



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

## **Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**

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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna  
to the 1502<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
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### **Madam Chairperson,**

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to the Chairpersonship of Malta, in particular to Ambassador Meli Daudey, dear Natasha, and her excellent team, for the warm hospitality and organization of last week's Ministerial Council.

The Ministerial showed once again how isolated Russia is. And I am grateful to the participating States for their support of Ukraine and its cause.

### **Excellencies,**

The Ministerial demonstrated that Russia remains committed to the escalation.

As Minister Sybiha said, and I quote, "When the Russians say they want peace – they are lying. They talk about negotiations only to divert attention from what they are really doing. Look at their actions, not their words. In reality, Russia continues to expand the war". End of quote.

For the third winter in a row, Russia is trying to freeze Ukraine into submission. Including by attacking facilities critical to the safe operation of our NPPs.

Russia's reckless behavior shows that the risk of a nuclear accident is extremely high.

On 5 December, the IAEA Director General informed that earlier that week, a total of 17 attack drones were detected some 3 km from the South Ukraine NPP.

In addition, during the rotation of IAEA inspectors at the ZNPP, a vehicle clearly marked with the IAEA emblem was attacked.

In light of these threats, an extraordinary meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors is being held today at the request of Ukraine.

Russia's tactics must be properly addressed. Every act of terror by Russia must be met with an even stronger response.

In the meantime, while Moscow is threatening to use again IRBM, possibly, against Kyiv, the Ukrainian cities are being systematically attacked with missiles, drones and bombs.

According to the UNHCR, from September to November, Russian guided aerial bombs killed 108 civilians and injured 755 in Ukraine, accounting for 25% of all civilian casualties in the period.

Civilian casualties from such bombs have increased threefold in terms of deaths and sixfold in terms of injuries compared to 2023.

The reason for this is the modification of such weapons which has enabled Russia to hit cities that were previously beyond its reach.

Cities such as Kharkiv, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia face unprecedented threats.

And just two days ago, Russia attacked Zaporizhzhia with a missile, destroying an office building and damaging a medical centre.

So far, at least ten people were killed, and 20 others were injured.

Also, the number of drones used by Russia continues to grow. In September, it was nearly 1 300; in October it reached 2000, and in November Ukraine was already attacked by some 2500 drones.

These numbers demand that we strengthen Ukraine's air defense, impose sanctions on Russia and provide Ukraine with more long-range strikes capabilities.

Timely taken decisions will save many lives.

**Dear colleagues,**

Two days ago, we celebrated the Human Rights Day and the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the respective UN Declaration. In two days, we will mark another anniversary – 50 years since the adoption of the UN Resolution on the definition of aggression.

These two anniversaries remind us of our obligations to protect the human life from aggressor's barbarous acts. And each new day of the Russian war is our common failure to deliver what the ordinary people expect from us.

This war has brought too much suffering and pain to millions.

This includes the forced displacement of entire families, torture, inhuman treatment, extrajudicial executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances of civilians.

A report released by the Yale University Humanitarian Research Lab also shows the exposure of children to war crimes, as Russia is trying to erase their identity.

Moreover, the systematic deprivation of rights and fundamental freedoms - such as the right to life and safety – continues unabated in the temporarily occupied territories.

At the Ministerial meeting, we had the opportunity to hear testimonies of Nariman Dzhelyal, deputy head of Mejlis of Crimea Tatar people and former Kremlin's prisoner, and Olha Babych, wife of the abducted mayor from the Kherson region.

Their personal stories are a stark reminder that, if left unchecked, the cancer of the aggression will spread, causing more suffering and making the future bill for treatment more expensive.

Their testimonies are also a stark reminder that there will be no lasting peace at the expenses of the security of people under the occupation. Be it Ukraine, Georgia, or Moldova. Peace, like security, is indivisible.

As we all know, this war is not just about Ukraine. Russia is focused on revising of the agreed principles and rules.

Russia is the greatest threat to security and cooperation in Europe. We cannot turn a blind eye to the increase in Russia's malign activities.

Moreover, the growing involvement of North Korea shows that the Russian crisis is expanding in scope, now is spilling over from Europe into the Indo-Pacific region.

If not stopped, everyone will lose.

But, as the events since our last meeting have demonstrated, the aggressor is overstretched. Moscow resources are limited. And the system of terror and violence the Kremlin attempts to build is weak and fragile.

And we cannot miss a chance to force Russia into peace through strength – through the strength of our unity, our commitment to common principles, and our actions to strengthen Ukraine and to reduce Russia's aggressive potential.

As we hear every week from the delegation of the aggressor state, Moscow wants to see Ukraine isolated, disarmed and divided so that its war can succeed.

But this also gives us a hint what to do.

The restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, building a strong Ukraine's army, and integrating Ukraine into the EU and NATO must be our response.

This will create a new geopolitical reality Russia must adapt to.

As President Zelenskyy stated, "by assisting Ukraine in its fight against Putin's dictatorship, the international community is assisting many other regions in restoring security and protection from violence".

Let me repeat once again, the world as we know it, with all its institutions including the OSCE, was created after the defeat of the aggressor, not because of making compromises with him.

**I thank you, Madam Chairperson.**