



Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations

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Statement by Samoa - 1 March 2022

Special Session of the General Assembly on Ukraine

Mr. President,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,

Samoa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the PIF and I wish to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

Samoa stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

As a peace loving and vulnerable small island state, Samoa believes that there are only a few global mechanisms available to safeguard our security, continued existence and wellbeing. One of these lies in the maintenance of global peace and the respect for the rules-based international order. The preamble of the UN Charter highlights, as one of the key *raison d'être* of our organization, and I quote, "is to save successful generations from the scourge of war.", and to live in peace with one another as good neighbours. Colleagues, that must be our main focus now, as members of the UN family.

Samoa is greatly concerned by the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Such action is in clear violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and inconsistent with the stated principles laid out in Article 2 of the UN Charter. We therefore condemn Russian's unprovoked attack on the sovereignty and political independence of Ukraine

Samoa strongly advocates for peace and urge all actors involved, to focus their efforts on ensuring an immediate cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, refraining from any actions that may further escalate the dangerous and delicate situation in Ukraine, cease all military operations and return to barracks, and prioritize diplomacy to defuse tensions. The current call by both Ukraine and Russia for peace talks is therefore, most welcomed.

We join the chorus of calls by other delegations on Russia to respect the founding principles in the UN Charter, abide by the principles of international law, state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and fully honor the Minsk Agreement as adopted by the Security Council in 2015.

Mr. President

Samoa strongly supports the statements made by the Secretary-General, last and yesterday. Samoa maybe a small state, nut it is our moral obligation to speak up and to be counted, for the principles we have all subscribed to as members of the UN. Let us all give peace a chance, and support the UN draft Resolution. Samoa will co-sponsor and will vote yes.

I thank you.