



*Rt. Hon. Winston Peters*  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs*  
*Parliament Buildings*  
*Wellington 6160*

*Sent by email*  
**20 May 2024**

**Open Letter – Call on the NZ Government to attend the Global Peace Summit in Switzerland.**

Dear Rt. Hon. Winston Peters,

We, the undersigned herewith, would like to respectfully request your presence at the upcoming Global Peace Summit in Switzerland.

Firstly, we would like to take the opportunity on behalf of NZ Ukrainians and their families in Ukraine to express our heartfelt and sincere gratitude for the support New Zealand has provided to Ukraine to defend against an illegal and brutal invasion to date. New Zealand's support goes beyond dollar and cents. Indeed, it has a huge "multiplier effect" in Ukraine. Namely, New Zealand aid and solidarity has both increased the morale and underlined the moral argument against a bloody war in which Ukrainian civilians die every day. We, Kiwi Ukrainians, take great heart from the fact that New Zealanders – some 15,000 kilometres away – have stood with Ukraine in her time of need.

It is in this context that we ask New Zealand to continue to stand with Ukraine. With its leadership well beyond its own borders, its tradition of impartiality and fairness, and its willingness to always participate, New Zealand brings credit and impact to the table that exceeds its size. It is our understanding that there is an open invitation for you, as the Foreign Minister of New Zealand, to attend the Global Peace Summit in Switzerland this coming June. This Summit presents a crucial opportunity for New Zealand to play an influential role in promoting peace in Ukraine and supporting international efforts to end this war. The participation of New Zealand in this historical event would not only underscore its commitment to global peace but also reinforce its solidarity with Ukraine during these challenging times.

The ongoing war in Ukraine, provoked by the Russian illegal invasion, continues to inflict immense suffering on the Ukrainian people and destabilise the region. Despite extensive efforts, including Ukraine's 10-point peace plan aimed at establishing lasting peace, the war persists, necessitating comprehensive international support to achieve a sustainable resolution.

The Peace Summit will be an opportunity for global leaders to show unity around key principles: the sanctity of peace, respect for existing borders, and the force of law prevailing over the law of force.

It is also hoped to agree to key elements:

- the withdrawal of Russian troops;
- the inadmissibility of the use of nuclear weapons, and ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities;
- free navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov as part of global food security, and;
- the exchange of prisoners and return to Ukraine of illegally detained, deported and displaced persons, including up to 20,000 children forcibly kidnapped by Russia.

The agreed peace plan will be presented to the Russian Federation, as the aggressor must negotiate on the world's terms and not the other way around.



New Zealand has a unique opportunity to contribute meaningfully to this process. By attending the Global Peace Summit, you can join other global leaders in supporting Ukraine's diplomatic endeavours and ensuring the situation is addressed through a multilateral approach. This aligns with Ukraine's desire for inclusive negotiations involving major global actors, which is critical for any lasting peace settlement.

Furthermore, your presence would reinforce the principles that New Zealand upholds—respect for sovereignty, the rule of law, and human rights. It would also strengthen the voice of small and medium-sized nations in global peace efforts, emphasising that the pursuit of peace is a collective responsibility. Here are several compelling reasons why your presence at the summit is essential:

**Advocating for Peace and Stability:** The Global Peace Summit aims to address and resolve the conflict in Ukraine, focusing on President Zelenskyy's 10-point peace plan. This plan includes critical aspects such as ensuring radiation and nuclear safety, securing food and energy supplies, and restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity. Your participation would underscore New Zealand's commitment to these global security issues and support the international community's efforts to achieve a sustainable peace.

**Supporting Ukraine's Sovereignty:** The summit will discuss ways to uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, vital principles that resonate with New Zealand's values. By attending, you would help strengthen the global response against aggression and support the Ukrainian people's right to self-determination and peace.

**Enhancing New Zealand's Global Standing:** New Zealand has a history of advocating for international peace and justice. Your presence at the summit would reinforce New Zealand's role as a proactive and compassionate member of the international community, dedicated to upholding international law and human rights.

**Contributing to Long-Term Security Solutions:** Discussions at the summit will include the establishment of security guarantees for Ukraine to prevent future conflicts. This aligns with New Zealand's interest in global security and stability. By being part of these conversations, New Zealand can contribute to shaping effective and lasting security frameworks that benefit not only Ukraine but also the broader international community.

We urge you to consider the profound impact your participation would have in supporting Ukraine's peace initiatives and in fostering a stable, just, and peaceful international order.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your affirmative response and to New Zealand's continued support for global peace.

Ngā mihi nui and Slava Ukraini (Слава Україні)!

*Signed & supported by the following NZ organisations:*

**Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (North)**  
**Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (South)**  
**Ukrainian Association of New Zealand (Wellington)**  
**Ukrainian Gromada of Wellington**  
**Ukrainian Educational and Support Trust**  
**Tautoko Ukraine Charitable Trust**  
**Mahi for Ukraine**