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**Address of the People`s Deputies of Ukraine on Russian full-scale military invasion of Ukraine**

Information Department of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Secretariat

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Dear colleagues,

As of 24-th February 2022 Russia has begun a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. On that morning, Ukrainians in Kramatorsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Kherson, Brovary, Mykolaiv have woken up to the sound of explosions and shooting.

In his statement, Vladimir Putin declared war of Ukraine saying Russia is doing it in self-defence and alleged that this invasion seeks to protect population in the Donbass.

Airports in Ivano-Frankivsk, Lutsk and Dnipro were shelled.

Military units in Lviv, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, Luhansk, Khmelnytsky, Kyiv, and Kherson regions were under missile fire.

Russia's cynical aggression escalates by the hour. The number of victims grows – both military and civilian. Just in the first 24 hours of this war Ukraine has incurred the following losses: 137 dead, 316 injured.

The Ukrainians armed forces have been countering Russian aggression for eight years since February 20, 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea and occupied Eastern Ukraine.

Today, the Ukrainian army is fighting back fierce attacks in Kyiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions.

And today, we, as members of the Parliament of Ukraine, leaders of Inter-Parliamentary friendship groups and members of Ukraine's delegations to the PACE, OSCE, IPU, NATO, appeal to you, our colleagues, to support Ukraine.

Immediate and decisive action is necessary to save Ukraine and our people. We ask you to call on your government and head of state to take the following action:

1. Provide massive defence assistance to Ukraine and, most importantly, military equipment in the field of anti-air defence, as well as secure communication means for Ukrainian army.
2. Impose sanctions of unprecedented magnitude and force against Russian state, oligarchs and all Putin-affiliated elite. Most importantly, extend sanctions to their family members and revoke their visas. Stop issuing new visas to Russian citizens. Cut off from the SWIFT, impose an embargo on Russian oil and gas, block Russian airlines, sea cargo, passenger companies, block access to ports for Russian companies.

3. Provide weaponry for territorial defence forces and volunteers willing to resist Russian aggression and occupation.
4. Initiate the establishment of a no-flight zone over the territory of Ukraine, either by NATO or UN. Russian aviation now constitutes the crucial Russian asset to incur irreparable harm to Ukraine. Bold action can change the situation.
5. Convene an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly and:
  - a. condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine;
  - b. adopt a resolution calling sanctions against the Russian Federation as an aggressor state;
  - c. initiate the establishment of a collective peace-keeping force on the basis of UN GA Resolution 377 (V) "Uniting for peace" dated November 3, 1950, on Korea (1950) allowing GA to issue such recommendations upon request of any 7 UN Security Council members or majority of the General Assembly members;
  - d. vote to expel Russia from the UN Security Council. A country blatantly invading its neighbour cannot be a UN SC member.
6. Initiate a UN Security Council investigation under Chapter VI of the UN Charter (Art. 34-35 of the UN Charter). Under Art. 27.3, the permanent member concerned, the Russian Federation, will not be able to veto this investigation.
7. Open your country's borders for Ukrainian refugees. No entry restrictions or complicated clearance procedures are acceptable at the time when all Ukrainian cities and towns are struck and shelled.
8. Deploy NATO forces in Ukraine to deter further Russian advancement.
9. Close the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits for Russian fleet, as foreseen by the Montreux Convention.
10. Provide financial and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.
11. Urgently initiate procedures to invite Ukraine to EU and NATO membership. Provide a concrete and particular date upon which Ukraine becomes an EU and NATO member.
12. Undertake efforts to stop dissemination of Russian disinformation.
13. Provide assistance in disseminating reliable information concerning an ongoing invasion and Ukraine's fight against aggressor state.
14. Facilitate efforts in building an "anti-Putin" coalition and protecting Ukraine from Russian aggression.

Without international support Ukraine stands no chance against one of the biggest military powers in the world.

Today the destiny of a European democracy is at stake. The global security framework is questioned.

We ask you today to take radical and concrete action for the future of a 44 million people and for the future of democracy. Every sanction, every act of support has meaning. Today political statements and calls for dialogue are no longer enough.

Drastic times call for drastic measures and we appeal to you, your parliament and your people to really stand with Ukraine.

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