

STATEMENT

by

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to the United Nations**

on behalf of Czechia and Slovakia

**UN Security Council
Briefing on Ukraine**

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-Check against delivery-

Madam President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Slovakia, and my own country Czechia.

We align ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

We would like to thank you for convening this meeting, as well as USG DiCarlo for her briefing, which only adds to the bleak picture of the **the devastating consequences** of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine.

We regret that the Security Council must devote its attention to this issue once again simply due to **Russia's utter disregard for the UN Charter and its fundamental principles**. Judging by its actions in Ukraine, Russia has demonstrated time and again that it has no interest in effective multilateralism, maintenance of international peace and security and development of friendly relations.

The Russian armed forces continue to deliberately target civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hitting a medical facility in the city of Dnipro. We strongly condemn such barbaric attacks.

Therefore, let us be under no illusion about the true intentions of the Russian government. Their attack on Kyiv with missiles last week while African leaders were there on a diplomatic mission speaks for itself.

We ask ourselves **how many lives must be lost or ruined for this senseless war to stop**. For Russia, the death toll, which keeps rising from one Security Council briefing to another, is apparently just a number on the paper. Russia's disregard for international humanitarian law and human rights is also evident in its ongoing repression of its own citizens.

We were also horrified by the destruction of **Nova Kachovka dam**, and by the very disturbing reports that Russian forces were shelling Ukrainian rescue workers who were trying to reach flooded areas in the Kherson region.

We call on Russia once again to **stop immediately its aggression** against Ukraine and to withdraw its troops from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and regions where Russia orchestrated its sham referendums.

We will also continue to support efforts to hold fully accountable those who committed the most serious crimes under international law in Ukraine, including rape and sexual violence against women and girls.

As our foreign ministers agreed during their last bilateral meeting, we will maintain our comprehensive support for Ukraine in its just struggle to preserve its statehood. Czechia and Slovakia have stood by Ukraine since the start of its defence against Russia's aggression and we will remain steadfast in supporting Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, until this nightmare ends.

And we hope that day will come soon.

I thank you.