



Talking points for UWC's #UkraineInNATO campaign

- Today, Ukraine is fighting for more than its own freedom, independence and sovereignty; Ukraine is fighting for the freedom of Europe and for that of the entire Free World, for the very values underlying our right to live in democratic societies where human rights are respected. Ukraine's Armed Forces are defending the peace, prosperity and stability of Europe, and of the entire Euro-Atlantic community, on the frontlines of this war.
- Ukraine's successes on the frontlines would not have been possible without the NATO Allies' powerful and consistent support. Ukraine has widely adapted to NATO standards, and its army has proven very capable in transitioning to Western weaponry, and doing so in conditions of full-scale war. The degree of integration between Ukraine and the Alliance has deepened with every passing month.
- According to NATO's own documents, Russia represents the Alliance's greatest near-term threat, and no one has more direct experience in fighting, and defeating it, than Ukraine does. Today, Ukraine and its Armed Forces form the NATO alliance's most powerful and effective defense of its eastern flank.
- Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, Ukraine has *de facto* become a NATO member; the time has come for the formalities to make this reality *de jure*.
- At the Vilnius summit, the Allies should provide Ukraine with a clear view of accelerated accession immediately following the war's end (i.e., define modalities and specific timeframes).
- The situation has changed drastically since 2008, when the Allies declared that Ukraine may, "one day", join their alliance, and only after the implementation of its Membership Action Plan (MAP). Ukraine's adoption of NATO standards has accelerated in conditions of full-scale war, and Ukraine has "outgrown" its MAP. The memberships of Finland and Sweden in the Alliance have been fast-tracked, with no lengthy MAP implementation. These countries are the models for Ukraine.
- Prior to Ukraine's full accession, NATO allies must work closely with Kyiv to develop the interim security guarantees that will come into force immediately after the war's end. This is a key condition towards establishing peace in Ukraine, and launching the

country's full-scale reconstruction.

- Equally important for NATO member states is to continue supplying military weapons to Ukraine, including tanks, aircraft, and armored combat vehicles, to bring about a speedy victory over the Russian aggressor.
- The absence of clear signals of support for Ukraine in Vilnius, including a clear decision and vision regarding Ukraine's membership, will be a victory for Russia. It will send Moscow the signal that Putin's blackmail is working, and that the West is afraid of fake Russian threats.
- A clear signal of full-scale support for Ukraine and its Euro-Atlantic future in Vilnius will deliver a powerful message to Moscow: that its plan to blackmail and destabilize the Euro-Atlantic community has failed, and that it makes no sense for Russia to continue waging its war of aggression against Ukraine.