

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

September 15, 2023

Mr. Ali Ehsassi
Chair
House of Commons Standing Committee
on Foreign Affairs and International Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Ehsassi:

It is my pleasure to respond – as requested - on behalf of the Government of Canada to the Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development (FAAE), entitled “*The Wake-Up Call: The World After February 24th 2022*”, of April 27, 2023. This report, as well as the Committee’s previous reports related to Ukraine, help guide the Government of Canada as it continues to take a clear, principled and resolute stance against Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

A resilient, democratic, and prosperous Ukraine is vital for stability and security in Europe and around the world. Authoritarianism has become an unpredictable regional and global threat and Ukraine’s democratic aspirations resonate with Canadians.

Alignment with our partners matters. Canada continues to coordinate with our allies and partners, working in lockstep with likeminded countries to ensure that support for Ukraine and the wider region is not piecemeal. Canada’s over \$1.7 billion in committed military assistance demonstrates our dedication and leadership in support of deterrence and the principle of collective defence. In addition, Canada’s military training mission to support Ukraine, Op UNIFIER, has over 300 Canadian soldiers deployed abroad in European partner countries including the UK, Poland, and Latvia. Canada is contributing as well to Operation REASSURANCE, NATO’s collective defence and Eastern Flank through Canada’s largest overseas mission, and the biggest Canadian reinforcement of NATO collective defense in a generation. Canada will also contribute to the Joint Coalition on F-16 Training, which is led by Denmark and the Netherlands. The Coalition committed to providing training to the Ukrainian Air Force in operating and maintaining F-16 fighter aircraft.

...2/

As the Report outlines, the use of disinformation is on the rise, and this puts Canadians and Canadian interests at risk. Canada is responding strongly to ongoing disinformation campaigns alongside our partners. In addition to leading as secretariat for the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), Canada has provided \$3 million in new funding to counter Russian disinformation announced by the Prime Minister in March 2023. The RRM strengthens G7 coordination to identify and respond to foreign threats to democracies by sharing information and analysis and identifying among G7 democracies opportunities for a coordinated response.

Canada has played a strong, committed and coherent role in providing Ukraine with the international assistance it needs to continue to repel Russia's aggression and to move towards recovery and reconstruction. As of August 3, 2023, Canada has committed over \$8.9 billion in multifaceted support since January 2022. This includes over \$5 billion in financial assistance, over \$1.8 billion in military assistance, \$352.5 million in humanitarian assistance, \$147 million in development assistance, and over \$105 million in security and stabilization assistance. This includes \$84.8 million announced in Budget 2023 for humanitarian, development, and security and stabilization.

It has become evident that government resources alone cannot meet Ukraine's reconstruction needs. Through events like the recent Ukraine Recovery Conference, Canada coordinates with G7 partners, international financial institutions, Canadian companies and the Ukrainian Government on mobilizing private sector resources for reconstruction and de-risk commercial activities in Ukraine. Several initiatives are underway that look to enhance the climate for investors, including through potential mechanisms for risk-sharing. Canada's support for governance programming also helps Ukraine progress on reforms required for EU accession to enhance investor confidence.

We know Russia's brutal war has affected women and children differently. Canada has supported the development and implementation of comprehensive survivor-centred sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response systems in targeted communities in Ukraine. This includes psychosocial support and safe spaces for women and girls as well as information and activities that promote healing, well-being and empowerment. Canada's engagement with and assistance to Ukraine remains grounded in the principles and commitments of our government's Feminist Foreign Policy and Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

