

March 30, 2022

## Briefing Note

### **Current Situation in Ukraine and the Work and Roles of Parliamentarians**

*Prepared by the Parliamentary Centre and the Agency for Legislative Initiatives under the Parliamentary Accountability for the Security Sector (PASS Ukraine) project, funded by the Peace and Stabilisation Operations Program of Global Affairs Canada.*

*The analysis included in this note is based on media reports and information obtained from the Verkhovna Rada and other legislative bodies. It is essential that Ukraine's democratically elected officials continue to perform their duties while enduring Russia's unprovoked, illegal and horrific invasion.*

*This note is for information only and is not meant to convey opinions regarding policy decisions in the Verkhovna Rada's sole purview. The contents of this note do not necessarily reflect the views of PASS partners or Global Affairs Canada.*

*This note may not necessarily reflect the up-to-date current state of affairs as the situation changes every hour. Every attempt is made to ensure the accuracy of all information, acknowledging the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and security situation, the disruption of the flow of information and organized disinformation all present incredible challenges.*

### **SUMMARY OF RECENT RADA APPEALS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY**

#### **Supply of Weapons**

The main Ukrainian appeal is for the supply of weapons. Ukraine needs all kinds of weapons. As for now, the most significant needs are long-range anti-aircraft weapons (not only short-range Stringers) and artillery systems + ammunition for anti-aircraft weapons and artillery systems. Aeroplanes, tanks, armoured vehicles, pickups, night vision devices, anti-tank and anti-ship weapons, and other weapons are also needed. Rada members have stated that if Ukraine has the weapons to liberate its territory, all other calls, appeals and requests for help would be less relevant.

#### **Sanctions**

Requests in this category include the enforcement of a trade embargo, stopping the purchase of energy resources (oil, gas), seizure of assets of those responsible for starting and supporting the war, full-scale disconnection of Russian banks from the SWIFT payment system (currently only partially implemented).



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Belarus is considered an accomplice in the war as Russian troops attack Ukraine from the territory of Belarus; planes and missiles are launched from its territory. So the appeals are to impose sanctions on it as well.

### **Preventing a Humanitarian Catastrophe in Ukraine**

A number of Ukrainian cities, such as Mariupol and Chernihiv, are surrounded by Russian troops. There is a challenge with implementing humanitarian convoys to these cities. Residents do not have food, drinking water, medicine; they cannot evacuate. In addition to shells and bombs, people die of starvation, dehydration, and unsanitary conditions. Russia has impeded the passage of humanitarian convoys. Ukraine asks that the international community influences Russia to allow the passage of convoys with humanitarian aid.

### **Exclude Russia from International Organisations**

As Russia is breaking all rules of international law, Ukraine demands that it should be excluded from all international organizations: G20, the UN Security Council, and the OSCE are a priority.

### **FATF Blacklist**

Ukraine demands that Russia and Belarus should be blacklisted by the International Anti-Money Laundering Group (FATF).

### **Close The Sky Over Ukraine**

Russia has a military advantage in the air. The Ukrainian Air Force and Air Defence Forces oppose Russia, but their capabilities are limited. Russia uses its dominance in the sky to attack Ukrainian targets, including civilian facilities - residential buildings, schools, hospitals. Unguided aerial bombs are dropped on them.

### **Media Protection**

Russian occupiers are systematically pressuring the media. The main “tools” are abduction and forced detention of media and members of their families in captivity, intimidation and bullying. Ukraine calls on the international community to be actively involved in the fight for freedom of expression, including special media protection.

## **Protect Ukraine's Nuclear Facilities**

The biggest nuclear power plant in Europe and Chernobyl NPP are under Russian occupation. There is a high risk of nuclear catastrophe. Measures that could be taken include the implementation of a No-Fly Zone regime over the NPPs on the territory of Ukraine; an immediate ceasefire and a ban on the occupying forces of the Russian Federation approaching closer than 30 km to nuclear power facilities in Ukraine; strengthening monitoring and control, under the auspices of the IAEA and with the involvement of the OSCE, on the situation at Ukraine's nuclear facilities; conducting special missions to ensure nuclear security in Ukraine in the face of Russia's armed aggression; recognition that Russia's actions are acts of nuclear terrorism.

## **Establishing a Special Tribunal for the Russian Federation**

Rada MPs have called for a special tribunal to be set up to investigate and prosecute war crimes and human rights abuses committed by Russia.

## **Scientific Boycott**

Ukraine is demanding to block the access of citizens and institutions of the Russian Federation to all scientometric databases and materials of scientific publishers; secure further funding of research and educational projects under EU funds in support of the Russian Federation and other countries that support its activities; do not allow the participation of Russian scientists and research institutions of the Russian Federation in international grant programs funded by the European Union and other partners; suspend the participation of scientists, students and institutions from the Russian Federation in existing programs of international academic mobility; boycott attempts to hold scientific events in the Russian Federation (including scientific conferences, symposiums, etc.); suspend the indexation of scientific publications published in the Russian Federation in all scientometric databases; prohibit citizens of the Russian Federation from being editors /co-editors/reviewers of international publications; not to allow the publication of scientific works of Russian scientists under the conditions of their affiliation with Russian scientific or educational institutions; stop maintenance of existing research equipment and supply of new ones.