

# STATEMENT ON UKRAINE

## THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS

The World Federation of United Nations Associations expresses its grave concern over the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine which has led to a violation of its territorial integrity and political independence and marks a clear rejection of the steps outlined in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter for resolving disputes peacefully.

The World Federation of United Nations Associations also deplores the civilian casualties in all parts of Ukraine and expresses its solidarity with the Ukrainian government and people who are resisting the invasion of their country by the Russian Federation. We support and join the global peaceful protests that are voicing their opposition to the war.

At the end of the last World War, the Permanent Members were thought to be the only ones capable of maintaining world peace and insisted on the veto power to buttress their role as guardians of peace and security. However, because of this privilege, a Permanent Member of the Security Council has a special responsibility to uphold the basic principles the UN was founded on.

When a Permanent Member of the Security Council like the Russian Federation ignores these principles and then uses its veto power to prevent a Chapter VI resolution from condemning its actions, it calls into question the ability of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security, threatens the global order and, more broadly, shakes the confidence of peoples around the world in the United Nations' ability to live up to its high ideals "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

We, therefore, call for the enforcement of Article 27 (3) in the UN Charter which clearly states that "in decisions under Chapter VI...a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting" in order to help restore faith in the Council's ability to maintain international peace and security. No Permanent Member should be able to veto a Chapter VI resolution regarding a dispute in which they are involved.

The World Federation of United Nations Associations supports the efforts of UN Secretary-General António Guterres to provide humanitarian support to all who are living within Ukraine's borders and those who have fled the country, calls on all parties to allow this aid to reach the civilian population unhindered, and fully endorses the call for the Russian Federation to recall its troops and leave Ukrainian territory immediately and unconditionally.

In addition to calling on the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops, the World Federation of United Nations Associations encourages a full implementation of the Minsk agreements along with negotiations between NATO and the Russian Federation to address their security concerns.

Doing nothing is not a choice. If we fail to act, the UN's beacon of hope is sure to be dimmed.



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