



**UN Security Council Briefing on the
Maintenance of Peace and Security of Ukraine**

24 February 2025

President, colleagues,

I address you today not just as the Foreign Minister of the democratically elected government of Poland, but also on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union, Kaja Kallas, to present the view of the European Union on Russia's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine.

As has already been said, no one wants and needs peace in Ukraine more than the Ukrainians. No one has a larger stake in European security than us, Europeans. And no one has greater power to end this conflict than Russia – all she needs to do is stop the killing and leave territories she illegally occupies.

Only with these facts in mind can we work to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine, consistent with the UN Charter.

On this tragic anniversary, our thoughts go out to the countless Ukrainians who have suffered. Their resilience is a testament to the unbreakable spirit of people who seek nothing more than their rightful place in the community of free nations. We must never forget the crimes committed by Russian troops in Borodianka, Bucha, Irpin, Mariupol and so many other places across Ukraine. The perpetrators must be held accountable.

We should also acknowledge the far-reaching repercussions beyond Ukraine's borders. Russia's war has disrupted global food and energy markets. It has affected countries in Africa, in Latin America, in Asia, thousands of kilometres away from Ukraine.

And the people in Russia, too. The Russian government has spent at least, \$200 billion of their taxpayers' money on this war. It will likely cost Russia over a \$1 trillion in previously anticipated economic growth by the end of next year.

Imagine how many kindergartens, schools, and hospitals could be built for Russians or for that matter, for countless other people around the world, with such a fortune. But instead of building them in Russia, the Kremlin prefers to bomb them in Ukraine, while treating Ukrainians and its own people as collateral damage. As of this January, about a 170,000 Russian soldiers have been killed. 600,000 more have been wounded.

Russia's enablers must also be called out. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not only providing Muscovy with weapons but also with troops. Iran is sharing its Shahed drones.

Colleagues,

the right way forward remains: Russia should immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all its forces from Ukraine's territory.

We as Europeans will continue to stand side by side with Ukraine to achieve a just and lasting peace. Peace through strength – the only kind Kremlin respects.

Finally, I'd like to dedicate to this Council, a maxim authored by my predecessor, Foreign Minister of Poland, a survivor of Auschwitz and of Stalinist prisons, professor Władysław Bartoszewski – *"When you are in doubt how to behave, behave with decency"*.

Thank you, Slava Ukraini