



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1046th FSC Plenary Meeting
(24 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.

On 19 May 2023, in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, the G7 leaders reaffirmed that their support for Ukraine would stay firm in the face of Russia's illegal and aggressive war. The Joint Statement of the G7 leaders is compelling evidence of global unity in putting an end to the war and preventing Russia's attempts to dismantle the international rules-based order.

Indeed, the unity of the international community is crucial to end the war and bring back the long-awaited peace and it is important that all states take necessary measures to this end. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized this point during his visit to Japan to participate in the G7 Summit: «We all have a chance to become co-authors of peace. This peace will not be for one country alone, just as this war is causing harm not only to Ukraine».

During the 15 months of the full-scale war against Ukraine, world leaders adopted hundreds of security decisions, in particular, regarding defence support, sanctions against the aggressor, and Ukraine's financial stability.

Each such decision, taken to help Ukraine defend itself against full-scale Russian aggression, is a contribution to the preservation of the rules-based international order. After all, the war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine is a brazen attempt to destroy the international law that has existed since the Second World War until now, and to build on its ruins the law of force.

Providing Ukraine with reliable air defence systems helped protect civilian and strategic infrastructure from Russian missile attacks and save people's lives. Ukraine is deeply grateful to its partners for the assistance already provided, as well as for the decision to train our pilots on modern fighter jets. The Ukrainian air shield cannot be complete without modern aircraft. And their appearance in the Ukrainian sky will be really a historic moment.

It is key that the Russian Federation is deprived of its tools to commit the crime of aggression against Ukraine. It is key to restore the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and to ensure security and justice for the entire international community so that the aggressor state can never again use force against any other country.

In this context, the principle of preventive security, in our opinion, is extremely relevant for deterring and preventing possible acts of aggression in the future. Therefore, Ukraine's proposals on a package of security guarantees will become a peacekeeping factor for Ukraine and not only.

The war is taking place on Ukrainian soil, and it is the Ukrainians who are fighting for their right to independence, territorial integrity, and a safe and successful future. Any peace initiatives and negotiations should be based exclusively on the Peace Formula proposed by Ukraine. We expect that the details of its implementation will be discussed at the Global Peace Summit.

Esteemed colleagues,

While some countries are making every effort to restore peace and prevent further deaths and destruction, another particular state, Russia, continues its ruthless war and terror.

Fully in line with its horrendous plan, the Russian Federation continues to unleash extensive air and missile strikes throughout Ukraine, utilising missiles and UAVs as well as indiscriminate weapons such as unguided air bombs, rockets, cluster munitions and incendiary weapons containing white phosphorus.

The latest estimates, compiled jointly by Ukraine's academic community and government agencies, show that the total damage caused by Russian aggression is a staggering 143.8 billion US dollars.

The report highlights that residential areas suffered the greatest losses - 37.3% of the total damage incurred. Thus, more than 150,000 residential buildings, including private houses, apartment complexes, and hostels, were damaged or completely destroyed. As a result, thousands of people lost their homes.

While the Russian army at the front demonstrates its grossly inadequate state, the Kremlin regime is still trying to convince everyone, including obviously themselves, of their "mythical might" by massacring civilians in Ukraine. Few are left to believe in their "might", many more have been recording numerous war crimes in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The Russian Federation in a purely terrorist manner continues shelling settlements throughout Ukraine with the obvious intention of killing civilians and destroying critical infrastructure facilities.

On 17 May 2023, on the same day that the Russian delegation in this very room was blaming everyone but themselves for not caring about civilian casualties, the Russian forces attacked the village of Vyshchetasivka (the Nikopol district of the Dnipropetrovsk region). This attack resulted in significant damage, including the destruction of six gas pipelines, seven power lines, seven social facilities, an apartment building, eleven private houses, and two farm buildings.

On 18 May 2023, as a result of the Russian attack on the village of Tsyrkuny (Kharkiv region), one local resident was killed and two were wounded. 15 private houses and 17 farm buildings were destroyed or badly damaged.

Even the threat of large-scale man-made nuclear disaster does not prevent Russian strikes. Regular missile attacks and artillery shelling continue to pose a serious threat to the security of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and undermine its normal functioning. A recent artillery attack on 22 May forced the NPP to go to blackout mode for the seventh time since the facility was illegally seized by Russia in March 2022.

Such actions not only endanger the safety and security of the plant but also have the potential to cause a nuclear disaster on a global scale. Immediate and unconditional cessation of Russian attacks on the ZNPP is imperative. The Kremlin should cease all actions that affect the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant or any other Ukrainian nuclear facility and return full control over illegally seized facilities to the legitimate Ukrainian authorities.

Madam Chairperson,

In the midst of the war against Ukraine, it is important to remember about people who need special protection, in particular children and those who require special medical care. The ongoing hostilities continue to pose challenge to safe and timely access of these social groups to basic needs.

Disregarding its obligations under International Humanitarian Law, the Russian side continues to target educational sites and healthcare facilities.

It seems more than enough for Russian military commanders to sanction a strike simply by declaring a school or a hospital as being used for military purposes. Consequently, new cases of destruction occur regularly.

One of the latest cases took place on 18 May, when a maternity hospital and a surgery building were damaged as a result of detonation of a FAB-250 air bomb dropped over the settlement of Toretsk in the Donetsk region.

In total, according to the information of the Government of Ukraine, at least 1,433 medical institutions have been damaged since the beginning of the war, with 177 of them

being completely destroyed. Furthermore, 2,999 educational sites, including kindergartens, schools, and universities, have suffered damage, with 260 of them being completely destroyed.

Russia's actions once again demonstrate a flagrant disregard for the norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law. The deliberate targeting of the civilian population constitutes a clear violation of the Geneva Conventions and the essential requirements of customary international law, which aim to protect the peaceful population during times of war.

In this regard, it is especially important that the international community continue to closely monitor Russia's actions in and against Ukraine and clearly state their terrorist nature. We welcome the adoption of the resolution of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during its recent session in Luxembourg on 22 May 2023, recognising the Russian state under the current regime as a terrorist one.

As we know, war crimes have no statute of limitations. And there should be no doubt that all those responsible for the atrocity crimes committed during Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine should and will be held accountable and punished accordingly.

Currently, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine is investigating more than 88,500 criminal cases related to the Russia's war. These cases include violations of the laws and customs of war, actions related to the planning, preparation, initiation or conduct of a war of aggression, war propaganda, and other actions that constitute crimes under the national legislation of Ukraine and international law.

Justice remains a top priority for Ukraine, and our government is taking every possible measure to document and properly investigate each transgression committed by the Russian Federation so that to ensure that all those responsible for the crimes committed are inevitably brought to justice.

Just as inevitable is the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including the territories that the Russian Federation attempted to annex in Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.