

Contribution by UKRAINE to the New Agenda for Peace

Ukraine thanks the UN Secretariat for the efforts to ensure inclusivity and transparency by inviting the UN Member States to share views, priorities and recommendations for the New Agenda for Peace, which we consider an essential part of the broader “Our Common Agenda” initiative.

Hence, the forward-looking and result-oriented document, containing a fair assessment of current security crisis, its root causes and viable ways out, would be a crucial contribution to ensure ultimate success of the Summit of the Future, scheduled for 2024.

The New Agenda for Peace initiative has emerged in times of the most serious challenge to the global security architecture, marked with threats that have reached the level of the Second World War.

Since 2014 we have lived in the reality where the Russian Federation – a State that occupies the seat of a permanent member of the UN Security Council –violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine – one of the original UN Member State – by attempting to annex its territory. For over a year this attack has been turned into a full-fledged conventional war, characterized by mass atrocities and war crimes committed against civilian population by the Russian military and indiscriminate attacks against Ukraine’s civilian infrastructure. Russia’s war of aggression has a clear aim to destroy the statehood of Ukraine.

At the current historic juncture, the incompatibility of actions of the Russian Federation with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter is the number one challenge for the UN and the international community at large. Persistent violations of fundamental principles of international law by the state which occupies a permanent member’s seat in the UN Security Council threatens to nullify the common achievements of humanity in actualizing a rules-based international order. The menace of such magnitude must be jointly resisted by swift response and strong action on behalf of the international community and its members.

As a country that defends the purposes and principles of the UN Charter on the battlefield and in which the future of the UN and its global role are essentially decided, Ukraine proposed peace initiatives, in particular the Peace Formula, as well as further steps towards its implementation, including the holding of the Global Peace Formula Summit. The success of the New Agenda for Peace initiative now largely depends on the implementation of these initiatives.

Against this backdrop, Ukraine would like to highlight several key elements to be taken into account while finalizing the New Agenda for Peace.

Conflict resolution and peace-making in the event of a full-fledged inter-State war should be put in the focus of the New Agenda for Peace. The New Agenda should provide with clear vision

of how to respond to security threats and challenges stemming from armed aggression of one state against another state, in order to restore respect to the fundamental principles and norms of international law, including the UN Charter.

Referring to the UN General Assembly resolution ES-11/6 adopted on 23 February by the overwhelming majority of 141 UN Member States, Ukraine believes that striving for a **comprehensive, just and lasting peace, consistent with the UN Charter**, including the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, should be considered as a universal approach for laying the foundations for peaceful resolution.

The New Agenda for Peace should encourage for viable peace processes that aim at **restoring respect to international law** and take full note of the **context of a conflict** to avoid any false equivalent between an instigator and a defending party.

Any attempt to justify the aggression by the existence of “security concerns” should be rejected. The case of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine makes it clear that this euphemism means in reality the desire to establish zones of influence and to limit the sovereignty of a targeted State.

Ukraine welcomes that **reducing strategic risks** has been outlined among six potential areas for the New Agenda for Peace. What makes the current security crisis even more dangerous is the fact that the war has been waged by the nuclear State that resorts to the nuclear blackmail as well as attacks and occupation of nuclear facilities as a warfare toolbox. The New Agenda for Peace should therefore address the threats and challenges for non-proliferation architecture, drastically eroded by the Russian Federation.

Ukraine also appreciates the plans to place a specific focus on **investing in prevention and peacebuilding**. The New Agenda for Peace should highlight the need to ensure **accountability** for the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity as an important part of peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Ukraine expects the document to clearly highlight the responsibility of states and other international actors to prosecute those responsible for crimes under international law as well as for other violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law, and to provide an effective remedy and a guarantee of non-recurrence to victims of such violations and crimes with a view of ensuring accountability and justice.

The UN should elaborate the mechanism of **immediate responsibility for a crime of aggression** in relation to a state that has been acknowledged as an aggressor by the Security Council or General Assembly. In particular, such a State should become an object for established monitoring mechanisms, be suspended from presidency in the UN principal and subsidiary bodies until the violations are halted.

Efficient measures to **prevent conflict from relapsing**, including by providing security guarantees to a victim of aggression and establishing a system of international safeguards against the repetition of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any Member State must be in the center of our efforts.

Ukraine considers that **human rights and fundamental freedoms** are crucial for our efforts in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. Therefore, we encourage to include the issue of ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as halting violations and ending impunity for them as one of the centrepieces of the New Agenda for Peace.

Ensuring global food security should be an important element of the New Agenda for Peace. As evidenced by the implementation of the Ukrainian humanitarian program "Grain from Ukraine" and the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the stability of global food markets and food exports is of crucial importance for the security and humanitarian situation in the world. Therefore, we consider it expedient to reflect in the document on the importance of guarantees of the food stability as well as energy security and ecological safety.

The efficacy of our actions would be inextricably linked to the viability of the UN principal organs. While the UN General Assembly has addressed the issue of aggression in a meaningful way at its 11th Emergency Special Session, the Security Council that has been conferred with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, remains unable to take concrete actions due to the Russia's veto. In this regard Ukraine remains convinced that the **use of the veto should be suspended** when a country holding a permanent seat in the Council is directly involved in the conflict under consideration of the Council and, therefore, cannot be expected to exercise its voting rights and veto power in an impartial manner. Ukraine also supports the ACT Code of Conduct and the French-Mexican initiative on the use of veto in case of mass atrocities.

Ukraine looks forward to participating in further consultations to develop a "New Agenda for Peace".