



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

**UN Security Council
Briefing on Ukraine**

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Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Slovakia strongly condemns the ongoing Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military **aggression** against Ukraine. It is a clear sign of a strong violation of the UN Charter, international law and the rules based on international order.

Slovakia is gravely concerned about the **humanitarian situation in Ukraine**, which unfortunately progressively further deteriorates. Older persons, persons with disabilities and other persons belonging to marginalized groups and minorities are affected by the consequences of this war facing a big trauma and are even more likely to be exposed as victims due to the higher risk of devastating violation of their rights. We remain appalled by the huge numbers of killings of innocent civilians, attacks on critical infrastructure, as well as the huge scale of sexual- and gender-based violence committed by Russian soldiers and occupants. Thousands of people killed, hundreds of schools destroyed or damaged having negative impact on children, whose fundamental right to education has been breached, as well as attacks on medical facilities are only a shortlist of consequences this madness caused due to Putin's senseless decision to begin the war.

But the Russian Federation obviously does not understand the phrase "enough is enough", which was already opined by the Secretary General. We have witnessed last days another slew of variety of **missiles and Iranian drones attacks** to target cities in Ukraine, including Kyiv, Dnipro, Vinnytsia and Ivano-Frankivsk in central Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia in the south and the Kharkiv and Sumy regions in the east, among others. We are particularly concerned about attacks on energy infrastructure having impact on people's access to water and heat, which is particularly disturbing with regard to coming winter.

We are furthermore deeply concerned about the serious effects of the Russian invasion on **global food security**. As a result, millions of people around the world are being pushed into

extreme poverty, hunger, and lack of access to food. We call on Russia to enable free and safe passage of agricultural delivery and shipping from Ukrainian ports. We believe that the Black Sea Grain Initiative will be extended.

No one can predict when this senseless war will end, although we want it to be as soon as possible. But those who believe that by reaching the truce and silencing the guns, everything is over, are wrong. Perpetrators of such heinous attacks like those in Bucha, Krematorsk or quite recently in Izium cannot remain **unpunished** and must be brought to **justice**.

The Slovak Republic recognises Ukraine as an independent, **sovereign state with unquestionable territorial integrity**. All acts associated with the forcible acquisition of Ukrainian territory by the Russian Federation are null, void and illegitimate. The so-called referenda in the occupied regions took place during an active armed conflict, in areas under Russian occupation, and cannot be called a true expression of the will of the people. Slovakia will never recognize these territories as anything but a part of Ukraine.

The voice of United Nations from last week was crystal clear. We urge the Russian Federation to **fully implement the United Nations General Assembly resolution** of 12 October without further delay.