



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

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
AT THE 1029<sup>th</sup> FSC PLENARY MEETING  
(16 November 2022)  
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.

Just recently, at the end of September 2022, the Russian Federation has made efforts to convince the entire world that more than 87% of the residents of Kherson spoke in favour of unification with the Russian Federation. This propaganda narrative was totally destroyed on 11 November, when after 8,5 months of Russian occupation, the first units of the Ukrainian Defence Forces entered the city of Kherson.

Numerous photo and video reports portray local people celebrating the liberation of the city from the Russian invaders. People reported that the advance of Ukrainian forces to the centre of Kherson slowed down as they had to make their way through the crowds of local residents rushing to hug Ukrainian soldiers.

The city was successfully de-occupied thanks to the Armed Forces, volunteers, partisans and ordinary Kherson citizens who supported Ukraine. They were not afraid to go out with Ukrainian flags in the streets at the beginning of the occupation and raised the flag over the city even before the approach of the Defence Forces. The people of Kherson showed the whole world in which country they really want to live.

Russians left a ruined and devastated city behind. In terms of infrastructure, everything that could be destroyed was destroyed - a large number of destroyed residential buildings, damaged communications, shot vehicles.

The issue of demining stands particularly acute. A huge area was mined by the fleeing Russian troops, including residential buildings, private houses and even ruins of the infrastructure facilities. To date, Ukrainian demining groups have already examined 210 hectares of territory revealing more than 1,700 explosive hazards.

The Russian occupation of Kherson also manifested itself in mass looting of private houses, industrial, infrastructural, medical, educational and cultural facilities.

For example, when retreating, the Russian troops took approximately 15,000 paintings from the museums of the Kherson region. In particular, the Russians looted the collection of the Kherson Art Museum, including icon paintings from the 17th and early 20th centuries.

In Kherson and other liberated settlements of the region, the stabilisation measures are ongoing to restore electricity supply and communication lines. In the region, stabilisation and restoration of law and order will be ensured in 226 settlements - this is more than 100,000 local residents.

The liberation of Kherson – the only regional centre that Russia managed to capture after 24 February – became a turning point in this war. The Ukrainian military has already de-occupied 52.5% of the territories seized by the Russian Federation since February 2022 – almost 78 thousand square kilometres.

Although we observe a significant decrease in the number of attacks in the south after the retreat of the Russian army from Kherson, in the Donetsk region, the fighting is as intense as in previous days. The level of Russian attacks is not decreasing.

The Russian Forces continue to conduct offensive operations in the area of Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Novopavlivka, attempting to seize new territories in the Donetsk region. Due to the regular attacks, thousands of local residents are left without water, electricity and communication and have serious problems with access to basic needs, such as medical care.

Along the entire front line, the Ukrainian Forces ensure the destruction of enemy supply chains, ammunition depots, enemy headquarters. To reduce the potential of the Russian occupation troops is our daily vital work. It saves the lives of our people.

Meanwhile, the Russian side does not give up its terrorist tactics. In disregard for norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law the Russian forces continue to conduct deliberate strikes against the civilian population of Ukraine and the critical infrastructure facilities using the entire range of available weapons from tube artillery to cruise missiles.

Just yesterday, on 15 November, Ukraine witnessed yet another wave of Russian missile attacks when the enemy launched more than 90 missiles and sent more than 10 strike UAVs to destroy Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure, energy system and residential areas. While 77 missiles and 11 drones were shot down by Ukrainian defenders, others reached their targets and left nearly 10 million Ukrainians without electricity and many of them without heating and communication.

This terrorist attack was Russia's response to Ukraine's proposals for ending the war of aggression initiated by Russia and the restoration of international peace and order. The attack has also become a stark reminder of how the negotiations with terrorists end.

