

**Statement by Mr. Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for Security Policy of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary on the occasion of the
Extraordinary Governing Council Meeting of the Community of
Democracies on Ukraine**

(2 March 2022, 14.00 hours)

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General of the Community of Democracies,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hungary is deeply alarmed by the fact that after so many years of peace, European nations should face again the scourge of war, this time in the immediate Eastern neighbourhood of Hungary. We are gravely concerned about the security situation in our direct neighbourhood. As a neighbouring country to Ukraine, this war is obviously a great security risk to us.

The war at the heart of Europe undermines European and global security and stability, and that cannot be ignored. Hungary condemns the military action of Russia against Ukraine. We support and stand united with other nations for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and support its democratically elected institutions, and leaders and representatives. For the above reasons Hungary joined the Statement of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies on Ukraine.

We are seeing the worst possible scenario unfolding and we deeply regret that diplomatic efforts have failed to avoid it. We call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease the hostilities, withdraw its military forces from the territory of Ukraine. The senseless bloodshed must be stopped immediately and negotiations should replace the rumble of arms. For that purpose we have also offered Budapest as a venue for possible peace negotiations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hungary remains a strong supporter of a unified international approach towards stopping this crisis, including within the EU and NATO, and regarding the measures to be taken in order to react to the situation. On the 1st of March 2022, Hungary declared its support for the candidacy of Ukraine to the European Union.

Our number one goal is clear: prevent any kind of incidents that may threaten us. Our Government has taken the necessary measures, thus we have updated our protocols and are ready to tackle the humanitarian emergency situation as well as accept refugees who wish to leave Ukraine and who may need shelter. We have opened a humanitarian corridor for citizens of third countries whom we allow to enter without visa or any major restrictions. Hungary is doing its best to tackle the refugee situation.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary is ready to work with other nations, Members of the Governing Council, to stop this war at the earliest possibility and restore peace and democratic development in Ukraine.

Thank you for your attention.