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International Trade Union Confederation
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Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund

Appeal for ceasefire and negotiations

Appeal

to the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin
to the President of the Republic of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Dear Mr. Putin, Dear Mr. Zelenskyy,

On May 8/9, 1945, Europe was liberated from fascism. The peoples of the Soviet Union made a decisive contribution to it with an enormous toll in lives.

Today, war is again in Europe as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Innocent civilians are dying daily, as are soldiers on both sides. Devastation and destruction blight the lives, livelihoods and life's work of millions of people. Buildings and neighbourhoods are reduced to rubble in seconds. Kindergartens, schools, universities - the future of whole communities are mercilessly destroyed. People are suffering - directly or indirectly - from this war.

The world economy is facing new profound crises, and again it is the poorest of the poor, the hungry and the refugees who suffer as the costs of grain and other essential food supplies rise far beyond people's means, all over the world.

An escalation of the war is threatening, and even an all-destroying nuclear war is no longer excluded.

We – the world trade union movement with 200 million members (ITUC) and IPB (the biggest peace network in the world) - turn to you with the urgent request, imploring you to use your solemn appearances on 8/9 May in Moscow or Kyiv to announce a ceasefire, beginning on this day of liberation.

We urge you to meet immediately afterwards for peace negotiations in a neutral venue such as Vienna or Geneva, leading to a longer-term cease-fire and ultimately serving as the foundation for a new peace architecture in Europe in which Russia's and Ukraine's security interests are safeguarded and secured. The UN and its Secretary General can certainly play important mediating roles.

In this hour of supreme need for peace, we ask you to show responsibility and leadership and take the first steps towards peace in Europe.

Please declare a ceasefire. Millions in Ukraine and Russia will thank you, as will the people of the world.

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