

VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA JOKO WIDODO TO UKRAINE MARKING 30 YEARS OF INDONESIA-UKRAINE RELATIONS

June 2022 is a special month for Indonesia and Ukraine, as the two countries marked the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relations on 11 June. On 29 June 2022, Indonesian President Joko Widodo became the first Indonesian leader to visit Ukraine. The one-day visit symbolises that Indonesia–Ukraine friendship stays solid and even becomes stronger, despite distance and difficult trials of our time.

President Widodo is the first among the heads of Asian states that visited Kyiv after a full-scale war broke out on 24 February 2022. While Indonesia chairs the G20 this year, Widodo's visit adds significant importance. It reflects Indonesia's desire to pursue global peace through dialogue and cooperation. At the onset of the visit, President Widodo stated that it was a humanitarian visit.

During the visit, First Lady Mrs Iriana Widodo, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs Retno Marsudi and Minister for Cabinet Secretariat Mr Pramono Anung accompanied President Widodo. Prior to this, not a single foreign leader had come to Ukraine accompanied by the first lady since the beginning of the war. Despite its short duration, the visit has several agendas: visiting Irpin, delivering humanitarian assistance to a hospital in Kyiv and a bilateral meeting with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

In Irpin, the President and the First Lady of Indonesia visited the ruins in Irpin Lypky residential area and met with Mayor Oleksandr Markushyn. President Widodo expressed his sympathy and wished the Ukrainians a speedy end to the war and that there would be no more destroyed cities in Ukraine. After that, the delegation went to Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Centre for Endocrine Surgery, Endocrine Organs and Tissues Transplantation in Kyiv. During the visit, the presidential spouses gave humanitarian aid in the form of medical equipment and supplies donated by the Government and people of Indonesia. Ukrainian Minister of Health Viktor Liashko with the staff of the Centre received the donation. During her visit, Madam Iriana held a conversation with several patients of the Centre.

President Widodo's visit to Ukraine culminated with a bilateral meeting with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Mariinskyi Palace. During the



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Humanitarian aid from the Government and people of Indonesia

talks, the leaders discussed both bilateral and global issues, including the challenges of international food security. President Widodo once again reiterated Indonesia's support for Ukrainian territorial integrity and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Since Indonesia is chairing the G20, President Widodo invited the President of Ukraine to attend the next G20 summit in Bali.

The humanitarian issue was one of the main themes during the visit of President Widodo as reflected in the places he went to as well as his statement during the press conference. Apart from donating medical equipment and supplies, Indonesia has also donated \$250,000 to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and will also contribute to the reconstruction of a hospital in Ukraine.

Bilateral issues were also elaborated on during the meeting between the two ministers for foreign affairs. Ukrainian Head of the MFA Dmytro Kuleba and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi signed an agreement on a visa-free regime.

The very productive visit of the Indonesian delegation reflects Indonesia's firm will to strengthen bilateral relations with Ukraine. 30 years of diplomatic relations and counting, we wish everlasting and mutually beneficial Indonesia-Ukraine relations.