Recognizing the concerns outlined in the Report on the impact of Russia's war on global food security, Canada is standing up to support the global fight against hunger, malnutrition, and poverty in the poorest countries. Canada's development programming targets long-term drivers of food insecurity for vulnerable populations, especially women and girls, and Canada has also increased the share of its humanitarian funding for food and nutrition assistance, notably through the allocation of \$385 million in extra budgetary resources in 2021 (\$135 million) and 2022 (\$250 million). Canada has also strongly supported the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) brokered by the UN, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Russia,

which helped to mitigate global food security and supply chain disruptions caused by Russia's war. Russia's long-time intransigence and eventual withdrawal from the BSGI in July 2023 resulted in the end of BSGI operations and is a massive blow to Ukraine's ability to export food to the world and to the safety of the Black Sea. The impact of a protracted BSGI interruption has yet to be quantified, relative to other factors affecting global rates of chronic hunger and food insecurity. During its operation, the BSGI relieved pressure on global food prices and helped prevent over 100 million people worldwide from falling into extreme poverty. In 2022, the World Food Programme sourced over half of its total wheat supply from Ukraine.

While Canada will continue leveraging its global influence, resources and diplomatic networks to support Ukraine and isolate Putin's regime, we must continue to pursue a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine. Canada and the G7 support an approach that puts Ukraine at the forefront of peace discussions. A just and sustainable peace in Ukraine needs broad support by a wide range of states, and needs to be rooted in principles consistent with the UN Charter. Canada and our G7 partners support a made-in-Ukraine peace plan and continue to collaborate to support Ukraine as it moves towards a peaceful and stable future.

Cooperation and coordination is more critical than ever. Canada has acted across multilateral fora, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the G7 and the G20. Canada was also co-facilitator and co-sponsor of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions condemning Russian aggression, including those passed on March 24, April 7 and October 12, 2022, as well as March 2, 2023.

During its travels, the Committee visited both Finland and Sweden, in recognition of the impact Russia's war has had on the wider region and future security considerations. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many countries re-evaluated their security policies, including Finland and Sweden, who reconsidered their long-standing security policies of military non-alignment, culminating in their applications for NATO membership. Canada is proud to have been the first NATO Ally to ratify Finland and Sweden's Accession Protocols. Canada welcomes Finland's membership in the Alliance and continues to support Sweden in its path to NATO membership.

Sanctions remain an important tool to signal Canada's intolerance for impunity for Russia and its enablers over their actions in Ukraine; this includes the Wagner Private Military Company – along with its leaders and associated entities – whose role in Ukraine has been significant. Since 2014, Canada has sanctioned over 2,692 individuals and entities in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, targeting a broad range of sectors, including political leaders, the military, banks and financial institutions, government officials/institutions, oligarchs, propaganda/disinformation agents, perpetrators of human rights violations, and private sector companies supporting the war effort. Canada has also imposed extensive additional economic restrictions, including export controls, bans of the supply of goods and technologies that could support the Russian military effort, closing Canadian

ports and airspace to Russian vehicles, and working with international partners to reduce Russia's ability to earn revenue from its oil and gas sector.

Ultimately, Canada's core principles in this war continue to be reaffirmed: aggression will not be rewarded. Borders cannot be changed by force. Canada will continue to stand strong with its allies. Ukraine must be free to choose its own destiny as a stable, prosperous and democratic country.

During my third and most recent visit Kyiv in February 2023, I saw the impact of Russia's illegal war on Ukraine first-hand, but I also observed the resilience of Ukraine and Ukrainians. The Prime Minister's recent visit to Ukraine underscored Canada's commitment to Ukraine's democratic future. My regular exchanges with President Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Shmyhal, and Foreign Minister Kuleba, and our many likeminded allies, help Canada align closely with Ukraine as it valiantly defends its sovereignty and territorial integrity, builds and strengthens global alliances, endeavours to integrate into Euro-Atlantic institutions, and seeks a just and sustainable peace. As our government has made clear on countless occasions, Canada's support is unwavering – we will stand in steadfast solidarity with Ukrainians as long as it takes.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I thank the Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development for their multi-party support for Ukraine, as well as for defending democracy and the principle of sovereignty. This is crucial to Canada's ability to be a steadfast ally not just of Ukraine, but also of our European allies and partners. Without us all working together, we cannot meet the challenges of tomorrow. I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee as the situation evolves.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs