



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1090th FSC Plenary Meeting
(09 October 2024)

Agenda Item 2, 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.

Moscow's destructive activities extend far beyond the verbal statements made in various international venues such as the OSCE and the UN. The "Russian crisis" of international peace and stability has a very real dimension, which is nothing other than the ongoing war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. This is an unprovoked and unjustified war. The decision to start this war was made by the Russian leadership. Russia alone is responsible for all the casualties and destruction that its choice to start the war has caused.

The scale of casualties and destruction in this war increases with each passing day. According to a recent report by the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine, conflict-related violence has already claimed the lives of more than 11,700 civilians and injured over 24,600 since the start of the full-scale invasion. Tragically, the death toll of civilian casualties continues to rise.

Examples are not far to seek. On 03 October, three civilians, including a child, were killed and four, including two children, were injured in a Russian attack on populated areas in the city of Snovsk, in the Chernihiv region, when Russian forces targeted an LNG tank truck.

On 06 October, a Russian airstrike on the town of Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region killed one civilian and injured two. Several residential buildings, administrative facilities, and a power line were seriously damaged.

At least 19 people, including two children, were injured in a Russian airstrike on the city of Kherson on 07 October, when two guided bombs were dropped in the central district and two more in the northern part. The blast waves damaged at least six multi-story buildings. That same morning, Russia launched two Kinzhal missiles at Kyiv, both of which were shot down. Falling debris damaged several buildings and cars in the city.

These actions by the Russian Forces demonstrate their blatant disregard for human life and prove that the Russian Federation is waging a war of annihilation. This morning's Security Dialogue made it clear that such actions are part of a deliberate strategy by the Russian Federation. It views international law not as a framework for maintaining peace and protecting civilians, but rather as a guide to inflicting more harm and casualties.

Esteemed colleagues,

Despite Russia's relentless attempts to undermine the fighting spirit of the Ukrainian people, our Armed forces continue to conduct defensive operations to protect the sovereign territory of our state from Russian invaders and to protect the civilian population from the horrors that Russian occupation of Ukrainian territory leads to.

With more than 1000 combat engagements taking place on the frontline over the past week, the situation along the entire frontline remains extremely tense and dynamic.

Ukrainian defence forces continue to target and destroy military headquarters of the Russian occupation forces, logistical and communication routes, and ammunition depots. In particular, last week, our forces successfully targeted the command posts of the 35th and 27th motorised rifle brigades, as well as a command post of the 2nd combined-arms army of the Russian Federation.

Moreover, despite Russia's claims of full technological superiority in weaponry, Ukrainian forces continue to destroy the latest models of Russian military equipment. Recently, the Ukrainian defence forces successfully destroyed the Russian "Nebo-M" radar, a component of a multi-functional radar system designed to detect fifth-generation aircraft and long-range ballistic missile launches.

The destruction of such high-cost systems significantly reduces the capabilities of the Russian military. However, the very fact that Russia is forced to use its newest and most advanced systems against Ukraine indicates that the aggressor takes the Ukrainian Armed Forces much more seriously than it publicly admits.

At the same time, the Russian military leadership relies heavily on the "cannon fodder" tactics, showing that it can only make progress at a cost that any other country would find unacceptable. It is estimated that every 2.5 square meters of Russian advance in Ukraine costs the Russian occupiers the life of one soldier.

A telling example of this strategy is Russia's efforts to capture the Ukrainian town of Vuhledar. Russian troops managed to gain control over this town only after hundreds of daily attempts to break through Ukrainian defences. Although Russian propaganda has already declared this a strategic victory, the reality is that even with superior numbers in manpower,

artillery, and aviation, it took Russian forces two years to take control of this town, which they had completely destroyed.

Mr Chairperson,

It should be clear to everyone that all the Kremlin's statements about its so-called readiness for negotiations are just a smokescreen. Russia has not abandoned its plan to seize all of Ukraine, destroy Ukrainian statehood, and erase the Ukrainian identity of the multi-million people of Ukraine. Furthermore, Russia has not changed its policy of nuclear blackmailing and sabre-rattling.

In fact, the Russian Federation pretends to be constructive, while its true goal is to buy time to recover from its defeats and later resume the war with the renewed vigor.

In contrast, Ukraine, as a country that suffers daily from the horrors of the war, desires peace more than any other nation in the world. To achieve this peace, we work tirelessly to bring us closer to a peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, rather than on Russia's imperialist vision of the world rooted in the Cold War era.

As long as the Russian Federation fails to show genuine interest in diplomacy and continues to act guided by a blend of Tsarist and Soviet ideologies, there can be only one response to its flagrant violations of international law including international humanitarian law and international human rights law. This response must include complete isolation of the aggressor state, constant political and economic pressure on it, and support for the victim of the aggression.

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his recent address to the nation: "with sufficient support from our partners, we will be able to put pressure on Russia in the way that's necessary for Russia to realise that the war will gain them nothing."

We firmly believe that the only way to ensure lasting peace and stability in Ukraine, Europe and the world is to restore the rule of international law and strengthen international institutions. Without a doubt, this path involves the complete liberation of Ukraine from Russian occupiers and the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.