



NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

(As delivered)

**Address by NATO PA President Michal Szczerba (Poland)  
HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION  
Kyiv – 25 November 2023**

Mr Chairman, dear Ruslan,

Honoured Speakers of Parliament,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to commemorate the victims of a genocide. 90 years ago, the Soviet regime starved millions of Ukrainians to death.

My country, Poland, was among the first to recognise Holodomor as a genocide. Since then, many have joined, and I hope more will. I will encourage them in the NATO PA. Because history matters, truth matters, and justice matters!

As we remember the victims of Holodomor, it is horrifying to see the return of Russian evil - what started 90 years ago is again present today. Aggression against which Ukraine is so bravely defending itself.

Today, Ukrainians are also fighting for our democracy and our freedom.  
ми вдячні вам за цю боротьбу зараз і будемо вдячні завжди.

I would like to pay tribute - as already my colleagues did - to the fallen heroes of Ukraine and all men and women in uniform, fighting against the Russian aggressor. Героям слава!

Colleagues,

Every time we forget about the crimes of the past, we open the way for more crimes, more genocides.

The Soviet Holodomor and the Russian war of terror serve as a reminder of how bloodthirsty evil comes back if it is not stopped and punished.

What Stalin was trying to do to Ukrainians, and failed, today Putin is trying again – we cannot allow him to succeed!

As the President of NATO PA, I want to state clearly: If we don't mobilize enough resources to help Ukraine defeat the aggressor today – NATO members will pay a much higher price tomorrow.

Russia is an imperialist, rogue state. It is already waging a global hybrid war on NATO; it is attacking Europe.

We must wake up to this reality. There can be no delays!

Colleagues,

Russia wrongly thought it could destroy Ukraine as an independent nation. It has failed.

It is now our duty, to help Ukraine not only to survive, but to thrive as a country.

In the NATO PA but also in Poland, we now have a renewed commitment to help Ukraine on its path to thrive.

We must offer our full support to President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula and reaffirm that nothing about Ukraine will be decided without Ukraine.

We must increase and speed up the military assistance. This year we should have learned the lessons, the costs of delivering too little and too late.

We also must secure more funding for Ukraine's reconstruction. Rebuild the economy. Support innovation – which Ukrainians have proven so great at!

This comes at an enormous financial cost. But this cost must be paid by Russia, Putin and his cronies!

I have urged my colleagues in the NATO PA to create legal frameworks to allow for the use of Russian frozen assets – as soon as possible!

And let's also remember what Putin is most afraid of: Ukrainian success as a democracy. We have to work together to keep democracy strong.

Strong army! strong economy! strong democracy! Ukraine's victory.

Dear colleagues,

The perpetrators of Holodomor were never punished. Russia's crimes cannot go unpunished.

From day one, we have supported the creation of a special tribunal to prosecute Russia's crime of aggression.

We denounce all of Russia's war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes against people, acts of genocide - including the horrific deportation of Ukrainian children.

With its attacks on critical infrastructure, on the environment, on nuclear facilities, the Russian state, under the current regime, is a terrorist one.

And by targeting grain infrastructure, this Russian regime, like the Soviet regime, is using hunger as a weapon.

The Russian regime must be held accountable. Ukraine deserves justice!

Dear colleagues,

The latest surveys of NDI Ukraine show that 89% of Ukrainians would like to join NATO. As the President of NATO PA, I am personally committed to help you to make it happen.

I know the path to NATO is difficult. There are two hundred and twenty-seven days to the NATO summit in Washington. We must do everything we can in this time.

And I promise you: I will mobilize the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and redouble our efforts to advocate for Ukraine's membership in the NATO Alliance.

Ukraine is our ally. Ukraine belongs in our NATO family.

Friends, Allies!

Our support for Ukraine cannot and will not waver.

Democracy and freedom will win.

Justice will win

Ukraine will win.

дякую. Слава Україні!