

On behalf of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union and its member states, I present the following statement on the harmful environmental impact of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which continues to require the urgent attention of the international community.

We strongly condemn the unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation and we recall General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 on aggression against Ukraine, supported by 141 Member States of the United Nations, deploring in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which violates international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, undermines international security and stability, and has had a devastating effect on human lives and the environment. We likewise recall resolution ES-11/4, supported by 143 Member States of the United Nations, reaffirming the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations, Member States, and other organizations to respond to the crisis. We also condemn Belarus' facilitation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. We underline the importance of peace for successful international cooperation. We are also highly concerned about the harmful impact that this military aggression against Ukraine and its people has already had, and will have, on the environment. The ecological consequences of this aggression will continue to threaten human lives and health, with immediate and long-term effects.

We recognize the need to assess the environmental consequences of the military aggression against Ukraine for both the country and the surrounding region, and affirm our support to Ukraine in its reconstruction. We welcome the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and others, to prioritize assessing the most urgent environmental needs in Ukraine based upon the results of ongoing and planned impacts assessments.