

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Excellencies, colleagues & friends of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies.

Thanks for convening this emergency meeting.

Uruguay participates in this session to ratify its condemnation to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and to express our sincere solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine.

The violation of basic principles by which States guide their coexistence and pacific relationships must be respected and preserved. We have the responsibility of defending the maintenance of international peace and security under the objectives and principles of the UN Charter.

It is unacceptable that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine are attacked and harmed.

Uruguay rejects the use of force or the threat of its use to solve controversies between States.

In line with its main foreign policy principles, Uruguay reiterates that peaceful negotiations are the only and effective means to solve disputes in the world we conceive, as democratic governments.

Any solution must respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

The flagrant violation of the principle of territorial integrity during this unprovoked invasion takes us back to the times when borders were not respected, and only the most powerful prevailed.

It is timely to remind that any acquisition of land by force, invasion or occupation does not generate any right and it is against International Law.

We should pay special attention to the situation of civilians whose lives are at risk and promote all means to protect them.

In addition and to conclude Mr. Chair, and speaking as a citizen let's be clear: invasions are old fashioned and unrepresentable nowadays. The world we imagine and for which we work for, heads in a different direction: is about combatting hunger, about development, fighting climate change and promoting human rights and opportunities.

I thank you.