

Honourable President, Secretary General, distinguished delegates,

Today we have a valuable opportunity to reflect on the ways to achieve social development and justice in our societies.

Aspiration for development is something that unites everyone in an increasingly polarised and divided world. It is also a complex process, requiring a concentration of resources and concerted action in order to achieve significant advancement.

The last decades of international development, since 1990s, have been characterized by the concept of human-centered development advocated by UNDP and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

But no human-centered development is possible when people are suffering from wars or indiscriminate attacks.

A recent example is the Russian attack with cluster warheads on the residential area in the Ukrainian town of Kryvyi Rih on this Friday. Unfortunately, 20 people died, including 9 children.

These atrocities happen every week and are truly shocking. But Ukraine remains committed to international law and diplomacy. Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andriy Sybiha is convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council and a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

In March, Ukraine agreed to a full and unconditional ceasefire. Unfortunately, the Russian response is written in the blood of innocent civilians, as their attacks have only intensified in the past weeks.

Yet in the midst of sorrow, gloom, and loss, we see the path to the brighter future. This path lies through collective action of the international community. We need to persuade Russia that it will be better off stopping the fighting. The following things can be done:

- Support Ukraine with military supplies to keep us defending our land;
- Provide financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine to make us resilient;
- Sanction Russia or prevent their evasion of sanctions through your countries.
- Join the Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine and the compensation mechanism for victims of aggression to restore justice.

I believe that this assembly will set the scene for an action-oriented cooperation to make Russia stop the war. I am grateful to President Mirziyoyev for his speech yesterday expressing strong support for Ukraine. I want to thank our Uzbek hosts for their hospitality.

I also want to thank everyone standing with Ukraine – in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Americas. We can stop this war very fast, but everyone should ask themselves what they are doing to stop it.

While Ukraine is fighting against this aggression, we keep developing. Our economy is gradually recovering. The entire world admires our digital transformation successes. Our Grain from Ukraine initiative allows to prevent hunger in many developing countries, where Russian war earlier created risks of food insecurity.

We are a strong, resilient nation.

And with your support, we can persuade Russia to agree to our proposal for unconditional peace and finally be able to double down on social development and restore justice.

Thank you!