



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

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

**UN Security Council
Briefing on Ukraine**

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-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

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

We are approaching nine months since the beginning of the unprovoked and unjustified Russian military aggression against **Ukraine in violation of all fundamental values and principles of the UN Charter and International Law**. Despite many calls of the international community, the Russian Federation remains silent and continues to justify its “special military operation” under false pretext based on spreading disinformation and propaganda, which we strongly condemn.

How can the Russian Federation continue to persuade us that its action is justifiable under international law? We have heard in last months in this very room from the Russian representative how Ukrainian civilians were happy to see the Russian Army allegedly liberating them from the Kyiv influence. But recent pictures and videos of civilians greeting Ukrainian brave soldiers fighting for the future of their country with open arms in the newly liberated city of Kherson prove the exact opposite and only confirm that the Russian Federation has tried to persuade us about its “Kingdom of Crooked Mirrors” perception.

Slovakia remains to be gravely concerned about the **humanitarian situation in Ukraine**, which unfortunately progressively further deteriorates. 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.

We deplore in the strongest terms yesterday’s Russian missile attacks across Ukraine plunging 7 million homes into darkness.

But how can we expect that the Russian Federation adheres to the international law, humanitarian law including, and protects innocent civilians in time of war, when it ignores to guarantee fundamental rights of its own citizens? We were horrified by the video with the

execution of a former Russian prison inmate by a sledgehammer. Such an action is nothing else but arbitrary killing and multiple violation of human rights, including the right to life, and the proof that the human rights are for the Russian Federation nothing, but the concept, which it is deliberately ignoring.

We would also like to reiterate our concerns over 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. As the Black Sea Grain Initiative is about to expire, we strongly support its extension.

Last but not least, Slovakia urges the Russian Federation to listen finally to the voice of the United Nations and **implement all respective resolution**, including the resolution of the General Assembly adopted this Monday.

I thank you.