

High- Level Launch Event of the Group of Friends of Accountability following the aggression against Ukraine

25 March 2022, 10.00-12.00 EST
777 United Nations Plaza

Statement by

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Allow me at the outset to thank the co-founders for establishing this Group of Friends of Accountability following the aggression against Ukraine. Three points from national perspective:

First, it has been an easy decision for Slovakia to join. We fully align with the principles of this group and support its objective to act as a forum for the discussion and promotion of accountability measures in Ukraine as well as for information sharing among UN Member States in order to optimize the process of accountability and the delivery of justice.

Second, Slovakia is gravely concerned by continuing reports of Russian deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure constituting violations of international humanitarian law as well as reports of abuses and violations of human rights law. These allegations must be thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

And third, Slovakia joined other States in referring the situation in Ukraine to the International Criminal Court, and launched its national investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. We also welcome other accountability initiatives and support proper coordination among them to ensure evidence collection and effective conduct of legal proceedings.

I thank you.