



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

### **Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1396<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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#### **Mr. Chairperson,**

Every week of russia's war of aggression brings new and new reports of destruction and death.

Last weekend in Ukraine began with a barrage of russian missiles, aimed again at critical civilian infrastructure.

That day, October 22, russia launched 36 missiles.

According to the Ministry of Energy, the russian invaders damaged up to 40% of Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Reportedly, russians also mined one of the largest Ukrainian power facilities - Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant.

The destroying of the facility could flood 80 towns including Kherson, and leave the Zaporizhzhia NPP without water. And water is being used there for cooling.

Moscow also tries to find false pretexts for escalation and the nuclear threats, including by inventing stories about Ukraine's "dirty bomb".

For illustration of this new campaign, the russian Foreign Ministry used photos of 2010. As usually, they are calling it "sensitive intelligence information". And we are grateful to our Slovenian colleagues for their prompt reaction.

I believe we will hear even more so-called intelligence disinformation from the kremlin envoys later today.

However, even in the face of these false allegations, Ukraine is ready to act as a responsible member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We are grateful to the IAEA for accepting the invitation and readiness to send its experts to the peaceful facilities in Ukraine where russia deceitfully claims to be developing a dirty bomb.

At the same time, there are more and more reports of forced deportation of local residents, especially children from the Kherson region.

In addition, russia continues to kill Ukrainian children, both born and unborn.

Two days ago, two people, including a pregnant woman, were killed in Dnipro by another missile attack.

There is also the story of an 8 years-old boy from Bakhmut, whose dad and mom, seven months pregnant, were killed due shelling.

And as of October 26, since the beginning of the russian invasion of Ukraine, 430 children have died, more than 822 children have been injured. But, of course, this is a very conservative estimation, as many areas remain under occupation.

At the same time, more and more traces of russian crimes are being discovered in the liberated territories. Currently, 22 torture chambers have been identified in the Kharkiv region.

This is how the genocide looks like. Let me remind once again how the International Convention identifies the signs of this terrible international crime.

This includes – killing members of the group; causing severe physical or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended at preventing births in the group; forced transfer of children of a group to another group.

Deliberate strikes on critical civilian infrastructure of Ukraine, forced deportation and adoption of Ukrainian children, sexual violence, tortures, indiscriminate shelling and so on – all russia's actions fall under the definition of this crime.

At the same time, the trial of Félicien Kabuga, for crimes committed during the 1994 Rwandan genocide, which began this fall in The Hague reminds us how dangerous are disinformation and aggressive genocide incitement.

A recent case of “russia Today” whose speaker at the weekend called for ‘throwing Ukrainian children into the river or burning them in the hut’, is a telling one in this regard, but not an isolated case.

Top kremlin propagandists continue to call to wipe off entire Ukrainian cities.

Last week, kadyrov's sons allegedly brought three prisoners of war from Ukraine to his father. They called them a “gift” for kadyrov. Whatever a reason for the spreading of this video, this case only strengthens our concerns about the treatment of POWs in russia and the urgency of ensuring a full and unhindered access to them by international organizations. We expect that the OSCE will also pay due attention to POWs.

And there is something new in russia's propaganda that is worth our attention. Officials from russia's security council have started talking about the “desatanization” of Ukraine while kadyrov is calling for a “holy war” against Ukraine.

Definitely, they are trying to appeal to religious feelings of both Christians and Muslims in attempts to mobilize russia. However, adding a religious dimension to war always leads to the birth of fundamentalistic organizations that pose a risk to russia itself and Europe as a whole. Maybe, it is how the russian regime is trying to get all attributes of a terrorist regime.

And I have only one question – quo vadis, russia? Back to the medieval times?

President Zelenskyy was very right to point when he said that: “russian potential is being wasted now on this madness - on a war against our state and the Free world. There was gas influence - not anymore. There was military influence - it is evaporating. There was political weight - now there is an increasing isolation. There were ideological ambitions - now there's only disgust. And this is a very important change in the configuration in our part of the continent - the more of its potential russia loses now, the more real freedom all peoples will get both next to russia and within its borders”.

This matters not only Ukraine. But belarus as well.

Being actually under russia's control, oleksandr lukashenko speaks about non-existent military threats from Ukraine and his readiness for preventive actions.

Under the guise of checks, a covert mobilization of citizens of belarus has begun, in order to man a joint grouping with russia.

But Ukraine has never threatened and will not be a threat to belarus. Ukraine has demonstrated exemplary restraint since February 24, when belarus has been used for launching missiles and Iranian drones, air and artillery strikes.

Here I would like to quote some lines from the address of Ukraine's Armed Forces to the Belarussian people last week.

"Dictators go into oblivion. War criminals find themselves on the trail. The walls are falling. The kremlin wall is also not eternal. Empires collapse. Peoples remain".

It is time to make a right choice, including for the belarussian society and diplomats.

**Esteemed colleagues,**

russia's missile terrorism is aimed to break the will of Ukrainians to resist.

But the outcome of these attacks is the opposite to russia's calculations.

The latest poll, conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology on October 21-23, showed that 86% of Ukrainians believe that it is necessary to continue armed resistance, even if russia does not stop shelling Ukrainian cities.

In parallel, moscow is trying its best on the diplomatic front. They want to deceive the world with their commitment to peace.

But the substance of the russian statements here, in the Council, tells a lot.

Claims that the West wages a "proxy war" and discourages Ukraine from a diplomatic solution clearly display russia's colonial thinking.

Moscow continues to believe that peace depends on the wishes and will of the great powers and the future of other nations can be decided behind their backs.

They still cannot accept the reality that there are 86% of Ukrainians, even after moscow's reckless attacks, who will resist despite russia's dreams about backdoor deals.

They still cannot accept that policies are shaped by ordinary people. Because they got used to ruling over people.

So, let's be honest – putin has no intention to end the war and he has not changed his goals since February. But there are clear reasons why he temporarily portrays himself as a dove.

Ukrainian defenders continue to liberate settlements in the Luhansk region.

Despite the endless attacks, the russian invaders cannot capture the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region already for three months.

And there is a growing risk of fleeing russian troops from the Kherson region.

All this makes vladimir putin to seek for a ceasefire. He needs time to cement his limited territorial gains and prepare troops for a new offensive.

This is what we learned from the Crimean lesson. And we have no right to repeat the mistakes of 2014.

As President Zelenskyy said yesterday at the first parliamentary Crimea Platform Summit – “peace is what we all lost in 2014 when Russia started its insane aggression. Started with Crimea [...] Crimea’s return will mean the restoration of true peace”.

And I want to be as clear as possible. There could be no compromises. Because it is about respect for territorial integrity and sovereign equality of participating states. And this is a fundamental pillar for a just and lasting peace in Europe.

Europe and the world need such a peace instead of the deceitful concepts suggested by the Russian regime.

We also need a justice for all victims of the Russian regime.

That’s why we need a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression and an international compensation mechanism. We call all participating States to support respective UN resolutions.

And last but not least, Ukraine needs weapons, first of all - air and anti-missile defense systems. Stronger sanctions against Russia. And, of course, total international isolation of Russia.

It is time to ask ourselves once again.

After committing the crime of aggression, numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity, after undermining global food and energy security, after Iran’s involvement into the war and nuclear threats, deliberate destruction of critical infrastructure, executing people and looting homes, after separating families and deporting children – what is the added value of sitting Russia at the table within respected international organizations?

Dialogue? Do we have a real dialogue here?

Does it make us safer or does it just give Russia the possibility to try to legitimize its criminal policies?

**I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**