



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1021st FSC PLENARY MEETING
(14 September 2022)**

Agenda item 2, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Three weeks ago, on 24 August, Ukraine celebrated the Independence Day. This year our national holiday was marred by a bitter anniversary – six months since the beginning of the Russian full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. This unjustified and brutal war of aggression launched by the Russian Federation and enabled by Belarus has brought nothing to Ukrainians but enormous suffering and numerous destructions.

Six months ago, forgetting about civilisation and humanity, the Russian Federation fired missiles at peaceful Ukrainian cities. Those were only the first Russian missiles out of more than 3500 launched on the territory of Ukraine since then.

The first victims of this invasion appeared – not only military but also civilians, and what is most painful – children. Today we can talk about at least 383 murdered children recorded in the list of Russian crimes.

The first refugees and internally displaced persons appeared, whose number in the first months of the invasion was measured in millions. According to the UN Human Rights Office, more than 7 mln refugees from Ukraine are recorded now across Europe, with approximately 6,9 mln are registered as internally displaced persons.

The Russians are shooting at Ukrainian cities, killing dozens of innocent people. 22,000 Ukrainian civilian facilities were destroyed during the six months of the war. While only about 300 military sites were damaged during the same time. That is, for one military

facility fired upon by the Russian occupying forces, there are 73 civilian ones. It is clear that the Kremlin practices terror in an attempt to compensate for the lack of real power with fear.

On Ukraine's Independence Day, the Russian troops launched missile strikes against the residential area and the railway infrastructure in the Chaplyne settlement (Dnipropetrovsk region). As a result, 25 people including 2 children were killed and 31 were wounded. The investigation that followed revealed that the attack was committed with the use of the «Kalibr» missile system, the «Smerch» MLRS and the S-300 air-defence system. It is hardly possible to qualify these air-defence systems as high-precision weapons for ground targets.

Cruelty and non-selectivity constitute a hallmark of the Russian military tactics. Many Ukrainian settlements, such as Mariupol, Lysychansk or Sievierodonetsk, were seized by the Russian troops only after they had been ruthlessly razed to the ground.

In the spirit of its terrorist nature, Moscow continues to pursue nuclear blackmail - using the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which is occupied by Russian troops.

The Russian Federation has intensified its nuclear blackmail rhetoric artificially creating the risk of a nuclear accident at the NPP. The Kremlin is threatening the entire world with a possible nuclear disaster in the very heart of Europe. However, it is clear to everyone that the only security risk for the NPP is the ongoing Russian military occupation and illegal presence of the representatives of Rosatom corporation there.

We would like to invite everyone to study the latest IAEA Report recently uploaded on the web-page of the Agency. Despite proceeding from purely technical mandate, the IAEA easily identifies threats to nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP.

Esteemed colleagues,

Six months ago, the Russian Federation was convinced of its ability to seize Kyiv and conquer Ukraine in a week.

Half a year of Russia's aggressive actions finally proved the absence of the Kremlin's more or less professional military. Recent counteroffensive actions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine at the Northern and Southern operational directions clearly demonstrate that.

Since the beginning of September, more than 4,000 square km of temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and more than 300 settlements have been liberated, including such strategic settlements as Izium, Balakliya and Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region as well as areas adjacent to the Ukrainian-Russian state border. Stabilisation measures have already been carried out in these settlements. On approximately the same area of the liberated territories, the stabilisation measures are still underway. Remaining occupiers and sabotage groups are being detected, collaborators are being detained and full security is being restored.

It's also worth mentioning that while retreating, the Russian forces are becoming the biggest contributor to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, abandoning large quantities of tanks and vehicles. From 29 August to 12 September, the loss of at least 442 pieces of equipment by the Russian Army was visually confirmed. Of these, 237 units, which is 54% of Russia's losses, have become Ukrainian trophies and will help smash the enemy.

However, in response to the liberation of the territory of the Kharkiv region by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Putin regime, out of impotence and anger, carried out horrific missile attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure facilities. Power plants have now been added to the list of destroyed schools, hospitals, kindergartens, maternity hospitals, residential areas.

