

**COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES: EMERGENCY GOVERNING COUNCIL  
MEETING ON UKRAINE**

Statement by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania  
Dr. Mantas Adomėnas  
2022-03-02

Excellencies,

Lithuania stands united with Ukraine which for the seventh day faces brutal large-scale military attacks by Russia, enabled by Belarus. The barrage of propaganda and lies by which this war against the Ukrainian people is fuelled is unprecedented and shameful. We are inspired by the infinite courage of the Ukrainian people. As they fight for their survival, they defend not only Ukraine. They defend the international rules-based order – they defend all of us.

Russia's bombardments of populated areas proceed in direct violation of international humanitarian law. Russia bears full responsibility for the bloodshed of innocent people, including children. Already more than half a million Ukrainians were forced to flee their homes as internally displaced persons or refugees. Lithuania stands ready to provide all necessary assistance to our Ukrainian friends and calls the rest of the democratic community to do the same. Rapid humanitarian aid is badly needed – as well as lethal weapons to assist Ukraine in its defence.

Now is the time to decide which side to take. For Hungary: are you with Ukraine and the Community of Democracies or with Russia when you deny your territory for supplying lethal weapons for Ukraine's defence? For Georgia: are you with Ukraine and the Community of Democracies or with Russia when you refuse to join sanctions against the state that recently attacked you and grabbed parts of your territory?

By its unprovoked and unjustifiable military actions, Russia is blatantly violating the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki and Paris Accords, the Budapest Memorandum as well as its own international commitments and obligations. Russia's actions while being member of the UN Security Council and lies while chairing it are more than despicable. Our community of democratic states have to do everything in order to remove Russia from the UN Security Council.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's war against Ukraine and reiterate our unwavering support to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. We call on Russia to immediately cease all military actions and withdraw its forces from the territory of sovereign Ukraine, as well as from Belarus.

Until and unless the war against Ukraine is stopped, we call on all countries, including members of the Community of Democracies, to continue taking and enforcing measures aimed at isolating Russia including through wide ranging sanctions. Our gratitude goes to those who have already done so.

As the costs of Kremlin's aggression continue to rise, the international community must take all the necessary steps to ensure that the crimes committed against the people of Ukraine shall not be ignored.

Lithuania, as a member of the Human Rights Council, will do its utmost to ensure that Russia and its proxies are brought to justice. In this respect, we welcome Ukraine's submission of its case to the International Court of Justice, as well as the International Criminal Court Prosecutor's decision to proceed with opening an investigation. We reaffirm our unwavering support to the efforts to bring the perpetrators to account.

Finally, even if this war is not over, let us start thinking of how we will help to rebuild victorious Ukraine. I am sure this great country deserves our utmost support.

Слава Україні!

Thank you.