



**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 1442<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
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#### **Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues,**

The images of the documentary 20 Days in Mariupol we watched two days ago are still before my eyes.

They are a true face of the russian aggression against Ukraine.

Dying children, mass graves, bombed maternity hospital, burning houses.

This is a harsh reality brought by russia to my country, starting from the occupation of Crimea in 2014.

I am grateful to the delegations of the United States, European Union and Poland for bringing this powerful testimony to the OSCE.

What happened to those people interviewed?

Did they survive or were filtrated by russia because they didn't support the russkiy mir and did want to live in an independent and sovereign Ukraine?

Are children still alive or they were among those in a theatre bombed by russia?

Or are they among those deported to russia for re-education and adoption?

And did international humanitarian law manage to protect medical workers who faithfully performed their duties in Mariupol without water, heat and electricity?

Or did they die under russia's missiles as many others in russia's deliberate attacks against objects protected by international law?

These questions apply to each and every day of russia's war.

Even this night and early in the morning russia conducted two missile attacks. A hotel was hit in Cherkasy – so far, 9 persons were wounded. In Kyiv, reportedly a child is among those injured. There are damages in Kharkiv, and also in Lviv and Rivne regions. A woman was killed in Kherson in the morning.

A scale of the crimes is striking.

The Ukrainian law enforcement agencies launched an investigation into 106,711 war crimes and crimes of aggression.

They include the killing of 11,099 civilians, including 503 children, and the wounding of 16,613 civilians including 1122 children.

These figures do not take into account the temporarily occupied areas.

And I want to repeat a point made yesterday by a Reckoning Project – behind these numbers are people.

Furthermore, torture is being perpetrated against civilians and prisoners of war on a large scale.

As stated by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, it “appears neither random nor incidental, but rather orchestrated as part of a state policy to intimidate, instil fear, punish, or extract information”.

This policy is implemented by the OSCE participating State.

russia also systematically destroys civilian infrastructure facilities.

124,717 objects, including 99,538 residential buildings, 2742 educational and 597 medical institutions, 484 cultural and 145 religious buildings, and 5094 water and electricity networks were damaged or destroyed.

Even two days ago, russia destroyed the warehouse of the nongovernmental organization Caritas-Spes in Lviv. In result of the attack, a father of three was killed.

Furthermore, the vital humanitarian facility, which contained approximately 300 tons of relief supplies, was burned to the ground.

As the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine stated, “attacks impacting humanitarian assets have escalated throughout the year and ultimately impact those who are suffering the horrific consequences of the war”.

This must stop.

**Dear colleagues,**

russia not only neglects international law.

moscow also tries to turn international law and OSCE commitments upside down to justify its aggression and consolidate the occupation regime.

The abuse by russia of the Genocide Convention as a pretext for a full-scale invasion of Ukraine is one of the most appalling examples.

And I want to repeat questions posed by Ukraine’s Agent during the public hearings ongoing in the International Court of Justice.

“Can a state really abuse the Genocide Convention to justify a war of aggression?

Can a state use groundless accusations of genocide as an excuse to destroy cities, bomb civilians, and deport children from their homes?”

Definitely, not.

The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, seizure of the ZNPP, targeting of the critical infrastructure, ports blockade, just to name a few crimes - all of them pose an existential threat to our people.

However, russia does not exist above the law. Their impunity must be over.

Finally, the kremlin regime and russian leadership must be brought to account.

Therefore, we are grateful to all participating States who decided to intervene in the case Ukraine vs russia concerning Allegations of Genocide. Your statements delivered yesterday are much appreciated.

We are also grateful to countries who took part in the second meeting of the Conference of Participants of the Register of damage caused by the russian federation’s aggression against Ukraine, held in Latvia on September 11.

The implementation of “Riga principles” is an important effort to achieve comprehensive accountability for russia’s aggression against Ukraine and provide redress to all victims of the war.

And of course, the establishment of a Special Tribunal would be an important step in strengthening the international community's ability to prevent and halt a crime of aggression.

Likewise, any russia's attempt to abuse and misuse democratic norms and institutions to cover up its crimes must be resolutely condemned.

Therefore, we are grateful to the OSCE leadership for the condemnation of russia's sham elections in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

These fake elections is the continuation of the degradation of the russian state.

**Dear colleagues,**

As President Zelenskyy stated in his address to the UN General Assembly, I quote, "each decade russia starts a new war.

Parts of Moldova and Georgia remain occupied. russia turned Syria into ruins.

And if it hadn't been for russia, the chemical weapons would have never been used there in Syria.

russia has almost swallowed Belarus. It is obviously threatening other states [...] Many seats in the General Assembly may become empty if russia succeeds with its treachery and aggression".

And I can add that also many seats in the OSCE as well.

But we can prevent it. russia's intentions are clear. moscow's steps are predictable. The kremlin badly needs a pause to replenish resources.

While russia is promoting some shady dealings behind the scenes, it will continue to intensify contacts with North Korea and Iran.

A new axis of evil is in making.

However, to implement all its plans, russia needs adequate financial sources, technologies, equipment and human capital.

This is the limit of russia's ambitions.

Further sanctions against russia's energy sector, real restrictions on the supply of chips and microelectronics, and further blocking of the russian financial sector would significantly restrict russia's potential to wage the war against our freedom, our common freedom.

This includes also undermining russia's plans to increase the production of drones as foreseen by recently approved the "Development Strategy for Unmanned Aviation Until 2030".

Drones, which are currently actively used to attack Ukraine's port infrastructure, thus, undermining global food security.

At the same time, providing Ukraine with long-range weapons would help to prevent russia's terrorist attacks.

These weapons are much needed to disrupt the logistical lines and destroy ammunition depots located far from the frontline in the temporarily occupied territories.

This is how we can effectively save lives of civilians and defenders as well as to speed up the liberation of people from the russian occupation.

**Dear colleagues,**

I would like to conclude my statement with another one testimony shared recently by Katya and Sofia from the village of Yakivlivka, Kharkiv region.

When russia tried to occupy Kharkiv region last year, during one of russia's airstrikes, Katya and Sofia's parents were killed by a rocket.

They literally collected their parents piece by piece in the courtyard in front of their destroyed house.

It took them two and a half months to find a body of their mother. Two and a half months!

As Katya said, "Look at this wonderful world from putin! I will never be able to go outside to take fresh air and not to have recollection of what happened here".

This is a "wonderful world" putin and his army left in Mariupol, Bakhmut, Izum, and many other places. 20 Days in Mariupol gave us a good understanding how this russia's "wonderful world" looks like.

And we know that putin will continue to do the same in new places as long as he is allowed to do that.

But we know how to stop him.

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