

## UCCA COMMENTS ON US-UKRAINE RELATIONS UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION

On April 29th, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine held a special virtual forum titled “100 Days of Biden’s Presidency – Ukraine on the Agenda.” The first 100 days of the U.S. presidential term is a symbolic milestone, that goes back to FDR’s first term in office, and is considered a benchmark to measure the early success/failure of a President.

UCCA’s President Andriy Futey joined a panel of experts that also included: Tom Firestone, Partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP, and Andrew Mac, Partner at Asters. Moderated by AmCham Ukraine’s President, Andy Hunter, the panelists provided their commentary, forecast and analysis on the future of US-Ukraine relations under the new Administration.

To watch the entire online event, please visit [fb.watch/5zPfQsVK93/](https://fb.watch/5zPfQsVK93/)



On that same day, UCCA’s Director of Communications, Andrij Dobriansky provided comments to several media outlets reflecting on President Biden’s first 100 days.



Underscoring the importance of maintaining bipartisan support for Ukraine, UCCA’s spokesperson highlighted the various statements of support from Congress and the Administration, including President Biden “affirming the United States’ unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression in the Donbas and Crimea,” during a call with President Zelenskyy.

## KEEPING A PULSE ON WASHINGTON

With the announcement of Secretary Blinken’s trip to Ukraine, the UCCA sent a letter to the Secretary of State affirming the United States’ commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and independence. The letter highlighted key points areas of support for Ukraine including: accelerating a Membership Action Plan (MAP) for Ukraine into NATO; bolstering U.S. financial assistance for Ukraine aimed at strengthening trans-Atlantic stability; implementing and expanding a Russia-sanctions regime to include greater sectoral and NordStream2 sanctions; calling for the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces in occupied Eastern Ukraine and Crimea.

In concluding the letter, UCCA reiterated the importance of its support to Ukraine as a strategic partner: “The U.S. must take definitive action to help stabilize the transnational, trans-Atlantic security framework, which clearly serves our national interests as Americans, or the crisis in Ukraine is likely to escalate.”

Several congressional initiatives have also been introduced to further advance U.S. support for Ukraine and the Central East European region. Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) are introducing the Transatlantic Telecommunications Security Act (TTSA), which strengthens U.S. national security interests by providing U.S. financing to European allies to secure their cyber and digital infrastructures from malign influence from China and Russia.

In the Senate, Sens. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) have re-introduced the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act – S.1310. The bill is a companion bill to HR.496, which recently passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee and is awaiting passage in the House of Representatives.

Both bills authorize the President to consider the religious violations in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine when making a determination of Russia as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC).

## UCCA URGES CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

This year marks seven years since the start of Russia's war against Ukraine. With over 13,000 dead, over 30,000 wounded, over one and a half million internally displaced Ukrainians, and tens of thousands Ukrainian hostages in the Donbas' Russian-occupied territories, UCCA has renewed its call for elected leaders to stand with Ukraine against Russia's increasing military aggression.

Thanks to our community's active engagement, several important developments have occurred, including the following public statements of support for Ukraine:

- **Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin** spoke by phone with Ukrainian **Minister of Defense Andrii Taran**, reaffirming unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations;
- **National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan** spoke by phone with **Head of Presidential Office Andriy Yermak** of Ukraine, affirming "the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations";
- **President Joe Biden** spoke with **President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** and "affirmed the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's ongoing aggression in the Donbas and Crimea";
- **Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba** on the sidelines of the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels in which he reiterated publicly that "the US stands firmly behind the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine... at a time when we're seeing unfortunately Russia take very provocative action when it comes to Ukraine. We're now seeing the largest concentration of Russian forces on Ukraine's border since 2014, and that is of deep concern not only to Ukraine, but to the United States, and indeed to many of our allies and partners." Secretary Blinken then went on to meet with **NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg** to discuss the immediate need for Russia to cease its aggressive military buildup along Ukraine's borders and in occupied Crimea. Secretary Blinken and the Secretary General agreed it was essential for NATO to continue delivering support for Ukraine;
- NATO ministers in Brussels addressed Russia's military buildup in and around Ukraine. The Allies fully support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and called on Russia to de-escalate immediately, stop a pattern of aggressive provocations, and respect its international commitments;
- President Biden addressed the nation from the White House in which he affirmed "U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Given Russia's continued aggression in Ukraine, UCCA urges our community to continue advocating for Ukraine by contacting their elected representatives to add their voice in support of Ukraine by:

- Ask them to put Russia on notice that harsh economic and financial sanctions would immediately be imposed in case of an attack on Ukraine.
- Advocate for the suspension of further development of the NordStream 2 pipeline.
- Further aid Ukraine's Armed Forces to preserve the country's territorial integrity by continuing to provide defensive weapons to Ukraine and suggesting that Ukraine receive a Membership Action Plan from NATO.

## MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> — VYSHYVANKA DAY

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vyshyvanka Day, sometimes referred to as World Vyshyvanka Day. Celebrated on the **third Thursday of May, this year Vyshyvanka Day falls on May 20.**

### «ВИШИТІ СКАРБИ»

з нагоди Всесвітнього дня вишиванки

20 травня 2021 року

Закликаємо кожного, хто бажає, сфотографувати вишивку чи вишиванку, фото й коротке повідомлення про те, чим вишита реліквія важлива для родини, розмістити в соціальних мережах до 20 травня 2021 року, позначивши гештегом **#Вишиті\_Скарби\_День\_Вишиванки**



UCCA urges our community to join Ukrainians everywhere and show your national pride by donning your vyshyvanka and posting your pictures online!

<https://youtu.be/x2GH2s6tJOU>

## SAVE THE DATE — JUNE 16/17

UCCA will once again be cohosting the US-Ukraine Working Group Yearly Summit IX: Providing Ukraine with an Annual Report Card. Panelists from Ukraine, Canada, the EU and the U.S. will evaluate Ukraine's 2019-2020 progress/regress in six categories: "robust democratic politics, mature market economics, ever greater energy security, ever greater general security, viable social cohesion and an established national identity". The forum will be webcast live, on June 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> on UCCA's Facebook and YouTube pages:

<https://fb.me/e/11SmZF0Od>

## UCCA PUBLISHES REPORT

UCCA is pleased to announce that its 2020 Annual Report has been released. An unprecedented year, as much of the world stopped altogether, UCCA never wavered in its mission to represent the Ukrainian American community; indeed, 2020 ended up "virtually" one of UCCA's busiest. In the report you will read about many of UCCA's initiatives and positive results from the work we conducted in 2020:

<http://bit.ly/2020AnnualReportUCCA>