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Statement by Mr Andrea CARONI, President of the Swiss Council of States

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues

We cannot choose our neighbours — neither as individuals nor as countries. Switzerland has been fortunate in this regard. And I can say so personally, too.

By coincidence, my neighbour at home is a Swiss entrepreneur whose company builds prefabricated wooden houses in Ukraine. These are real, tangible homes for families who lost their own. More than a hundred are already standing. And Ukrainian craftsmen trained in Switzerland are continuing this work locally. Seeing new walls rise while the threat of missiles and drones still hangs in the air is a reminder of how courage and reconstruction go hand in hand.

This is one of many private initiatives that symbolise what Switzerland is doing in Ukraine. Private sector involvement is, for us, a key instrument. Even during war, rebuilding lives is possible. And necessary.

This is the *fil rouge* of Switzerland's engagement: strengthening Ukraine's resilience today while supporting recovery and the pursuit of peace.

Our commitment is continuous. Words are followed by action.

Switzerland will provide 1.5 billion euros between 2025 and 2027, and a total of over 5 billion euros until 2036, supporting reconstruction,



humanitarian assistance, and efforts such as demining.

As mentioned, a central pillar of our engagement is the mobilisation of the private sector. This commitment brings innovation, expertise, quality and employment, and strengthens Ukraine's economic resilience.

Let me highlight another concrete contribution: In 2023, a large-scale school recovery initiative was launched. More than 90 school shelters now allow around 17,000 children to continue their education in safety. For them, a protected classroom means continuity, protection — and *hope*. Switzerland will continue to be active in this area and has decided to join the International Civil Protection Shelter Coalition, initiated by Finland and Ukraine.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our responsibility begins with the present, with a war that continues to destroy lives. But responsibility also looks ahead. Just peace. Lasting recovery.

A future grounded in people's security and resilience.

Switzerland will stand with Ukraine — as all of us will stand with Ukraine.