



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in
Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
on the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine
committed by the totalitarian Stalin's regime**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1452nd meeting of the Permanent Council,
23 November 2023

Mr. Chairperson,

Every year, on the fourth Saturday of November, Ukraine commemorates the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine – a genocide of the Ukrainian people, as well as of massive artificial famines of 1921-1923 and 1946-1947 also masterminded by the Soviet regime.

In 2023, we remember the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine, when the communist totalitarian regime, the predecessor of Putin's ruscism, committed a crime of genocide in Ukraine - the Holodomor. It was perpetrated by creating living conditions, in particular the coercive seizure of food from Ukrainian peasants, designed for physical extermination of Ukrainians as a nation with the aim of suppressing the national liberation movement in Ukraine, and preventing construction and establishment of an independent Ukrainian State.

A deliberately created mass starvation, brought about by the cruel actions and planned policies of the totalitarian Stalinist regime, killed millions of Ukrainians, and the fate of those who survived, was crippled. The horrors experienced left a deep trauma in several generations of Ukrainians.

The Holodomor-genocide was officially denied and concealed by the USSR authorities for many decades.

There are ongoing attempts by the Russian Federation to deny this horrendous crime.

Distinguished colleagues,

This year we will honor the victims of the Stalinist genocide for the second time amidst the ongoing Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

Nine decades after the Holodomor-genocide, the genocidal practices are again used against Ukrainians. Twenty-one months of the full-scale war testified that by invading Ukraine Russia aims to exterminate the Ukrainian nation, to destroy the Ukrainian state, identity and language. For this purpose, the occupiers are killing and deporting Ukrainians, destroying peaceful cities and civilian infrastructure, burning Ukrainian books and banning Ukrainian language.

Also, as many of you remember, since 2019 Russia banned the "Ukrainian World Congress", an NGO representing the interests of the Ukrainian national minority in Russia, adding its name to the list of so-called "undesirable organizations" – as we see, from the Kremlin's stance, it is very undesirable for a person to be a Ukrainian.

With the ongoing war of aggression, Russia pursues the same goal as during the Holodomor. It uses similar tools of subjugation, as well as chauvinistic propaganda

dissemination. In this regard, a recent UN Inquiry Commission report has become yet another shocking account of russia's atrocious crimes, including the incitement to genocide in the russian state and other media.

Moreover, we see how kremlin is trying to disguise and hide its genocidal actions in Ukraine through the hasty adoption of a number of legislative measures in russia. Namely, the simplified procedures for adoption, passportization and acquisition of russian citizenship, as well as forcible transfers and deportations under the pretext of evacuation for humanitarian reasons serve for these purposes. However, the creation of so-called "legal basis" in the russian legislation, will never change the fact that the actions of the russian federation are international crimes. To the contrary, they only reinforce the premeditated and systemic nature of russia's horrifying criminal pattern in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Today, russia once again uses hunger as a weapon in its full-scale war against Ukraine. Siege tactics and cases of obstruction of humanitarian aid delivery have left Ukrainian civilians lacking water and food. In addition, russia continues to threaten global food security by blockading Ukraine's grain exports worldwide.

The weaponization of food by russia poses a threat to millions of people around the world and undermines global food security.

We welcome the ongoing consolidation of international efforts to prove that russia uses starvation as a method of war against Ukrainians. There are ongoing investigations of the starvation-oriented war crimes committed by the russian federation in Ukraine, including the blowing up of the Nova Kakhovka NPP dam, starvation tactics used against the residents of Chernihiv, during the siege of Mariupol, and in russian detention against POWs and civilian hostages.

For the sake of justice, it is critically important to firmly hold the aggressor State to account.

Distinguished colleagues,

We underline the importance of raising public awareness of the tragic events of our common past, of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, of strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

After regaining independence in 1991, Ukraine made a long way to restore the national memory about the Holodomor-genocide.

The 90th anniversary of the Holodomor serves as a powerful reminder about the danger of the usurpation of power by autocratic regimes and our common obligation to defend the cause of humanity and our shared values.

Ukraine highly values the solidarity and support of the international community regarding the condemnation of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

We underline the importance of advancement of efforts aimed at the recognition by the OSCE participating States of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as a genocide of the Ukrainian people.

Dear colleagues,

I invite you to join a worldwide minute of silence and the "Light a candle" campaign this Saturday, on November 25, at 3:00 p.m. (CET), to honor the memory of the victims of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.