



## Situation Room

### **\*\* UKRAINE CRISIS \*\***

**Period under review: from 05 March 2022 to 07 March 2022.**

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

### **Situation analysis recap:**

- On 5 March, the Ukrainian town of Chernigov was subjected to extensive Russian bombardment, while Russian troops are moving closer and closer to the capital Kyiv, repeatedly encountering counterattacks by Ukrainian troops along the way. Mariupol, a port city in the south of Ukraine, is facing food and water shortages, while its residents are also struggling to keep warm. On the same day, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said that Russia would not declare martial law as, in his view, external aggression would be necessary, but warned that he would consider any country wishing to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine as a party to the conflict. He added that the introduction of such a zone would have catastrophic consequences not only for Europe, but also for the whole world, and described the sanctions currently being implemented against Russia as a kind of declaration of war. On Friday, 4 March 2022, at a meeting of foreign ministers, NATO rejected the possibility of establishing a no-fly zone over Ukraine, which the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenski, described as a consequence of weakness and disunity of the Alliance.
- Also on 5 March, the evacuation of civilians from the Ukrainian cities of Mariupol and Volnovakha was announced. The Russian Ministry of Defence had announced a temporary ceasefire in the towns for that day, but local authorities in Mariupol soon reported that Russian troops were not respecting the agreement, so the evacuation was postponed to another day. The third round of negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian delegates has also been postponed until Monday, 7 March 2022.
- 6 March was the date scheduled for a renewed attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol and Volnovakha, but again no evacuation was carried out allegedly due to Russian shelling. President Putin blamed the failure on Ukraine, which allegedly failed to adhere to the agreed ceasefire. According to the Kremlin, Ukrainian nationalists used the ceasefire to reorganise their troops. On the same day, US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, said that the US, together with its European allies, was in active talks on the possible imposition of sanctions on Russian oil and gas, while still ensuring their stable global supply. On the same day, US President, Joe Biden, and President Zelensky held a phone call. Zelensky criticised the US leader, saying that if the US had imposed sanctions on Russia earlier, the war would not have started. He also called for more military aid.
- On 6 March, new peace talks were also held between Russian and Ukrainian delegates. This time, the humanitarian corridors to be established for the safe evacuation of civilians were at the centre of the discussion. Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that the Russian military action in Ukraine will end the moment Kyiv agrees to Russia's demands. The Kremlin demands that Ukraine writes neutrality into its constitution, recognises the Crimea peninsula as Russian territory and the separatist republics of Donetsk and Lugansk as independent territories. On the same day, the Russian defence ministry announced that the Ukrainian army was planning to blow up a nuclear research reactor at the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology, and then blame the destruction on Russian forces. The Russian warning came hours after the Ukrainians reported that Russian missiles were raining down on the institute.
- On 7 March, Russian forces step up their bombardment of major Ukrainian cities in the centre, north, and south of the country. Russia has announced the establishment of humanitarian corridors and a ceasefire for the safe evacuation of Ukrainian civilians. Evacuations are expected to take place from four Ukrainian cities, including the capital Kyiv and the port city of Mariupol. Later, Russia announced

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that most of the evacuation routes would lead to Russia and Belarus, a move strongly condemned by Ukraine and branded immoral. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian army has warned that Russian troops are preparing for a large-scale attack on the capital Kyiv.

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