



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

RIGHT OF REPLY BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1087th FSC Plenary Meeting (18 September 2024)

Mr Chairperson,

In response to the Russian statement regarding the military operation conducted by the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Kursk region, I would like to say the following.

First and foremost, it is the Russian Federation that started this war with Ukraine and it is the Russian Federation that bears full responsibility for all consequences of this war.

Ukraine is exercising its right to self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. Within the framework of this legitimate right, Ukraine is entitled to target the enemy wherever necessary, including on its own territory. This is clearly defined by international law.

Unlike the Russian Federation, Ukraine has no interest in acquiring another nation's territory but only take lawful measures to protect its people.

Ukrainian troops that are currently engaged in the operation, act in full compliance with the requirements of International Humanitarian Law. Ukraine do not target the local population. Ukraine do not prevent the evacuation of the civilian population from the affected areas.

In fact, one of the first actions taken by the leadership of the Armed Forces of Ukraine after entering the town of Sudzha was the establishment of the administration and delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilians. Russian military bases, airfields, logistics and other military facilities are the only targets for the Ukrainian troops.

In a demonstration of our commitment to openness and transparency, our military authorities have permitted foreign journalists to access territories that are currently under the control of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Numerous independent media reports, including

interviews with the local inhabitants clearly demonstrated Ukrainian troops' adherence to international law.

On 16 September, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine appealed to the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross with a request to join humanitarian response measures in the Kursk region of the Russian Federation controlled by Ukraine.

We do not hide from the world the situation in the Russian territories controlled by Ukraine. International missions can see for themselves the groundlessness of Russian allegations against Ukraine.

The Kremlin's negative reaction to Ukraine's proposal shows Russia's contempt for its own people and their humanitarian needs, as well as its fear of allowing international observers to see the real situation.

Regarding the Russian delegation's allegations about Ukraine's alleged plans to attack the Kursk NPP, I would like to emphasize that Ukraine has never attacked and does not intend to attack any nuclear facility, unlike the Russian Federation, which attacked the Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia NPP in March 2022, seized it by force, turned it into a military base and brought it to a state of technical degradation, undermining nuclear safety and security, and thereby threatening the world with a nuclear catastrophe.

I also would like to register our resolute protest with regard to the persistent use of the term "Nazi" by the delegation of the Russian Federation.

The weaponisation of history, especially the Second World War, to advance its political agenda is an essential chapter of the Russian propaganda playbook.

It is a well-known fact that anyone who disagrees with the Russia's imperialist and chauvinist policies is immediately labelled as Nazi by the Russian authorities and state media. This practise is repugnant and deeply offensive to the memory of millions of victims of Nazism and those who courageously fought against it during the War.

The use of this false and destructive narrative based on fabricated evidence is offensive, therefore inappropriate, unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.