



**Statement  
by delegation of Ukraine  
at the 56<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission for Population and Development  
12 April, 2023**

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation aligns itself with the joint statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of a Group of countries and would like to make some points in the national capacity.

Russia's war has taken a terrible human toll, leaving tens of thousands of civilians killed, injured or maimed. Russia's invasion triggered one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today, with some **14 million Ukrainians – or one-third of the population** having been displaced. Approximately **5.9 million** people are currently displaced inside Ukraine, and a further **8 million** people have been forced to seek safety abroad.

The war has not only had a devastating impact on Ukraine but also on the global community, with serious social, economic, and political consequences affecting vulnerable populations around the world.

As Russia's attacks are mounting, **17,6 million Ukrainians – or about 40 per cent of the population** – remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

The deliberate attacks on Ukraine's critical infrastructure have left over 50% of the power grid damaged and cut off millions of people from access to basic necessities like electricity, water, and heating. This has been particularly devastating during the winter season, when temperatures can be dangerously low.

The education system in Ukraine has also suffered greatly. The bombardment and shelling by Russian armed forces have damaged **over 3,000 educational institutions, including 330 that were completely**

**destroyed.** This has left children and young people unable to access education, which will have long-term consequences on their future opportunities and the country's development.

The war has detrimentally impacted sustainable development in Ukraine. The destruction of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings, has hampered economic growth and development. The displacement of people has also disrupted agricultural and industrial production, leading to food insecurity and economic hardship.

The ongoing conflict has also taken a toll on the mental health of the Ukrainian people. A survey by the World Health Organization found that 78% of adults experience increased anxiety due to the feeling of constant insecurity and stress.

The international community must consolidate its efforts to exert pressure on Russia to put an end to this brutal and unjustified war. This is critical to alleviate the suffering of the Ukrainian people and facilitate their long-term recovery and development. This would essentially contribute to stabilizing the situation in the world, make the world safer and bring us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Thank you.**