DOC-AGA-22-06

Emergency Resolution calling for Peace

 **Document for decision**

# Purpose of this item

The Executive Committee of the European Disability Forum met on 24 June 2022 in advance of the annual General Assembly. At this meeting, it was decided to draft an emergency resolution on peace, collectively expressing the vision of the European disability movement to live in and promote an inclusive and peaceful society.

# Resolution of the European Disability Forum calling for peace

Stressing that there are over 100 million persons with disabilities in the EU, and 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide, representing 15% of the total population;

Recalling the ongoing unlawful aggression and invasion of Ukraine by Russian armed forces, which started on 24 February 2022 with its violence, bloodshed, injuries, deaths, displacement of people and war crimes;

Highlighting that war rages in many parts of the world, between countries and also internal conflicts;

Bearing in mind that war has grave human, economic and social consequences on every society and everyone, and that persons with disabilities are very harshly affected by war and all of its consequences;

Stressing that women, children, and the most marginalised persons with disabilities face multiple layers of risk;

Stressing that women and girls with disabilities face increased human rights violations and abuses during conflicts, including sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking;

Recalling that armed conflicts increase the prevalence of disability within the population, with many of those people facing the new barriers and challenges;

Recalling that conflicts tend to leave profound intergenerational scars, especially in terms of mental health and trauma;

Stressing that maintenance of peace is of transcendent importance, since it is impossible to conceive an effective human rights regime and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in its absence;

Recalling that peace not only is the absence of conflict but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged, and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation;

Recalling the prohibition of the use of force in the Charter of the United Nations;

Notwithstanding the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security (Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations);

Having regard to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serves as the universal mandate for the international community;

Recalling the importance of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Developments Goals, highlighting Goal Nr. 16 on Peace, Security and Strong Institutions;

Having regard to the Security Council Resolution on the protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict (S/RES/2475(2019);

Having regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the European Union (EU) and all its Member States;

Having regard to the 2021 ‘[Report on the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of armed conflict](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/thematic-reports/2021/report-rights-persons-disabilities-context-armed-conflict)’ by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

Having regard to the [European Parliament resolution of 5 May 2022 on the impact of the war against Ukraine on women](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/delegations/en/product/product-details/20220510DPU32903#:~:text=Ukraine%20on%20women-,European%20Parliament%20resolution%20of%205%20May%202022%20on%20the%20impact,war%20against%20Ukraine%20on%20women&text=The%20resolution%20was%20adopted%20with,19%20against%20and%2089%20abstentions.);

Having regard to the [European Parliament resolution of 19 May 2022 the social and economic consequences for the EU of the Russian war in Ukraine](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0219_EN.html) - reinforcing the EU’s capacity to act;

The European Disability Forum calls on the EU, the national governments and the United Nations to:

**Put the war in Ukraine to an end** in a way that leads to a just and sustainable peace, and an inclusive reconstruction;

**Focus on restraint and de-escalation of armed conflicts**, with a promotion of the culture of peace and dialogue over theescalation of conflicts;

**Focus on long-term peace and security** within the European region and support to peace worldwide;

**Ensure proper assessment of the humanitarian impacts of the war and sanctions imposed**, in particular on persons with disabilities, including women and children, with a view to minimise further negative impact;

**Build capacity and knowledge of the rights and specific needs of persons with disabilities across peacekeeping and peacebuilding actors**, including at international, regional and national levels;

**Strengthen EU’s support in post-conflict peacebuilding and conflict prevention**, taking into account the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities and women caring for persons with disabilities;

**Systematically and meaningfully include representative organisations of persons with disabilities, including women and young people, in all processes for peace**, including in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace building measures.