



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1022nd FSC PLENARY MEETING
(21 September 2022)**

Agenda item 1, 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.

When we are talking about the number of casualties of the terrible war of aggression initiated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, we always say that the real number of killed Ukrainians is much higher since access to information during the active phase of hostilities is quite limited and more accurate calculations will be possible only after the liberation of our territory.

Last week, the examination of recently liberated areas in the Kharkiv region revealed one of the most tragic pages in the history of this war - the sites of the mass burial in Izyum settlement. More than 440 graves of both militaries and civilians, including children, were found there. According to the information from the local authorities, the majority of bodies exhumed in the first days had signs of violent death.

At this burial site, graves of six members of one family were found, including two children aged 5 and 8. All of them died under the rubble of the high-rise building, which was destroyed by a Russian missile strike on 9 March. According to the testimony of eyewitnesses of the tragedy, cries for help were heard from under the rubble for 3 days after the rocket attack.

Currently, the exhumation works in Izyum are going on and every day representatives of law-enforcement agencies establish new evidence of terrible atrocities

committed by the Russian troops during the occupation. Izyum is next in line after Bucha, Irpin and many other Ukrainian cities, towns and villages, in which Russia's occupation left nothing but numerous deaths and severe destruction.

Definitely, it is not enough just to condemn such terrible atrocities. It is important to ensure a full and comprehensive investigation to identify all persons responsible for these appalling acts and hold them accountable.

To this end, the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has established special mobile investigation teams consisting of different law-enforcement, military and emergency services. Currently, 23 such teams are working in the Kharkiv region revealing new episodes of Russian atrocities and numerous war crimes committed in violation of all norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law.

Additionally, five specialized groups have been created for the investigation of torture and identification of torture chambers and places of illegal detention. Just recently, one of such groups identified a torture chamber equipped in the railway station building in the Kozacha Lopan settlement (in the Kharkiv region) where people were illegally detained and tortured, in particular with the use of electricity. The Russian army that laid claim to being the second most powerful army in the world, uses the same methods of interrogation and torture as ordinary criminals and terrorists.

Recently, the so-called „supreme court of the Luhansk People's Republic" has passed a sentence of 13 years' imprisonment against two local staff employees of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine on trumped-up charges of "high treason." We strongly condemn this verdict orchestrated by the Russian Federation.

We insist that terrorist methods of treatment of the OSCE personnel in Ukraine in the temporarily occupied by Russia territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions are inconsistent with the further membership of the Russian Federation in the OSCE.

We call on the OSCE participating States and the leadership of the organisation to increase political and sanctions pressure on Russia to force it to immediately release the illegally detained representatives of the OSCE SMM personnel in Ukraine.

Mr Chairperson,

The Russian Federation continues to use nuclear blackmail as a complementary instrument of its war of choice. The situation around the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant continues to be tense due to the ongoing Russian military presence there.

The adoption by the IAEA Board of Governors of its Resolution «The safety, security and safeguards implications of the situation in Ukraine» on 15 September 2022 is an important step of the international community in response to Moscow's irresponsible behaviour. The Resolution urges the Russian Federation to immediately cease all actions against, and at, the Zaporizhzhya NPP and any other nuclear facility in Ukraine, in order for the competent authorities to regain full control over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, including the Zaporizhzhya NPP.

The complete demilitarisation of the plant, the immediate withdrawal of all Russian troops from there is the only thing that can ensure the implementation of this IAEA resolution and avert a nuclear disaster before it happens.

Remarkably, like in all cases before, the Russian Federation prefer to ignore all calls of the international community. On the contrary, Russia reinforces the geography of its terroristic activities. On 19 September, the Russian army conducted a missile strike against the industrial facilities of Pivdennoukrainska NPP in the Mykolaiv region. One of the explosions occurred just 300 meters from the reactors. The NPP's buildings were damaged by the blast wave, in particular, more than 100 windows were broken.

Besides, openly violating the provisions of international humanitarian law, on 14-15 September, the Russian troops deliberately targeted hydro-technical infrastructure in the city of Kryvyi Rih (the Dnipropetrovsk region), causing extensive flooding. This case clearly demonstrates how urgently Ukraine needs air defence and anti-missile systems to protect citizens and civil infrastructure from reckless Russian attacks.

Due to the high-precision and efficient weapons already provided to Ukraine by our partners, we succeeded in counterbalancing Russia's numerical superiority, having targeted its logistical supply lines, ammunition depots, manpower concentrations and command centres.

Esteemed colleagues,

Despite the heavy losses in manpower and weapons, the Russian forces do not give up their efforts to organise the defence of already captured areas and even seize new territories, in particular in the Donetsk region. The Russian troops continue to conduct massive shelling with the use of tube artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, launch missile and rocket attacks and conduct active reconnaissance using radio-electronic warfare systems and aviation.

Facing a substantial lack of manpower (since the beginning of the invasion the enemy has lost already more than 55,110 soldiers, the Kremlin resorted to hidden mobilisation to replenish Russia's mounting losses. These measures include forced conscription of locals in the occupied territories of Ukraine and wide use of security and private military companies. In Crimea, for example, to facilitate the conscription, a ban was established for men to leave the occupied peninsula without a permission issued by a recruiting centre.

By announcing a partial mobilisation this morning, president Putin simply legalized the hidden one that had been conducted before. It is obvious that the Kremlin is afraid to announce full mobilisation because of the attitude towards it in society. It is still unclear where the Russians will take trained middle and junior command staff and how they will manage to provide the mobilised.

Russian minister of defence Shoigu stated that their losses are 5,937 killed but they plan to call up 300,000 reservists. "Entertaining" arithmetic. The army lost only about 6,000 out of almost 1 million. But they urgently need another 300,000 soldiers. Do the Russian people really believe the authorities about the losses?

Mr Chairperson,

Nearly 1/5 of Ukraine's territory remains occupied. In the territories occupied after 24 February, the Russian Federation continues to reproduce the same patterns it used in the occupied Crimea and parts of Donbas since 2014: appointment of the occupation administrations, illegal passportisation and forcible recruitment of Ukrainian men into the Russian armed forces.

Another pathetic attempt by Russia to legitimize the consequences of its aggressive war against Ukraine was the announcement of intentions to hold sham referendums in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia - in the territories that Russia does not even fully control.

The decision to play the farce in the form of sham referendums is president Putin's clear acknowledgement of the defeat of the "special military operation".

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba spoke clearly on the issue: „Sham "referendums" will not change anything. Neither will any hybrid "mobilization". Russia has been and remains an aggressor illegally occupying parts of Ukrainian land. Ukraine has every right to liberate its territories and will keep liberating them whatever Russia has to say."

The Ukrainian Defence Forces will continue liberating our territory till the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Mr Chairperson, I thank you and ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.