HIGHLIGHTS OF UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS ACTIVITIES
2014-2015

The activities of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) in 2014-2015 included the following initiatives:

- **Strengthening ties with Ukrainian Churches in Ukraine:**
  - The UWC leadership met on numerous occasions and supports ties with:
    - Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyivan Patriarchate;
    - Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.
  - The UWC President addressed the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (video).

- **Furtherving the interests of Ukraine and the Ukrainian nation in the international community:**
  - The UWC President discussed Ukrainian issues during official meetings with:
    - High-ranking officials of influential international institutions, including the UN, European Union (EU), Council of Europe, PACE, OSCE and NATO, and the governing authorities of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Poland and the United States and
    - Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe and UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.
  - The UWC President addressed the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development of the House of Commons Canada and politicians and representatives of civil society in Germany.
  - On 18 September 2014 the UWC signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Atlantic Council and contributes to the implementation of the Council’s Ukraine in Europe Initiative focused on strengthening support in the international community for Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity (including Crimea) and Euro-Atlantic integration.

- **Strengthening ties with new governing authorities of Ukraine:**
  - The UWC leadership met on numerous occasions and maintains ties with the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and Government of Ukraine (video 1 and 2).
  - On 28 August 2014 the UWC signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (video) and is working on its implementation.
  - The UWC leadership participated in:
    - International Support for Ukraine Conference;
    - state functions in Canada (video), USA and Australia in conjunction with official visits of the President of Ukraine;
    - events in conjunction with the address of the Prime Minister of Ukraine to the 69th session of the UN General Assembly and a meeting with the Ukrainian community in the U.S. (video).
• Opening of Ukrainian World Congress Mission to Ukraine:
  ➢ The UWC launched the Ukrainian World Congress Mission to Ukraine, the main goal of which is to strengthen ties between Ukraine, the Ukrainian diaspora and international community.
  ➢ The UWC appointed Serhiy Kasyanchuk from Canada as Director of the Ukrainian World Congress Mission to Ukraine and he assumed the position in February 2015.

• Developing humanitarian assistance for Ukraine:
  ➢ In April 2014 the UWC appointed a Director of Humanitarian Initiatives, Dr. Ulana Suprun, who leads UWC humanitarian initiatives in Ukraine.
  ➢ In May 2014 the UWC initiated the program Patriot Defence which has:
    - delivered over 13,000 Improved First Aid Kits (IFAKs) to defenders of Ukraine (video);
    - trained over 16,000 Ukrainian soldiers and over 2,000 students of military academies in Combat Lifesaver Training;
    - organized the first three-day International Conference on Tactical Medicine in January 2015 with the participation of 450 individuals;
    - signed in January 2015 a Memorandum on partnership with the Security Service of Ukraine which is currently in the process of being implemented.
  ➢ The UWC humanitarian initiative together with its partners has realized a range of initiatives in support of the wounded on EuroMaidans and in the ATO zone, as well as medical needs in Ukraine.

• Support for democratic elections in Ukraine:
  The UWC organized two observer missions that ranked third in size overall:
  ➢ The UWC International Election Observation Mission to the Presidential Election on 25 May 2014 numbered over 230 observers from 22 countries (video) and cooperated with the mission of its member organization, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which numbered 222 observers. As a result, the joint group numbered over 450 monitors.
  ➢ The UWC International Election Observation Mission to the Parliamentary Elections on 26 October 2014 which numbered over 220 observers from 25 countries (video) worked in cooperation with the mission of its member organization, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, with 105 observers. Together, the joint group numbered over 320 monitors.

• Counteracting Russian disinformation:
  ➢ The UWC furthers the dissemination of factual information about Ukraine leveraging its previously signed Memorandum of Understanding with 5 Kanal and Memoranda of Understanding signed in June 2014 with:
    - Ukraine Crisis Media Center and
    - Espreso TV.
  ➢ Since June 2014 the UWC disseminates information compiled by the Information Analysis Center and the Information Analysis Center UKRINFORM Jedynia Kraiina.
• Furthering relations with human rights organizations:
  - The UWC expanded ties in the defence of human rights with support for the NGO Advancing Human Rights and its online program Movements which connects human rights activists under authoritarian regimes with volunteers willing to assist with professional services.

• Strengthening ties with Ukrainians around the world:
  - The UWC leadership met with Ukrainian communities in Argentina (video), Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada (video 1 and 2), France, Germany, Hungary, Romania and U.S.A.
  - The UWC leadership established and maintains ties with representatives of civil society in Ukraine.
  - The UWC supports ties with the International Institute of Education, Culture and Diaspora Relations of the Lviv Polytechnic National University and particularly its project: A virtual museum of the global Ukrainian community Ukrainian Universe.

• Strengthening ties with ethnocultural communities:
  - The UWC leadership established and maintains ties with the leadership of the following ethnocultural communities:
    - World Jewish Congress;
    - The World Congress of Crimean Tatars;
    - Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities in Ukraine.
  - The UWC issued a joint statement with The World Congress of Crimean Tatars and the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities in Ukraine on the anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia.

• International commemorations of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko:
  - In March 2014, the UWC co-organized the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko at the UN in New York (video).
  - In October 2014, the UWC organized an academic conference at the Ukrainian Museum in New York City (video).
  - The UWC realized the project Monumental Shevchenkiana (video) in 15 countries, a photographic exhibit presenting monuments and memorial markers honoring Taras Shevchenko throughout the world.

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 34 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.