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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

1100th FSC Plenary Meeting

(5 March 2025)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

As the primary victim of this aggression, Ukraine seeks justice and the restoration of a comprehensive and lasting peace. To this end, we continue to mobilise international support to compel the aggressor to cease hostilities and withdraw its forces.

On 2 March 2025, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy participated in the London Summit on Ukraine, bringing together heads of state, government officials, and leaders of international institutions from Europe and America. We express our deep gratitude to our partners who continue to stand with Ukraine, demonstrating their commitment to international law and a rules-based order where military aggression and coercion have no place.

We welcome the clear consensus among Summit participants on the need to continue military assistance to Ukraine and sustained pressure on the aggressor state until the war is over. It is particularly important that all leaders agree on a key principle: strong security guarantees must be the foundation of any future ceasefire.

President Zelenskyy stated in his address: "We need peace, not endless war. And that is why we say that security guarantees are the key to this."

Mr Chairperson,

Russia's expansionist policy, denial of Ukraine's statehood, reckless nuclear rhetoric, and actions that undermine global stability pose a severe threat to international security.

Its ongoing aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of international law, including the UN Charter and OSCE principles. It contradicts the very idea of morality and humanism.

The Russian Federation launched this war and bears full responsibility for its barbaric acts, resulting in unspeakable human suffering, loss of life, and massive destruction.

Despite these undeniable facts, Russia continues its cynical attempts to shift blame. Just last week, the Russian delegation sought to use discussions on the military use of modern and emerging technologies to accuse Ukraine and its partners of irresponsible conduct.

Yet the truth is undeniable: Russia is the one launching relentless waves of drone and missile attacks on Ukraine. In the past week alone, the Russian army has launched more than 1,050 UAVs, dropped nearly 1,300 aerial bombs, and fired over 20 missiles. These indiscriminate attacks result in civilian deaths and destruction across Ukraine.

On 26 February, Russian airstrikes on the city of Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region killed five people and injured 11 others.

The following day, Russian forces attacked this city again, this time using multiple launch rocket systems and tube artillery – killing one civilian and injuring four more.

On 28 February, a Russian FPV drone attack killed two civilians in the city of Lyman (Donetsk region), while artillery strikes claimed another life in Myrnohrad (Donetsk region).

On 1 March, a Russian UAV strike in the Odesa region killed one civilian and injured three others. A subsequent missile attack on the Odesa Sea Port wounded two workers, damaged port infrastructure, and hit a foreign merchant ship.

These are war crimes. Those who order, commit, or enable these atrocities—from Russian political leaders to military commanders—must be held accountable. Impunity is not an option.

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine did not choose this war, but we are determined to end it. Unfortunately, Russia shows no such intention. As Ukraine's Minister of Defence, Rustem Umerov, recently stated: "Russia is trying to mislead the world about its intentions while continuing to amass troops and ramp up weapons production in preparation for further aggression."

Ukraine has no choice but to continue its self-defense, in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter. With the steadfast support of our international partners, we are proving that Russia's war machine is not invincible.

In February alone, Russian forces suffered over 36,500 casualties and lost more than 300 tanks, nearly 1,500 artillery systems, and almost 600 armoured vehicles in Ukraine.

Over the past week, the Ukrainian Defence Forces successfully struck strategic Russian military targets, including an ammunition depot near Selydove (the Donetsk region), a UAV command post in the settlement of Nesteryanka (the Zaporizhzhia region), a command observation point, and UAV launch site near the settlement of Kopani (the Zaporizhzhia region), as well as Saki and Kacha military airfields in Crimea.

With continued military support from our partners, Ukraine is demonstrating that Russia's aggression can be defeated. The only realistic path to peace is to force the aggressor to stop its war.

And we strongly believe that Russian ploys and manipulation will not succeed in breaking the global unity of countries that respect international law and reject aggression as a means of resolving conflicts.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.