



REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY

TOPIC: RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

Dear President, dear member of the Presidium, honorable delegates, Good morning!

It is with bitterness that we take the floor today to express ourselves once again on the disturbing situation in Ukraine, which threatens the peace and security not only of the old continent, but also international peace and security.

We would like to remind you that all the member states of the international community have accepted as one man and for a long time advocated this sacrosanct principle of non-use of force, which we went so far as to include in Article 1 of the United Nations Charter.

The encroachment of this principle, as well as the principle of non-interference in the affairs of a third state, has plunged the world into a political and economic crisis that today penalizes all sectors of life throughout the world, and Uruguay is not exempt.

This international crisis opened by the beginning of the military operations of Russia on the Ukrainian territory which does not belong to it violates not only the principle of non-interference in the affairs of a third State, the principle of non-use of force, the sovereign equality of the States and many other principles of the international law but also the agreements of Minsk to which both States are signatories. We will not dwell on this.

Today the political map of the world is being redrawn and we States are called upon to take a position. This position, dear colleague, honorable delegates, must be guided by reason, by natural law and by common sense.

We would like to remind you that Uruguay has very strong cultural ties with Russia, because more than a century ago peasants from Russia came to settle in San Javier and since then have formed a single nation with the rest of the Uruguayan people.

But despite our history, despite the economic and political relations we have with Russia, without taking sides with NATO, we strongly condemn the policy of the Russian government, which affects the peace and security not only of the Ukrainian people and the surrounding populations, but also that of the entire world.

Dear colleague, honorable delegate, history will remember us for our passivity in the last few months to restore international peace and security. Dear colleague, honorable

delegate, our passivity risks leading to the fall of the UN and putting the international community in front of the same challenges as in 1945.

That is why we owe it to ourselves to help this world survive in peace and security, we owe it to you to create an ideal and descending framework of life for all, as this will facilitate exchanges between nations.

I would like to remind you that Russia is a great economic and military partner for the countries of South America, including Uruguay, and we must take this aspect into account. The objective is to create a world where all live in harmony.

Therefore, we Uruguay, while strongly condemning the Russian military operations in the territory of Ukraine, call on the international community to repress in a peaceful manner any act of aggression and violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to maintain peace and international security. But you will understand, honorable delegates, dear colleagues, that this is possible only by peaceful settlement of this conflict as recommended by the United Nations Charter.

Therefore, we call on the Ukrainian government to cooperate in the peaceful settlement of the dispute with Russia, which is necessary for the restoration of peace and security of the Ukrainian people, Europe and peace and security in Europe.

We call on the member states of the international community, the USA and the member states of the European Union to cease all actions and activities of delivery of ammunition, military equipment and other materials aimed at aggravating the hostilities, as this goes against all the principles laid down in Article 1 of the UN Charter and we urge the states to start talks with Russia and Ukraine with the aim of restoring peace and security while taking into account the interests of both states.

We call on Russia to cease military activities in Ukraine in the name of international peace and security and in compliance with the UN Charter, to which it is a party, and we call on it to demonstrate exemplary behavior worthy of a member of the Security Council.

Dear colleagues, honorable delegates, our proposals are numerous and we will have the pleasure to present them in our draft resolution.

Together let us work for a better world, together let us work for peace. Uruguay will always be on the side of international peace and on the side of respect for the United Nations Charter and international law.

I thank you for your support.