

Statement of the Russian Rectors' Conference
4 March 2022

Honoured colleagues!

Events are unfolding before our eyes which worry every Russian citizen. Russia has decided to finally end the eighty-year long opposition of Ukraine and Donbass, achieve demilitarisation and de-nazification of Ukraine and thus protect itself from growing military threats.

We, the rectors of Russia, have for many years developed and strengthened the ties between Russia and Ukraine in education and research, treating each other with care. Our common efforts have made an immense contribution to world science, and because of this the long-standing tragedy in Donbass has caused us particular pain and grief.

In times like these it is of the utmost importance to support our country, our army, which defends our safety, and our President, who has taken perhaps the most difficult and painful, but necessary, decision of his life.

We must also not forget our main duty – to continue uninterrupted the process of education, instilling in young people a feeling of patriotism and wish to save the Motherland.

Universities were always supports of the state. Our priority goal is to serve Russia and develop its intellectual potential. Now more than ever we must act decisively and steadfastly in the face of economic and information attacks, rally firmly around our President, and by our example instil in the young a spirit of optimism, faith in the power of reason, and hope that soon peace will come.

Together we are a great force!

Victor Sadovnishchi, president of the Russian Rectors' Conference, rector of Lomonosov Moscow State University

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Sergey Ivanchenko, vice president of RRC, rector of Pacific Ocean State University

Nikolay Kropachov, vice president of RRC, rector of St. Petersburg State University

Nikolay Kudryavtsev, vice president of RRC, president of Moscow Physical-Technical University (state university)

Vladimir Lobanov, vice president of RRC, president of Kuban State Technological University

Nikolay Pustovoy, vice president of RRC, president of Novosibirsk State Technical University

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Yanina Chigovskaya-Nazarova, rector of Korolenko Glazov State Pedagogical Institute
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