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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

1092nd FSC Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr 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.

This Monday, 11 November, marked another anniversary of the end of the First World War — a war that no one in the world expected to be repeated. However, the war was repeated 21 years later, and its scale even exceeded the previous one.

The bitter experience of two world wars in the 20th century forced the international community to invest greater efforts in mechanisms for preventing armed conflicts and strengthening international security architecture. Since then, the international community has made significant progress, including the development of International Humanitarian Law, the non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction, the arms control architecture, and the toolbox of confidence and security-building measures.

One of the significant outcomes of these efforts is our Organisation, which for many years was considered a symbol of stability in Europe and an example for many other regions on how to build their own security architecture. Today, however, the OSCE area demonstrates to the world that the situation has changed dramatically.

Russia's war of aggression, driven by imperialistic goals, shows that the world has failed to eradicate the darkest pages of its unrestrained wars — mass murders, cities reduced to ruins by an army seeking conquest, and the uncontrolled use of weapons prohibited by international law.

Distinguished colleagues,

As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine approaches its 1,000th day, the security and humanitarian situation in the conflict zone continues to deteriorate. It is particularly alarming that the trend of increasing civilian casualties continues to mount.

According to the latest report by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (HRMMU) in September, more than 1,400 deaths and injuries were verified - the highest number since the start of the full-scale invasion.

Numerous residentials buildings, hospitals, and schools have been damaged, and other essential services, including water and electricity, were disrupted. In total, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian forces, the aggressor has completely destroyed or seriously damaged more than 155,000 residential buildings, 4,500 educational and medical institutions, and over 8,000 water and electricity networks.

On 5 November, a Russian airstrike on a critical infrastructure facility in Zaporizhzhia killed six people and injured 20.

On 7 November, Russia attacked Zaporizhzhia again, killing a mother, her one-year-old son, and a grandmother. A total, nine people were killed and 42 injured.

On the night of 8 November, Russian forces attacked the Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, and Kyiv regions, targeting people and civilian infrastructure with deadly drones, missiles, and guided air bombs. Those attacks claimed the lives of 10 people and left 83 injured.

On 11 November, Russian forces conducted airstrikes in several regions of Ukraine. At least three airstrikes hit the city of Zaporizhzhia, destroying a two-storey residential building and damaging a hostel and a car showroom. One person was killed and 20 were wounded. A Russian missile strike on Kryvyi Rih damaged more than 40 apartment buildings. According to preliminary reports, at least 12 people, including two children, were injured.

If the Russian Federation shows such disregard for civilians, what can be said about the atrocities committed against military personnel? The use of prohibited weapons and cases of

mistreatment of prisoners of war have regrettably become routine actions that are regularly documented in this war.

The most recent case occurred this week, on 11 November, when by the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine found another video in the Internet of a heinous execution of two Ukrainian Prisoners of War by Russian forces in the Kursk region of the Russian Federation.

Mr Chairperson,

The situation on the ground clearly shows that the Russian Federation is not only ignoring all peace initiatives, but is responding to them with ever-growing escalations — the intensity of attacks on civilians is only increasing, the number of executions of PoW continues to grow, and Russia's engagement with North Korea and Iran is reaching unprecedented levels.

The latter was particularly evident last week at the joint FSC-PC meeting, where the majority of participating States clearly expressed their concern over Russia's escalatory engagement of North Korean troops in the war of aggression against Ukraine. What was the response from the Russian side? The same messages that the Russian delegation used in this very chamber on the eve of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, assuring us that there were "no reasons for concern." As we know, in both 2022 and 2024, these words were nothing but blatant lies.

By spreading such narratives, the Russian Federation demonstrates time and again that it views the OSCE only as a platform to cover up its own aggressive actions. While in reality, its interest is to dismantle the rules-based international order at any cost.

This horrifying trend can only be stopped by ending Russia's war of aggression and restoring a world order based on respect for agreed norms and principles of international law. This goal can only be achieved if all peace-loving states unite their efforts. Ukraine needs a strong voice from all parts of the world in favour of a just and lasting peace.

At this critical juncture, we must reinforce all available instruments, from military assets to diplomatic tools, to compel the aggressor state to return to the tenets of international law and act in accordance with its obligations.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.