



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 5 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to request that Poland's statement on the situation in Ukraine (see annex) be issued as a document of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Krzysztof **Szczerski**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland



**Annex to the letter dated 5 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Statement by the Republic of Poland for the United Nations Security Council meeting on Ukraine**

**New York, 5 April 2022**

Mutilated, half-naked bodies scattered along the road. Bomb craters, flattened cars and burned-out houses. The carnage of Bucha, Mariupol and other Ukrainian villages, towns and cities is on everyone's minds today. Over the last few days, the world has once again been reminded of the utter barbarity of the Russian invasion against Ukraine.

The war atrocities committed by Russian aggressors generate public outrage. But outrage is not enough. We, as the United Nations community, have an obligation to hold the perpetrators accountable according to international law. Poland, together with 48 other countries, has joined the Group of Friends of Accountability following the aggression against Ukraine. We strongly encourage all Member States to follow suit and to work towards the goal of doing justice where justice is due.

For the last 41 days, Moscow has vehemently denied its aggression and any wrongdoing of its troops. It will continue to do so, and we, Poles, speak of it from our experience. To my compatriots, the images of people shot in the backs of their heads while having their hands tied have a very strong emotional historical association. Corpses piled in mass graves of muddy pits inevitably bring out the memories of the genocide of Katyń and several other locations, where over 20,000 Polish citizens were brutally murdered in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Poland during the Second World War.

It took the Kremlin almost 50 years to finally acknowledge their complicity in the Katyń massacre. Their denial was possible because the perpetrators were never brought to justice by the international community, unlike the Nazis in Nuremberg. We must not allow this situation to repeat itself.

This senseless war affects people in at least three different dimensions. Victims who are killed or wounded on the aggressed territory; those who were forced to abandon their homes and leave everything they hold dear behind; and, finally, those who are impacted by the war in the form of threatened food and energy security. It means that the costs of this war will be felt by millions, not only in Ukraine and Europe but also in the corners of the world lying far away from the battlefields. Therefore, it touches upon every aspect of our activity as the United Nations community, and no one can remain indifferent.

From the very first day of the Russian invasion, Polish people have spontaneously opened their hearts and homes to refugees from Ukraine. We call them "our guests". More than two and a half million people have crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border. Over 160,000 children are already enrolled in our education system. And thousands of patients are now being treated in Poland. In one of the recent polls, a big majority of my countrymen declared that our guests can stay in Poland as long as it is necessary. However, as much as we are ready to continue to help, we are not able to do it alone. We need assistance from the international community in coping with this crisis, and we are grateful for all the support that we have already received.

The most important goal for the time being is to stop the bloodshed and to start safely providing humanitarian relief. Only then can we design a future peace agreement. If this peace is to rebuild trust, it must be based on justice. And by justice we understand carrying out scrupulous investigations of every war crime committed. War criminals must be held accountable for the atrocities effectively. If this peace is to last, it must address the root causes of this aggression, which are imperialism and chauvinism. They guide Russia to believe that it can subjugate a neighbouring country through every possible means, with no heed given to the suffering of innocent civilians. Unless we address those causes, no country can rest assured that what is happening to Ukraine today will not be its miserable reality in the future.

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