

Emergency Governing Council Meeting on Ukraine – 2nd March 2022; Solidarity in a time of War on Democracy

UK Statement

Thank you – welcome – whole heartedly moved by comments made by our speakers from Ukraine.

The UK stands with the people of Ukraine in this moment of agony. We will always defend the Ukrainian people's right to choose their own destiny, and we commend the bravery and determination they have shown as they defend their country and their democracy.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state, and an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter.

The UK is sending a united message with our allies that we will not accept this brazen assault on a sovereign nation, and that we will always stand up for freedom and democracy.

Dozens of nations have rejected the easy option of sitting on the side lines, or adopting a policy of calculated indifference, and instead, they have chosen instead to take a stand, consciously risking retaliation from the Kremlin.

We call on Community of Democracy members to do likewise, and to call out this flagrant attack on peace and security for what it is.

Sanctions:

In response to this most serious attack on international peace and security and assault on democracy, we are working closely with our allies in coordinating an unprecedented set of sanctions. The UK has sanctioned 10 Russian elites including Putin and Lavrov and 200 Russians in total since 2014. We will target 571 members of Russian Duma and Federation Council.

Sanctions have also been implemented against Belarusian Chief of the General Staff, three other deputy defence ministers and two military enterprises.

These measures also include asset freezes on major Russian banks (VEB, SocComBank and Otkritie), who hold nearly \$200 billion in assets, and on large state-owned enterprises.

Working alongside our allies, we are removing key Russian banks from SWIFT, a first step towards a total SWIFT ban.

Humanitarian

- UK announced an additional £80 million of emergency aid bringing UK total to £140 million.

- We have deployed humanitarian experts to the region to better understand needs.
- Welcome UN Flash Appeal launched today (\$1.5bn) – considering UK support to it.
- Assurances on access will enable us an effective humanitarian response.

Conclusion:

The UK will not waver in our conviction that, however long it takes, a sovereign and independent Ukraine will emerge once again - ready and able to realise the democratic will of the people of Ukraine