



**The International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations**  
**Statement on the crisis in Ukraine – 7 March 2022**

The International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA) is an apolitical organisation dedicated solely to the interests of the serving Shipmaster and to uphold International Standards of Professional Competence of Seafarers commensurate with the need to ensure "Safe Operational Practices, Preservation from Human Injury and Protection of the Marine Environment".

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, IFSMA was shocked and greatly alarmed to hear of the invasion of Ukraine. This ongoing invasion has led to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March calling for the end to all hostilities and the withdrawal of the invading forces with immediate effect. It further stated that the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine must be respected in line with the UN Charter.

The invasion of Ukraine poses serious challenges to global shipping and maritime leaders just as it is starting to recover from the effects COVID Pandemic has had on the Maritime Industry and its 1.5 million seafarers and their families. With around 90% of global trade taking place by sea, a continuing and escalating conflict in Ukraine will affect security of supply and, not least, the security of the many seafarers who supply the world market with food, fuel and other essential goods on a daily basis.

The Shipmaster of today has many challenges, but not least being that the average ship has at least three nationalities amongst its crew, with some employing as many as thirty different nationalities. The escalating crisis in Ukraine makes the Shipmaster's role even more difficult with Russian and Ukrainian seafarers accounting for 14.5% of the global workforce.

**We call for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and for the immediate withdrawal of forces and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine be respected**

We further call on Shipowners, Ship Managers, flag and port States to provide continuous assistance and guidance to Shipmasters on how to handle these onboard challenges and ensure that all seafarers are handled with respect and not put in harm's way.

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