

China is ‘always on the side of peace’ Xi tells Zelenskyy in first phone call

This was the first time the two leaders have spoken since the start of the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has had his first phone call since the start of the war with Xi Jinping, where the Chinese leader assured his Ukrainian counterpart that “China has always been on the side of peace” and called for “negotiation”.

“On the subject of the Ukrainian crisis, China has always been on the side of peace and its basic position is to promote a peace dialogue,” China’s CCTV state media reported.

“Dialogue and negotiation” are the “only way out” of the conflict with Russia, Xi said, according to CCTV.

For his part, Zelenskyy said he had a “long and significant” call with his Chinese counterpart, and said he hoped for “a powerful push in the development of bilateral relations” between Kyiv and Beijing.

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