The indiscriminate use by Russia of military force against civilians and civilian infrastructure is a war crime that will be inevitably punished. To date, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies continue to investigate more than 46,888 war crimes and crimes of aggression committed by the Russian troops since the beginning of the aggression on 24 February 2022. These cases include the investigation of numerous violations of the laws and customs of war, in particular deliberate killings, tortures and indiscriminate shelling of protected civilian objects. The numbers increase daily.

With its crimes in Ukraine, the Russian Federation showed the whole world that it can kill. But we, Ukrainians, our defence Forces have shown that it is impossible to kill Ukraine.

Esteemed colleagues,

Being totally isolated in the international arena and understanding that the international community will not accept its aggressive revisionism as the normality of inter-state relations, the Kremlin regime is forced to mobilise at least some of its so-called international allies.

To this end, it approaches similar to its own regime pariah states by seeking and obtaining assistance from such countries as Iran and North Korea. While there is no doubt that the Iranian UAVs are widely used by the Russian forces in Ukraine (and it was even confirmed by the Iranian side), available information indicates that also North Korea is engaged in supplying the Russian forces by delivering artillery shells. Indeed, such close ties between the Russian Federation, Iran and North Korea demonstrate the true successes of Russian diplomacy, its armed forces and the military industry.

We should not also forget about the ongoing political and military support of Moscow by the Minsk regime. Despite all calls from the international community, Belarus continues to provide its territory and respective military infrastructure for the needs of the Russian forces involved in the war against Ukraine. This also includes Belarusian airspace and airfields used by the Russian aerospace forces to commit missile attacks against Ukraine. Such actions aimed at practical support of armed aggression constitute a gross violation of international law and will not remain without consequences.

Mr Chair,

Russia did not abandon the plan to seize all of Ukraine. Russia continues to consider territory of Ukraine to be "its own". Russia did not change the main goal; it only changed the means: if it doesn't work out at the front, they hit civilian infrastructure in order to force us to agree to a truce.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba made it clear: «Ukraine does not give up diplomacy. However, the current Kremlin's statements about its alleged readiness for negotiations are just a smokescreen. Russia pretends to be constructive but, in fact, it wants to take a break in order to recover from defeats and to continue later the war with new strength. We are not going to accept that and call on the partners not to play along with Moscow».

The bitter experience of 8 years of negotiations with the Russian side that ended with a large-scale invasion of Ukraine taught us that victory over the Kremlin regime can only be

achieved on the battlefield. Ukraine remains convinced that any kind of diplomatic talks with the Russian side would be possible only after the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity in full respect for the UN Charter.

In his address to the G20 Summit on 15 November, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented a strong vision of how to achieve real and long-lasting peace for our country and the whole of Europe and ensure the stabilisation of the international situation.

The President outlined ten challenges to overcome on the path to peace. These are: ensuring of radiation and nuclear safety, food and energy security; release of all prisoners of war and return of illegally deported people; implementation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity; withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and cessation of hostilities; restoration of justice by ensuring punishment for all war criminals; countering of ecocide; prevention of new escalation through the adoption of security guarantees for Ukraine.

Only after achieving these goals, we can finally sit at one table to sign a peace agreement that will confirm the end of the war.

An important step in this direction was the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution "Furtherance of Remedy and Reparation for Aggression against Ukraine", in which the Assembly recognized that the Russian Federation must be held to account for any violations of international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law in or against Ukraine. The Assembly also recognized the need for the establishment of an international mechanism for reparation for damage, loss or injury arising from Russia's internationally wrongful acts. We welcome the adoption of this resolution and are grateful to all states that supported it.

To conclude I would like to quote an address of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that he delivered during his visit to the liberated Kherson: «We are moving on. We are ready for peace, but peace for the entire country. This is the territory of our entire state. We respect international law and the sovereignty of every state, and now we are talking about the sovereignty of our state. That is why we are fighting against Russian aggression».

These words precisely describe Ukraine's readiness to fight against the aggressor till the full restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including the territories that the Russian Federation attempted to annex in Crimea, Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.