

## Annex 1

### Ukraine's Timeline: From Independence to War

#### 1990s

*December 1991:* Ukraine votes 92% for independence from the former USSR and elects Leonid Kravchuk as its first President.

*January 1992:* The Russian Foreign Ministry and Parliament condemn the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine in 1954.

*July 1994:* Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma defeats incumbent President Leonid Kravchuk.

*December 1994:* The *Budapest Memorandum* confirms the transfer of all Ukrainian nuclear warheads to Russia, which in turn promises to recognise the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

*June 1995:* Presidents of Ukraine and Russia negotiate terms for dividing the Black Sea fleet based in Sevastopol, Crimea.

*May 1996:* Ukraine sees the last of its nuclear arms transported back to Russia.

*June 1996:* New Ukrainian Constitution ratified, giving the President considerable powers.

*May 1997:* *Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership* signed between Ukraine and Russia recognising the inviolability of existing borders.

*August 1999:* Vladimir Putin named Prime Minister of Russia.

*October 1999:* Putin orders a ground offensive against breakaway republic of Chechnya.

#### 2000s

*February 2000:* Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, becomes 'the most destroyed city on earth'.

*March 2000:* Putin wins Russian presidential election.

*July 2001:* China and Russia sign 20-year Treaty of Friendship.

*September 2001:* Putin becomes first foreign leader to contact President Bush following 9/11 attack, declaring to 'the American people that we are with you'.

*December 2001:* Putin insists that the brotherhood between Ukraine and Russia is 'not a legend but a historical fact'.

*May 2003:* Putin declares that Russia is an 'inalienable part of Europe'.

*September 2003:* President GW Bush meets with his 'friend' President Putin at Camp David.

*December 2003:* Putin says US-led war in Iraq 'cannot be recognised as fair or justified'.

*October 2004:* Ukraine presidential election contest of 2004 between pro-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich against Viktor Yushchenko, whose supporters stage mass protests that came to be known as the 'Orange Revolution'. Yushchenko becomes President.

*December 2004:* Putin states that 'Russia is not indifferent to what is happening in Ukraine, for every second Ukrainian family, if not more, has family and personal ties with Russia'.

*April 2005:* Putin declares that 'the collapse of the Soviet Union was a major geopolitical disaster'.

*May 2005:* Putin argues the 'expansion of NATO does not bring greater security to the world'.

*September 2006:* Putin criticises 'our European and American partners' who 'decided to support the Orange Revolution'.

*February 2007:* Putin attacks the idea of a US-led unipolar world, 'which means one single centre of power, one single centre of force and one single master'.

*October 2007:* Putin insists 'that NATO expansion represents a serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust'.

*April 2008:* NATO summit announces Georgia and Ukraine 'will become members of NATO'.

*August 2008:* Russian military begins its invasion of Georgia.

*January 2009:* Russian exports of gas to Ukraine cut off.

## **Early 2010s**

*January 2010:* Presidential election reveals deep split between pro-Russian Yanukovich and pro-EU Yulia Tymoshenko. Yanukovich finally wins the presidency.

*April 2011:* Putin attacks NATO intervention in Libya.

*19 December 2011:* The conclusion of the negotiations on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

*March 2012:* The EU and Ukraine initial an Association Agreement.

*June 2012:* Russia steps up support for Syrian President Bashar-al Assad.

*March 2013:* Putin welcomes Xi Jinping to Russia on his first foreign visit as China's President, noting that Xi's visit would give 'Russian-Chinese ties a new and powerful impulse'.

*Summer 2013:* Russia imposes restrictions on Ukrainian exports and warns that signing the Association Agreement with the EU would be 'suicidal' for Ukraine.

*16 September 2013:* The full Association Agreement ratified by the Ukrainian and European Parliaments.

*November 2013:* President Yanukovich withdraws from signing an Association Agreement with the EU, instead accepting a Russian trade deal and loan bailout. Russian spokesman Dmitry Peskov says 'we welcome the desire to improve and develop trade and economic cooperation [with Russia]', describing Ukraine as 'a close partner'.

