



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1397th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
03 November 2022

Mr. Chairperson, esteemed colleagues,

The terror against Ukraine and its people continues.

It total, russia carried out 4,500 missile strikes and more than 8,000 air raids.

The threat of new strikes and the use of attack UAVs remains, including from the territory of belarus.

Only on Monday russians managed to hit 10 regions damaging 18 objects of civilian critical infrastructure. On that day more than 55 missiles were fired at Ukraine.

As always, the russian defense ministry reported that all targets were destroyed.

So, let's name them. 350 000 households in Kyiv were cut off from water and electricity. Just imagine – people at the heart of Europe are without water, electricity and heating because of deliberate attacks authorised in moscow at the highest level.

Was this result sufficient to claim the strike as successful?

For the terrorist regime, this might be an exemplary result. And this is yet another evidence testifying to russia's genocidal intentions against the Ukrainian people.

But for the OSCE participating State, this should be a solid reason to question its presence here.

Last Monday among russia's targets were also three hydroelectric power plants.

Apart from the destruction of critical energy infrastructure, such an irresponsible behaviour poses a growing risk of a man-made disaster.

In this regard, we invite relevant OSCE structures, including the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, to explore how the Organization can contribute to coping with this risk.

This has also a regional dimension. Because one of those plants is located close to the border with Moldova. And by targeting this object, russia has proven once again that it remains a key threat for the regional security.

However, the missile escalation seems to be not enough for the russian regime.

As we warned before, moscow decided earlier this week to suspend its participation in the grain initiative under the false pretext.

However, artificial delays of inspections we have been observing since September already resulted in a queue of about 170 vessels with approximately two mln tons of food onboard.

It clearly shows that russia's decision was pre-planned long ago.

In addition to that, Monday's meeting of the UN Security Council dispelled all allegations russia tried to use to justify its actions.

As it was confirmed by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, warships of the russian Black Sea Fleet have nothing to do with the security of the grain corridor.

Rather opposite.

They are prohibited from going closer than ten nautical miles to the cargo ships, according to agreed procedures.

And coming to alleged misuse of cargo vessels in the grain initiative for military purposes, none were in the corridor on the night of 29 October, as it was claimed by moscow.

But should we be surprised about russia's misinterpretation?

On our part, as it was confirmed by President Zelenskyy, Ukraine will keep implementing the grain initiative in good faith.

In this regard we are grateful to Turkiye and the UN as well as to our partners for their efforts to keep the grain corridor functioning. This is a very important effort to help countries in need.

And we should not give any chance for russia's blackmailing to be successful any more.

Given russia's resumption of its participation in the grain initiative, we call upon the partners to work together to ensure that the kremlin sticks to its commitments and will not try to disrupt the initiative once again after the 19th of November as it was already hinted.

Dear colleagues,

The suspension of russia's participation in the grain initiative has to be assessed in a wider context, as it was done by Ukrainian experts from the Black Sea Initiative.

It was established that a sharp increase in delays of inspections – about 5 times – happened on the 18-19 of September.

Actually, just two days before the russian president announced a so-called partial mobilization in russia.

As we see, this was nothing else but start of a new phase of the russian war.

So, whatever we hear from the kremlin, putin still believes that he can turn the tide of the war and conquer Ukraine.

That's why the kremlin is trying to replenish its arsenal with the weaponry from Iran. According to the information available, a new portion of the Iranian drones is expected already this month. And this is another wake-up call for us.

Both Iran and russia are seeking for regional dominance and they are ready to cooperate in achieving their goals.

If russia wants to be together with Iran, so, it is their choice.

But, at least, relevant measures must be taken by the international community to equal their international status and isolate a growing threat from them, taking into account terrorist tactics these both regimes apply.

And my question for the belarussian diplomats – do you really want to be a part of that axis and share responsibility for the decisions to be taken without you but implemented with your active participation?

Esteemed colleagues,

Precisely, a year ago, in November of 2021, participation States, including my own country, started to raise concerns about russia’s unusual military activity in the vicinity of Ukraine’s borders and in the occupied territories.

