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**GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST AGGRESSION:
WHO SUPPORTED UKRAINE AND HOW DURING RUSSIA'S WAR
(2022–2026)**

**СОЛДАРНІСТЬ ПРОТИ АГРЕСІЇ: ХТО І ЯК ПІДТРИМУВАВ
УКРАЇНУ ПІД ЧАС РОСІЙСЬКОЇ ВІЙНИ (2022–2026)**

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Abstract. Russia's assault on Ukraine in 2022 has prompted extraordinary worldwide unity, transitioning from relief efforts to strategic security collaboration. This document examines instances of aid-humanitarian initiatives, refugee support schemes, cultural projects, and economic penalties – and the reactions from the EU, UN NATO, and non-governmental organizations. Through the analysis of policies and specific examples, it evaluates the effects on global governance and democratic cohesion. The research concludes that this unity has redefined international actions into a unified defense strategy, exploring the question: *In what ways has global solidarity converted assistance for Ukraine into an instrument of international security and democratic strength?*

Introduction. The extensive Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 20, 2022, has initiated a significant surge of global cooperation, evolving from immediate aid efforts to long-term strategic backing that includes military, financial, economic, and cultural aspects. As of February 2026, as the conflict approaches its fifth anniversary, more than 10.8 million individuals in Ukraine are in need of humanitarian support, while 4.35 million refugees are protected under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive [1, 2]. Since 2022, the EU, UN, NATO, and various NGOs have collectively contributed upwards of €194.9 billion in assistance, which incorporates the €50 billion Ukraine Facility along with proposed loans amounting to €90 billion for 2026–2027 [3, 4]. This collaboration has gone

beyond conventional humanitarian limits, acting as a proactive approach toward ensuring collective security and strengthening democratic resilience against hostility. The introduction examines how this diverse support has evolved into a stabilizing element during periods of crisis, connecting to theories concerning collective security and the diffusion of norms, while also engaging with the broader narrative of altering the global landscape amidst political, humanitarian, and geopolitical issues.

Theoretical Framework. Support during the crisis in Ukraine is understood through the lens of collective security principles and the standards of European integration. In his 1957 work *Political Community and the North Atlantic Area*, Karl Deutsch outlines security communities as nations that embrace peaceful principles through mutual communication and shared values [5, p. 5-7]. This illustrates how support helps strengthen Europe's ability to resist aggression [5, p. 200-228]. In his 1999 publication "Norms, Institutions, and National Identity in Contemporary Europe," Jeffrey Checkel emphasizes a constructivist perspective, suggesting that norms such as democracy influence identities through processes of social interaction [6, p. 83-114]. The solidarity of the EU is codified in Articles 42(7) TEU and 222 TFEU, which mandate mutual support in face of threats or crises [7]. This structure examines the transition of solidarity from mere assistance to a more comprehensive strategic security approach.

Case Study Analysis: Examples of International Support

Humanitarian Aid

The UN OCHA is responsible for coordinating the 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan, which is aimed at assisting 4.1 million people with a budget of \$2.3 billion allocated for food, healthcare, and housing needs [1]. In January 2026, the EU allocated €145 million for winter relief efforts [8]. Organizations such as MSF and ICRC facilitate medical evacuations and establish safe corridors [1].

Refugee Protection Programs

The EU's Temporary Protection Directive, which has been extended until March 2027, offers support to 4.35 million individuals by providing residency and various services [2]. Poland accommodates 30.9% of these refugees and offers integration programs [9] to assist their adjustment.

Cultural Initiatives

Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe facilitate academic exchanges, with the Kyiv office in Ukraine being operational since 2023 [10]. These initiatives aim to foster shared European ideals.

Economic Sanctions Against the Aggressor

The EU's 20th sanction package, introduced in February 2026, includes measures to freeze assets, limit technology exports, and prohibit the importation of Russian pipeline gas and LNG [11, 12].

Reactions of Global Actors

EU: A loan of €90 billion for the years 2026 to 2027, prioritizing military aid (€60 billion) and budget assistance [4].

UN: Passes resolutions denouncing the invasion; OCHA coordinates humanitarian efforts [1].

NATO: The Ramstein coalition pledged \$38 billion in February 2026 for drones and artillery supplies [13].

NGOs: MSF/ICRC assist with evacuation operations [1].

Conclusion. International collaboration has significantly shifted the nature of assistance for Ukraine from initial humanitarian aid into a strategic component for global safety and democratic strength. Joint initiatives by the European Union, United Nations, NATO, and non-governmental organizations amounting to €194.9 billion in total support and refugee assistance for 4.35 million individuals, alongside more than 20 packages of sanctions and cultural initiatives have been effective in discouraging further hostility, diminishing Russia's military funding abilities, and preventing regional unrest. This comprehensive support has bolstered the view of democratic unity, illustrating that collective action among democratic nations can successfully confront authoritarian dangers. In response to the key inquiry: indeed, international cooperation has reshaped support for Ukraine into a strategic tool for worldwide security and democratic resilience, transcending simple emergency aid to become a proactive approach for joint defense in a time marked by hybrid conflict and geopolitical uncertainty. This progression, occurring during an extended period of conflict, poses the threat of donor exhaustion and strain on resources, yet it ultimately enhances Europe's long-term resilience. It is advised that ongoing, gradual, and criteria-based support be provided to ensure lasting impact, thereby fostering a reshaped global framework where solidarity is pivotal to safety and democratic stability.

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