



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Founding member of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)

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“The Economic and Social Council shall be a consultative body of the Parliament and the Government in the specialized fields established by the organic law on its establishment, organization and functioning.” (*Art. 141 of the revised Constitution of Romania*)

Statement on the military conflict in Ukraine and its consequences

The Economic and Social Council condemns Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine and points out that respect for human rights and the economic and social development of all the world’s states are inextricably linked to the state of peace and the resolution of conflicts diplomatically and in accordance with international law. Every minute of conflict increases the number of people injured and killed, as well as the number of refugees, adding family dramas with serious long-term consequences. The Council calls on political, economic, social, and civic actors to promote, through their positions and measures, a ceasefire and the resumption of diplomatic and legal means of conflict resolution, and to take all necessary steps to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the war.

In this context, we call on the Romanian Government and offer our support to take a number of urgent measures, including:

- Providing humanitarian support to Ukraine to improve its capacity to deal with the humanitarian consequences of the military aggression.
- Promoting measures to deter military aggression, such as sanctions, including in cooperation with other states, in conjunction with the adoption of measures aimed at protecting economic agents in Romania who could be affected. Maintaining close communication and cooperation with business, trade union and civic representatives, including through the Economic and Social Council, in this regard.
- Supporting local authorities and working with non-governmental structures that can provide support for the management of the refugee influx, including by reducing bureaucracy, improving regulations for the functioning of refugee partnerships, and providing the necessary funding. Efforts by public authorities and civil society must be complementary and coordinated, especially if the military conflict and the associated humanitarian crisis continue to escalate.
- Supporting young Ukrainians to continue their studies in Romania and in the EU countries if they are forced to leave Ukraine in the long term. Supporting cooperation

between higher education institutions in Romania and Ukraine to alleviate the damage suffered by the latter.

- Supporting trade union, employer, and civic structures to promote peace and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity in cooperation with counterpart structures in other countries, to support the continuity of the work of counterpart structures and to document any human rights violations against their members.

The Economic and Social Council will continue to monitor developments and will support, within the limits of its attributions, any action to promote peace and alleviate the humanitarian, social and economic consequences of the military conflict in the neighboring country.