*December 2013–February 2014:* Mass protests against Yanukovich, dubbed the 'Euromaidan'. These peak in February 2014, when almost 100 protesters are killed by security forces.

*February 2014:* Russia accuses the European Union of seeking to create a 'sphere of influence' on its borders.

*February 2014:* Yanukovich flees Kiev for Russia. Ukraine's Parliament votes to remove him from his post and schedules early elections.

## **Seizure of Crimea and After**

*28 February 2014:* Russian troops without insignia begin seizing strategic points throughout Crimea, following several days of organised pro-Russian demonstrations.

*March 2014:* Putin signs a law sanctioning the Russian takeover of Crimea, saying that Ukraine's Maidan revolution 'was an anti-constitutional takeover, an armed seizure of power'.

*March 2014:* Western leaders issue a joint statement condemning Russia's 'clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine'. Russia is expelled from the Group of Eight (G8).

*April 2014:* Putin insists that 'if we don't do anything, Ukraine will be drawn into NATO sometime in the future'.

*May 2014:* Pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine's easternmost areas, Donetsk and Luhansk, announce landslide victories in referendums on 'self-rule'. Ukraine and Western countries condemn the vote.

*May 2014:* Petro Poroshenko is elected president of Ukraine.

*June 2014:* 'What actually happened there [in Ukraine]? There was a conflict and that conflict arose because the former Ukrainian president refused to sign an association agreement with the EU. Russia had a certain stance on this issue. We believed it was indeed unreasonable to sign that agreement because it would have a grave impact on the economy, including the Russian economy' (Putin).

*July 2014:* Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 is shot down over eastern Ukraine, with the loss of 298 lives.

*July 2016:* NATO endorse the Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP) for Ukraine, enhancing NATO's assistance for Ukraine.

*June 2017:* Ukraine's Association Agreement with the EU is ratified by all signatories.

*December 2017:* The US approves the largest commercial sale of lethal arms to Ukraine since 2014.

*May 2018:* President Putin opens the 12-mile Kerch bridge between the Russian mainland and Crimea.

*February 2019:* An amendment to Ukraine's constitution, setting NATO membership as a strategic foreign and security policy, enters into force.

*April 2019:* In a landslide victory taking over 70% of the votes, former actor and comedian Volodymyr Zelenskyy defeats Petro Poroshenko in the presidential election, promising to tackle corruption and end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

*June 2019:* In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Putin says Western liberalism has 'out-lived its purpose'.

*October 2020:* Zelenskyy and Boris Johnson sign a landmark Strategic Partnership Agreement, paving the way for stronger cooperation between the UK and Ukraine.

*February 2021:* President Zelenskyy's government imposes sanctions on several Ukrainian politicians with close ties to Russian President Putin, including political heavyweight Viktor Medvedchuk, the Kremlin's most prominent ally in Ukraine.

*April 2021:* Russia announces the start of mass military drills, raising tensions with Ukraine amid Western concern about the risk of renewed fighting.

*July 2021:* Putin authors the essay 'On the Historic Unity of Russians and Ukrainians', arguing they were always 'one people – a single whole'.

*December 2021:* Russia presents a list of security demands, including a legally binding guarantee that Ukraine will never join NATO and that NATO will give up any military activity in eastern Europe and Ukraine.

*January 2022:* The US and NATO deliver separate written responses to Russia's security demands, ruling out Russia's demand to halt NATO's eastward expansion.

*4 February 2022:* Xi Jinping and Putin sign a joint statement calling upon NATO to 'abandon its ideologised cold war approach' and announcing a 'no limits friendship' between the two countries.

*14 February 2022:* Russia's ambassador to the EU says Moscow would be within its rights to launch a 'counterattack' if it felt it needed to protect Russian citizens living in eastern Ukraine.

*18 February 2022:* President Biden says he is 'convinced' Russia's president has decided to invade.

*21 February 2022:* President Putin recognises the independence of the two breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine – the Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic.

## **Russian Invasion and War**

*24 February 2022:* Putin announces Russian forces will carry out 'a special military operation' in Ukraine.

