

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Remarks on Launching a Joint Declaration of Support for Ukrainian Recovery and Reconstruction in New York City

September 25, 2024

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Welcome to Washington.

Fellow leaders, friends, nine hundred and—for 944 days, Putin has waged his vicious onslaught against Ukraine. For 944 days, the Ukrainian people have stood unwavering, unbroken, and unbowed.

Today we're launching a Joint Declaration of Support for Ukrainian Recovery and Reconstruction to make it clear: We stand with Ukraine now and in the future.

That starts on the battlefield. I am determined to ensure that Ukraine has what it needs to prevail in its fight for its survival. Tomorrow I will announce a series of actions to accelerate support for Ukraine's military.

But we know Ukraine's future victory is about more than what happens on the battlefield. It's also about what Ukrainians do to make the most of a free and independent future, of which so many have sacrificed so much.

With this declaration, over 30 countries and the European Union have made important commitments. First, as Ukraine continues to make necessary reforms to fight corruption, we're committed to providing Ukraine with the resources it needs to build back stronger than it was before.

Folks, it's no secret Russian attacks have caused significant damage to Ukraine. And less well known is the story of Ukraine's economic resilience.

Ukraine's GDP is stable and actually growing. Ukraine's defense industry, forged in the fire, is six times larger than it was a year ago. And Ukraine is now exporting almost—exporting almost as much grain as it did before the war, feeding people and the world once again.

Ukraine's economy is resilient, and together, we can help Ukraine go from economic resilience to economic revival.

Second, we commit to hold Russia accountable for the damage it has caused. This builds on a historic effort by the G–7. Back in 2022, 2 days after Russia's invasion, members of the G–7 and the EU worked together to freeze \$280 billion in Russian Central Bank funds outside of Russia.

This summer, at the G–7, the United States and our partners reached a decision to unlock \$50 billion from the proceeds of those frozen assets to put that money to work for Ukraine as it rebuilds and recovers its economy.

Today we reaffirm that with all our respective countries and legal systems, Russia's sovereign assets will remain immobilized until Russia ends its aggression and pays for the damage it has caused.

Finally, we're committed to coordinate closely, through efforts like the Ukraine Donor Platform, so we can make sure that each dollar goes as far as possible, reinforcing one another instead of duplicating work.

Let me close with this. This war has shown the Ukrainians can do anything they set their minds to.

Today we show the Ukrainians you're not alone. You're not alone in this fight. You're not alone in the reconstruction that comes after.

Ukrainian people have fought and died to win a future of freedom and independence. Mr. President, we all—we all—stand by your side to help Ukraine make the most of it.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. at the InterContinental New York Barclay hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 26.

Categories: Addresses and Remarks : Joint Declaration of Support for Ukrainian Recovery and Reconstruction, launch in New York City.

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