



## *Statement of friends of Ukraine*

### *On the urgent necessity to upgrade Ukraine air-defence*

**March 21, 2022**

The people of Ukraine are sacrificing their lives for their freedom and ours. They are fighting for the right of sovereignty and self-determination that we all see as the foundation of liberty. That is a fight we must all support in their interest and our own. We stand with Ukraine, because Ukraine is standing for us.

The horror of the humanitarian catastrophe killing innocent people, destroying lives and tearing families apart requires decisive action by the free world. Action must come in three parts:

We believe the Ukrainian Armed Forces must have the capability to defend the people of Ukraine against a war of aggression. That includes protecting its airspace and stopping armoured moves across the ground. This can be done with the supply of anti-armour and anti-air weapons that should be resupplied immediately.

We believe the Ukrainian people deserve access to the humanitarian support needed to protect their citizens and save the lives of those injured in this brutal attack. We believe humanitarian aid should be delivered to enable food and medicine to be delivered to Ukrainian towns that are being shelled and bombed and rescue the wounded and refugees from there.

We believe the Ukrainian nuclear sites require special consideration. The power plants and waste storage areas are a threat to all neighbouring states. It is essential that Russia recognises its responsibilities as a belligerent in abiding by the Geneva Conventions, including those listed in Protocol 1 restricting attack against dams, dikes, and nuclear power stations, if severe civilian losses might result from flooding or radioactivity.

This action by the Kremlin is a war of aggression. It is a violation of the peace of Europe and is precipitating war crimes. We need to support Ukraine's military and civilian defence, enable humanitarian assistance, and protect sites that endanger us all.

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