



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
on the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine
committed by the totalitarian Stalin's regime**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1400th meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Mr. Chairperson,

Every year, on the fourth Saturday of November, Ukraine commemorates the victims of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932-1933, as well as of massive artificial famines of 1921-1923 and 1946-1947.

In 2022, we remember the 90th anniversary of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine, when the communist totalitarian regime, the predecessor of Putin's ruscism, committed a crime of genocide in Ukraine - the Holodomor.

This tragedy took innocent lives of millions of Ukrainians as a result of the mass starvation brought about by the cruel actions and planned policies of the totalitarian Stalinist regime.

A deliberately created famine killed millions of Ukrainians, and the fate of those who survived, was crippled. The horrors experienced left a deep trauma in several generations of Ukrainians. As a result of the Holodomor, active and mass resistance to the Soviet communist regime was stopped at that time.

Deliberate organization of the artificial famine in Ukraine, in particular, through coercive seizure of food from Ukrainian peasants, and purposeful extermination of the Ukrainian national elite, capable of organizing the struggle for restoration of the independence of Ukraine, were parts of Stalin's plan of bloodshed and subsequent destruction of the Ukrainian nation.

The Holodomor tragedy was officially denied and concealed by the USSR authorities for many decades. There are ongoing attempts by the Russian Federation to deny this horrendous crime.

After regaining independence in 1991, Ukraine passed a long way to restore the national memory of the Holodomor. In 2006, the Holodomor of 1932-1933 was recognized as genocide of the Ukrainian people in line with the Ukrainian legislation and in accordance with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948. The Law of Ukraine on the Holodomor provided political and legal grounds for conducting a large-scale official investigation of the circumstances and consequences of the genocidal murder of millions of Ukrainians.

The Court of Appeal of the city of Kyiv in its decision of 13 October 2010 in the criminal case established that the leadership of the communist regime deliberately organized the genocide of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933 by creating living conditions designed for physical extermination of Ukrainians with the aim of suppressing the national liberation movement in Ukraine and preventing construction and establishment of an independent Ukrainian state. Thus, a competent national judicial authority provided legal qualification of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as the crime of genocide.

Distinguished colleagues,

This year we will honor the victims of the Stalinist genocide amidst the ongoing Russian's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

Nine decades after the Holodomor-genocide, the genocidal practices are used again against Ukrainians. Almost nine months of full-scale war testified that by invading Ukraine, Russia aims to destroy the Ukrainian nation, to destroy the Ukrainian identity, culture and language. For this aim, the occupiers kill and deport Ukrainians, destroy cities, and burn Ukrainian books.

With the ongoing war of aggression, Russia pursues the same goal as during the Holodomor. It uses similar tools of subjugation, as well as propaganda dissemination.

For both Stalin and Putin genocide is a tool to achieve a goal. Russia's goal was and remains to destroy the Ukrainian identity and the Ukrainian nation. Both then and now Russia is trying to break the will of Ukrainians to resist, throwing all its terrorist arsenal against Ukraine.

Stalin in the 20th century and Putin in the 21st, both have chosen genocides because other means of subjugating the Ukrainian people did not work. They aimed at overcoming the resistance of Ukrainians, cultivate loyalty and turn those who remain into the "soviet/russian" people. These crimes against Ukrainians follow the same two-stage approach. At the first stage, the regime tries to destroy the national identity of the oppressed group, and at the second - to impose its own identity. Actually, that was Stalin's goal and remains Putin's target. Total physical extermination is not the ultimate goal of the aggressor State, because it strives to instill obedience with further assimilation and russification.

As in the past, Russia plays again its hunger games against the whole world, threatening to quite the Black Sea grain initiative, and tries to weaponize the food that poses a threat to millions of people around the world and undermines global food security.

For the sake of justice and peace it is critically important to firmly hold the aggressor to account and employ all necessary instruments to make it return to the tenets of international law.

Distinguished colleagues,

Tragic events of the past and crimes perpetrated by Russia in Ukraine today clearly demonstrate that, first – active memory is extremely important and no one should forget the crimes of the past, second - those who organize and commit crimes against humanity should be held accountable and condemned by the world community, and third – all the victims should be duly honoured, including by the worldwide recognition of truth regarding the committed crimes.

The 90th anniversary of the Holodomor serves as a powerful reminder about the danger of the usurpation of power by autocratic regimes and our common obligation to defend the cause of humanity and our shared values.

Ukraine highly values the solidarity and support of the international community regarding the condemnation of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

We underline the importance of advancement of efforts aimed at the recognition by the OSCE participating States of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as genocide of the Ukrainian people.

The adoption of such decisions will be a powerful contribution to the consolidated position of unity of the free world, condemnation of terror, the inadmissibility of the glorification of totalitarian regimes, tyranny, and crimes of totalitarianism.

We also underline the importance of raising public awareness of the tragic events of our common past, of promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, of strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Dear colleagues,

I invite you to join a nationwide minute of silence and the "Light a candle" campaign on November 26, at 3:00 p.m. (CET), to honor the memory of the victims of the Holodomor-genocide of 1932 and 1933 in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.