



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on 13 years since the full-scale military aggression against Georgia by the Russian Federation

As for delivery by Nataliia Kostenko,
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to the 1329th meeting of the Permanent Council,
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Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine fully supports and aligns itself with the Joint statement delivered on behalf of the Group of Friends of Georgia and the EU statement in this regard. In addition, let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

The Russian occupation of the part of Georgia lasts for 13 years already. This means 13 years of suffering for dozens of thousands of Georgian people, stagnation in development of the occupied Georgian regions and constant threat of wider military aggression by the Russian Federation against Georgia.

For all these years, Russian policy aimed at illegal militarization and de-facto annexation of the Russia-occupied Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali has remained unchanged.

Partial occupation of Ukraine and loss of more than 13000 lives are the result of the ongoing aggression of Russia against my country. Russia continues fuelling both conflicts to which it is a party, trying to achieve certain geopolitical goals and prevent Georgia and Ukraine from moving forward in line with their strategies on Euro-Atlantic integration.

Russia, on its bloody way to the mentioned goals, does not hesitate to brake fundamental principles and norms of international law in the face of the nations of the world. Russia's readiness to use force against its neighbours on any occasion it considers necessary is nothing else but a global threat to European security. Only timely and proper reaction of the whole international community to this threat, including through the consolidated sanction policy, could put a bridle on the Russian aggressor.

In this regard we would like to reiterate that restoration of Russia's real not pretended respect to the core OSCE principles and obligations should be an essential background for rebuilding trust and confidence in our Organization. Without this precondition we could hardly reach progress on the most pressing issues on our agenda, especially those, related to the conflicts stemming from the Russian aggressive actions in the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to draw attention of the participating States to the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the 13th anniversary of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Georgia.

I quote: «8 August 2021 marked 13 years since the beginning of the armed aggression by the Russian Federation against Georgia. As a result of insolent imperialist policy of Russia, which systematically neglects norms of international law, sovereign territories of Georgia – Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia – have been under the Russian occupation for a long time.

Ukraine reiterates its consistent and strong support to Georgia's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders as well as our commitment to the strategic partnership between our states.

The Russian Federation bears full responsibility for difficult humanitarian situation on the occupied territories and it has to provide unimpeded access to them for international humanitarian and human rights organizations immediately.

We call on the international community to keep exerting pressure on the Russian Federation to make it implement its obligations under the 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, withdraw military units from the occupied territories of Georgia – Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia – and exercise other actions on demilitarization and deoccupation of the Georgian territories».

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.