

For Immediate Release

26 civilians killed in Ukraine in the morning of the G20 Social Summit

While we continue celebrating the incredible work of the South African government in hosting the G20 Social Summit and advancing the African agenda, russia's colonial war continues to kill civilians in Ukraine, destroy our planet, and fuel financial, economic, and food insecurities globally.

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19 November 2025 – on that day, 26 people, including three children, were killed, and 93 were wounded, among them 18 children, in Ukraine, after russian missiles struck two civilian apartment buildings.

The Ukrainian Association of South Africa (UAZA) is participating in the G20 Social Summit, which brings together diverse civil society voices, including women, children, and people with disabilities. The discussions focus on achieving the SDGs, mitigating climate change, and advancing a just energy transition. Yet, despite these positive intentions, russia, a G20 member, continues to devastate progress on the SDGs and work directly against the core objectives of the G20.

Russia's war against Ukraine, launched in 2014 and escalated into a full-scale invasion in 2022:

- **disrupts global energy, food, and commodity markets**, resulting in economic instability, higher inflation, supply-chain shocks, and food insecurity, disproportionately harming developing economies, including those on the African continent.
- **undermines international cooperation** by ignoring the decision of more than 140 countries demanding russia to stop its aggression by abusing the veto right in the UN Security Council.
- **generated more carbon emissions in its first year than the annual output of 175 countries**, derailing global climate commitments and contributing to climate injustice.
- **occupying one of the 10 largest nuclear power plants in the world**, violating every core principle of nuclear safety and security.
- **intensifies world hunger and destabilises markets** by deliberately targeting Ukrainian agricultural infrastructure and withdrawing from the Black Sea Grain Initiative, directly affecting developing nations.
- **abducted over 19,500 Ukrainian children**, separating them from their families and communities, changing their citizenship without consent and subjecting them to re-education, militarization and forced adoption in russia, violating international humanitarian and child-protection norms.

WE URGE THE G20 COUNTRIES TO:

- **Immediately disengage from russia**, exclude it from the G20 platform, and halt economic cooperation with a state that has been waging a colonial war for 11 years.
- **Initiate UN Security Council reform** that ensures fairer representation, limits the veto power of the P5, and prevents any state that sees itself as “big” or “great” from invading other sovereign nations.
- **Advance binding international legislation** that prohibits military attacks on, and the occupation of, civilian nuclear facilities.
- **Condemn the continuous attacks on the agricultural and energy systems in Ukraine**
- **Strengthen multilateral responses to hybrid threats**, including disinformation, cyberattacks, and economic coercion, tools that Russia uses to destabilise democracies and developing nations.
- **Affirm that colonial warfare has no place in the 21st century**, and adopt a joint G20 statement rejecting the use of military force to alter borders.

... END ...

#StandWithUkraine | #StopRussia | #RussiasATerroristState