

Online Board Meeting 1/2022 Action: Motion on WSA Policy on Russian Federation war & invasion of Ukraine:

On 24 February 2022, the government of the Russian Federation sent its full military (army, air forces, marine) to invade the neighbouring UN member state Ukraine. Since then, the Russian troops committed massive destruction in the East and North of the invaded country, including the purposeful targeting of civilian settlements and infrastructures killing thousands of adults and children.

On 2 March 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution ES-11/1 with 141 votes in approval and 5 votes against the Resolution ES-11/1 condemning the unlawful use of force against Ukraine and demanded a full withdrawal of Russian forces and a reversal of its decision to recognize the self-declared People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

On 7 April 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for Russia to be suspended from the Human Rights Council due to the mounting evidence of systematic, large-scale commitment of war crimes by Russia and its military.

On 12 May 2022, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression. In so doing, they demanded an immediate cessation of military hostilities against Ukraine and set up an Independent International Commission of Inquiry is set up to hold to account those responsible for war crimes.

The World Summit Awards (WSA) was initiated in 2003 in the framework of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)¹. WSA is active in 184 UN member states with the aim to select and promote digital innovation and strengthen youth entrepreneurship impacting the UN SDGs. The focus lies on the key issues of education, health, poverty, gender diversity, democracy, and urban development. The goal is to close digital divides and narrow the content gaps.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guides WSA in all its operations, specifically in the contest selection and evaluation of products, projects, and applications. The jury process and the assessment of content is made based on the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings. WSA views human rights and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as foundational to freedom, justice, and development of peoples.

Considering Russia's war on a neighboring country and the oppression of all opposition and the denial of freedom of expression in Russia, WSA suspends all its dealings with any person, institution, public or private commercial entity which is linked to the current Russian government and thus must be seen as part of or in support of the unlawful war effort and the expressed intention to eliminate the Ukrainian national existence and independent state.

WSA will continue to work with Russian citizens inside and outside the Federation who expressly abstain from supporting the war effort and the invasion and/ or have no known link to the Russian government and institutions / companies who pay and support it.

The global WSA community and its Board of Directors (BoD) are united in their respect for the digital creativity of Russian persons and teams. It is a matter of fairness not to punish persons just for their nationality or for decisions of their government if they are not participating in them.

The WSA community and BoD are committed to the fairness of its awards program for every producer and developer without any discrimination.

¹ WSIS is carried and organized by ITU and UNESCO.

At ITU, Russia has been excluded from ITU Standardization Sector working group chair or vice chair positions as a consequence of international outrage over Ukraine being invaded by war. Industry experts said Russia can still make member-state contributions but will be left out of leadership and setting the agenda for years to come. UNESCO has mobilised to denounce violence against journalists, promote the importance and therefore the protection of cultural institutions, and work for the maintenance of education to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities in Ukraine.