



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

United Nations Security Council High Level Open Debate

Agenda item: Maintenance of International Peace and Security:
Leadership for Peace: United in Respect of the UN Charter, in Search of a Secure Future

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Petr Pavel

President of the Czech Republic

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One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 48th floor
885 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 tel.:
+1 (646) 981 4001, fax: +1 (646) 981 4099
www.mzv.gov.cz/un.newyork

Mr. President, Excellencies,

It is a true honour for me to address the Security Council today and I thank the Slovenian Presidency for this opportunity.

Clearly, none of us can deliver the global peace on our own. To provide our citizens with security and conditions for peaceful development, we believe the world needs two things:

Number one: operational and effective multilateral institutions and number two: their members accepting their responsibility.

As to the first point, a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council towards making it more effective, inclusive, accountable, and better reflecting today's realities by strengthening the voice of underrepresented regions, especially but not limited to Africa, is critically needed.

Without structural changes, the Council's performance and legitimacy will inevitably suffer.

Overdue of the reform of the Security Council is blatantly exposed in the face of the Russian war against Ukraine.

The UN Security Council membership is not a privilege. It is first and foremost a responsibility to defend global peace and security entrusted to the Council's members on behalf of all of us.

To my second point: Global security depends on the efforts and willingness of the members of the Council to take up their responsibility. What Russia is demonstrating is the exact opposite. Its war in Ukraine is shaking the foundations of our collective security.

Russia's declared goal to subjugate Ukraine by force ramifies far beyond the region. It has global consequences that include impairing nuclear safety, diminishing food and energy security, but also a dangerous attempt of damaging rule-based international order.

The third year of this war, it is evident that Russia would not be capable of all of this on its own.

Let me use the opportunity to recall also China's responsibility as a global actor and a permanent member of the UN Security Council to work for peace and stability.

It's not sustainable and viable that China continues to fuel the biggest security challenge by delivering the tools Russia needs to build its military capacity against Ukraine and its people.

China should fulfil the role it aspires to play. Being a major global player means not only benefits, but also huge responsibility for the global peace and security.

I therefore invite China to use its uniquely close relations with Russia to bring about an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine and all the associated threats to the world security!

Ladies and gentlemen,

Leadership is not only about responsibility, but it is also about commitment to keeping peace. "Leadership for Peace" — this is our goal and our duty.

Thank you for your attention.