



30 June 2020

His Excellency Mr. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France

Her Excellency Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany

His Excellency Mr. Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy

His Excellency Mr. Shinzō Abe, Prime Minister of Japan

His Excellency Mr. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

His Excellency Mr. Donald Trump, President of the United States

His Excellency Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council

Her Excellency Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Re: Open Letter to G7 Leaders and EU Presidents on the Possibility of Reverting to the Former G8 Format to include the Russian Federation

Your Excellencies:

Recent reports on the possibility of expanding the G7 – once again – to include the Russian Federation (the “**RF**”) have sent shock waves through the global Ukrainian community.

Such an unimaginable move in the reality of today’s geopolitical climate would make an absolute mockery of the G7 Hague Declaration adopted on 24 March 2014 by G7 Leaders and EU Presidents in support of Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

The G7 Hague Declaration states unequivocally that:

1. We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission met in The Hague to reaffirm our support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

2. International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another state’s territory through coercion or force. To do so violates the principles upon which the international system is built. We condemn the illegal referendum held in Crimea in violation of Ukraine’s constitution. We also strongly condemn Russia’s illegal attempt to annex Crimea in contravention of international law and specific international obligations. We do not recognize either.

3. Today, we reaffirm that Russia's actions will have significant consequences. This clear violation of international law is a serious challenge to the rule of law around the world and should be a concern for all nations. In response to Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to demonstrate our determination to respond to these illegal actions, individually and collectively we have imposed a variety of sanctions against Russia and those individuals and entities responsible. We remain ready to intensify actions including coordinated sectoral sanctions that will have an increasingly significant impact on the Russian economy, if Russia continues to escalate this situation.

[...]

6. This Group came together because of shared beliefs and shared responsibilities. Russia's actions in recent weeks are not consistent with them. Under these circumstances, we will not participate in the planned Sochi Summit. We will suspend our participation in the G-8 until Russia changes course and the environment comes back to where the G-8 is able to have a meaningful discussion [...].

Since the G7 Hague Declaration, the RF has clearly accentuated its utter disdain for international law and the fundamental values shared by all G7 member states and the EU.

Indeed, not only has the RF continued to occupy Crimea in direct violation of its international obligations, but it has also subsequently invaded and continues its illegal occupation of parts of eastern Ukraine.

As a result of the RF's incessant military aggression against Ukraine, over 13,000 individuals have been killed and over 30,000 injured in the Donbas and there are currently over 1.5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

This merciless military aggression also led to the shooting down of civilian flight MH17 in July 2014 by Russian forces in eastern Ukraine horrifying the world and devastating some 300 families in the Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium, Philippines, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

Moreover, human rights organizations report persistent blatant abuses of the religious, political, linguistic and cultural rights and freedoms of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian populations in Crimea, the inhabitants of the Russian-occupied territories in the Donbas, and Ukrainian political and military prisoners in the RF.

Based on today's global climate of cross-border mobilized protests, civil society is demonstrating very clearly its intolerance of all forms of racism and basic human rights violations.

Beyond Ukraine, since the G7 Hague Declaration, the RF has engaged in various forms of hybrid aggression in other parts of the world.

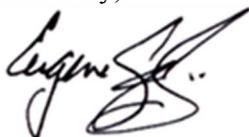
The RF has interfered in democratic processes in the West, including the 2016 United States Presidential Election and the 2017 French Presidential Election, plotted the violent overthrow of the elected government in Montenegro, fueled separatism in Catalonia and financially backed foreign political parties. There have been political assassinations, including a failed attempt to deploy a chemical nerve agent against a Kremlin target in Salisbury, England. The RF has been denounced for cyber attacks against government systems and vital elements of infrastructure across the Western world. The RF is also engaged in massive disinformation campaigns aimed to discredit and weaken the West, including G7 member states and the EU.

Incredibly, while the world has come together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the RF has continued to breach with impunity its international human rights and ceasefire obligations in Ukraine.

Under these circumstances, any talk of expanding the G7 to include the RF, even if ultimately dismissed, will nevertheless exhibit an appearance of discord in this respect. This will be interpreted as a sign of weakness of the G7 and the EU, and embolden the RF to tighten its grip on Crimea and continue its expansionist policies in eastern Ukraine and other parts of the world to the detriment of the G7 member states, the EU and global security.

Therefore, we call upon you to issue a clear declaration confirming: (i) your commitment to the implementation of the G7 Hague Declaration; (ii) your continued support of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence; and (iii) that you shall not reinstate your participation in the former G8 format nor invite the RF to participate in future G7 summits until such time as the RF has unequivocally demonstrated that it shares the fundamental values of the G7 member states and the EU, including respect for the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in the affairs of other states, and has fully ceased its illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine.

Sincerely,



Eugene Czolij
NGO "Ukraine-2050" President
Ukrainian World Congress President (2008-2018)

cc: His Excellency Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine

The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) "Ukraine-2050" is a non-profit organization established to help implement, within one generation – by 2050 – strategies for the sustainable development of Ukraine as a fully independent, territorially integral, democratic, reformed and economically competitive European state.