



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1382nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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Mr. Chairperson,

The war continues. Russia does not stop shelling for a single day. It means 141 days of the senseless and barbaric war of choice made by the Russian president. Likewise, it continues to terrorize the Ukrainian population.

On the 9th of July, yet another residential building was destroyed by Russia's rocket – this time in Chasiv Yar, the Donetsk region. The death toll rises from day to day as rubble is removed. So far, the number of killed has increased to 47 people, including a nine-year-old boy.

The invaders hit Kharkiv and the communities of the region - Stryi Saltiv, Zolochiv, Bayrak and others.

During the week the city of Mykolaiv was under massive attacks. Only on July 12, Russia launched more than 20 rockets at Mykolaiv. On that day, a school, two hospitals and residential buildings were among Russia's targets.

The city of Kryvyi Rih, communities of Zaporizhzhia region and Zaporizhzhia itself were also under fire.

In Donbas the situation remains complicated, as Russia undertakes offensive attempts. Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Bakhmut, Toretsk, Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk face brutal attacks.

Even two weeks after the Russian president declared the full occupation of the Luhansk region, the Russian troops are still focusing their main efforts on establishing final control over this region.

At the same time, step by step, Ukraine is gradually moving forward in the Kharkiv region, in the Kherson region, and at sea. This proves the effectiveness of the use of modern weaponry received by Ukraine as well as explains Russia's attempts to challenge these supplies.

So, is everything still going according to the plan of the Kremlin?

The situation in the Luhansk regions is quite illustrative to demonstrate the Kremlin's failures in implementing the initial plans.

As it was rightly pointed out by the President of Ukraine "[Russians] no longer have strategic strength, character, or understanding of what they are doing on our land. They also don't have even a grain of courage to admit defeat and withdraw troops from Ukrainian territory".

In view of this, Moscow does not stop its efforts to drag Belarus directly into the war. The Kremlin not only wants to share with Minsk legal responsibility for the

crime of aggression, but moscow also badly needs additional resources, namely Belarusian people, to maintain its attack on Ukraine.

The same fate our people are facing in the temporarily occupied territories where they are mobilized to the russian army. We call upon Minsk to take the right decision and stop supporting russia's aggression, thus, protecting its people from russia's expensive foreign policy adventures.

Furthermore, according to reports, russia is searching for additional weaponry, including UAVs.

This proves that the sanctions are effective and must be strengthened. russia is incapable to produce modern weaponry without access to Western technologies and spare parts.

It also shows that moscow is trying to adapt itself to existing sanction regimes and is looking at different backdoors to get what it needs as well as to sell its production on the market. A number of schemes have already been disclosed.

Therefore, this topic deserves special attention from the OSCE.

While russia is conducting its brutal attacks, moscow is also undertaking illegal steps in other realms.

In this regard, we resolutely condemn the decree of the russian president, which simplifies the procedure for granting russian citizenship to all citizens of Ukraine.

This move testifies, in particular, to the continuation of the kremlin's course of seizing Ukrainian lands, the destruction of the Ukrainian State, and the forced assimilation of the Ukrainian nation.

This decree is null and void, however, it demonstrates russia's aggressive appetites and should become a cold shower for those who still believe that moscow is negotiable.

In view of this, I would like to repeat the call by Minister Kuleba "to react strongly to putin's passport fantasies by supplying Ukraine urgently with more heavy weapons and imposing new economic sanctions on russia".

By passporting the Ukrainian citizens in the occupied territories russian would also try to force them to participate in the criminal activities of the occupation administrations.

Crimea is an illustrative case in this regard. The full-scale russia's invasion has caused new challenges for the peninsula. In the course of four months, the occupation administrations have been secretly mobilizing citizens of Ukraine to the war.

The territory of occupied Crimea is also used for the forced transfer of Ukrainians from the newly occupied territories and zones of active hostilities, as well as for the detention of civilian hostages, prisoners of war, former military personnel, and representatives of local self-government.

