



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

**by**

**H. E. Mr. Rastislav Káčer**

**Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia**

**UN Security Council  
Briefing on Ukraine**

**24 February 2023  
New York**

**-Check against  
delivery-**

Madam President,

**One year ago**, the Security Council held a meeting in this very room, around this horseshoe-shaped table. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the unprecedented military build-up of the Russian Federation, posing a threat to international peace and security.

**The last hope** to persuade Russia to de-escalate the situation and engage constructively in negotiations **was shattered** with the words of distinguished Ambassador of Ukraine, warning members of the Security Council that it was **too late** to speak about de-escalation as the Russian President had declared war. As we all know, this happened despite numerous assurances of Russia claiming no intention to invade its neighbour.

That was the night, when the whole international community was informed of the Russia's decision to begin an unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine - **in violation of all fundamental values and principles of the UN Charter and International Law.**

Yes, that Russian Federation holding the permanent seat in this chamber primarily responsible for maintaining peace and security.

Needless to say, at that moment, the **faith in multilateralism was shaken from its foundations**.

Despite the pain and suffering, which have been caused since this senseless war started, the Russian Federation has been ignoring calls of the international community to end this agony.

I do not really understand, in which **parallel universe** depriving millions innocent people of electricity, heat and water and plunging the country into darkness, can be justifiable under the pretext of so-called “special military operation”.

It is rather cynical how systematic and thorough Russia has been in **spreading propaganda and distorting the facts**. It seems that Russia has been **promoting some kind of alternative reality** - a behaviour, which we condemn once again.

We reiterate our call for an **immediate cessation** of Russian military activities in Ukraine and **unconditional withdrawal** of all Russian troops from the whole territory of Ukraine. This also concerns temporarily occupied Crimea as well as other territories of Ukraine, included those, where the Russian Federation together with local puppet authorities

orchestrated the so-called referendum in blatant breach of international rules.

We are extremely concerned about **numbers of civilian casualties** enumerated since the beginning of Russia invasion to Ukraine— according to OHCHR 7,199 killed and 11,756 injured.

Needless to say that - we are all aware of the fact that real numbers are much bigger.

Slovakia has stood by Ukraine since the very beginning of Ukraine's defence against Russia's aggression and we will continue in **our steadfast support** of Ukraine, including its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, until this shameless war is over.

However, there is also one fact, which is undeniable. The war will be over one day, and those responsible for all crimes committed **will be held responsible and brought to justice.**

I thank you.