

Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

Approved by the CDDG, by written procedure
28 March 2022

“The European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), mindful of the terms of reference given to it by the Committee of Ministers to steer the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work in the field of democracy and democratic governance and advise on democracy and democratic governance issues, wishes to put on public record that it strongly associates itself with the motives which led to the Committee of Ministers' decisions taken in response to the Russian government's unprovoked, premediated attack against Ukraine; this assault on a sovereign democratic state is an egregious violation of international law, the UN Charter, the Statute of the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights. The CDDG notes that the Committee of Ministers decided that the Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as from 16 March 2022.

The Committee would highlight the actions the Ukrainian government had taken collectively with Member States through programmes to develop and strengthen democracy and good governance for the benefit of Ukraine's people, including through their local government and decentralisation reforms undertaken with the support of the CDDG and the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance. These programmes are centred on the principles of good democratic governance including democratic participation, respect for human rights and the rule of law, accountability, openness and transparency, public ethics and sustainable development.

The current actions of the Russian government are the very antithesis of this, demonstrating blatant disregard of human rights, democratic standards and norms of good governance, and bringing misery, death, and destruction to so many.

The Committee expresses its full support for the people of Ukraine and will continue its work, as directed by the Committee of Ministers, to support Member States to strengthen democratic institutions and good governance at the national, regional, and local level; good democratic governance being a key to the maintenance of peace and security. “