particular of any attacks against civilians and civilian objects.

Slovakia supports the direct dialogue that started between Ukraine and the Russian Federation and calls on peaceful settlement of the conflict in compliance with the UN Charter.

As the main sponsor of the resolution, Slovakia will vote for its adoption.

I thank you, Mr President. Slava Ukraini!