

Annex J

Written Statement from the UK Government Condemning Russia

(New Zealand, Australia and the United States also wish to be associated with this Statement)

While we do not want to derail a technical, Scientific Committee meeting, we feel it is essential to state, on the record, the UK's strong condemnation of the unprovoked, illegal war Russia has launched, and our unwavering support of Ukraine.

Putin's unprovoked, illegal war is a reprehensible, premeditated attack on Ukraine, and on the principles of self-determination and the rule of law. Ukraine continues to suffer barbaric attacks, but their resolve remains unbroken. The Russian government is engaged in an information war – seeking to distort their inability to achieve their original aims, and to attempt to cover up the atrocities committed in their name. Our aim remains clear: Putin must lose in Ukraine. And we will do everything we can to ensure that happens.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter. As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, Russia has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security. Instead, it is violating the borders of another country and its actions are causing widespread suffering.

As the UN Secretary-General has said, such unilateral measures conflict directly with the United Nations Charter - the use of force by one country against another is the repudiation of the principles that every country has committed to uphold. We strongly support Ukraine's sovereignty, its territorial integrity and its people, and we call on Russia to immediately cease attack and withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory. Russia must be held accountable and stop undermining democracy, global stability, and international law.

Together with our allies the UK will step up our efforts to stop Putin's appalling war. We stand with Ukraine and their right to choose their own destiny.
