



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 March 2023

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Seventieth session

Geneva, 18 and 19 April 2023

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of the high-level statement

Economic and Social Effects of Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine

Submitted by the European Union and its Member States, Georgia, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations,

Recalling the obligation of all States under Article 2 of the Charter to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means,

Recalling also the obligation under Article 2 (2) of the Charter, that all Members, in order to ensure to all of them the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfil in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter,

Recalling also the decisions ECE/EX/2022/L.12 and ECE/EX/2022/L.6 of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) relating to "Latest development in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe",

Reaffirming that no territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal,

Reaffirming the commitment of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) to facilitating the economic development and integration of Europe, to raising the level of European economic activity, and to maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries in the ECE region,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution ES 11/1, which deplored in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine,

Expressing grave concern at reports of attacks on Ukrainian civilian facilities such as residences, schools and hospitals, and of civilian casualties, including women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and children,

Expressing grave concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine caused by Russia's aggression, including but not limited to reports of the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions,



enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, forced transfers, and forced displacements of population, and violations and abuses committed against children,

Expressing grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, with substantial and sustained numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees in need of humanitarian assistance, the majority of whom are women and girls, who face an increased risk of all forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking in persons,

Expressing grave concern at reports of attacks on critical energy, water, and transportation infrastructure in Ukraine and on natural resources crucial to food production and climate mitigation,

Expressing concern about the impact of the Russian aggression against Ukraine on the whole region through a surge in refugee flows, trade disruptions, high food and energy prices fuelling a cost-of-living crisis, setting us back from achieving the 2030 Agenda goals,

Expressing concern also about the impact of the conflict on increased food insecurity globally, as Ukraine and the region are one of the world's most important areas for grain and agricultural exports, when millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, as well as on energy security,

1. *Deplores in the strongest terms* the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations;
 2. *Demands* that the Russian Federation immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;
 3. *Deplores* the complicity of Belarus in the Russian Federation's unlawful use of force against Ukraine, and calls upon it to abide by its international obligations;
 4. *Requests* the secretariat to refrain from any actions or publications that might be interpreted as recognizing or endorsing any alteration of the internationally recognized borders of Ukraine;
 5. *Requests* the ECE secretariat and relevant subsidiary bodies to continue and intensify efforts towards the implementation of its projects on the reconstruction of Ukraine;
 6. *Requests* the ECE secretariat to continue to assist Ukraine and neighbouring member States in recovering and rebuilding from the economic, environmental, infrastructure, energy, and social effects of Russia's aggression to the extent possible within available resources and within the context of existing mandates.
-