

**COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES
EMERGENCY GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING ON UKRAINE
Virtual – March 2, 2022
(8:00 – 10:00 a.m. EST/ 14:00 - 16:00 CET)**

Statement by Canada

Your Excellency Minister Aurescu, Secretary General Garrett, distinguished guests,

We come together today as a Community of Democracies during a time of direct threat to the world's peace and security, to freedom, and to democracy itself. President Putin's invasion of Ukraine— is the largest threat to global peace since the Second World War.

President Putin's actions constitute a brazen violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence, and demonstrate a blatant disregard for international law, including the UN Charter.

The Russian regime is challenging the international system of peace and rule of law that we have been building over the course of the past seven decades. We have painstakingly constructed a multilateral system that is based on 2 key principles: that all states are equal and sovereign and that human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and essential to human dignity.

These principles underpin our Community of Democracies and our own efforts to build and sustain democratic and peaceful societies.

The Russian leadership's actions are a threat to the rules-based international order, as well as to the safety and human rights of all Ukrainians, and indeed all peoples of the world.

Russia is trying to justify its war by spreading a false narrative and employing the tools of disinformation. It is a master manipulator - using digital technology and social media platforms to undermine democracy and the truth to support its illegal and illegitimate violence.

Canada is unwavering in our support for Ukraine's security. We stand by the government and people of Ukraine as they fight for their freedom and for the right to choose their own future. The democratic will of the Ukrainian people must be upheld. Their human rights must be protected. This is the essence of democracy.

As a community of democracies, we too face a responsibility to speak up and to act.

We must strongly condemn President Putin for his aggression. We must continue to hold the Russian leadership accountable. We must not turn a blind eye to or normalize these egregious acts of violence that threaten our world order. Together with our allies and partners, Canada will continue to take decisive action to support the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Ukraine.