



(Check against delivery)

**Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Lasha Darsalia, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
Emergency meeting of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies**

2 March 2022

Mr. Secretary General,

Dear colleagues,

It has been the 7th day since Russia has been waging a devastating full-scale military aggression against its sovereign neighbour in a heart of Europe, leading to the disastrous consequences.

Each day Russia's indiscriminate military attacks against Ukraine is inflicting horrific human suffering, massive violations of fundamental human rights, civilian casualties and forced displacement. As a part of hybrid war-fare, military assaults are accompanied by disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

It is deeply alarming that international norms and principles that we all committed to uphold are repeatedly violated by the permanent member of the Security Council, whose primary responsibility is to do the exact opposite – act as the guardian of peace and security.

Ukraine is being punished for its choice for democracy and for exercising its sovereign right to choose its security guarantees.

Unfortunately, all these is very familiar to us. Aggression against Ukraine is a repetition of the same pattern of Russia's illegal actions that we saw against my own country. Same playbook in action, with same pretexts and same reasons.

Dear Colleagues,

This is the time when we all have to be united in defending the very fundamentals of the international law. Accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law must be ensured.

Georgia strongly supports Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations and reiterates its unwavering support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine

within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and Donbas, and Ukraine's navigational rights in its territorial waters.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately, completely and without any preconditions cease its military aggression and withdraw all its forces and armaments from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders; allow immediate, safe and unfettered access to all international humanitarian and human rights mechanisms wherever is needed on the internationally recognized entire territory of Ukraine. Immediately and unconditionally reverse the decisions related to the status of integral parts of Ukraine.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our strong solidarity with Ukraine. The courage of the Ukrainian nation in this fight for peace, prosperity and freedom will always remain exemplary for all of us and future generations.

Thank you.

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