



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1093rd FSC Plenary Meeting

(20 November 2024)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Yesterday, 19 November, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine marked its 1,000th day — a grim milestone in this unprovoked and unjustified war that the Russian Federation has chosen to wage against Ukraine. During this time, we have witnessed the true courage of the defenders of Zmiinyi Island, the heroism of the defenders of Azovstal and Bakhmut, the tireless efforts of volunteers and the unprecedented readiness of both the Ukrainian military and civilians to fight.

At the same time, the entire world has been appalled by the horrific crimes committed by the Russian army in Bucha, Yahidne, Irpin, Izyum, Mariupol and other cities; the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station; the seizure of a peaceful nuclear object for the first time in history, the execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians; and the deliberate destruction of residential buildings, schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure.

The cost of this war continues to rise. According to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Russia's war of aggression has already claimed more than 12,000, civilian lives. Moreover, 26,000 civilians have been injured. As highlighted in a recent UN

update on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, at least 183 civilians were killed and 903 injured in Ukraine in October alone.

The death toll from the war in the heart of Europe in the 21st century is staggering. However, even more distressing is the realisation that these numbers will continue to rise due to the deliberate actions of the Russian armed forces aimed at the intentional killing of Ukrainians.

Esteemed colleagues,

Determined to destroy Ukraine, the Russian Federation has been persistently conducting massive airstrikes and missile attacks against Ukrainian civilians and critical infrastructure.

On the night of 17 to 18 November, the Russian armed forces carried out one of the largest air attacks against Ukraine in recent months, launching 120 missiles and 90 drones.

To carry out this attack, the Russian Federation used almost every type of missiles and drones available, including “Zirkon” hypersonic missiles, “Kinzhal” aero-ballistic missiles, “Iskander-M” ballistic missiles as well as Kh-22, Kh-31P, Kh-59, and Kh-69 cruise missiles.

Most of these air targets were intercepted. However, even the remaining missiles and drones caused significant damage, resulted in numerous civilian casualties, and inflicted serious harm on critical infrastructure.

According to the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, almost 150,000 people across the country were left without electricity. In the Lviv region, the damage left 6,000 people without heating.

In the city of Mykolaiv, these strikes killed two civilians and wounded six.

In Sumy, the consequences of the Russian attack were particularly devastating, as one of the “Iskander-M” missiles hit a residential building, killing 12 civilians, including two children, and wounding 52. More than 400 people were evacuated from the damaged building.

Despite this massive strike on civilians, the Russian Federation did not stop. On 18 November, the aggressor state repeated its attack, launching further missiles at Odesa. As a result of this attack, 10 people were killed and 47 were injured. Several residential buildings, a university, and two administrative buildings were seriously damaged.

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine, Europe and the whole world need a comprehensive, just and lasting peace. As the main victim of Russia's aggression, Ukraine wants to end this war more than any other country.

However, it must be a real peace, not appeasement of the aggressor. Ukraine is open to diplomacy, but to honest one, from a strong position. That is why we have the Peace Formula. It is a guarantee of negotiations without forcing Ukraine to injustice. Ukrainians deserve a just peace and we must do everything to end the war next year.

Regrettably, the Russian Federation continues to reject all peace initiatives aimed at restoring justice in accordance with the norms and principles of international law. The criminal regime in the Kremlin still believes it can achieve victory and reshape the international order to suit its own vision. However, despite repeated claims that Russia has one of the most powerful armies in the world, it is still far from military success — even after 1,000 days of intense hostilities against a country 28 times smaller in size and almost four times smaller in population. We have all seen that the tactics of the Russian army are based simply on a complete disregard for the rules of war and on "cannon fodder" assaults.

The Russian army can be defeated and the international order can be restored. This goal can only be achieved if all peace-loving states join efforts to force the Russian Federation to stop the war and admit its responsibility.

For its part, Ukraine has demonstrated that it will not surrender either its people or its territories. Ukraine is not only ready to fight, but fights every day. We extend our gratitude to the countries that support Ukraine by providing military assistance and applying political and economic pressure on the aggressor state. These efforts make a significant contribution to international peace and save lives every day.

To conclude, I would like to quote the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andrii Sybiha, who stated at the UN Security Council on 18 November 2024: "The goal of achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace is urgent. Whatever the price of achieving it now, the price of further failures will be much, much higher."

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.