At the same time, russia continues the practice of prosecuting Ukrainian citizens on the peninsula, including aimed at destroying the identity of the Crimean Tatar people. The latest example is a sentence against three Crimean Tatars – Oleh Fedorov, Ernest Ibragimov and Ismet Ibragimov.

russia must be stopped from staging politically motivated criminal cases. We call once again upon the OSCE and its institutions to continue paying special attention to the temporarily occupied territories, including the Crimean Peninsula, including by launching remote monitoring of the situation there.

Distinguished colleagues,

russia has chosen the path of war and challenged the European order, including based on the Helsinki Final Act.

Therefore, russia cannot enjoy its seat at the table for granted and continue abusing it by challenging the very foundations of the OSCE.

We have to treat russia respectively to the destructive role it plays in the European security. It is not a secret that russia has never followed the rules and the kremlin will not play by the rules unless it sees our strength.

And we need a serious discussion. With russia or without russia, actually, it doesn't matter, because now it is more than obvious that russia would be a threat for years to come. And this axiom has to be a starting point for any discussion on how to improve our security by isolating russia's aggressiveness.

It is also important to figure out how the OSCE can address new threats and challenges created by the russian federation, and how, therefore, to preserve the integrity of our Organization.

This goes about the illegal passportization and preparation for sham referendums, filtration practices, forced deportations, widespread disinformation and propaganda, misuse of the concept of the protection of "russian-speaking communities" as a false pretext for aggression.

This demands the deeper engagement of the OSCE institutions which, we believe, are properly mandated in this regard. Suggestions about better utilization of the existing OSCE toolbox, including the conflict cycle, would be also useful in this regard. Respective recommendations could be prepared by the Conflict prevention centre.

These threats are not only about Ukraine. russia's rhetoric demonstrates that other participating States, whom moscow could consider as belonging to its so-called zone of influence, also face potential security risks.

From day to day, we are getting more convinced that russian cynicism has no limits. Remarks by minister Lavrov that Ukraine's production of grain has no impact on global food security, are not good at all. Ukraine's contribution to global food security is significant, it is enough to feed 400 million people. In addition to the blockade of the Ukrainian ports, russia deliberately burns Ukrainian fields with crops almost ready for harvesting. But has russia ever cared about human lives?

In addition to this, russia continues weaponizing the energy supplies. The situation with the Nord Stream I is very sound. It is a waking call that russia will shut down the supply of gas to Europe at the most acute moment. This is what we need to prepare for this now by cutting our dependencies on russia.

At the same time, draining energy revenues would help to deplete russia's war machine in Ukraine. It is well known that since the election of vladimir putin in 2000, russia's military spending has risen together with oil and gas prices.

According to SIPRI, it increased by 175 per cent between 2000 and 2019. It clearly indicates that russia has been systematically preparing for the ongoing aggression. The decision to launch the war was not a spontaneous one.

Therefore, there can be no exceptions when it comes to holding russia accountable for tens of thousands of murdered Ukrainians, hundreds of thousands of destroyed infrastructure objects, millions of internally displaced persons and refugees, and an undisguised attack on democracy and the rule of law around the world.

In this regard, we are grateful to the Netherlands for hosting the Ukraine Accountability Conference organized together with the International Criminal Court and the European Commission.

We should put an end to russia's syndrome of impunity.

Dear colleagues,

In the past russia's strength rested mainly on its constant threat to use force against neighbours. But after the 24 of February, many myths about its strength have been dispelled.

Neither russia is competitive economically. Trading in natural resources is not making russia influential. Rather, the opposite. Neither does it allow moscow to take us hostage.

And russia has to face a clear choice whether it wants to be a part of the civilized world with all its related benefits and advantages. Or it will lose its place at the table.

To that end, russia has to withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, as well as territorial integrity of other participating States, and, of course, assume the responsibility for all crimes committed against the Ukrainian people as well as to provide assurance of non-repetition of the aggression and reparation to the victims and return to the tenets of international law.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.