



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 Mr. President,

Over more than 150 days after beginning the senseless war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and despite multiple calls of the international community addressed to the Russian Federation to immediately cease its hostilities, severe bombardments of cities and rockets flying over heads of innocent civilians continue to be a horrific daily reality of Ukrainian population. Those attacks have resulted in a significant increase of civilian casualties – according to OHCHR over 12 thousand so far, from whom over 5 thousand killed and 7 thousand wounded. Needless to say, that the reality is much worse.

In this regard, we have to be reminded of the reason why the Russian Federation started this unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of international law - simply due to the right of Ukraine to decide its own future. The decision, which would have brought a prosperity for the country and well-being of its citizens who are now forced to live in fear and see massive destruction of their homes and critical civilian infrastructure such as health and educational facilities. The respect for the international humanitarian law must be ensured.

We would also like to seize this opportunity to once again condemn the Russian propaganda and related distortion of facts and promotion of alternative reality, which the Russian Federation also expressed today, including with respect to my country. This is highly deplorable and we totally reject such allegations.

Mr. President,

Let me be clear, the aggressor accountable for this situation is evident, it is the Russian Federation, which only can decide to stop this war at once and we call on the Russian Federation to do so without further delay.

Slovakia together with other states and stakeholders already made a commitment to help Ukraine in its reconstruction and recovery as soon as this nightmare is over. Ukraine will

undoubtedly flourish once again, but the blood of victims of this senseless war will be forever dried on the palms of the hands of the Russian Federation.

Mr. President,

while speaking about civilians, we must also mention hundreds of millions of people experiencing acute food insecurity throughout the world. Through its war in Ukraine, the Russian Federation and only the Russian Federation is responsible for aggravating the global food security crisis.

Slovakia welcomes the agreement to unblock the Black Sea for exports of grain, which was signed last week, and we praise Türkiye and the United Nations for their effort and crucial role in reaching this agreement. On the other hand, we were horrified that only one day after signing the agreement, Russian missiles hit Odesa port, which can only be considered as total disregard for international law by the Russian Federation. We urge the Russian Federation to refrain from any additional action having potential to hamper the implementation of the agreement, which is an important step in overcoming the global food insecurity caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.