

**An open letter
for the establishment
of the International Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine**

To all free People and free Nations, brought up and built around the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations which is designed to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which has repeatedly brought untold sorrow to mankind:

We hereby inform you that due to the Russian Federation's veto of the UN Security Council draft resolution on ending the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, we are opening an initiative to establish an International Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine.

We support Ms. Linda Thomas Greenfield, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations position - facts cannot be vetoed. The consequences of a humanitarian crisis resulting from military action taken by the Russian Federation cannot be vetoed. The need to provide urgent humanitarian response to the victims of these actions cannot be vetoed. The current and future consequences of the social and economic destabilization of Europe are impossible to be vetoed.

Against the backdrop of the vote at the 11th Extraordinary Special Session of the UN General Assembly, we stress once again - ***the need to respond to the effects of the humanitarian crisis is not a matter of political consensus and cannot be seen in the terms of win or lose. There can be no abstention from providing humanitarian response.***

In our intentions, we refer to the fundamental purpose which became the basis for the creation of the United Nations, the purpose of maintaining international peace and security, and as this goal has been threatened - we refer to the obligation of UN Members States to provide every assistance to the Organization and to support the Organization's activities undertaken to prevent and remove the effects the humanitarian crisis, unfolding in Ukraine, and its consequences for civilians (Articles 1 and 2 in conjunction with Article 56 of the UN Charter). Under these circumstances:

- I. Seeking to create the conditions for solidarity support from Member States for the activities of the United Nations Organization in accordance with its goals,
 - II. Also recognizing, that this effort involves an area of short and long-term competence conferred by Member States on both the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council of the Organization,
 - III. Considering as well the size, scale, varied forms and universal character of the humanitarian response provided to Ukraine up to the present time by Individuals of many Member States, including companies, unions, associations, foundations and other entities operating in their territories
- **We are deeply convinced** of the necessity of taking urgent measures that in respecting the objectives undertaken by the UN through its Agendas in other regions of the world will allow the mobilization of funds for humanitarian response for Ukraine, its coordination at the highest level of the Organization and its deployment without disruption with accordance to the strategic priorities of the UN.

We recommend that this goal is achieved in the form of a Fund, which will be open and voluntary enough to be funded equally by contributions from Members of the Organization as well as contributions from citizens of Member States and entities operating in their territory, regardless of the legal statute of these entities.

With a view to ensuring that the objectives of the Fund can also be achieved in the long term and on an appropriate scale for this purpose, we invite each Member State of the Organization individually to consider the possibility of introducing tax exemptions for private individuals and legal entities which in subsequent years will make contributions to the Fund of up to 0.01% of their income earned in the preceding tax year.

Based on these intentions, we are opening an initiative for the establishment of the International Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine, and we are submitting this initiative for international debate, while at the same time inviting you to sign it in the form of an open letter.

- I. We address our initiative to Mr. Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and The Emergency Relief Coordinator - the most senior UN official who reports directly to the United Nations Secretary-General and serves as a focal point for governments, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental organizations on humanitarian issues. We believe that this step will spark a debate around our initiative at the most appropriate level and will make it possible to turn it into reality.
- II. Our initiative is equally addressed to Ms. Ursula von der Leyen - President of the European Commission, in the hope that, in view of the possibilities opened up by Article 214 (1) and (4) TFEU with regard to the competences of the Union to provide assistance, care and protection to populations of non-EU Member States affected by humanitarian crises, the President of the Commission will follow our initiative and take the measures she considers best in order to contribute towards ensuring the institutional conditions for the establishment of the Fund as the current situation requires and taking into account that the actions undertaken in this direction by Mr. Martin Griffiths - The Emergency Relief Coordinator may be limited by individual Members of the Organization.
- III. Under these circumstances, we address our initiative in equal measure to the Members of the United Nations Security Council and to the Leaders of the Member States of the European Union, in the full confidence that it will not go unanswered.

Authors of the letter:

- Mirosław Skórka, President of the Union of Ukrainians in Poland;
- Yaneer Bar-Yam, Founding President of the New England Complex Systems Institute;
- Marek Chochowski, Institute of Legal Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- Europe, a Patient Association.

Signatories of the letter:

1. Lech Wałęsa, former President of Poland, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate;
2. Bogdan Lis, Member of Parliament of Poland, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
3. Zbigniew Bujak, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;

4. Zbigniew Janas, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
5. Ludwika Wujec, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
6. Kazimierz Wóycicki, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
7. Alicja i Zbigniew Gluza, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
8. Jarosław Chołodecki, a democratic opposition activist in the times of communist regime, Poland;
9. Oksana Zabuzhko, author, Ukraine;
10. Anna Sulińska, author, sociologist, Poland;
11. Maria Seweryn, actress, Poland;
12. Andrzej Seweryn, the head manager of Teatr Polski in Warsaw, actor, director;
13. Katarzyna Kubacka-Seweryn, Polish producer, culture manager;