Joint Statement of United Nations Associations on the one year anniversary of the launch of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

24 February 2023

As the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine enters its second year, the undersigned United Nations Associations jointly call for an immediate cessation of the fighting and for the forces of the Russian Federation to end their violent and unjustified actions.

Over the years, the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations have become the bedrock of international relations. Their violation has shaken the confidence in the peaceful co-existence of nations and continues to cause great suffering in Ukraine and far beyond.

The undersigned United Nations Associations, therefore, support the efforts of the UN and other organisations which are committed to humanitarian principles in order to provide relief to the people in Ukraine and those who have fled the country. We call on all actors to respect international humanitarian law, which regulates the means and methods of warfare and offers protection to civilians. Protection must be extended to all affected and vulnerable communities. Only a holistic response can ensure that no one is left behind.

The undersigned United Nations Associations urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease its military offensive and withdraw from the occupied areas. We also encourage the investigation and prosecution of violations of international law and the resulting grave human rights violations, which have a lasting impact on civilians' lives. Holding perpetrators accountable is crucial to uphold the law and guarantee effective remedies and reparations.

The events of recent months have proven that human solidarity is one of the greatest strengths in the times of crisis. Through joint action, the international community is able to restore peace and reaffirm the promises of the United Nations.

Co-signatories:

UNA Belgium

UNA of Bulgaria

UNA of Cyprus

UNA Denmark

UNA Germany

UNA Iceland

UNA Netherlands

UNA Norway

UNA Poland

UNA Slovenia

UNA South Sudan

UNA Spain

UNA Switzerland