



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1056th FSC Plenary Meeting
(27 September 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.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces continue their counter-offensive operation, effectively dismantling Russia's military machine and liberating new territories. Over the past week alone, Russia has incurred significant losses, with over 3,300 troops, 44 tanks, 93 armoured fighting vehicles, 248 artillery pieces and MLRS being destroyed.

Our troops are determined to continue liberating all territories occupied by the Russian Federation in blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. To this end, they are actively pursuing offensive operations on the Melitopol and Bakhmut axes.

The most recent territorial gains in the area of the Verbove village in the Zaporizhzhia region have provided our forces with strategic advantages that enabled them to breach the Russian defence lines and further expand their territorial control.

As part of the counter-offensive operation, Ukrainian defence forces also continue to target the Russian command posts, communication centres and logistics hubs. On 22 September, our forces successfully struck the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea fleet in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol. This operation, preceded by the efficient destruction of enemy air defence facilities in Crimea, significantly disrupted the military capacity of this formation responsible for the numerous appalling attacks against civilians.

The response of the local population on social media to these strikes is indicative of the hopes of the residents of Crimea for a swift end to the occupation. Despite relentless efforts by

the Russian occupation administration to suppress local resistance, the reality is very evident: after nearly a decade of forced integration with the Russian Federation, population relocation, and politically motivated persecutions, the people of Crimea continue to yearn for liberation, reinforcing the status of Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine.

Esteemed colleagues,

Suffering significant battlefield losses, the Russian Federation cruelly persists in terrorising Ukrainian civilians by targeting critical infrastructure and residential areas with missiles, multiple-launch rocket systems, bombs and attack drones.

The most recent massive air and missile attack on Ukraine by the Russian Federation occurred on the night of 25 September, when the Russian forces launched 19 "Shahed-136/131" drones, 12 "Kalibr" cruise missiles and 2 "Onyx" anti-ship missiles against the multiple Ukrainian cities.

Although Ukrainian air defence intercepted 11 "Kalibr" missiles and all "Shahed-136/131" UAVs, the remaining missiles hit their targets causing substantial damage to the civilian infrastructure.

In Odesa, this attack resulted in the tragic loss of at least two lives. The Odesa Port passenger terminal and a hotel were totally destroyed. Further damage was wrought to the grain storage facilities in the port.

The Russian state propaganda might keep reiterating that the strike targeted the military objects but the documented facts clearly prove that the military rationale is of secondary importance for the Russian military leadership. The damage to the civilian population and critical infrastructure is a primary instrument of the Russian army.

The only viable way to put an end to this terror is to ensure that none of the Russian missiles reaches its target. To achieve this goal, Ukraine remains committed to enhancing its own defence capabilities and allocating resources to manufacture modern and sophisticated weaponry needed to ensure full protection of our territory. An important step in this regard will be the first Defence Industries Forum, planned to take place this autumn in Ukraine.

Our goal is to provide Ukraine with all the opportunities for the production of weapons in order to have reliable protection against Russian terror and be able to liberate temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. To date, more than 160 companies from 26 countries of the world have already confirmed their willingness to participate in this event. We strongly believe that the Forum will be able to give an impetus to the development of a new and powerful arsenal for Ukraine so much needed now.

Madam Chairperson,

The deliberate targeting of civilians by the Russian Federation flagrantly disregards the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, which impose an obligation to distinguish between military and civilian targets. Regrettably, Russian forces persist in ignoring

these obligations, pursuing a strategy of wanton destruction in a purely terrorist manner. We reiterate that no form of immunity from prosecution will protect the Russian war criminals from accountability for the numerous war crimes documented by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. To date, the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office has recorded more than 108,000 crimes committed by the Russian Federation during this war.

Efforts to hold those responsible for these actions accountable will continue, and we strongly believe that the international community will support Ukraine in its pursuit of justice, the protection of human rights and the provision of appropriate compensation to the affected people.

Russia's dangerous nuclear blackmail remains of particular concern in the context of the situation around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), which most recently was described as "very fragile and unstable" by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.

Russia's attempts to legitimise its illegal presence at the Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia NPP will never succeed. Deployment of Russian military and other unauthorised personnel, as well as military equipment at the ZNPP, violates all principles of nuclear and radiation safety and demonstrates Russia's complete disregard for the demands of the international community.

The Russian Federation must immediately cease all its activities directly or indirectly affecting Zaporizhzhia NPP and return full control over the illegally seized facilities to legitimate Ukrainian authorities. It is critically important that the international community continues to take all necessary measures to force the Russian Federation to do so. As Minister of Energy of Ukraine, German Galushchenko emphasised during the 67th General Conference of the IAEA on 25 September: "We have no time to wait. It does not look like the situation will be normalised itself, so we need actions right now".

Madam Chairperson,

Against the backdrop of the recent developments, it is more critical than ever to strengthen international efforts aimed at depriving the Kremlin of the tools it uses to sustain aggression against both Ukraine and the international rules-based order. The Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine, designed to bring an end to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and restore security for the entire world, remains a valuable solution in this regard.

In his recent address to the UN General Assembly, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: "While Russia is pushing the world toward a final war, Ukraine is doing everything to ensure that, after Russian aggression, no nation in the world will dare to attack another. Weaponization must be restrained. War crimes must be punished. Deported people must return home. And occupiers must return to their own land. We must unite to achieve this."

Indeed, the proper global response is crucial to end the war and bring back the long-awaited peace. We call on all responsible members of the international community to demonstrate their true commitment and take necessary measures to this end.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.