

# Russia's UN Ambassador Concisely Explained His Country's Recognition of Donbass

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*Russia is unwaveringly committed to its humanitarian, political, and security principles, which indicates that it just drew a red line in Donbass that neither the US nor its Ukrainian proxies should dare to cross.*

Russian Ambassador to the UN **Vasily Nebenzya** defended his country's recognition of Donbass' breakaway Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) [as independent states](#) in a [speech](#) before the Security Council on Monday. It concisely summarized the reasons that President Putin gave in his [nearly hour-long address](#) to the Russian people. In short, he explained that Russia gave post-“Maidan” Ukraine's US-supported coup authorities the benefit of the doubt that they'd implement the UNSC-backed Minsk Accords, only to be proven wrong after Kiev once again recently initiated another round of civil war hostilities last weekend.

This position wasn't naïve like some critics claimed at the time but was driven by the principled desire to encourage dialogue between the warring sides in accordance with Russia's position towards all other conflicts across the world like in Syria, Yemen, etc. Ambassador Nebenzya also drew attention to the fact that the DPR and LPR already declared independence prior to the Minsk Accords so Russia's recognition thereof doesn't change the fact that Kiev is still obligated to implement them since Moscow isn't officially regarded as a party to that conflict. This hints at a grander strategic end game for Ukraine than what Russia had previously envisioned as explained by the author in his latest analysis [here](#).

It's beyond the scope of the present piece that discuss it so intrepid readers should review it if they're interested. Moving along, Russia's top representative to the UN then touched upon the US' destructive role in sabotaging the Ukrainian peace process. Ambassador Nebenzya blamed it for encouraging Kiev to eschew its international legal obligations to enter into talks with the separatists aimed at eventually granting their regions a constitutionally enshrined “special status” per the Minsk Accords. The influx of foreign arms and instructors

emboldened Kiev to dispatch 120,000 troops along the line of contact and ultimately initiate last week's third round of civil war hostilities that prompted Russia's recognition.

Nevertheless, Ambassador Nebenzya is still cautiously optimistic that everything can be pulled back from the brink of a wider war so long as the US-led West finally deters Kiev from continuing its aggression against the Donbass Republics whose security is now guaranteed by Russia following the [new military pact](#) between them and Moscow. Ukrainian **President Volodymyr Zelensky** seems to have already realized the hopelessness of directly attacking Russian forces in his country's former territories after [telling the nation](#) on Tuesday that he considers a "full-blown war" between the neighboring countries to be unlikely.

Should he actually be sincere, which remains to be seen, then that would strongly suggest that his American patrons ordered their proxies to stand down, at least for the time being. In his final remarks, Ambassador Nebenzya reaffirmed the immediate humanitarian motivations behind Russia's decision to recognize the Donbass Republics, defiantly telling the US-led West that Moscow's "desire to save those lives...is more important than all threats of yours." This confirms that Russia is unwaveringly committed to its humanitarian, political, and security principles, which indicates that it just drew a red line in Donbass that neither the US nor its Ukrainian proxies should dare to cross.

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**Andrew Korybko** is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare.

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