



**PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE**

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S ONGOING AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen at the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 9 February 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Norway's statement today will repeat main points from a speech by our prime minister, Jonas Gahr Støre, on a security policy conference in Norway this week, on the impact of the Russian aggression on our common security.

Mr Chair, colleagues,

We are approaching the tragic one-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine. One year of war in Europe. One year of destruction on a scale not seen since World War II. One year of brutality and war crimes, of millions fleeing, thousands of lives lost. One year of families being torn apart – by bombs hitting apartment buildings in Kyiv, in the trenches at Bakhmut, and on the battlefields in the East.

The rules-based world order that we rely on for peaceful co-existence is under attack. International law is our first line of defence. Our security, prosperity and freedom all rest on a rules-based order. Where might does not mean right. Where sovereign states – be they large or small – can choose their way forward.

Russia has created a deep divide between those who support Ukraine's self-defence and the current regime in Moscow. But this divide has also led to unity. Unity amongst democracies that understand what is at stake. Namely, a fight for Ukraine's freedom and territorial integrity, and - by extension - a fight for our common security, our principles, and values.

Colleagues,

It is encouraging to see that despite the costs of support and the ramifications of the war, public opinion in the democracies supporting Ukraine remains in favour of

providing military and financial aid. It is encouraging to see that support for Ukraine is steadfast and not crumbling. And we will continue to support Ukraine.

Through our united support to Ukraine, we send a strong signal. We will not accept Russia's illegal invasion of a neighbouring state. The democracies of the world do not rest in a comfortable slumber. Wide awake, we are now acting decisively. In support of Ukraine and in defence of our values, democracy and a rules-based order.

Norway stands together with Ukraine and remains committed in its support for as long as it takes.

Thank you.