



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

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

**1049<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(14 June 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.

It has been one week since the Russian occupiers detonated the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) Dam in the temporarily occupied Kherson region, causing a severe humanitarian and ecological disaster that extends far beyond the region.

As was stated in the recent UN report on the consequences of the destruction of the Dam: «It will have severe, long-term impacts on Ukraine's environment, economy and society, including possible displacement and migration of population, and is likely to cast a dark shadow over the country for decades to come».

Indeed, extensive flooding triggered by the destruction of the Dam compelled thousands of residents to flee and wreaked environmental havoc. At least 9 people have been killed and 43, including 7 children, are currently reported missing. 77 settlements in the Kherson and Mykolaiv regions have been flooded.

This man-made ecological disaster seriously impacts the irrigation system of the southern regions of Ukraine, dealing another significant blow to global food security.

Ukrainian authorities continue to take all necessary measures to address the dire consequences of the disaster at the Kakhovka HPP Dam. To date over 4,000 people have been evacuated from the affected areas. Numerous volunteers help to conduct evacuation and save animals trapped by floodwaters.

Meanwhile, the Russian forces persistently shell Government-controlled areas on the right bank of the Dnipro River, impeding the evacuation of the local population. Just recently, in the Kherson region, the Russian forces targeted a boat transporting people

from the left bank of the Dnipro River to the right bank. As a result, 3 people were killed, and 10 were injured.

By this, the Russian Federation once again demonstrated its enmity to the local population and complete disregard for the norms and principles of international humanitarian law.

The explosion of the Kakhovka HPP Dam is nothing but an act of terrorism. It is the most significant technological disaster in Europe in recent decades, and yet another example of Russia's ecocide in Ukraine. The Kremlin committed this horrific act of terrorism in an attempt to hinder any potential counteroffensive by the Ukrainian troops. The invaders are ready to turn the theatre of hostilities into a zone of natural disaster only to restrain the liberation of Ukrainian lands.

However, as President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, clearly stated: «The disaster at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant caused by Russian terrorists will not stop Ukraine and Ukrainians. We will liberate all our lands. And each Russian act of terrorism increases only the amount of reparations that Russia will pay for its crimes, not the chances for the occupiers to stay on our land».

Esteemed colleagues,

With the express purpose of destroying Ukraine and sowing fear and undermining the resolve of the Ukrainian people to resist the aggressor, the Russian Federation persistently carries out air and missile strikes throughout Ukraine. Consequently, we continue to witness new civilian casualties and further damage on a daily basis.

In the past week alone, Russian troops launched 64 cruise and ballistic missiles of various types, executed 377 air strikes, used 76 Shahed-type UAVs and conducted 375 strikes using multiple-launch rocket systems.

The Russian Federation consistently employs all available weaponry in its acts of terrorism further increasing the death toll among innocent civilians. According to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the total number of casualties resulting from the war already constitutes 8,983 killed and 15,442 injured.

Yesterday, on 13 June 2023, as a result of the Russian massive missile strike on the City of Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region), 11 people were killed and 30 were injured after one Russian missile hit a residential building.

On the same day, as a result of a Russian missile strike against a residential area in Odesa, 3 people were killed and 13 were injured.

The strikes on Kryvyi Rih and Odesa as well as other rear cities are a continuation of Russia's terrorist campaign against the civilian population. Russia suffers defeats at the front and takes revenge on the civilian population of Ukraine.

Even the protected status of medical institutions does not deter Russians from making the decision to strike. On 9 June 2023 when a guided air bomb struck a local

hospital in the Huliaipole settlement (Zaporizhzhia region). As a result of this deliberate attack, 2 people were killed and 2 were injured.

Ukrainian air defence is already much more powerful and destroys most of the enemy's air targets. However, it is impossible to neutralize 100% of the threat in a vast territory.

The indiscriminate use by Russia of military force against civilians and civilian infrastructure constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law and such acts will not go unpunished, including actions committed by ordinary soldiers who implement the Kremlin's inhuman war plans.

«It is the soldier who is at the end of the chain of command, and it is he who must activate the detonator», - as was rightly stated in the statement of the Co-ordinator of the FSC Chair for the OSCE Code of Conduct during the Security Dialogue last week.

Madam Chairperson,

The high number of civilian casualties does not deter the Russian Federation and its criminal leadership from perpetuating this bloody war. Displaying a complete disregard for human life, the Kremlin persists in its war efforts aimed at capturing new territories, particularly in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

To achieve this objective, the Russian forces persist in their attempts to advance in the areas of Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Mariinka. Just yesterday, the Russian forces made 28 attempts to attack Ukrainian defence forces in the region. However, the Armed Forces of Ukraine not only successfully repelled all these attacks but also conducted counteroffensives in certain sections of the frontline.

As a result of these actions, in the past week alone, Ukraine's Defense Forces advanced by 6,5 kilometres and liberated 7 settlements in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions, gaining control over 90 square kilometres of territory. The Armed Forces of Ukraine will continue their counteroffensive actions until the entire territory of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders, is fully liberated from the Russian occupiers. We express our gratitude to all international partners of Ukraine who continue to provide us with the necessary support to achieve this goal.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our firm position that the only viable solution to ending the ongoing war is to achieve victory over the aggressor state and defeat it on the battlefield. We are confident that this goal will be achieved.

Ukraine remains unshakable in its desire to restore the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the territories that the Russian side attempted to annex in Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.