

UNGA Eleventh Emergency Session:  
Territorial Integrity of Ukraine: Defending the Principles of the UN Charter

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Nations

NEW YORK, 10 October 2022

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the statement just made by the European Union.

I thank you, Mr. President, for reconvening this Emergency Special Session, for recognizing that these are not ordinary times.

Mr. President,

We are here nearly eight months after Russia unleashed its war of aggression against Ukraine.

Eight months since this Assembly demanded that the Russian Federation, and I quote, "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders."

Eight months that have brought hardship and food insecurity to people across the globe, plunging millions of the world's most vulnerable into hunger and poverty.

And we are here because just like eight years ago with its illegal annexation of Crimea, Russia decided to ignore the calls of the international community and went ahead with the organisation of illegal referenda in areas temporarily under its occupation.

Russia did what the Secretary General warned not to do: proceed with the illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory.

I want to state clearly: The Kingdom of the Netherlands will never recognize these sham referenda and the attempted illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory.

Crimea, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk are Ukraine.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands stands firmly with Ukraine and will continue to provide our strong support for as long as it takes.

As we will continue to support people all over the world who are suffering the effects of this war indirectly, from hunger and poverty to economic instability. Also for this suffering, we must hold Russia to account.

Mr. President,

It is up to us, the Member States of the United Nations, to stand firm for the principles we laid down in the UN Charter.

To make clear that might is not right. That all of us are bound by the same, fundamental principles.

And that a veto does not provide a blank cheque.

Our international rulebook is no longer just in jeopardy – it has been trampled by a permanent member of the Security Council. This is something none of us should accept.

So, today's meeting is about defending the principles of this international rulebook and of the Charter.

About protecting the legal frameworks aimed at securing peace, justice and human rights.

Those responsible for violating the Charter and for committing atrocities must be held to account. The Kingdom of the Netherlands, with The Hague as the legal capital of the world, feels a special responsibility in this regard.

We will not waiver in our efforts to achieve justice for those who suffer from sexual violence, deportation, torture and random killing.

Mr. President, in conclusion,

This is a war of destruction. Destruction as we have sadly seen again early this morning with horrific missile strikes on cities across Ukraine, including the capital Kyiv, targeting innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure. We join others in condemning this further escalation in the strongest terms.

As you just stated, Mr. President, the fighting must stop.

So, we renew our call on Russia to abide by the legally binding provisional measures ordered by International Court of Justice, to

immediately suspend its military operations and respect internationally recognised borders.

As I said at this same place seven months ago: this war needs to end. And it needs to be ended by those who started it.

I therefore call on all UN member states to vote in favour of the resolution, vote to protect the territorial integrity of our fellow UN member state, Ukraine, and vote to defend the principles of our own Charter.

Thank you, Mr. President.