

FAREWELL REMARKS ON COMPLETION OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN UKRAINE

Ms McTear delivered her speech in English and partially in Ukrainian in solidarity with the people of Ukraine

2024 is a year of several important dates for NATO–Ukraine relations, including the 75th Anniversary of the signing of NATO’s founding document, the Washington Treaty.

In just over a month, in July, there will be the Washington Summit. Its outcomes are still under discussion, and a lot of work is ongoing, including with our Ukrainian partners, to finalise and shape its key decisions.

Final conclusions are to be announced at the Summit, but Allies are determined to guarantee NATO’s bigger role in coordinating the provision of security assistance for Ukraine, and ensuring that we have more transparency, more accountability, and more predictability for our Ukrainian partners in planning and knowing what they can expect to receive from NATO Allies.

One thing is for sure — NATO stands in unwavering solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine.

This year also marks 30 years of Ukraine’s engagement with NATO (Ukraine was one of the first countries to join the Partnership for Peace in February 1994).

Ukraine has a long history of participating in major NATO-led operations and missions. For years, Ukraine remained the only partner that had contributed to all of them.

Ukraine is closer to NATO now than ever before. In recent years, Ukraine has become increasingly interoperable and politically integrated with the Alliance, and has made substantial progress on its reform path.

There is a lot of work ahead on many tracks, but Ukraine is not left alone with that.

As the NATO Representation to Ukraine, we are here, on the ground, to facilitate the Alliance’s core mission and activities and cooperate with our Ukrainian colleagues on strategic and operational issues.

Currently, NATO Representation to Ukraine is undergoing a transformation. We are growing in numbers and extending the pool of international experts who will be working here directly with our partners.

I, myself, joined NRU in the beginning of 2022, and have witnessed the bravery of the Ukrainian people, their commitment to defend their country, as well as their commitment to joining the Euro-Atlantic family where, for sure, Ukraine belongs.

With this regard, I want to say:

Free, unyielding, invincible Ukrainians.

Over these more than two years, you have traversed an incredible path. You stood firm, and are still standing. Your strength of will, camaraderie, and dignity are remarkable and serve as a reminder that independence is in your DNA.

You are not alone. NATO stands by your side. And we will continue to help for as long as it takes.

Your struggle is our struggle, your security is our security, your values are our values.

The future of Ukraine belongs to the Euro-Atlantic family. And the Alliance supports Ukraine on its path towards this goal.

Please indulge me in a couple of minutes of my own personal perspective, as I get ready to leave Ukraine.

This was meant to be my dream job, as I had previously been in Ukraine as UK Defence Attaché. However, I knew there was a lot of work to do and that organisational changes needed to be made.

But (until recently) it hasn't been about organisation or process — it has been about people. It is the people who have kept this amazing country moving, who have given time, commitment, strength, dedication, humour, focus, creativity, courage, innovation and, in some cases, the ultimate sacrifice — their lives.





Ukraine will win this terrible war and will become a member of NATO. A future Secretary General could well be standing here this evening. Ukraine might be a net consumer of security at the moment, but it will become a net provider and we can and should be learning a lot from Ukraine.

I'm incredibly proud of the team at the NATO Representation. It has been a privilege and an honour to work alongside such an impressive group. Please continue to push and drive forward. You are important catalysts in making change happen. You are stronger than you know.

I will genuinely miss Ukraine and all of you. But in the meantime, thank you all for your friendship, for being great and highly professional colleagues and wonderful human beings.

But as one door closes, another will likely open, and I have a feeling that I will be back!

I'll certainly be back for the Victory! Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine!

Speech dated 4 June 2024