



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1064th FSC Plenary Meeting
(06 December 2023)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam 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.

As Ukraine continuously repeats at all international platforms, real victory over the aggressor can only be achieved by establishing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with the principles set out in the UN Charter.

In pursuit of peace, Ukraine has proposed the Peace Formula that sets the path to a long-term solution. We are grateful to all countries that supported the Formula and are actively involved in its implementation. This demonstrates the unity of the international community and its strong commitment to the principles of international law on which the Ukrainian initiative is based. The more countries that join the format, the sooner aggression can be stopped.

However, it is important to emphasize that victory goes beyond a simple cessation of hostilities. We strive to restore the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, adhering to the fundamental principles of international law enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Any form of partial compromise risks legitimising Russia's claims and could embolden potential aggressors around the world. We know it from our own bitter experience. From 2014 to 2022, Ukraine held more than 200 rounds of consultations with

Russia to resolve the conflict in Donbas, agreeing to ceasefires 20 times. However, Russia violated all these agreements from the very beginning.

The Russian side used this time to strengthen its forces, culminating in a full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022. Since this turning point, for over 22 months now the Russian Federation has not stopped even for a moment in implementing its vile plan aimed at redrawing the world map by destroying Ukraine as an independent state.

As a result of these actions, at least 10,000 civilians have already been killed, including more than 560 children, and over 18,500 have been injured. Fleeing from the war, about 6 million Ukrainians were forced to leave the country, almost 5 million became internally displaced persons. More than 130,000 buildings were destroyed or severely damaged, including more than 720 medical institutions and over 2,800 educational institutions.

On 3 December, as a result of a Russian strike against the city of Kherson, 2 civilians were killed and 4 were wounded. A hospital and several residential buildings were damaged.

Unfortunately, it is already clear that the Kremlin's war of choice will not be stopped by either the number of civilian casualties or the high level of its own military losses. Russian troops suffered an average of more than 900 casualties per day in November, making it the deadliest month for the Russian army since the full-scale invasion began. Also in the same month, more than 1,000 units of Russian military equipment were destroyed.

Russian strikes create the threat of a large-scale man-made nuclear disaster. On 1 December, another Russian air attack led to a temporary loss of off-site power for Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP). Emergency diesel generators supplied the power needed for safety before the main connection was restored. It was already the 8th such power outage since the start of Russia's occupation of the Ukrainian peaceful nuclear facility.

This alarming incident highlights the perils faced by the ZNPP and proves how military actions jeopardise the safety of nuclear facilities, potentially leading to a catastrophic nuclear disaster with global consequences.

The Russian Federation must immediately cease all its illegal activities affecting nuclear installations in Ukraine and return full control over the forcibly seized facilities to the legitimate Ukrainian authorities. When the aggressor state refuses to do so, it is

critically important that the international community continue to take all necessary measures to force it to act accordingly.

Madam Chairperson,

For us, working in the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, it is especially important to understand how the Russian Federation perceives the work of international organisations. Regrettably, all indications are that it continues to view international organisations such as the OSCE solely as platforms for spreading disinformation and war propaganda.

We recently witnessed this approach in Skopje during the OSCE Ministerial Council, where Russian foreign minister Lavrov de facto declared that war is an acceptable foreign policy instrument and mass murderers should be engaged in dialogue regardless of what they did. With this statement, the Russian side demonstrated that it is not going to stop the war and will continue it at any cost.

We firmly believe that such so-called “dialogue” will only harm the organisation. The only possible way to avoid this harm and save this organisation as a credible platform for cooperation is to isolate the Russian Federation and deprive it of the international platforms it currently uses to spread its war propaganda narratives. There should be no place at the table for a country that prefers to use military force over civilised dialogue.

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: “No matter what they [the Russians] do, the world will not tire of defending freedom and international order.”

Since the Russian Federation has chosen the path of war, there is no other way to preserve freedom except to fight and defeat the aggressor on the battlefield. Today, on the Day of Armed Forces of Ukraine, all Ukrainians pay tribute to Ukrainian military men and women, who continue to defend their state and contribute to the restoration of international order, demonstrating outstanding courage and commitment.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.