



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

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

**1083<sup>rd</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(03 July 2024)

Agenda Item 1, 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.

The methods and tools employed by the Russian Federation in its war of aggression against Ukraine are reminiscent of the darkest pages in world history that the civilised world hoped would never be repeated. The civilised world, but certainly not the Russian Federation, whose criminal regime in the Kremlin continues to intensify its aggression against a sovereign state.

In recent months, Russia has carried out numerous strikes on Ukraine using missiles, drones and artillery, killing dozens of civilians across the country. Russia's massive air attacks have destroyed private and commercial buildings, hotels, schools, churches, hospitals and numerous infrastructure facilities. Notably, only 3% of Russian missiles, drones and guided bombs hit military targets, while 97% strike civilian infrastructure.

On 22 June, as a result of an air bombardment of the city of Kharkiv, 2 people were killed and 53, including three children, were wounded. Three bombs hit an enterprise, and another one struck a five-storey residential building.

On 24 June, a double missile attack on the populated area in Pokrovsk (Donetsk region) led to more than 50 civilian casualties. Five people were killed and 48 were wounded. Three residential buildings were completely destroyed and 19 were seriously damaged.

On 28 June, a Russian strike on a residential building in the city of Dnipro killed two persons and wounded 13 people, including a newborn and a pregnant woman.

This weekend, on 29 June, shelling of the city of Vilniansk in the Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine killed seven people, including three children, and wounded 36 others.

On 1 July, 11 Ukrainian regions (Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, Luhansk, Kirovohrad, Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk) came under fire as part of another Russian massive attack. In total, these strikes killed 5 people and injured 31.

We strongly believe that these actions of the Russian Federation will not go unpunished. And this was demonstrated on 25 June 2024, when the International Criminal Court issued warrants of arrest against former Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and current Chief of General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valerii Gerasimov as part of the investigations into Russia's attacks against the civilian population and critical infrastructure in Ukraine.

This ICC decision is an important milestone in efforts to hold accountable all those responsible for violations of International Humanitarian Law. As was underlined in the resolution by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly adopted on 26 June 2024: "There cannot be peace without accountability."

Esteemed colleagues,

Brutality and cruelty remain hallmarks of Russian military tactics. Regular strikes have become an everyday reality for millions of people, regardless of their proximity to the frontline.

While the Russian Federation mercilessly targets civilian populations with missiles and precision-guided weapons, its army continues its aggressive efforts. Just yesterday along the entire frontline there were recorded 158 combat engagements.

Currently, the most intense fighting is taking place on the Pokrovsk axis in the Donetsk region, where Russian troops are stepping up their offensive. According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Ukrainian troops are repelling up to dozens attacks daily on this segment of the frontline. Yesterday alone, the Russian forces attempted to attack Ukrainian positions 51 times.

Despite significant pressure from the Russian side, our forces continue to resist, repelling attacks by the Russian occupiers and delivering counterattacks. This determination is especially evident in the Kharkiv region, where the Russian army was unable to carry out its Kharkiv operation.

Currently, the Armed Forces of Ukraine are doing their best to hold back the occupiers, fighting back and destroying Russian units that have invaded our land and are terrorising the Kharkiv region. Our defence on this axis has been reinforced and Russian occupation forces have begun to withdraw several units from Vovchansk due to their loss of combat capability.

Mr Chairperson,

In the late 1980s, the loss of 15,000 soldiers in Afghanistan forced the Soviet leadership to admit its defeat and withdraw Soviet troops from the country, ending a 10-year war. By comparison, in the past June alone, the Russian armed forces lost more than 33,000 soldiers in Ukraine. However, the Kremlin's regime, considered the successor to the Soviet leaders, remains convinced that the war must continue.

Ukraine remains resolute in its desire to restore sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. Regrettably, Russia's only response to all peace initiatives has been the continuation of the war.

Last week, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba stated at the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference: "Our peace initiatives are met with Russian missile and drone attacks on densely populated residential areas and critical infrastructure. Russia stops at nothing—neither its own heavy losses nor large-scale war crimes, torture, rape or intimidation. War propaganda has become its modus vivendi."

Indeed, the ongoing Russian missile terror, the irresponsible nuclear sabre-rattling rhetoric and the persistent attempts to mobilise at least some foreign allies among other pariah states remain the Kremlin's only response, indicating its determination to continue the war regardless of the consequences. This unacceptable course of action can only be stopped by a united position of the entire international community.

Today, there is no other way for the civilised world that respects international law than to increase its pressure on the aggressor state. Several recent important documents and decisions clearly demonstrate that the international community is determined to do so.

We welcome the approval by the EU Council of the 14th package of sanctions in response to Russia's war of aggression. We appreciate this message of support and consider it an important practical step aimed at further reducing Russia's capacity to wage war.

Equally important is the political condemnation of the Russian war and its staggering consequences. In this regard, we cannot but recall the resolution adopted on 29 June by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, which called for the de-occupation of all Ukrainian territories and for a proper investigation of all atrocities committed by the Russian army.

We are deeply confident that this and numerous other resolutions of international organisations and their parliamentary assemblies will inevitably be translated into practical actions aimed at restoring the rule of law and returning the long-awaited peace.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.