



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1033rd FSC PLENARY MEETING**
(25 January 2023)
Agenda item 2, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Last year brought us irreparable losses, pain and suffering. The lives and homes of millions of Ukrainians were destroyed. But at the same time, it was a year of daily heroic deeds of the Ukrainian people, which proved that we cannot be broken. We, Ukrainians, have no other choice but to defeat the Russian criminal regime, which unleashed an aggressive war against Ukraine in order to destroy our state and Ukrainian identity.

This year we still have to hold the line and stubbornly and persistently win back our territory.

In the fight against a cruel and insidious enemy, Ukraine defends our common democratic values. These are the values that make our world free and civilized. We defend the world that our parents dreamed of and in which we want our children to live.

We are watching with horror and bewilderment as Moscow speaks openly about its right and its desire to destroy entire nations. All-consuming hatred for those who are different, for all whose vision of the future is not consistent with the Russian leadership's imperial ambitions became the foundation of Russian perception of the world.

The deceitful and manipulative statements of the Russian delegation demonstrate to what level the Kremlin's madness has reached and how hopeless it is to count on any political agreements with these people, who have long abandoned common sense in favour of completely illusory ideas about the world around them.

Dear colleagues,

The state of play along the entire frontline in Ukraine remains tense. The most difficult situation is observed in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions, where the Russian Federation continues to concentrate its offensive efforts. Currently, the most

intense hostilities are going in the area of Avdiivka, Lyman and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region as well as in the Zaporizhzhia axis.

In the area of Bakhmut, every day, Ukrainian troops are forced to repel up to 20 attacks of the Russian invaders who attempt to advance under the cover of artillery fire and persistently storm the positions of our troops.

Even the high number of casualties does not stop the Russian Federation and its leadership from the continuation of this senseless war. According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, every day the Russian Federation loses approximately 600-800 servicemen. Video footage taken from the UAVs in the areas of hostilities shows Russian commanders sending their troops to attacks wave after wave, recalling chronicles of the First World War.

As the total number of Russian losses has already surpassed 123,000 troops and continues to increase daily, the Kremlin's open indifference towards its own people boggles the imagination. However, it seems that the Russian side considers such high losses as an acceptable price for its own imperialistic revisionist ambitions and intends to continue its war of choice against Ukraine at any price.

For Ukraine, it is obvious that the only way to stop the Kremlin is to defeat it on the battlefield. We have no doubt that this goal will be achieved. Thousands of Ukrainian men and women in our Defence Forces have clearly demonstrated their resolute determination to do that.

On the battlefield in Ukraine, we can clearly see the results of strong consistent support for Ukraine from our friends and partners. We deeply appreciate what has been done and what is being done now.

However, to stop Russia's insane unjustified aggression, Ukraine needs more weapons. Against the backdrop of ongoing fierce hostilities, international military assistance to Ukraine is more important than ever.

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his address to the participants of the Ramstein Format meeting on 20 January: «all of us can use thousands of words in discussions, but I cannot put words instead of guns that are needed against Russian artillery, or instead of the anti-aircraft missiles that are needed to protect people from Russian airstrikes».

Heavy armoured vehicles, in particular tanks, air-defence systems and battle aircraft are especially needed to defend civilians and to liberate sovereign territories of Ukraine from the Russian occupying forces.

We call on all our friends and partners represented in this Hall to provide Ukraine with the necessary military assistance. We also urge you to continue sending a clear message to Moscow that armed aggression against an independent and sovereign state will never be accepted as a legitimate tool of foreign policy.

Esteemed colleagues,

Unable to achieve an «easy» victory on the battlefield, Russian troops continue to attack Ukrainian civilians and destroy critical infrastructure in an attempt to create unbearable living conditions for people and undermine Ukraine`s resolve to fight the aggressor. Of particular concern is the situation in the areas close to or adjacent to the frontline. For no military reasons, Russian troops regularly shell settlements there, causing destruction and killing civilians.

About 11 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes due to the war. This number includes 7 million internally displaced persons and 4 million Ukrainians who have registered for temporary protection abroad. Those who remained at home are forced to live under the constant threat of air raid warnings.

Experiencing a serious shortage of modern weapons after 11 months of high-intensity hostilities, the Russian side, however, does not abandon its terrorist tactics of targeting civilians. The Russian troops use weapons that are not designed for ground targets, such as Kh-22 and Onyx anti-ship missiles as well as missiles for the S-300 anti-aircraft system. Such strikes cause significant collateral damage and additional loss of life.

As a result of such barbaric strikes, more than 18,000 civilian casualties, including about 7,000 killed and more than 11,000 injured, have been registered by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) since the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion. In addition, millions of people remain without electricity, heating and water supplies, although Ukrainian emergency services are working around the clock to restore everything and to provide for the needs of people as quickly as possible.

We should also not forget about the situation in the temporarily occupied territories. International human rights organisations, in particular Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, regularly report on terrible facts of wishful killings, arbitrary detentions, tortures and disappearance of civilians in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

According to numerous pieces of evidence collected by human rights activists and law enforcement agencies, Russian troops held detainees in degrading conditions in basements, pits, boiler rooms, and factories where Russian soldiers subjected people to beatings, electric shocks, mock executions and waterboarding.

Ukraine continues to take all possible measures to ensure that the perpetrators of numerous crimes are held accountable. To this end, respective law enforcement agencies continue to document and investigate numerous atrocities committed by the Russian troops in Ukraine. According to the Prosecutor General`s Office of Ukraine, more than 65,780 crimes of aggression and war crimes have already been registered since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion.

We deeply believe that the Russian Federation and its criminal leadership will not escape justice for their terror, and we call on all responsible states to stand for justice and support the future UN resolution endorsing, among other things, the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

In this regard, we welcome the recent resolution of the European Parliament urging to push for the creation of a special international tribunal to prosecute Russian and Belarusian political and military leadership. It is a true sign of solidarity with Ukraine and all victims of the Russian war of choice.

Mr Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me say a couple of words about the Russian persistent attempts to convince us that the international community shares its approaches and does not support restrictive measures against it. Such false narratives are blatant war propaganda aimed at whitewashing horrendous war crimes that can only be accepted as true in the Russian Federation by the domestic audiences deprived of basic information about international affairs. But real facts, including the scale of international support within the UN, demonstrate quite the opposite. No one is fooled here.

There are only a few countries that support Russian aggressive policy. Not surprisingly, this short list includes similar rogue states such as Belarus, Iran and North Korea. This growing alliance of authoritarian states directly threatens the security situation both globally and within the OSCE. It is in our common interest to stop it, and we call on all participating States to take all necessary steps, including the imposition of sanctions and other additional restrictive measures.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.