We rightfully resorted to available OSCE venues and asked for a clarification from the russian side about purposes of such an activity. And we were very open and honest about consequences russia would face should it start the invasion.

And what did we hear from them during November, December, January and February?

“Artificially fomented hysteria, “myth of inevitable invasion”, “imaginary russian threat”, “hysteria about the russian invasion of Ukraine”, “disinformation and fake stories about plans to install a pro-russian regime in Ukraine”, “scare stories”, “propaganda hype”, “yet another anti-russian show”, “puff of propaganda”, “idle talk” – this was their only reply.

These weeks they are trying to make a laughing stock of the international organizations, including the OSCE, by bringing to their agenda false allegations about “combat mosquitos” and “dirty bombs”.

They were just cheating us. And they call this a serious diplomacy.

In a year, this “imaginary russian threat” has turned to be thousands of killed, millions of displaced, indiscriminate shelling, destroyed cities, deliberate attacks on critical infrastructure and so on.

This is the real price of words said by the kremlin envoys.

However, these days the kremlin is trying to convince us of russia’s good intentions and of their willingness to make a deal. But we should not get fooled by this once again. Especially by the very same representatives who were saying at this very same table just a year ago that there was no threat of russia’s invasion.

Those who want peace would not be arranging forced mobilization and illegal conscription campaigns in the occupied Crimea, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Luhansk.

Those who really praise a human life would not boost the genocidal rhetoric on its TV.

Those who really respect international law would not forbid the ICRC from access to Ukrainian POWs.

Those who really care about stability would not use nuclear sabre-rattling.

Those who is committed to peaceful coexistence would not try to dismember a neighboring sovereign state.

Those who really want beneficial cooperation would not define its national interest in terms of the resurrection of a perished empire.

putin's speech at the Valdai forum is telling a lot in this regard. He still wants to revise the world order.

putin delivered his Valdai speech just on the eve of the liberation of Ukraine from the Nazi occupiers. They also wanted to revise the world order. And we know how those attempts ended.

So, let me quote just a few lines from President Zelenskyy address on the occasion of this liberation: "evil always acts in the same way. Kills civilians, assuring that it hits military targets only. Arranges blockades and filtration camps. And Syrets becomes Olenivka. Koryukivka becomes Bucha [...] So evil always ends the same way. The invader becomes a capitulator. War criminals become defendants; aggression becomes a verdict. Destruction becomes reparations. Enemy equipment becomes museum exhibits [...] Today, russia's only tactic has become terror. Defeat is the only possible outcome of such tactics. Terror became a proof of their weakness and a test of our resilience". End of quote.

Colleagues, we know how to ensure the defeat of the evil. Weapons, sanctions and accountability remain the three ways to restore peace, security and stability in Europe.

And we see that this works. More russian missiles are intercepted. So, more modern air-defence and anti-missiles systems, including those capable to intercept the Iranian missiles, will close Ukraine's sky, protect the Ukrainian civilians and make russia's terror senseless.

Ukraine's Armed Forces continue to liberate our land in the Luhansk and Kherson regions.

Our defenders in the Bakhmut city are standing their ground firmly.

So, your military supplies to Ukraine are effective to repeal russia's invasion.

And more sanctions would deprive the russian regime of revenues to finance the war, including private armies, like the Wagner group. And let's be honest these sanctions would help to protect people's wealth from the kleptocratic kremlin regime.

But there is also a way for russia to end this war. The only way.

To that end, russia has to withdraw all its troops from our territory – and we are ready to provide all needed green corridors and security guarantees for their safe and quick withdrawal. Just do it!

russia has to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, and, of course, to assume the responsibility for all crimes committed against the Ukrainian people as well as to provide assurance of non-repetition of the aggression and reparation to the victims and return to the tenets of international law.

We are asking nothing special and extraordinary. Only justice for victims of the russian aggression. Since 2014. Only confidence in our democratic future. And clear guarantees that there would be no repetition of a new invasion by russia. Our demands are fair and just.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.