



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Tracey Newell
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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Today marks 820 days since Vladimir Putin launched his war of aggression against Ukraine. Each day has been a grinding struggle for the people of Ukraine. We've witnessed the atrocities and abuses Russian forces have inflicted on civilians throughout Ukraine: the unspeakable horrors of Bucha, Irpin, Yahidne, Izium, and Mariupol. Many of us heard last week the heartrending experiences of Ukrainians whose family members are detained by Russian authorities or their proxies. Russia has not informed the families of their loved ones' whereabouts or wellbeing. There are an estimated 36,000 families in this agonizing situation.

And last week, we saw Russia launch yet another offensive against Kharkiv Oblast — home to a historically Russian-speaking city filled with the very people Putin claims to want to protect. In its relentless assaults on other frontline areas in Ukraine, Russia continues to send wave after wave of Russian soldiers, Iranian drones, North Korean artillery, as well as military equipment built with machines and parts supplied by China.

Yet what Putin thought would be a brief war is well into its third year. Each day, we've seen the people of Ukraine demonstrate remarkable heroism. They shield their compatriots from violence. They work to ensure the continued export of grain, critical to global food security. They hold the line against Putin's war machine. Each day, they demonstrate the grit that won them back over 50 percent of their land that Russia seized in the initial days of its full-scale invasion.

The people of Ukraine are not alone. The United States and a coalition of more than 50 international partners continue to stand with them. We are determined to help Ukraine succeed. Succeed on the battlefield to achieve a just and lasting peace, succeed in building a militarily secure Ukraine that can deter future aggression, and succeed in strengthening Ukraine's economy and democracy so that its people realize their aspirations for integration into the Euro-Atlantic community.

We are immediately focused on supporting Ukraine's defense in the Kharkiv region. As part of this, the United States approved a 1-billion-dollar security assistance package for Ukraine on April 24th. On May 15th, we announced an additional 2-billion-dollar assistance package to help Ukraine build up its defense industrial base.

Ukraine's partners have also collectively contributed over 85 billion dollars in economic and development assistance to Ukraine. For every dollar the United States has provided, other donors have invested three more. Japan and Korea, for example, are supplying generators and gas turbines to rebuild Ukraine's energy grid. Italy and Latvia are helping address the massive humanitarian and environmental costs caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka dam. Norway is rebuilding schools, hospitals, and other essential services. Many others are also doing their part.

This meant that in 2023, despite living with nearly a fifth of the country occupied by Russian forces and with cities under relentless bombardment, Ukraine's GDP grew by five percent. Private investment increased by 17 percent. State revenue rose by 25 percent. In 2023, 37,000 new businesses registered in Ukraine – more than in the year leading up to the Russian invasion.

Madam Chair, some claim time is on Putin's side. Some think that Putin's willingness to throw more Russian lives into his war and sink more of Russia's resources into trying to subjugate Ukraine means Russia *can't* lose. That's wrong. Long ago, the Kremlin lost the battle to control hearts and minds in Ukraine. Putin's Kremlin already has suffered a strategic defeat. And now, with each passing month, Ukraine signs more bilateral security agreements, ramps up its defense industrial base, churns out more advanced weapons, strengthens its economy, and consolidates its democracy. The path ahead will be brutally hard. But no one should underestimate the resolve of the Ukrainian people. And no one should underestimate the United States' resolve to stand with Ukraine.

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