



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

**1061<sup>st</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(1 November 2023)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine allow me to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

«In war, truth is the first casualty» - these words are attributed to Aeschylus, the father of Greek tragedy.

The cynical lie about Ukraine's alleged genocide against its own people has become a pretext for Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine. After almost 10 years, we have learned that all Russian arguments are increasingly based on fabrications, insinuations and deceptions. Everything that the Kremlin regime does not like is declared untrue. The massacre in Bucha, the loss of cruiser "Moskva", the bombing by Russian troops of a theatre with civilians in Mariupol or the shelling of Ukraine's nuclear facilities are all presented by Russian propaganda as untrue.

The Russian authorities are trying to shift responsibility for their past and future crimes onto Ukraine. By spreading such misinformation, the aggressor state attempts to create the impression that Ukraine allegedly poses a threat to peace and security in the region. But this is not true. The goal of Ukraine is peace, defence and liberation of its territories from the Russian occupation. On the contrary, it is revisionist Russia that is a threat to world security.

Distinguished colleagues,

On 28 October, the third round of consultations on President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula took place in Malta. With 66 participating countries and international organisations representing all parts of the world, the meeting showed that the peace initiative of the President of Ukraine

has become a global initiative and it is accepted by the international community as a clear vision for the restoration of peace.

The unity of all responsible members of the international community remains a key element in achieving peace and defeating the aggression that continues to undermine the very foundations of international order.

Russia's efforts, unfortunately, are currently focused not so much on finding a formula to end the war, but on waging a war of attrition against Ukraine. The president of Russia, the Russian political and military elite and Russian citizens sincerely hope that the long-term war will lead to the collapse of Ukrainian statehood and to the achievement of the goal set by the Russian leadership - Russia's expansion to the borders of the USSR in 1991.

Today, the Russian army continues to focus its efforts on seizing Donbas. Every day, Ukrainian defenders have to repel dozens of attacks by Russian troops, who, under the cover of artillery barrage, are trying to break through the positions of Ukrainian defence.

Despite the fact that the further increase in the number of Russian casualties is the only result achieved by the Russian army, its military leadership continues to send more and more troops to the battlefield like cannon fodder. In attempts to seize the city of Avdiivka alone, Russian troops suffered the highest casualty rate in 2023, having lost more than 4,000 soldiers.

Russian forces also continue to conduct regular missile and artillery attacks on the civilian population and critical infrastructure in Ukraine. On 25 October, as a result of Russian attacks on the city of Beryslav in the Kherson region, 2 civilians, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed. On the same day, a Russian strike on Kherson injured at least 7 civilians. On 26 October, a 16-year-old boy was killed in the Sumy region as a result of artillery shelling.

Of significant concern is that regular Russian terrorist attacks continue to undermine the security of Ukraine's nuclear facilities. On 25 October, as a result of UAV strikes of the Russian Federation in the Khmelnytsky region, several buildings at the site of the Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant were damaged, including the passageway to the reactor buildings, the auxiliary building, the special equipment building, and the training centre. Due to the damaged power lines, more than 1,800 local residents were left without electricity.

Such actions of the Russian Federation endanger nuclear safety and security of the NPP and can lead to unpredictable consequences. They violate the 1949 Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocols, in particular Article 56 of the Additional Protocol of 12 August 1949.

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian side keeps reiterating that the so-called "special military operation" is proceeding according to its original plan. It is difficult to say whether the loss of 300,000 soldiers killed in Ukraine was part of this plan, but something can be said for sure. Faced with significant losses and increasing isolation, the Kremlin is forced to spend more and more resources in its war of choice.

On 26 October 2023, the Russian parliament adopted in the first reading the draft state budget for the next year, which provides for a substantial increase in military spending. According to open-source estimates, in 2024 Russia's military spending will amount to almost a third of all its outlays and will reach 115 billion US dollars. At more than 6% of the country's GDP, Russia's military spending will reach its highest share of the economy since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

These figures highlight that Russia's ongoing war of aggression is becoming increasingly expensive. But despite this, the Kremlin appears prepared for a long war of attrition.

However, we all know that this is not going to happen. The international community will never accept the Kremlin's aggressive actions and submit to its imperial ambitions. The aggressor will be defeated, international order will be restored, and all those responsible for the atrocities committed during the war will be inevitably punished.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.