



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1079th FSC Plenary Meeting
(29 May 2024)

Agenda Item 2, General Statements

Mr 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.

During last two weeks we witnessed an unprecedented situation when the Russian delegation openly abused the Rules of Procedure and blocked FSC plenary meetings. For the two weeks in a row, it was done with regard to meetings with a minimal agenda, which only included "General Statements" and "Any Other Business" items.

From our point of view, this was nothing but yet another manifestation of Russia's disdain for our Organisation and an attempt to divert the attention of the participating States from the numerous violations of international law committed by Russia in the course of its war of aggression against Ukraine.

By blocking the agenda and manipulating the Rules of Procedure, the Russian Federation is seeking special treatment. Ironically, Russia resorts to all these actions against the backdrop of its own calls for equal and respectful dialogue based on the OSCE norms and principles.

The attempts of the Russian delegation to disrupt the work of the Forum, which were supported by none in this hall, only underlined this country's isolation in the OSCE and its willingness to use any available opportunity just to demonstrate its power based on blackmail and coercion. We strongly believe that this blackmail will not succeed.

Esteemed colleagues,

Waging the brutal war of aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to suffer losses that in any other country would be assessed as unacceptable. In any other, but not in the Russian Federation, where military commanders keep sending their troops as cannon fodder for useless attacks.

According to the Military Media Centre under the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, during the last week alone, the Russian forces lost more than 9,600 soldiers, which constitute an equivalent of approximately 19 battalions. Additionally, the Armed Forces of Ukraine destroyed more than 100 tanks, almost 250 armoured personnel carriers, as well as more than 250 pieces of artillery and multiple launch rocket systems. Nevertheless, the rate of casualties does not stop the Kremlin, which continues to spare no effort in advancing at any cost.

So far, this determination is particularly noticeable in the Kharkiv region, where Russian forces opened another front, trying to distract the Ukrainian Armed Forces and stretch Ukraine's defence lines.

Although the Armed Forces of Ukraine managed to stabilise the situation, the operational environment in the Kharkiv region remains tense due to the relentless attacks by the Russian troops. Using all available weapons, including aircraft and drones equipped with aerial bombs, tube artillery, ballistic and cruise missiles, the Russian military command continues to authorise attacks on civilians, ignoring International Humanitarian Law, which requires the distinction between military and civilian targets.

On 23 May, Russian missiles destroyed one of the largest Ukrainian printing houses, "Faktor-Druk". This purposeful act of war claimed the lives of seven civilians who were working at the printing house and injured 22 people. As a result of the strike, more than 50,000 books were burned. This tragedy is a very accurate illustration of Russia's genocidal war aimed at destroying Ukraine as a state and erase Ukrainian culture, language and identity.

Only two days later, on 25 May, Russian troops again subjected the city of Kharkiv to multiple strikes, attacking it four times. Two Russian aerial bombs hit a local home improvement hypermarket with terrible consequences: at least 18 people were killed and 65 wounded. At least five people are listed as missing. In total, since the start of the ground offensive of the Russian armed forces into Kharkiv region on 10 May, the UN

Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has already confirmed that 45 civilians have been killed and 189 injured in the Kharkiv region and the city of Kharkiv.

Despite persistent attempts by local authorities to organise evacuations from combat areas, Russian troops are preventing this with massive shelling. The Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine reported that in areas where active hostilities are ongoing, Russian invaders capture civilians and use them as human shields.

One resident of the Vovchansk settlement attempted to escape on foot, refused to follow the orders of the Russian troops and was killed by the occupiers.

On 16 May, while trying to escape from the hostilities, a civilian car was targeted on the road. As a result, two people were killed and two more were wounded.

An investigation was launched after Ukrainian reconnaissance forces spotted a dead man in a wheelchair outside a local hospital seized by Russian troops.

All these actions are direct consequences of Russia's invasion and constitute war crimes. The Ukrainian Prosecutor's Office and investigative police are taking all necessary measures to document these cases and ensure proper investigation so that none of the perpetrators can escape accountability.

Mr Chairperson,

By intensifying hostilities ahead of the Global Peace Summit in Switzerland, the Russian Federation clearly proves that the Kremlin has no intention of ending the war against Ukraine or restoring the shattered world order.

Despite Vladimir Putin's false statements about his so-called "readiness to negotiate", actions of his Armed Forces on the ground speak louder, demonstrating Putin's willingness to destroy the world order based on international law at any cost.

Nevertheless, Ukraine continues to prepare for the upcoming Global Peace Summit. We believe that it will send an important message of global unity regarding the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace for Ukraine. As of now, more than 80 countries of the world confirmed their participation in the event.

We expect the Summit participants to jointly develop an action plan addressing three pressing issues, which include freedom of navigation, nuclear and energy security, the exchange of captives and return of illegally deported children.

Today, more than ever, it is critical to strengthen international efforts to rid the Kremlin of the tools it uses to sustain its aggression and make Russia adhere to its international commitments and obligations. As President Zelenskyy said in his recent

address to the world leaders ahead of the Peace Summit: “The efforts of the global majority are the best guarantee that all commitments will be fulfilled.”

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.