

The Elders urge world powers to uphold Ukraine's territorial integrity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders express their deep concern at current developments in Ukraine, which pose a threat to peace and security in the region.

Nobel Laureate **Kofi Annan**, Chair of The Elders and former UN Secretary-General, said:

“At this critical moment for the future of Ukraine, the Elders appeal for direct dialogue and urge all parties to peacefully resolve their differences. The use of force and any further loss of life should be avoided at all costs.”

Nobel Laureate **Martti Ahtisaari**, former President of Finland, said:

“Respect for the territorial integrity of a sovereign country is essential. Acknowledging this is a precondition for building a peaceful future for all citizens of Ukraine.”

The Elders appeal to world powers, including the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, to work closely and effectively with the UN Secretary-General to address the crisis in Ukraine in line with the spirit and letter of the UN Charter.

About The Elders

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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