

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addresses New Zealand Parliament

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has delivered an address to New Zealand's Parliament this morning and the government has pledged an additional \$3 million of humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Zelensky began with a friendly "kia ora" before saying he would offer New Zealand the opportunity to take the lead in pushing for peace.

"Today, this anti-war coalition has more than 100 countries, those who support the fundamental princ of international law and the UN charter," he said.

"Those who do everyting possible to hold Russia's war criminals accountable."

He said New Zealand was one of the first countries to support Ukraine against Russia's aggressive invasion and he recognised New Zealand imposed sanctions.

"Let me offer you one more thing, various dictators and aggressors - they always fail to realise that the strength of the free world is not about someone becoming large or becoming full of missiles but in the fact that everyone knows how to unite and act decisively and make a unique contribution to the common cause.

"Perhaps the time has come for your country to make such a unique contribution."



He said this could be one of the 10 points in the plan he laid out at the G19 Summit in Indonesia:

Radiation and nuclear safety

Food security

Energy security

Release of prisoners and deportees

Implementation of the UN Charter

Withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities

Justice

Ecocide and the protection of the environment

Prevention of escalation

Confirmation of the end of the war

"Each of these points can remove one or another of Russia's aggression ... I propose to convene a special summit in the coming months."

He called upon New Zealand to support this formula and to start consolidating the world around the eighth point, environmental security, saying many people did not consider the impact of war on the environment and it was one aspect New Zealand society approached wisely.

"You can't rebuild destroyed nature, just as you can't rebuild destroyed lives."

"There's no true peace where the consequences of war could be there in the form of poisoned groundwater that may destroy normal lives in several countries. There's no true peace where ecocide has taken place and its consequences have not been neutralised."

He said to this day, the world had no strong experience in overcoming the destructive impact of war on the environment.

"We will liberate our land. We will win this war. I am confident that we will return freedom and security to all Ukrainians wherever they live."

"Ngā mihi, Slava Ukraini (glory to Ukraine)."



New Zealand MPs applaud Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky after his address to the Parliament. Photo: RNZ / Angus Dreaver

P Zelensky is just the second head of a foreign government to address parliament after Australia's Julia Gillard in 2011.

The Ukrainian leader's message to New Zealand comes as the government announced new sanctions on Iranian individuals and an entity (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/480684/new-sanctions-on-iranians-over-supply-of-drones-and-technology-to-russia>) involved in the manufacture and supply of drones to Russia. Those sanctioned today include two Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commanders, the Armed Forces General Staff chair Mohammad Hossein Bagheri and drone manufacturer Shahed Aviation Industries.

He has previously spoken to other parliaments including in the UK, US, European Union, and Australia, appealing for assistance and support in defending Ukraine against Russia's invasion.

In September, Zelensky addressed world leaders at the United Nations (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/475272/volodymyr-zelensky-addresses-un-demands-just-punishment-for-russian-crimes>), demanding a special UN tribunal impose "just punishment" on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, including financial penalties and stripping Moscow of its veto power in the Security Council.