



## MEDIA STATEMENT

4 December 2025

### **Statement from Kateryna Argyrou, Chair, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations**

"We sincerely thank the Albanese Government for today's announcement of a \$95 million package of military assistance to support Ukraine as it continues to bravely resist Russia's genocidal and brutal full-scale invasion. We also welcome the additional sanctions on Russia's shadow fleet.

"The \$50 million contribution to NATO's Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL), \$43 million of Australian Defence Force (ADF) materiel and equipment and \$2 million contribution to the Drone Capability Coalition will save lives and strengthen Ukraine's ability to defend itself. The reality is that across Ukraine, millions of people are living through unimaginable hardship, and we know just how vital this aid is for their survival and resilience.

"Even as peace talks continue, Russia has shown no sign it is ready to negotiate for peace. It has continued to maintain its maximalist demands, and has only escalated its daily missile and drone attacks and grinding assaults on the frontline. Indicted war criminal Putin has said he will not negotiate with President Zelenskyy and has vowed to "fight to the last Ukrainian." This is not a country seeking peace - Russia is intent on obliterating Ukraine's sovereignty and freedom through sheer violence and terror.

"This is why Australia's support will be deeply appreciated by Ukrainians. The aid is desperately needed now and will help Ukraine continue to resist Russia's ongoing aggression. Following a year in which no military aid was announced for Ukraine, we hope this signals the Albanese Government's determination to provide the timely, steady and effective aid that Ukraine requires - and will continue to require to defend itself.

"Russia's ability to sustain its war effort is built largely on the oil trade, so we welcome the sanctions against the shadow fleet. But until Australia closes the blood oil loophole, we will continue to send money to the Kremlin - already more than \$2 billion, which is more than the aid we have provided to Ukraine. Europe has acted. The UK has acted. The US has acted. Yet the Albanese Government refuses to act to close a sanctions loophole which makes Australia the single largest importer of refined Russian crude oil in the world. We urge the Government to follow the lead of its allies and close the blood oil loophole immediately. Every day that this decision is delayed costs innocent lives.

"As long as the Albanese Government keeps the sanctions loophole open, we are undermining the power of our support for Ukraine. And our support is crucial. Australia's contribution is not only an act of solidarity - it is a stand for sovereignty, democracy, and the rules-based international order. This is not just vital for Ukraine and Europe, but for all of us - particularly here in the Indo-Pacific, where authoritarian powers are striving to expand their influence.

"By standing with Ukraine, Australia is defending the core values of democracy, sovereignty, and international law - principles that protect us all. That's why it's so important that the international community, including Australia, remains committed to practically supporting Ukraine in its fight for democracy and freedom."

## **ENDS**

For media queries, please contact Nadia Mencinsky, AFUO Communications Manager, on +61 416 253 963.

## **ENDS**

*The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) is the peak body for [22 national community organisations](#) throughout Australia. It is the representative voice on matters concerning the Ukrainian community in Australia. Member organisations include churches, state community organisations, youth and women's organisations, credit co-operative movement, educational, language and other organisations. The AFUO is a member of the [Ukrainian World Congress](#), the umbrella body for Ukrainian organisations in the diaspora.*