



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

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to the 1494th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Madam Chairperson,

As the terror against the Ukrainian people continues unabated, the Russian leadership is still trying to whitewash the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine.

Let me quote one person from the ICC's wanted list: "In families, unfortunately, there are often quarrels, scandals, division of property, and sometimes even fights".

This is how Vladimir Putin tried to present in Kazan the war of aggression, Russia's attempts to grab part of the land of my state, and the murder of civilians in Ukraine.

And perhaps in Russia it is all right to live as a family with an abuser who constantly threatens to kill wife and kidnap children.

However, the civilized world does not tolerate violence and holds the perpetrator accountable. There are plenty of mechanisms to do so.

To that end, this week, Ukraine has officially deposited the instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. This means that on January 1, 2025, Ukraine will become the 125th member of the ICC.

And it means that Ukraine will continue to explore all possible instruments to restore justice, including through the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression.

We must finally take all necessary measures to break this vicious cycle of violence. Because if the evil is left unchecked it will return to commit even bigger crime.

Unfortunately, every day brings new proof of this.

After the lights went out in Kazan and the empty words about Moscow's commitment to a just international order faded away, Russia has returned to its usual bloody business. Terror. Murder. Creating even more chaos in the world.

On October 25, during the attack on Kyiv, a Russia's drone hit a high-rise building. A 14-year-old girl was killed. Six others were wounded.

On October 26, Russia carried out a missile attack on the city of Dnipro. It killed five people, including a 14-year-old girl, and 21 others, including four children, were injured. Mechnikov's Hospital was also damaged along with ordinary residential buildings.

On October 28, during the night, the city of Kharkiv and the town of Chuhuiv in the Kharkiv region were attacked, leaving 21 people injured, including five children.

On October 28, Russia shelled the centre of the city of Kherson. Two people were killed. Four people were injured, including a 13-year-old boy.

In Kharkiv, a building under provisional UNESCO protection was damaged in another Russian attack. Nine people were injured.

On October 28, during the night, the city of Kryvyi Rih was attacked. One person was killed and 14 more were wounded. At the same time, four people were killed in an attack on Kharkiv.

On October 30, nine people were injured, including an 11-year-old child, as a result of a drone attack on Kyiv in the night. Moreover, yesterday, in the evening, Russia struck a nine-story building in Kharkiv with a guided aerial bomb. An entire section of the building was destroyed. Russia killed two people, including an 11-year-old boy, and 34 others were injured. Such tragedies happen every day.

The number of attacks and casualties is likely to be higher, considering that from 21 to 27 October alone, Russia launched more than 20 different types of missiles, nearly 1,100 guided aerial bombs, more than 560 attack drones. Even yesterday, the Odesa region alone was attacked with ten missiles.

Moreover, the number of killed and injured is yet another evidence of a trend of increasing civilian casualties that has started in July, as reported by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. More and more children are among them.

Esteemed colleagues,

Being afraid of a just peace, Russia is looking for ways to escalate its war against Ukraine and attack on the rules-based international order. Now by bringing troops from the North Korea.

Nearly 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russian training grounds near the combat zone, and their presence is expected to increase to around 12,000.

Just imagine - Ukraine will have to fight against North Korean soldiers in Europe.

Two days ago, the leaders of Ukraine and the Republic of Korea had a call to discuss these new developments. It is clear, that Russia is not only escalating the war in Europe, but it is also bringing instability to the Indo-Pacific region.

Given that Russia, an aggressor, still remains an OSCE participating State, this fact places a special responsibility on the OSCE to address this issue.

Indeed, the very idea of building relationships with partners for cooperation is based on the premise that "security in the OSCE area is inseparably linked to that of neighboring regions and can be strengthened through dialogue and the sharing of norms, commitments and expertise".

However, this does not mean exporting the risks of escalation and destabilization to neighboring regions, by allowing rogue regimes to test their weapons and train their armies how to fight in a modern land warfare, such as flying drones or ensuring interaction between units under heavy fire. We have to hold Russia accountable for this. That is what our partners expect of us.

By escalating the war, Russia is also testing the reaction of the international community.

It does so each time, when Moscow pushes the limits of its cruelty. By indiscriminately bombing cities, as it did in Mariupol. Or by shooting civilians, as we saw in Bucha. Or by deporting and assimilating children, as established by international mechanisms. Or by executing prisoners of war, as more such reports come from the battlefield. Or by threatening, as we hear from time to time in the

Permanent Council, to bomb energy facilities critical to the safe operation of the NPPs and the unimpeded delivery of basic humanitarian services to the population.

Now Russia is also doing this by expanding the geographical borders of its war.

And if Russia is testing, it is time to respond with new coordinated actions and decisive steps to prevent further escalation, both in terms of cruelty and geography.

This means, among other things, providing Ukraine with strong and consistent military support, lifting all restrictions on attacking legitimate military targets in Russia, increasing pressure on Russia through diplomacy and sanctions, holding the Russian leadership to account, and fully integrating Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

And it is important to remember that Russia is weak and isolated, despite Moscow's attempts to create the illusion of its unlimited resources or to arrange grand events for its leader at home.

In particular, we noted the decision by the Russian Central Bank to raise an interest rate from 19% to a record-high 21%. Even higher than it was done in response to the market panic following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

You do not do that when the economy is doing well, as the Russian diplomats try to convince us.

As we have said before, the biggest challenges to Russia's economy remain the repressive domestic politics and aggressive foreign policy of its leadership.

Moscow is recruiting more manpower to maintain "meat waves" on Ukrainian positions and paying high salaries to mercenaries, thus, creating a labour shortage coupled with increased public spending on the military industry.

Such a disbalance leads to economic distortions, which means that sooner or later the Russian economy will face problems. Maybe this understanding drives the Kremlin to involve the North Korea as soon as possible.

Moreover, we also took note that in the final declaration of the BRICS summit in Kazan, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter with regard to Ukraine.

In other words, Russia remains isolated when it comes to the aggression against Ukraine. And we must build upon this understanding.

Therefore, we are grateful to all participating States who are helping us to implement the Peace Formula as the only way to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, rather than freezing and postponing a wider war.

Since August, all the points of the Peace Formula have been discussed in thematic conferences.

There have already been meetings on nuclear safety, energy, food, and environmental security and so on. And these days, another very important conference on humanitarian aspects is taking place in Montreal. We are grateful to Canada and Norway for co-organizing this event.

And as President Zelenskyy stated, on the basis of these discussions, "in November, we will be ready to present the final document for the second Peace Summit".

We all need a just peace based on the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act. And we have all the instruments and powers to achieve this. Today, still, we can pay much less price for that.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.