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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

1089th FSC Plenary Meeting (02 October 2024)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr 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.

Yesterday, 01 October, marked the Day of the Defenders of Ukraine. For the third year in a row, this day has been celebrated against the backdrop of a brutal and unjustified war of aggression unleashed by the Russian Federation. For the third year in a row, Ukraine continues to resist the Kremlin's attempts to destroy the entire country and absorb its territory.

Despite Russia's repeated claims of strategic superiority, the reality on the ground reveals the true state of the Russian invasion, exposing the weaknesses of the army that once claimed to be the world's second most powerful military force.

Russian forces are losing up to thousands of soldiers every week. In the previous week alone, Russian forces lost over 9,300 soldiers, more than 100 tanks, 250 armoured vehicles, and 470 pieces of artillery and multiple launch rocket systems.

Since the start of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian forces managed to turn the infamous Russian Black Sea fleet into a set of ships rather than combat effective naval formation by destroying the fleet's headquarters and damaging or sinking at least one submarine and 28 Russian warships, including the flagship missile cruiser.

Ironically, the war started by the Kremlin under the false pretext of defending its territory from external threats has now brought the hostilities into Russia, with the Ukrainian army controlling more than 1,300 square kilometres of Russian territory as part of a defensive operation in the Kursk region.

Esteemed colleagues,

The Ukrainian Defence Forces and the entire nation proved that Ukraine is not going to surrender and is determined to fight the aggressor. The only thing that the Russian Federation can counter this determination is the tactic of relentless "cannon fodder" assaults as well as indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population and critical infrastructure facilities.

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated in his speech at the UN General Assembly last week: "Since Russia can't defeat our people's resistance on the battlefield, Putin is looking for other ways to break the Ukrainian spirit."

And this way is nothing else but unlimited terror aimed at creating the most difficult living conditions for the population, depriving people of the most basic things such as water and electricity. Just this morning, the national electrical grid operator "Ukrenergo" reported that 654 settlements across Ukraine were left without power due to ongoing hostilities.

At the same time, Russian forces are not limiting their strikes to industrial targets. They continue to strike residential buildings, educational institutions, and medical facilities.

On 27 September, a Russian attack on the city of Kryvyi Rih, targeting a local police office, claimed the lives of 4 people and wounded 3 others. The attack also damaged 23 private houses, 3 multi-story residential buildings, an educational institution, and over 80 cars.

The very next day, on 28 September, Russian forces conducted a double-trap UAV attack, targeting a local hospital in the city of Sumy. This cynical attack resulted in 10 people killed and 19 wounded. Among the victims were hospital staff and first responders who arrived at the scene after the first attack.

On 29 September, as a result of the Russian bombing of the city of Zaporizhzhia, 16 people, including 2 children, were wounded. Heavy destruction was recorded throughout the city.

Just yesterday, on 01 October, Russin forces carried out yet another strike on the city of Kherson targeting a local market. This deliberate attack conducted during peak hours killed 6 civilians and left 6 more wounded.

The aggressor state violates international humanitarian and human rights law on a daily basis. Russian terrorists kill Ukrainian civilians literally every day. This is a constant reminder to all our partners who can help that Ukraine needs more long-range capabilities, more air defense and more sanctions against the aggressor.

We are waging a war for freedom and survival of the Ukrainian state and its people, so we need weapons to defend ourselves. There should be no restrictions on support for of the victim of the armed aggression.

Mr Chairperson,

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andrii Sybiha stated at the recent G20 ministerial meeting in New York: "Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine stands out as a stark reminder of the fragility of international peace and security. This aggression is not just an attack on Ukraine; it is an assault on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, the rules-based order, international law, and the UN Charter."

Indeed, Russia's war against Ukraine, driven by the Kremlin's imperial ambitions, is an example of how, in its pursuit of territorial expansion, a state can barbarically trample the fundamental principles of sovereign equality of states and the inviolability of their borders.

This war shows that in an attempt to seize new territories, even one square kilometre, a state can completely disregard the provisions of International Humanitarian Law and claim dozens of thousands of civilian lives.

This war demonstrates that, in an attempt to intimidate the global community and undermine its unity, a state can violate all principles of nuclear safety and security, while resorting to the dangerous rhetoric of nuclear threats.

It is as an example of such nuclear rhetoric that we consider the recent information about the Russia's plans to update its nuclear doctrine. The Kremlin understands this is an extremely dangerous escalation strategy that can lead to unpredictable consequences. Nevertheless, it continues to do so.

All these facts clearly explain why the ongoing war remains one of the greatest global challenges, threatening the very foundations of the international security. And Ukraine has a clear vision how to address this challenge effectively - the Peace Formula. Each point of the Formula goes in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

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In close cooperation with our international partners, Ukraine continues to work on organising the Second Peace Summit to advance this vision. We strongly believe that with decisive actions of the international community we can force the aggressor to cease hostilities in Ukraine and remove its forces from Ukraine's internationally recognised territory.

While the Russian Federation may refer to the Peace Formula as an ultimatum, as Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov recently stated, we firmly believe that peace based on the principles of the UN Charter is the only way forward. It is the only way to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the interest of all countries.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.