
**UN Human Rights Council
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Urgent Debate - Ukraine

Ambassador Meirav Eilon Shahar
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva

Israel is a country that has experienced many wars, and, therefore, knows firsthand that war is not the way to resolve conflicts. War sows destruction, chaos and tragedy, not a brighter future.

The Russian attack on Ukraine is a serious violation of the international order. We have condemned it, and will continue to do so. We call upon Russia to heed the calls of the international community to stop the attack and respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

Mr. President,

Israel is concerned over the impact on civilians, including the rising number of civilian fatalities and mass displacement. Reports by UNHCR that over 1 million people have fled the country over the past week is concerning. The human rights of the Ukrainian people must be respected and protected.

We are also gravely concerned by the growing humanitarian crisis. Israel has provided 100 tons of humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine in these challenging times. More aid is to come.

Israel has long-standing and positive relations with both Russia and with Ukraine. Given our deep ties with both sides, we are willing to contribute to the diplomatic efforts if so requested and have been trying to do so in the last couple of weeks.

I thank you Mr. President.