



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

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

**1047<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(31 May 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.

Fully devoted to the vile plan for the destruction of Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to intensify its terrorist attacks against the civilian population of the country. Last week, Ukraine experienced one of the most severe waves of Russian air and missile attacks, resulting in increased destruction and loss of lives.

Russian missile attack on a medical facility and a veterinary clinic in the city of Dnipro on 26 May 2023 claimed the lives of four civilians and left 31 people, including two children injured. This heinous act of deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure highlights the disregard for human life by the Russian side.

On 28 May 2023, the Russian forces launched an unprecedented number of 54 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), indicating an escalation in their aerial operations. The air defence of Ukraine intercepted and destroyed the majority of the UAVs (52 out of 54), however, some remaining drones were able to cause damage in the Zhytomyr and Kyiv regions.

Another massive missile strike was carried out by the Russian Federation on 29 May, when its forces launched approximately 40 Kh-101/Kh-555 missiles and 35 Shahed-136/131 assault UAVs, followed by 11 Iskander missiles. And this time, the Armed Forces of Ukraine successfully intercepted all these missiles, proving their high effectiveness in protecting against such attacks.

The success of our Armed Forces in destroying enemy weapons is the greatest humiliation for a terrorist state, which demonstrates an ever-more inflated opinion of its own capabilities.

Most of Russian strikes were aimed at Kyiv. It is especially cynical that the most intensive air strike against the city was carried out when Ukraine`s capital celebrated the Day of Kyiv.

Commenting on the massive shelling on the Ukrainian capital, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: *I quote* «Throughout its history, Kyiv has seen various meanness from invaders. It has survived them all, and it will survive the ruscists. Kyiv and all our cities, our entire Ukraine, will put an end to the history of Moscow`s despotism, which has been bringing enslavement to many different peoples for a very long time». *End of quote*

There should be no doubt that the persistent attempts by the Russian Federation to destroy Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine will fail. Despite all the difficulties, the Ukrainian people, with their steadfast spirit and determination, remain committed to defending their cities and the sovereignty of their nation. None of the Russian cowardly attacks can change this.

Esteemed colleagues,

Despite the extremely tense situation along the entire frontline, particularly in Donbas, the Armed Forces of Ukraine remain resolute in their efforts to repel Russian attacks and prepare for future counter-offensive actions. As part of their strategy, the Ukrainian forces continue to disrupt enemy supply chains, destroy ammunition depots, and dismantle enemy headquarters.

It is worth noting that any additional territories seized by Russian troops in the Donetsk region have come at a significant cost, with hundreds of Russian soldiers losing their lives. Despite these tactical gains, the overall strategic situation in the theatre of operations remains unchanged.

The casualty count for the Russian forces continues to rise, with an average of 500 soldiers lost daily, increasing an overall casualty figure that has already reached 207,910.

Fully ignoring provisions of International Humanitarian Law, the Russian forces continue to shell numerous peaceful settlements located in the vicinity of the frontline and destroy the country`s critical and social infrastructure targeting medical and educational institutions, as well as electricity and water supply facilities.

An example of such actions occurred on 25 May, when a Russian S-300 missile hit a dam in the Karlivka district of the Donetsk region. This not only posed a threat of flooding to nearby communities but also left at least 67 settlements without access to water, further exacerbating the humanitarian situation in areas adjacent to the frontline.

Deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure by the Russian Federation demonstrate a clear disregard for the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, which imposes obligations to distinguish between military and civilian targets. Regrettably, the Russian forces choose to ignore these obligations and continue to pursue a strategy of wanton destruction in a purely terrorist manner.

Due to the ongoing systematic violations by the Russian Federation of its obligations as an occupying state, the local population in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine is subjected to persecution, torture and so-called “filtration measures”.

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, the invaders have created 27 filtration camps and prisons in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as 7 filtration camps and prisons in the Russian Federation. These actions violate the rights and well-being of the affected population and constitute a war crime.

Such grave violations call for accountability for all those involved, including the political leadership responsible for authorising these actions as well as the government or military officers who carry out their orders.

We emphasise once again that no form of immunity from prosecution will shield the Russian leadership from responsibility for the numerous war crimes documented by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. To date, over 90,000 war crimes have been recorded, testifying to the severity and extent of the violations committed.

Efforts to hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions will continue, and we strongly believe that the international community will support Ukraine`s steps to restore justice, uphold human rights and provide proper compensation to the affected population. Only by demanding accountability, we can work to prevent future violations of international law and promote a just and peaceful world.

Esteemed colleagues,

Ukraine remains convinced that the only possible way to stop the ongoing war is to defeat the aggressor state on the battlefield. Any other actions will not be able to bring the just and stable peace we all need now.

The Kremlin`s decision to launch an armed aggression against Ukraine burned all the bridges for a possible politico-diplomatic resolution. Against the backdrop of all the atrocities that Russian troops continue to commit in Ukraine and all the ongoing violations of international law, it would simply be impossible to negotiate with the Russian leadership until they stop the aggression and leave the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

Russia`s aggression against Ukraine, left no choice to the millions of Ukrainians but to fight. And we remain steadfast in our pursuit of restoring full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including areas that the Russian Federation attempted to annex in Crimea, Donbas, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.