On 11 September, one of the most massive attacks on the energy infrastructure took place. Zmiivska Thermal Power Plant and three high-voltage substations in the Kharkiv region were shelled, 40 substations of various voltages were de-energized. That caused full and partial electricity cut-off in the Kharkiv, Donetsk, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk and Sumy regions. The President of Ukraine stressed: «Even through the impenetrable darkness, Ukraine and the civilised world can clearly see that these are acts of terrorists. Deliberate and cynical missile strikes on critical civilian infrastructure. Not military facilities. »

Mr Chairperson,

Despite the undeniable success of the Ukrainian Army in liberating Ukraine's territories from the Russian occupiers, numerous settlements in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions continue to suffer from regular strikes with the use of tube artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, ballistic

and cruise missiles. Even air-defence systems are used by the Russian forces to hit ground targets.

The Russian troops continue to use weapons prohibited by international law in Ukraine, in particular for committing indiscriminate shelling of civilians. According to the recently published Cluster Munition Monitor 2022, Ukraine is the only country in the world where cluster munitions are used today. Moreover, the report states that the Russian Federation not only use them but also continues to produce them developing new types (the use of at least two newly developed types of cluster munitions was registered in Ukraine in 2022).

While destroying civilian infrastructure and blocking the evacuation of civilians from the occupied territories to the government-controlled parts of Ukraine, the Kremlin practices forcible deportation of Ukrainian citizens to the territory of Russia, Belarus and occupied Crimea. The scale of this crime is impressive: more than 2,45 mln Ukrainians are reported to have been transferred (forcibly, independently or through Russian evacuation under the pressure of the circumstances) from southern and eastern regions of Ukraine to Russia and temporarily occupied Crimea. Such numerous facts were registered by the Human Rights Watch in its recent report «We Had No Choice» issued on 1 September 2022.

Some representatives of Russian occupation administrations might believe that their crimes on a local level will remain unnoticed in the «fog of war». However, that will not be the case. In total, Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies have already registered 15,399 crimes against national security and 33,135 crimes of aggression and war crimes committed since the beginning of the war (as of 13.09.2022). All those responsible for these crimes will be brought to justice and held accountable for their actions.

Mr Chairperson,

Behind each and every liberated settlement stand dozens and hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers who sacrificed their lives to make the liberation possible. To this end, international military assistance is crucial for Ukraine more than ever. We need it to develop recent successes and to continue counteroffensive actions till the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Military assistance is a clear message to Moscow that armed aggression against an independent and sovereign state never will be accepted because the civilised world cannot tolerate the use of war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Unfortunately, there are no international mechanisms to curb the aggressor. Putin does not perceive anyone's arguments. Norms and principles of international law, commitments and obligations do not exist for him.

In this context, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba stressed: "The full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has significantly accelerated the creation of a new security architecture. Either it will be completely new, built on the ruins of the old one, or it will be modernization of the system that exists now. There is no answer to this question yet. But it is already obvious to everyone that the current mechanisms do not fulfil their function, they do not guarantee peace and security."

A new contour of the security architecture may be born from the work of the Group on International Security Guarantees for Ukraine, co-chaired by the Head of the Office of the President Andriy Yermak and former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The Package of recommendations developed by the Group regarding future security guarantees for Ukraine was made public yesterday.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, as an unprecedented challenge to the European security architecture, should remain in the spotlight of the international political and security agenda.

The recent Summit of the Crimea Platform that took place on 23 August 2022 clearly shows that it is indeed so. 59 state leaders and heads of international organisations took part in the Summit demonstrating that despite the ongoing war and Russia's attempts to take the international attention away from the issue of Crimea, the temporarily occupied peninsula remains among the top priorities of the international community.

We are grateful to all participants of the Summit for the demonstration of their unwavering support and staunch solidarity with Ukraine.

Mr Chairperson,

I ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day. I also kindly request that the title of the subject raised by Ukraine be reflected in the Journal of the Day as it is indicated in our Statement.

Thank you.