



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

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

**1101<sup>st</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(19 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.

Committed to the restoration of international order and the pursuit of peace, Ukraine continues to take all possible measures to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting resolution. The past weeks have been marked by intensive diplomatic efforts and negotiations aimed at restoring peace in Ukraine and stability in Europe.

Ukraine's dedication to peace was clearly demonstrated in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where, on 11 March, with the United States, we discussed an initiative to establish a ceasefire along the entire frontline to create the necessary conditions for meaningful peace negotiations.

We agreed to the US proposal for an interim 30-day ceasefire, as we recognize it is a crucial step forward. Meaningful negotiations require time, and a properly implemented ceasefire can provide it.

Ukraine stands ready to implement the ceasefire and ensure its monitoring. However, as Ukraine did not start this war, we cannot enforce a ceasefire unilaterally. The Russian Federation must accept the ceasefire unconditionally and engage in negotiations in good faith.

**Esteemed colleagues,**

Russia often claims to seek resolution of the conflict. However, regrettably such statements remain mere political rhetoric, unsupported by any tangible actions.

So far, President Putin's response to the US ceasefire initiative has been manipulative, designed to obstruct progress. As is customary, the Russian Federation avoids outright refusal but imposes preconditions that make a ceasefire impossible. It is evident that the Kremlin seeks to prolong the war while shifting blame onto Ukraine.

Despite repeated calls from the international community, Russia continues to act with impunity, disregarding international norms and principles. Its ongoing attacks on Ukraine's civilian population are a stark illustration of this.

Over the past week alone, Russian strikes targeted numerous cities and communities in the Chernihiv, Kherson, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Poltava, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy regions. In total, the aggressors launched more than 1,020 strike drones, almost 1,360 guided aerial bombs, and more than 10 missiles of different types.

Since the start of this week, Russia has already deployed more than 200 UAVs to target civilian homes and critical infrastructure across Ukraine. On 17 March, Russian strikes on the Zaporizhzhia region left over 3,000 people without water and cut electricity to three settlements.

Just yesterday, Russian forces launched another 40 'Shahed' drones against Ukraine. In the city of Sumy, one of the drones directly struck a local hospital, causing severe damage to the building, which housed 147 patients.

Such attacks, coupled with relentless artillery shelling and multiple launch rocket strikes, continue to escalate civilian casualties. According to the latest report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission, in February alone, at least 123 civilians were killed, and 567 injured due to ongoing hostilities in the territory of Ukraine.

The current situation unequivocally demonstrates that Russia is not seeking peace but rather a prolonged conflict. To counter this, active pressure is required. Sanctions must not only

be maintained but continuously strengthened to degrade Russia's ability to wage war and finance destructive actions worldwide.

Equally critical is military assistance, which remains the most effective means of countering Russian aggression. Each additional defense system provided to Ukraine weakens Russia's ability to advance. Conversely, a weak response only emboldens the Kremlin, increasing threats to regional and global security.

Furthermore, it is imperative to develop a robust framework to prevent future Russian aggression. This framework must include security guarantees, credible deterrence mechanisms, and practical measures such as the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

Ukraine expresses profound gratitude to the nations that, despite challenges, continue to support this goal, particularly within the Coalition of the Willing. Their commitment reinforces international law and the rules-based international order. Ukraine relies on the decisive actions of the global community.

**Mr Chairperson,**

In conclusion, let me reaffirm that no nation desires peace more than Ukraine. Since the onset of Russian aggression in 2014, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to a peaceful resolution.

Between 2014 and 2022, we engaged in over 200 rounds of consultations and attempted to establish a ceasefire 25 times. Yet, none of these efforts deterred further aggression. Instead, Russia exploited every opportunity to escalate. After three years of full-scale war, this reality is indisputable.

This bitter lesson must be learned and never repeated. True peace requires a comprehensive strategy rooted in international law and justice.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**