



BOARD RESOLUTION ON RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

WHEREAS the United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945 "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, (...) to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom"; and

WHEREAS after playing a critical role in the founding of the United Nations Organization, United Nations Associations have been working to strengthen and improve the United Nations System and promote its general goals through education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Association of the USA, San Francisco Chapter (UNA-SF), located in the War Memorial Veterans Building where the United Nations Charter was signed, feels a special historic responsibility to speak up against violations of the fundamental principles of the Charter; and

WHEREAS United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres said in

a statement on February 24, 2022, that "We are seeing Russian military operations inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine on a scale that Europe has not seen in decades" and that "such unilateral measures conflict directly with the United Nations Charter"; and

WHEREAS the United States, in coordination with its allies and partners on the Security Council and across the globe, proposed a resolution that would, according to the remarks by a senior official during a telephonic briefing on UN Security Council Action in Response to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine, "impose legally binding Chapter VII obligations on Russia in response to its aggression against Ukraine", condemn, "in the strongest terms possible, Russia's aggression, invasion, and violation of Ukraine's sovereignty", require the Russian Federation "immediately, completely, and unconditionally to withdraw its forces", call for "the facilitation of rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian assistance to those in need in Ukraine, and the protection of civilians, including humanitarian personnel" and urge the continued efforts of the Secretary-General, UN Member States, and the OSCE to respond to the humanitarian and refugee crisis that Russia's aggression has begun to create"; and

WHEREAS on February 25, 2022, the Russian Federation, as one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, wielded its veto power to block the aforementioned resolution; and

WHEREAS according to the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, "Ukraine has submitted its application against Russia" to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to hold Russia "accountable for manipulating the notion of genocide to justify aggression" and to request "an urgent decision ordering Russia to cease military activity now and expect trials to start next week"; and

WHEREAS a growing number of UN Member States are strongly and unequivocally condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine and imposing sanctions on Russian institutions and individuals to pressure the government of the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory; and

WHEREAS organizations, civil society leaders, and ordinary citizens across the world are condemning the Russian aggression, supporting humanitarian relief efforts, and demonstrating solidarity with Ukraine through advocacy and demonstrations, including the anti-war demonstration in



Berlin that attracted approximately 100,000 people on February 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS thousands of Russian citizens participated in anti-war demonstrations in Russian cities and many more spoke publicly against the Russian aggression despite the systemic suppression of peaceful protests and free speech in the Russian Federation; and

WHEREAS according to multiple media reports over 5,000 people were arbitrarily detained in Russia and Belarus for protesting the Russian aggression and many received threats of retaliation for speaking up against the war; and

WHEREAS on February 26, 2022, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a statement that his agency is “gravely concerned about the fast-deteriorating situation and ongoing military action in Ukraine” and that “The humanitarian consequences on civilian populations will be devastating. (...) Civilian lives and civilian infrastructure must be protected and safeguarded at all times, in line with International Humanitarian Law”; and

WHEREAS human rights activists and journalists express concerns about reports of alleged discrimination during the evacuation of civilians from Ukraine

including BBC News report stating that “social media videos seem to show African and Indian students being stopped from boarding trains at the Polish border by Ukrainian officials” and The Associated Press report stating that “hundreds of Pakistani students” are “stuck in Ukraine since the attack”; and

WHEREAS on February 25, 2022, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Sergiy Kyslytsya noted that “nothing could justify the bombing of hospitals and kindergartens – considered war crimes under the Rome Statute” – and said that Ukraine was collecting evidence to send forward to the International Criminal Court (ICC); and

WHEREAS According to the statement published by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on February 25, 2022, “As frontline witnesses of the Russian invasion, reporters run the risk of being hit by the missile strikes and shelling taking place throughout the country. Some regional correspondents fear being surrounded and not being able to escape. Others would like to be evacuated but find themselves stranded, like many civilians, particularly in the eastern city of Kharkiv and southern city of Kherson”; and

WHEREAS Resolution 2222 adopted by the UN Security Council, including Russia, in 2015 reaffirmed that “parties to an armed

conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians, including those who exercise their right to freedom of expression by seeking, receiving and disseminating information by different means, online as well as offline, in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”; and

