

# PEACEMAKING REFLECTION GROUP (PRG)

*FORMER UN SYSTEM STAFF FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE – SUPPORTED BY FOGGS*

November 2022

## **Brief Overview of the Peacemaking Reflection Group (PRG)**

### ***Origins***

With grave concern about the further invasion of Ukraine by Russia on 24 February 2022, following the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea, given the possibility of escalation of the conflict into what might become World War III, and given the paralysis of the UN Security Council due to Russia's exercise of its veto, its belligerent status notwithstanding, and the perceived lack of adequate engagement by the UN Secretary-General (SG) to facilitate a prompt and peaceful resolution of the conflict, a group of former United Nations (UN) senior staff have been meeting under the auspices of the Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability (FOGGS), to discuss means to support the SG and the United Nations system to find ways to more effectively and urgently confront the crisis on the political, as well as humanitarian levels to stop the war and pave the way towards post-conflict recovery.

### ***Means***

Rejecting the violence and aggression against Ukraine and the unlawful annexation of Ukrainian territories by Russia in the strongest terms, and seeking a de-escalation of hostilities to mitigate human suffering and avert a nuclear threat, the PRG has been meeting on a regular basis from April 2022 onwards focused on working towards a peaceful and just resolution of the conflict in full conformity with the UN Charter and international law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and protocols on international humanitarian law, and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With this in mind, Members of the group continue to work individually and collectively to influence the process through various means including Op-Ed articles, letters and other forms of communication with the office of the UN Secretary-General, other UN offices, and other global leaders, as well as developing practical ideas to facilitate humanitarian relief, recovery, and sustainable peacebuilding support to the people of Ukraine through international and local civil society organizations in partnership with the UN, and drafting terms of reference for a high-level crisis contact group that could support, or work in tandem with the UN Secretary-General in conflict resolution and peace building efforts conducted under safeguards and guarantees by the international community.

### ***Overall Context***

Reflecting the long-term commitment of its members to the UN Charter beyond formal employment links with the UN, and cognizant of the complex issues arising from the Russia-Ukraine war, the PRG wishes to support, on a voluntary basis, the UN and its Member States and contribute, as required, within its limited scope and capabilities, to the achievement of the essential purposes of the UN Charter as outlined in Article 1 of the UN Charter, particularly with regard to maintenance of international peace and security and settling disputes by peaceful means in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, and the obligations arising from the relevant UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. The PRG is mindful, in particular, of the resolutions dealing with the Russia-Ukraine conflict passed by the UN General Assembly at its 11th Emergency Special Session, four of them as of October 2022. The PRG also supports the full investigation and adequate prosecution of any acts, strategies, policies or statements that may be considered genocidal or constituting crimes against humanity or war crimes.