



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

Briefing on Ukraine

United Nations Security Council

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Dear Madam President,

I would like to start by thanking briefers for their presentation made today, which unfortunately confirmed our ongoing grave concerns about deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Ukraine.

The Secretary General said after his visit of locations outside of Kyiv on 28 April 2022 that *“there is something everybody should remember, everywhere in the world. Wherever there is a war, the highest price is paid by civilians”*. This is undoubtedly true. But we have to be always reminded about the aggressor who started the war and decided to play a deadly roulette with innocent civilians, whose blood is dried in the red field with numbers symbolizing those dead or wounded. And these numbers in Ukraine are increasing every day after spinning the wheel of this roulette by the Russian Federation and its unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of international law and principles of the UN Charter.

According to the OHCHR, as of 4 May there have been 6.635 civilian casualties, 3,238 killed and 3,397 injured. But what is worse is the reason of the human suffering caused. We already condemned the Russian decision to start the senseless war under the pretext of the “special military operation” and relative need of denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine. But what we recently heard from Sergej Lavrov, who claimed that Adolf Hitler was part Jewish, is particularly hideous and confirm our approach based on the firm struggle for fighting against disinformation of the Russian Federation concerning the war in Ukraine.

Slovakia as a neighbouring and thus directly affected country is particularly alarmed by the refugee crisis as a result of the Russian aggression. Almost 5,7 million refugees have fled the country. Since the beginning of the aggression of the Russian Federation, about 394 thousand have entered Slovakia so far. We continue to stand in solidarity with them, as a close friend and good neighbour in these most challenging times.

We also reiterate our ongoing support to Ukraine. In this regard, Slovakia is one of the largest donors *per capita* in military, humanitarian and financial assistance. This was also marked during today's high-level international donors' conference for Ukraine held in Warsaw, where the Prime Minister of Slovakia Mr Eduard Heger announced additional financial contribution of half a million euros for international organizations to be provided for the humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

To conclude, Slovakia once again calls on the Russian Federation to immediately cease its hostilities against Ukraine, in particular of any attacks against civilians and civilian objects, and unconditionally withdraw all troops from the whole territory of Ukraine

I thank you, Madam President. Slava Ukraini!