



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

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

**1062<sup>nd</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(15 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.

As the 21st month of the Russian war is coming to an end, constant missile attacks and regular artillery shelling committed by the Russian forces continue to lead to new civilian casualties and destructions in Ukraine. Being unable to overcome the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the battlefield, the Russian forces are persisting in their attempts to cause maximum damage to Ukraine's economy and country's critical infrastructure ahead of the winter season.

This month alone, a wave of brutal missile attacks hit several energy objects critical to providing the population with basic needs such as electricity and heating. On 8 November, Russia attacked the equipment of a thermal power plant in the Donetsk region and gas distribution networks in the Dnipropetrovsk region. On 7 November, gas distribution facilities in the Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy regions were damaged. On 13 November, in the Donetsk region, 28 coal miners were temporarily trapped underground when as a result of artillery shelling the electric supply network was damaged.

Another target that remains a focus of attention of Russian troops is the port infrastructure in the southern regions of Ukraine. Regular attacks against Ukrainian civilian port infrastructure remain an integral part of Russian war efforts aimed at causing economic damage and undermining the spirit of resistance of Ukrainians. On 8 November 2023, Russia's Kh-31 anti-ship missile hit a civilian ship flying the flag of Liberia, killing a port worker and injuring another, as well as three Philippine citizens who were members of the ship's crew.

An attack against a civilian ship is a grave breach of international law. By doing so, the Russian Federation attempts to block the operation of Ukrainian ports and the movement of

merchant ships through a sea corridor in the Black Sea. This is another blatant attempt by Moscow to threaten the freedom of navigation and it has nothing to do with legitimate naval warfare.

Such actions are unacceptable and must be stopped immediately. The Russian Federation should cease impeding the lawful exercise of navigational rights and freedoms, exercised in line with the provisions of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Russian missile terror demonstrates how urgently Ukraine needs air defence and anti-missile systems to protect citizens and civil infrastructure from reckless Russian attacks, particularly in the coming winter season. Ukraine is grateful to all its international partners that have provided military assistance, including air defence systems, during these difficult times, and we call on all countries to continue it until victory over the aggressor. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy rightly noted that "every country, every leader who helps us bolster our air defence helps protect lives."

Esteemed colleagues,

At the very same time that the Russian forces continue to target the civilian population across Ukraine with all available modern and sophisticated weapons on the frontline, Russian military leadership continues to rely on the field manuals from the last century, based on indiscriminate destruction combined with human wave attacks.

The results of such tactics are visible in the area of Avdiivka, a settlement that became one of the first targets of the Russian ground invasion in winter-spring 2022, but withstood and continues to defend itself. Even today, when, in an attempt to encircle the city, the Russian side has concentrated almost 40,000 troops on its outskirts, Ukrainian troops continue to defend Avdiivka, causing substantial damage to the enemy.

According to the information of the local military-civilian administration, only during the recent attempt to seize Avdiivka, the Russian forces lost up to 4,000 killed and 7,000 wounded soldiers. In addition, more than 400 pieces of military equipment were destroyed.

A similar situation is observed along the entire frontline. Yesterday, as a result of 60 combat engagements, the Russian forces lost more than 820 soldiers, 15 battle tanks, 18 armoured vehicles and 58 artillery systems of various calibre.

At the same time, the Russian military leadership does not take into account the staggering number of victims and persists in its efforts to advance, destroying and levelling everything that they can reach. The Kremlin chooses to ignore the growing number of casualties among its soldiers and continues to invest more and more efforts in its war of choice.

Madam Chairperson,

A year ago, on 11 November, after 8,5 months of occupation, unable to maintain their military presence, Russian troops were forced to announce the so-called "regrouping of forces" and left the right bank of the Dnipro river in the Kherson region. This so-called "goodwill gesture",

as the Kremlin propaganda prefers to call Russia`s large-scale retreats, became a turning point in the war and allowed to oust the invaders from the Dnipro`s right bank territory of Ukraine.

To end the distractive war the Russian leadership must withdraw its forces from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. Until that in line with its right to self-defence enshrined in the UN Charter, the people of Ukraine remain resolute in their determination to continue defending their Motherland from Russian invaders. The full liberation of the entire territory of Ukraine and the restoration of principles of international law is our utmost goal. And this goal will be achieved.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.