

Community of Democracies Governing Council Emergency Session on
Russian aggression and Ukraine on March 2, 2022

Statement by Finland

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Check against delivery !

Excellencies, dear colleagues

I warmly thank the Romanian presidency and Secretary General for your leadership in organising this Emergency Meeting. All those who defend democracy must now stand with Ukraine.

Russia has brought war into Europe by its aggression on a sovereign state. By its illegal actions, Russia causes immense suffering for the Ukrainians. Civilians have died; have had to flee their homes.

The aggression is leading to violation of multiple human rights and freedoms in Ukraine, including right to life, right to adequate standard of living, right to housing and many others. In Russia and in Belarus (as we just heard in the statement by Ms Tsihanouskaja) rights to freedom of assembly and association, the freedom of expression, including right to seek, receive and impart information are now violated more widely and systemically.

Many of these rights and freedoms include to the COD Warsaw declaration.

Finland strongly condemns violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Russia. There is no justification for this. Neither for

the violations committed during the past eight years. Russia must stop its military operation!

As a member of the UN Human Rights council Finland has actively supported the Emergency Debate of the Council tomorrow. The Council must hold Russia accountable.

As an European Union member state Finland has issued the Decree on restrictive measures in view of actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. On Monday we closed Finland's airspace to Russian aircraft.

Earlier my government decided to grant Ukraine a total of EUR 14 million in new financial support for humanitarian assistance and development. In total, Finland's support to Ukraine will be approximately EUR 85 million since illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia.

We have also dediced to send material to assist the Ukrainian defense.

The international community has widely condemned Russia's actions. As a member of the CoD Governing Council Finland promotes unified international action to condemn violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Russia. We stand now with Ukraine.