*25 February 2022:* President Zelenskyy decrees a full military mobilisation, and all men aged 18–60 are forbidden from leaving Ukraine.

*26 February 2022:* Fierce fighting breaks out around Kyiv as Russian forces try to push their way towards the city centre from multiple directions. President Zelenskyy rejects a US offer to evacuate him from the Ukraine's capital.

*27 February 2022:* President Putin orders Russia's military to put the country's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert in response to 'aggressive statements' by NATO countries.

*3 March 2022:* UN votes to condemn Russia, with 141 states voting in favour of the resolution, 5 against and 35 (including China and many countries from Africa) abstaining.

*5 March 2022:* President Putin describes sanctions imposed by Western nations over his invasion of Ukraine as 'akin to a declaration of war'.

6 March 2022: Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi warns against any moves that would 'add fuel to the flames' in Ukraine.

3 April 2022: Zelenskyy blames former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and ex-French President Nicolas Sarkozy for fourteen years of failed diplomacy vis a vis Russia.

7 April 2022: The UN General Assembly votes to suspend Russia's membership in the UN Human Rights Council. The resolution receives a two-thirds majority, minus abstentions, with 93 nations voting in favour and 24 against. 58 nations abstained.

May 2022: Finland and Sweden confirm they intend to apply for membership of NATO.

June 2022: Leaders of the G7 pledge to stand with Ukraine 'for as long as it takes' by ramping up sanctions on Russia and backing security commitments for Kyiv in a post-war settlement.

July 2022: Syria and North Korea recognise the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

August 2022: The United Nations refugee agency, the UNHCR, reveals more than 10.5 million people have crossed the border from Ukraine since Russia's invasion began on 24 February.

September 2022: Putin signs 'accession treaties' formalising Russia's annexation of four occupied regions in Ukraine. He goes on to declare that the West is seeking to 'weaken, divide and finally destroy this country'.

October 2022: Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, says Russia no longer sees a need to maintain a diplomatic presence in the West.

November 2022: Iran acknowledges that it has supplied Moscow with drones.

December 2022: Putin admits Russia's war in Ukraine could turn into a 'long-term process'.

January 2023: US rules out sending fighter jets to Ukraine

February 2023: Former Russian PM and President Medvedev says Russia will disappear if it loses in Ukraine.

March 2023: Xi Jinping meets Putin for the 40th time after Putin had been arraigned before the International Criminal Court

April 2023: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov declines to say if a pre-existing deal allowing Ukraine to export grain through the Black Sea will continue.

May 2023: Putin attacks 'neo-colonialism' of the West and claims Russia is working to achieve a more equitable multipolar world order.

June 2023: The Wagner Group stages a rebellion.

20 July 2023: According to the latest Eurobarometer survey, 64% of Europeans agree with purchasing and supplying military equipment to Ukraine with Sweden (93%), Portugal (90%) and Denmark (89%) having the highest approval rates. On the other hand, Bulgaria (30%), Cyprus (36%) and Slovakia (37%) have the lowest approval rates. In Hungary, 75% of respondents are in favour of an immediate ceasefire. Two in three Americans say that the US should provide weapons to Ukraine (65%).

July 2023: US intelligence claims China is becoming increasingly important to Moscow's war in Ukraine. China insists it 'upholds an objective and just position' on the conflict.

1 August 2023: War enters its 525th day with Russian attacks on grain stores in Odesa and Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow.

5–7 August 2023: Two-day 'peace' talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, involving 40 nations, including Ukraine, the US and China but not including Russia. Russia attacks 'Western efforts to mobilize the Global South to support Zelensky's formula', saying they were 'doomed to fail'.

10 August 2023: Poland stations up to 10,000 troops at its border with Belarus, sparked by the arrival of Wagner troops in Belarus after the group's aborted rebellion against Moscow. Russia says it downed 13 drones overnight near Moscow and Sevastopol, in Russian-occupied Crimea, accusing Kyiv of being responsible for the attacks.

## Annex 2

### The Geography of War

