

Statement by

**HE Mr Boštjan Malovrh, Ambassador,**

**Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations**

at the

**11th Emergency Special Session**

**General Assembly of the United Nations**

**"The Unprovoked Armed Aggression by the Russian Federation**

**Against Ukraine"**

New York, 12 October 2022

Mr President,

Excellencies,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Earlier this week, we were again shocked to learn about the missile attacks on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities by the Russian Army. We strongly condemn these latest attacks, as well as denounce the Russian Federation’s latest threats to use nuclear weapons.

As civilians are often the main victims in armed conflicts, the vast majority of whom are women and children, we once again underline that shelling of residential buildings, as well as other civilian infrastructure represent most severe violation of international law that cannot remain unpunished.

Moreover, we call on the Russian Federation to fully respect international humanitarian law, and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and assistance to all persons in need.

We call for an immediate, complete and unconditional stop to all fighting. We strongly support all efforts in order to de-escalate the current situation though political dialogue, negotiation and other peaceful means in line with the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

Slovenia is committed to the promotion of culture of peace and dialogue. As an active member of the community of small states, we believe in peaceful coexistence of states and cooperation between them. Our future, prosperity and security depends on international cooperation and respect of the norms set out in the UN Charter and wider international law.

The resolution we will be adopting today is clear. It firmly stands by the goals and principles of the UN Charter, which are being gravely undermined and disregarded as we speak.

Mr. President,

Today's meeting is taking place in response to an attempted illegal annexation of Ukraine’s regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia, that are firmly within Ukraine’s internationally recognized borders.

While the principle of self-determination remains the cornerstone of my country's independence, we cannot but echo the Secretary‑General that the referenda conducted in occupied regions of another country cannot be a genuine expression of any popular will.

We therefore firmly and unequivocally reject these attempted illegal annexations. We call on respect of sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of all countries.

Slovenia condemns any unprovoked invasion on any sovereign country under any pretext. Violations of the international legal order, that we have all worked so hard to build, cannot and must not become the new normal of today's world's affairs.

For this reason, Slovenia will be voting in favor of this resolution.

I thank you.

