



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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Since 2022, the Kremlin has unsuccessfully tried to weaponize winter against the Ukrainian people. Russia's attacks have caused more than 10 billion dollars of damage to Ukraine's energy system, forcing millions of Ukrainians to endure periods without heat, hot water, or electricity. As we approach another winter, Russia's missile and drone strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure have escalated, damaging nearly half of Ukraine's power generation capacity.

Russia conducted nine large-scale waves of attacks against electricity generation, transmission, and distribution facilities between March and August 2024. The loss of electricity generation capacity as a result of these attacks is forcing scheduled electricity curtailments and is harming households, industry, and critical services. Even under the best-case scenario, Ukrainians will face scheduled power outages this winter as the supply deficit could reach as much as six gigawatts.

UN human rights monitors estimated that Russia's repeated attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure might uproot an additional 500,000 people ahead of the coming winter due to lack of basic services.

The UN Monitoring Mission said in its September report that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that multiple aspects of [Russia's] military campaign to damage or destroy Ukraine's civilian electricity and heat-producing and transmission infrastructure have violated foundational principles of international humanitarian law."

Madam Chair, in 2022 and 2023, Ukraine's humanitarian needs significantly increased over the coldest winter months. This winter could be the most challenging yet. To help address the most urgent needs over the next year, the United States in September announced 325 million dollars in new energy assistance for Ukraine's energy infrastructure. This assistance will repair and restore Ukraine's power generation facilities damaged by Russia's attacks, provide emergency backup power for critical services like water and heat, and strengthen the physical security of critical infrastructure. This is in addition to the 500 million dollars we announced at the Ukraine Peace Summit in June.

Not only will we support Ukraine and its people through the coming winter, but we and our partners will also hold Russia accountable for the human and economic costs of its attacks. Russia will pay for the damage it has inflicted.

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