

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

26 April 2023

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

About a year ago, a number of us, former UN system staff, wrote to you about the Russia - Ukraine war. A year later, we see that the human suffering and destruction in Ukraine are continuing, with dire consequences for the region and the world. In light of this, we are writing to you again, to express our strong belief that the UN needs to step up its efforts in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

While we commend your pursuit of a New Agenda for Peace and your endeavours to enhance UN effectiveness, the urgency of the current crisis demands immediate, decisive action by your office and Member States. The UN's ongoing humanitarian efforts, while commendable, cannot replace the Charter's primary objective: preventing the scourge of war. We therefore urge you to chart a way to effectively address the ongoing war in Ukraine, even in light of major power criticism or contradictory demands of you. A vast majority of Member States and the world's people rightly expect that UN General Assembly resolutions translate into tangible political and operational outcomes.

Considering the Security Council's continuing stalemate on Ukraine, we propose that you call on the General Assembly to take steps to facilitate a cessation of hostilities by establishing a **Mixed Armistice Commission** (MAC – see UNTSO precedent), including representatives of both Russia and Ukraine and chaired by a Special Representative that you would appoint. The MAC would establish the terms of an armistice and would oversee its implementation through a detailed plan.

To prepare for and support the establishment of a MAC and other possible multilateral action, you could appoint or recommend to the General Assembly to appoint a **Commission of Experts** from the fields of international law, of peace and security, the management of displaced persons and of reconstruction. Tasked with gathering information on all disputed matters to the conflict, the Commission would offer recommendations for multilateral action to the General Assembly and eventually the Security Council. This Commission would be distinct from the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Human Rights Council, which is focused on human rights violations.

Complementarily to the above, we would like you to consider establishing a **Group of Eminent Women**. The Group could comprise prominent women from politics, arts, sciences, sports, and/or representatives of women's networks from communities that have suffered greatly from violent conflict in the past. With your support and possibly the backing of UN Women, this Group could visit the parties to the conflict to advocate for an immediate cessation of hostilities, allowing for the conclusion of an armistice agreement and related actions mentioned earlier.

The world's citizens desire peace and prosperity, prerequisites for a hopeful future. As Secretary-General of the United Nations, we urge you to actively and visibly champion their aspirations through concrete proposals for action, demonstrating the transformative leadership your esteemed position enables you to provide.

Yours sincerely,

(Signatories follow in alphabetical order)

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3 May 2023

Addendum to the Letter to UNSG by former UN officials dated 26 April 2023

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