



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1055th FSC Plenary Meeting
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Agenda Item 2, General Statements

Madam 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.

The unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war of aggression unleashed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine will enter its 19th month in just four days.

The terrible lie that Ukraine is committing genocide against its own people became Russia's pretext for aggression. Russia has not provided any reliable evidence. Because they do not have it. Because all Russian arguments are based on lies.

Russia denies the existence of the Ukrainian people and wants to erase us from the world map. Russia is trying to overthrow our democratically elected government. Russia tried to seize Ukrainian territory. Atrocities, terror and war crimes have become the hallmark of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Every day, this war brings grief and excruciating pain to Ukrainian families and communities. Deliberate missile and drone attacks on civilians, including children, have become a sad reality for millions of Ukrainians. Russia's deliberate attacks on critical civilian infrastructure have left entire regions and millions of people without heat and electricity, including during periods of freezing temperatures.

The Russian army has adopted an entirely terrorist approach, with cruelty and indiscriminateness at the core of its military tactics.

In the first two weeks of September alone, the Russian Federation launched 54 attacks against Ukrainian civilians and the country's critical infrastructure, resulting in 26 civilian deaths and 143 injuries.

The list of war crimes committed in Ukraine by the Russian armed forces includes a horrific attack on a local market in Konstantynivka, Donetsk region, on 6 September (which killed 17 civilians and injured 42), as well as an attack on a residential area in Nikopol, Dnipropetrovsk region, on 8 September (resulting in 1 death and 74 injuries).

All those responsible for these crimes, including the political and military leadership of the Russian Federation, will be brought to justice. To this end, Ukraine is taking all necessary measures to establish accountability, in particular within the framework of the International Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. The Russian Federation and its criminal leadership will not escape justice for their acts of terror.

Esteemed colleagues,

At a time when Russian troops continue to take the lives of hundreds and thousands of Ukrainians, the Russian Federation continues its persistent attempts to tighten its grip over the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

On 8-10 September 2023, we witnessed another example of the Kremlin's attempt to consolidate its control over the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, when the Russian Federation held illegal elections in the occupied parts of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, as well as in Donbas and Crimea.

Attempted annexation of Ukrainian territories as well as fake elections carried out by the Russian occupation administration are legally void, will have no legal consequences and no implications for Ukraine's administrative-territorial system and internationally recognised borders. Attempts to legitimise the annexation by forcing the local population to take Russian citizenship against their will is a glaring political absurdity.

Ukraine and the international community condemn such actions of the Russian Federation and consider them null and void. The Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions as well as Crimea remain sovereign territories of Ukraine. We are determined to restore our country's territorial integrity by military and diplomatic means, and will continue to liberate the temporarily occupied territories in full compliance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Every day, servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to liberate Ukrainian territories captured by Russian invaders.

Despite the extensive minefields and multi-layered defence lines created by the Russian forces on the frontline, our troops continue to conduct counter-offensive actions. Just recently, Ukrainian troops advanced on the western part of the front in the Zaporizhzhia region and also liberated two villages (Klishiivka and Andriivka) south of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region.

As reported by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, during the last military operations near Bakhmut, Ukrainian troops successfully defeated several of the most combat-ready units of the Russian armed forces: the 72nd separate motor-rifle brigade and the 31st and 83rd separate airborne brigades. The use of all available reserves

in this direction did not help the Russian side. Our troops conducted a successful operation that made it possible to break through the defence lines of the Russian forces and recapture the necessary bridgehead for further advancement.

In total, since the beginning of the counter-offensive operation, the Defence Forces of Ukraine have successfully liberated more than 260 square kilometres of territory. The battlefield in Ukraine bears witness to the robust support we received from our friends and partners. We are grateful to all our international partners for the military aid that has been and will be provided to help Ukraine defend itself and push the enemy back, thereby saving the lives of our military and civilians.

Amid ongoing brutal warfare, international military aid to Ukraine has never been more important. In order to seize the moment and advance effectively until complete liberation, a continuous supply of essential weapons to Ukraine is necessary, including long-range missiles, combat aircraft and equipment for the rapid demining of liberated territories.

At the same time, we are preparing for the Defence Industries Forum, the first such event to be held in Ukraine this autumn. Our task is to provide Ukraine with all the opportunities for the production of weapons and ammunition in order to have reliable protection against any form of aggression. And, apart from that, of course, we are eager to share our experience in defence with allies and partners.

Madam Chairperson,

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized during the Third Summit of the International Crimea Platform, which took place on 23 August 2023: "The Black Sea is the key to global food and, therefore, social stability. Crimea is the key to security in the Black Sea. We cannot leave the keys in the hands of terrorists, and we will not."

Indeed, Russia's occupation of Crimea and its aggressive actions in the region continue to undermine international stability. The Russian Federation uses the Black Sea as a platform for regular missile attacks on peaceful Ukrainian cities and a naval blockade of Ukraine ports in the region.

Such actions directly threaten global food security and endanger countries that depend on Ukrainian agricultural products. Russia should not be allowed to weaponize food. Unhindered access to Ukrainian grain will enable many countries to obtain the necessary agricultural products at affordable prices. It is important to send a clear message to Russia that its use of food as a weapon and its destructive behaviour are unacceptable.

Against the backdrop of Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and renewed attacks on Ukrainian ports, Ukraine remains committed to its obligations to partners. The free flow of Ukrainian agricultural products is in the best interest of the global community. The Black Sea Grain Initiative must resume operations, but not at the

expense of blackmail and fulfilling the whims of Russia. Easing some of the sanctions against Russia in exchange for the restoration of the Initiative will be an invitation to Moscow for new acts of blackmail.

Ukraine will never accept the transformation of the Azov-Black Sea region into the so-called internal lake of Russia. The latest successful strikes of the Armed Forces of Ukraine against the military infrastructure of the Russian Federation in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol, which led to putting out of action the Minsk landing ship and the Rostov-on-Don submarine, indicate our readiness to fight and to defeat the aggressor state not only on land but also at sea.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to briefly address Russia's persistent attempts to convince us that the majority of the international community supports its aggressive actions and seeks to restore business as usual, despite Russia's war against Ukraine. Here, at the FSC, we hear such claims every week. Neither last week's Opening Session, nor today's meeting was an exception.

An isolated pariah state, the Russian Federation continues to wage a hybrid war aimed at spreading its blatant war propaganda worldwide. We are watching with alarm as Moscow openly talks about its desire to destroy entire nations. All-consuming hatred for those whose vision of the future does not align with the imperial ambitions of the Russian leadership has become the foundation of Russia's worldview.

This is done solely to justify its horrendous war crimes. These lies can only be accepted as truth by a Russian domestic audience lacking basic information about international affairs. Real facts, however, including the scale of international support for Ukraine within the UN, suggest the opposite.

A total of 141 UN member states supported the UN General Assembly resolution on the principles of the UN Charter underlying a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in Ukraine (with only 7 opposing).

This year's Summit of the International Crimea Platform was attended by 59 countries, representing all regions of the world. More than 40 countries took part in the latest round of consultations on President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula.

The real facts unequivocally indicate that the world community does not support Russia's revisionism. Only a handful of countries openly endorse the Kremlin's aggressive policies. The deceitful and manipulative statements of the Russian delegation reveal the depths to which Moscow's madness has descended and highlight the futility of relying on any political agreements with these individuals, who have long abandoned common sense in favour of completely illusory ideas about the world around them.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.