



28. February 2022

### **Statement of the MNFT on the Russian invasion of Ukraine**

The MNFT, representative of the German faculties of natural sciences and mathematics, is shocked about the invasion of Russia into Ukraine, which according to international contracts signed by Russia is sovereign territory. This act of aggression is not only a slap in the face of the international community, but comes in a time, when mankind needs to address global problems, such as climate change or pandemics, rather than fulfilling particular interests of a power elite in Putin's Russia. As a result of this selfish act, not only people will be killed on both sides of the frontiers, but also scientific and technical progress will be disrupted, either by the destruction of infrastructure or by political isolation.

Our worries are mostly directed towards the Ukrainian people, whose very life is in danger. But we are also aware that many, if not the majority, of Russian scientists do not support the invasion of Ukraine.\* As an international community, all scientists should cooperate to end not only this attack, but to reduce the chances of further wars. The MNFT thus demands two measures:

- 1.) The support of Ukrainian scientists either in their homeland or in the countries they were forced to flee into. In Germany, this support needs to be provided by the government and distributed by the relevant science funding organizations in a non-bureaucratic manner.
- 2.) The uninterrupted support of Russian scientists, in particular those opposing the hostilities, by keeping up the scientific cooperation both intellectually and financially.

In the long run, the world cannot afford white spots either in the scientific or in the political network. The price for mankind would be too high.

\* Many Russian scientist, despite the threat of repressions, have signed a petition against the war: <https://trv-science.ru/2022/02/we-are-against-war/>