WHEREAS according to the head of RSF’s Eastern Europe and Central Asia desk Jeanne Cavellier, “Journalists are prime targets, as we have seen in Crimea since its annexation in 2014, and in the territories controlled by Kremlin-backed separatists in the Donbass region”; and

WHEREAS the ICC’s Prosecutor Karim Asad Ahmad Khan stated on February 26, 2022, that his office “may exercise its jurisdiction over and investigate any act of genocide, crime against humanity or war crime committed within the territory of Ukraine” and that “any person who commits such crimes, including by ordering, inciting or contributing in another manner to the commission of these crimes may be liable to prosecution before the Court”; and

WHEREAS President of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Abdulla Shahid said during the Eleventh Emergency Special Session on Ukraine: “In April 1946, the League of Nations dissolved,



ending 26 years of the existence of an organization which ultimately had proven incapable of preventing the outbreak of the most destructive war in human history. It was the League's failure to provide a mechanism for the enforcement of international collective security that exposed its most fatal flaws. (...) We are now in the 76th year of the existence of the United Nations. Let's remind ourselves that we founded the United Nations to maintain international peace and security"; and

WHEREAS 51 member states of the United Nations said in the Joint Statement Following a Vote on a UN Security Council Resolution on Russia's Aggression Toward Ukraine: "The UN Charter was written with the express purpose of preventing a war like the one President Putin just started. (...) We believe we have a particular responsibility to stand up to this violation of the UN Charter because Russia is a Permanent Member of the Security Council who is culpable. Those of us standing here today continue to believe in the Security Council's solemn duty and highest purpose – to prevent conflict and avert the scourge of war"; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the United Nations Association of the USA, San Francisco Chapter (UNA-SF) strongly condemns the aggressive war perpetrated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine under false

pretenses and fully supports the Security Council Resolution Condemning Russia's Aggression Against Ukraine that was vetoed by the Russian Federation on February 25, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF stands in solidarity with the sovereign state of Ukraine and its legitimate government, admires the heroic stand of the people of Ukraine against the Russian aggression, and supports Ukraine's appeal to the International Court of Justice; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF supports the international sanctions that have been imposed on the Russian Federation by many national governments and calls for all international actors to take every sensible measure to undermine the economic and political base of the Russian aggression in the shortest possible time frame with special focus on military technologies and sectors of the economy that are critically important for sustaining the war effort as well as on individuals who directly contribute to or benefit from Putin's regime; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF recognizes the important role of the broad Russian and Belorussian anti-war movement, commends the bravery of those who are speaking up against the war and acting to stop it even under the pressure of political persecution and retaliation, and calls for international

civil society organizations to support Russian and Belorussian anti-war activists, groups, and non-governmental organizations through dialogue and collaboration; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF urges all parties involved to ensure the protection of journalists and media workers covering the Russian invasion of Ukraine in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2222; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF stresses the utmost importance of humanitarian relief efforts in the global response to the environmental and humanitarian crisis that is unfolding as a result of the Russian aggression, calls for a continued commitment by the United Nations Organization, UN Member States, and civil society to mobilizing resources for humanitarian relief as the situation evolves, and urges all actors to ensure that the rights of all victims of the Russian aggression, including African, Indian, and Pakistani students that are currently in Ukraine along with other expatriates and visitors, are equally protected; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF supports the efforts of the International Criminal Court's Prosecutor to ensure that any war crimes that may be perpetrated in Ukraine during



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the Russian aggression will be investigated for prosecution; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF calls for the United Nations Security Council to establish an impartial, independent, and credible investigative mechanism similar to the Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in

the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM) to investigate any abuses of International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law, and International Humanitarian Law in Ukraine and to hold senior perpetrators accountable for the crimes they have committed, on the basis of objective, evidence-based investigation and analysis; and be it further

RESOLVED that the UNA-SF calls for the United Nations Organization and UN Member States to develop a viable plan for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations System in response to the failure of its fundamental institutional mechanisms to prevent a war of aggression and uphold the purpose and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of the USA, San Francisco Chapter and signed by the President, Mary Steiner, on February 28, 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Steiner".

Mary Steiner, UNA-SF President