

STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr. Rastislav Káčer

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia

UN General Assembly Emergency Special Session

23 February 2023 New York Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

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

77 years ago, the United Nations founding fathers established this organization with the aim to save future generations from the **scourge of war**. Their vision was simple and straightforward. To build a World, in which every human being lives in peace and prosperity, while promoting friendly relations and cooperation among the nations.

Today, we must admit that this noble mission is facing a severe challenge. Effective multilateralism is falling apart, while **one member state** is **blatantly violating fundamental principles and values** of this organization. The state, upon which the UN Charter bestowed the privilege of guarding these very principles through the provision of the **permanent seat in the Security Council – the Russian Federation**.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

We strongly condemn the ongoing unprovoked and unjustified military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of all fundamental values and principles of the UN Charter and International Law. We reiterate our call for an immediate cessation of Russian military activities in Ukraine and demand an unconditional withdrawal of all Russian troops from the whole territory of Ukraine.

In this regard, we would like to echo the words of the Secretary General who previously said that "enough is enough". Yet it seems the Russian Federation obviously does not understand this appeal. On the contrary, it goes on with its misleading rhetoric, propaganda and the distortion of facts on the ground, promoting some kind of alternative reality.

It is our duty to take a fierce stand against these actions and the spreading of lies and deceptive narratives.

The aggression has caused food insecurity and is fuelling a global inflation with devastating impacts mainly on the most vulnerable countries of the world.

Millions of Ukrainians had to flee their homes, 90 per cent of whom are women and children. **Slovakia** is one of the countries, where **more than hundred thousand** of them found temporary refuge.

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished colleagues,

Today, we have gathered here in New York with one goal — to reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the values and principles of the UN Charter.

Russia 's ignorant attempt at redrawing internationally recognized borders of a sovereign country presents a grave threat not only to Europe.

Let us be clear, this is not only about Ukraine, whose very existence is questioned today by one member state. Tomorrow, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of any country might be at stake.

This is about **effective multilateralism**, which is under a severe threat. We cannot afford to let it go, to let it vanish. We need it for today and for future generations. We all have the duty to protect it.

Therefore, I encourage you to **vote Yes for the adoption** of the resolution, which Slovakia strongly supports.

Thank you.