



G7 AMBASSADORS' SUPPORT GROUP FOR UKRAINE PRIORITIES FOR 2023

At their 2015 Summit in Elmau, G7 leaders tasked their Ambassadors in Kyiv to establish a Ukraine support group, aimed at advancing the reform process in Ukraine. Since its establishment, the G7 Ambassadors' Support Group has supported the reform process in Ukraine, working with the Ukrainian government, parliament, civil society, business, and experts, and the wider international community.

Since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the G7 Members have firmly condemned the unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine and have provided diplomatic, military, financial, and humanitarian support for Ukraine's defence of its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and its efforts to secure a peaceful, prosperous and democratic future, and deter future Russian aggression.

The war of aggression by Russia is having far-reaching impacts and poses new challenges such as the reconstruction of Ukraine, the pursuit of accountability for war crimes in Ukraine, compensation for damages, and strengthening of the defence and security system. Therefore, recognising the necessity for a flexible response in light of the ongoing war, the G7 Ambassadors' Support Group will – in addition to continuing with its core remit of supporting reform in Ukraine – work to provide coordinated advice and assistance on new issues arising from the war.

There is no doubt that 2023 will be a critical year for Ukraine's future. The G7 Ambassadors' Support Group for Ukraine, on behalf of the people of our countries, who are committed to defending freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, will continue to support Ukraine's reform process and bolster the resilience of the people of Ukraine who have been facing an existential threat since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion.

In the year 2023 the Group of G7 Ambassadors will pursue the following priorities:

■ ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

- Firmly supporting Ukraine to secure its immediate and long-term financial stability and recovery, and to strengthen democratic institutions, rule of law, and anti-corruption measures in line with its European path;
- Building up on the political agreement found within the G7 in December 2022 on the multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform, the nominated senior government representative should oversee the set-up of the platform and ongoing coordination efforts starting from January 2023. The aim should be to coordinate support, to ensure transparency of financing; and support sustainable, resilient, inclusive, gender-responsive, and green economic recovery based on Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound (SMART) goals;
- Co-ordinating efforts to further support Ukrainian exports to the world, including in terms of trade facilitation measures (such as trade liberalisation or simplification of border formalities), and through improving logistics, e.g. by supporting the rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed infrastructure and investments in more efficient infrastructure for the purposes of ensuring the stable trade of grain and other goods;
- Improving of corporate governance of state-owned enterprises and banks in line with OECD guidelines.

■ ADDRESSING ISSUES ARISING FROM THE FULL-SCALE INVASION BY RUSSIA

- Facilitating and supporting humanitarian response to Ukraine at national and local level to support civilian population as a foundation for recovery and reconstruction especially regarding energy infrastructure;
- Cooperating with Ukraine to pursue accountability for war crimes and other atrocities committed in Ukraine and supporting Ukraine to secure compensation for the damage and loss caused by Russia's illegal invasion;
- Supporting Ukraine's efforts towards a just peace, the restoration of its territorial integrity, and defence of its sovereignty;
- Assisting Ukraine with reintegration of the de-occupied territories and people affected by war (including but not limited to internally displaced persons and those abroad) through transparent procedures in line with the rule of law.

■ JUDICIAL REFORM AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

[JUDICIAL REFORM]

- Building upon the Roadmap for Justice Reform, continued efforts to reform the judiciary as well as to prevent and combat corruption within the judicial system; and ensuring proper implementation of High Council of Justice reforms, and effective and unhindered work of the Ethics Council;
- Enabling the Selection Commission for the High Qualification Commission for Judges (HQCJ) to work effectively, preparing the ground for a relaunched HQCJ that enjoys wide public trust and fills judicial vacancies with qualified and independent candidates;
- Ensuring a new transparent and competitive selection procedure for judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine with a meaningful role of independent experts in integrity vetting and further improvements of its procedural code.

[LAW ENFORCEMENT]

- Continued reform of Ukrainian law-enforcement institutions in line with international standards, including enhanced cooperation and information exchange between institutions;
- Continued reform of the Office of the Prosecutor-General and the State Bureau of Investigation as part of supporting effective cooperation between law-enforcement bodies as well as, whenever conditions allow, the Security Service of Ukraine;
- Proper management of firearms widely distributed to the population during the war.

■ EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

- Continued commitment to irreversible decentralisation and to strong local self-government, including the inclusive engagement of municipalities and regions during recovery and reconstruction;
- Implementing and further elaborating the improved electoral code, planning ahead for a post-war context, and improved legislation on parliamentary rules and procedures and the financing of political parties;
- Reforms to reduce excessive economic influence on politics (oligarchism), especially through strengthened anti-monopoly enforcement and de-monopolisation;
- Strengthening media freedom and independence, supporting high-quality and financially sustainable public broadcasting, and bolstering Ukraine's resilience to disinformation.

■ THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Increasing the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of anti-corruption institutions, including the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), and the Agency for Investigation and Management of Assets (ARMA), through legislative improvements and by ensuring timely, transparent, and merit-based selection procedures for their leadership;
- Supporting the adoption and implementation of the State Program for implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (with emphasis on the sectors important for post-war reconstruction, such as construction, infrastructure, economic regulation, customs, anti-monopoly policy, as well as justice);
- Further increasing the effectiveness, independence, and integrity of NABU, SAPO, and HACC, including through legislative improvements, to allow for more efficient investigations, and building a credible track record of prosecutions and convictions for high-level corruption;
- Strengthening the work of the National Agency for Prevention of Corruption, with a particular emphasis on supporting the immediate restoration of the electronic asset declaration system and control of political finance;
- Preserving the progress made by Ukraine in reducing corruption in public procurement, by supporting the expansion and systematisation of standardised procurement procedures and e-procurement platforms, and encouraging a reduction in non-competitive public procurement.

■ REFORM OF THE ENERGY SECTOR AND TRANSITION TO GREEN ECONOMY

- Implementing energy sector reforms that promote investment, de-monopolisation, and transparency, while ensuring the independence of energy and nuclear regulators;
- Reforms and actions that support Ukraine's contribution to global action on climate change, including decarbonisation, clean energy development, a just transition away from fossil fuels, and towards greater energy efficiency;
- Exploring new energy sectors, such as (green) hydrogen technology and renewable energy, which strengthen energy independence and create new sources for energy exports;
- Supporting Ukraine in its efforts to ensure nuclear and radiation safety and security.

