



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on the current issue
“Twelve years since the full-scale military aggression against Georgia by the
Russian Federation”**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1279th meeting of the Permanent Council,
3 September 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine aligned itself with the Joint statement of the Group of Friends of Georgia and joined the EU statement in this regard. In addition, let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

A part of Georgia remains occupied by the OSCE participating State – Russia for 12 years already. Ongoing Russian invasion in Ukraine, which started 6 years ago, resulted in loss of more than 10000 lives. A part of my country is occupied by Russia as well.

Speaking about Georgia I speak about Ukraine because both stories are directly connected and the invasion against my country can be regarded as a continuation of the same aggressive policies of Russia. Who knows, maybe the international society could have prevented the second invasion if it had reacted more decisively to the first one.

Russia declared in this hall the importance of cooperation for the sake of international peace and security, unifying agenda, adherence to core principles of international law and founding values of this Organization.

It is obvious that restoration of Russia’s real respect to core OSCE principles is a necessary requirement for progress on rebuilding trust and confidence, undermined by Russia’s blatant disregard of sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbours.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like also to draw your attention to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, made in connection with the 12th anniversary of a direct military aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia.

I quote: “The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia unleashed on

August 7, 2008, the illegal occupation of Georgia's sovereign territories in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, as well as Russia's occupation regime actions aimed at their actual annexation.

The ongoing «borderization» of the occupied territories of Georgia, the systematic detentions and abductions of Georgian citizens on the occupation line, the restrictions of their fundamental rights and freedoms, an extremely difficult humanitarian and security situation are the main «achievements» of the 12 years occupation of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, by the Russian Federation.

Ukraine consistently supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders as well as urges the Russian Federation to cease the military aggression against Georgia, withdraw Russian troops from Georgia's occupied territories and provide unimpeded access to these territories for international human rights and monitoring organizations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon the international community to increase international pressure and strengthen the sanctions regime against the Russian Federation in order to force it to stop the aggression against Georgia and Ukraine as well as de-occupy their sovereign territories". End of quote.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.