



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Statement by**

**His Excellency Brian Wallace**

**Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations**

**at the**

**11<sup>th</sup> Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly**

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**NEW YORK**

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Mr. President,

Thank you for convening this Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly during which we are considering the unfolding situation in Ukraine.

Jamaica strongly condemns the military incursion into Ukraine by the Russian Federation. We call for the immediate and complete withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of Ukraine.

Jamaica considers that the military action by Russia in Ukraine violates the principles enshrined in the UN Charter both in word and in spirit. It undermines the core principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity; the non-interference in the affairs of sovereign states and the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force. Jamaica considers that these are non-negotiable obligations to which all of us as Member States of this United Nations have subscribed.

**Mr. President,**

Russia's actions over the last few days are deemed as seriously egregious and unjustifiable, especially given its position as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the very body mandated to maintain international peace and security. By its actions, Russia is in clear violation of its solemn duties and responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council and member of the UN Family. We therefore call on Russia

to cease all acts of aggression and open all channels of diplomacy to resolve this dispute peacefully.

The global rules-based multilateral system will be under threat if we do nothing. As a small island state, Jamaica recognizes that the international legal framework and the principles of the UN Charter are designed to provide a safe environment for all nations, regardless of size and stature. We cannot allow this international order to be cast aside and ignored with impunity. Inaction by the global community would be most egregious. We must stand up for right, for law, for peace, and demand the urgent cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and the return to dialogue and diplomacy.

As members of the United Nations, we have all committed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war that has too often brought untold sorrow to mankind. The ongoing incursions in Ukraine are a violation of that sacred promise. Military conflict has grave implications for us all.

Jamaica notes with grave concern the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the impact on neighbouring countries and calls on all parties to ensure that displaced persons, both Ukrainian and non-citizens, including students and expatriates, are allowed safe and unfettered passage to destinations outside Ukraine, if they so desire. In this regard, we welcome the Secretary General's announcement earlier of the measures being undertaken to address these humanitarian concerns.

Jamaica reaffirms the view that respect for the principles of international law and the UN Charter remain fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security. It is only in such an environment that “We the peoples” can continue to work to address and counter the most pressing challenges that confront the world today and in the future.

As small states, we see all too clearly the dangers of war, we feel too well the threat of disruption of lives, livelihoods and economic devastation and stagnation. In that sense, today, we are all Ukraine. We, too, are fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. In that sense, too, today, we are all Ukraine. In the eternal and inspiring words of Bob Marley, therefore, let us get up, stand up, stand up for the rights of all the people of Ukraine, because today, we are all Ukraine.

**Thank you.**