**Human Rights Council**

**Fifth intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Intervention by Ukraine**

*19 January 2023*

**Mr. Chair, distinguished participants,**

I would like to share the experience of Ukraine in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals within the challenges our country is facing today.

In 2019 President Volodymyr Zelensky adopted a decree on the 17 SDGs integrating them into state policy with the aim to improve the living conditions for all Ukrainians on a ‘leave no one behind’ basis. Already in 2021 Ukraine’s Voluntary National Review showed tangible results across 15 of the 17 goals. But the harsh reality of Russia’s full-scale invasion dictated new rules and unfortunately now these improvements are reversing.

In almost a year of Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified aggression, the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies registered damage or destruction of 72,403 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 54,446 residential buildings and 5,499 water and electricity networks. Millions of Ukrainians were deliberately deprived of their access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services which are basic human rights and important prerequisites for sustainable development and growth.

To cope with those horrible challenges Ukraine had to be creative and to invent new urgent initiatives to ensure country’s quick recovery. To fulfill this ambitious goal the Recovery Plan was established along with Peace Formula suggested by our President and consisting of 10 simple but crucial steps for restoring long-awaited peace and stability.

The 23 Chapters of the Recovery Plan has recently been reviewed in order to incorporate our SDG commitments into the recovery model to ensure their alignment with the 17 global goals of Agenda 2030.

Ukraine has long been devoted to the Sustainable Development Agenda as it provides a good framework for implementing recovery work at the state and regional levels. As of now our main goals are to guide the rapid recovery of critical social and economic infrastructure to enable Ukrainians to come home as well as to provide a foundation for long-term recovery through a ‘build back better’ approach.

There is no doubt that the war conducted against our country by the Russian Federation is a tough barrier that has significantly complicated Ukraine’s confident march along the path of development. And we believe that genuine sustainable development will not be possible as long as aggressive geopolitical strategies prevail and invasion of states by other states remains unpunished.

Therefore, we call upon the international community to stand up to these threats and to take actions to ensure accountability for the perpetrators and justice for the victims. This will certainly contribute to establishing an enabling environment for a truly sustainable development in Ukraine and elsewhere.

**I thank you.**