



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

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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.

Despite all the efforts of the international community to avoid wars or at least protect the civilian population from their horrors, the Russian Federation continues to be guided by the principle "the end justifies the means." Following this principle, Moscow launched an unprovoked and unjustified full-scale war against Ukraine, which continues to claim new lives and cause heavy destructions with every passing day.

The real main goal of president Putin – the occupation of all of Ukraine and the destruction of its statehood – remains unchanged. It was to achieve this goal that president Putin, with the support of Russian society infected with chauvinism, launched a war against Ukraine.

Both the occupation of Crimea in 2014 and the occupation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of Ukraine in 2022 were an attempt to prove the thesis of the Russian president that the Ukrainian state and the Ukrainian people do not exist. This absurd statement has not been influenced even by the fact that even during the hot phase of the war,

which has been going on for two years now, Ukrainians have demonstrated no desire to declare themselves Russians and join Russia.

It is particularly cynical to hear how the Russian side keeps reiterating readiness for a political-diplomatic resolution while simultaneously denying the very existence of Ukraine as a state.

In this regard, a case in point are the recent words of Dmitrii Medvedev, the deputy secretary of the security council of Russia, who stated that Russia would continue to fight with Ukraine as long as Ukraine existed as a separate state.

This statement clearly reveals the essence of Russian aggression and proves that as long as the current criminal Kremlin regime exists, there is an existential threat to Ukraine. In this situation, no compromise is possible.

Dear colleagues,

The Kremlin regime is doing everything possible to return the Russian Federation to the borders of the USSR in 1991, hoping that a long-term war of attrition will bring success to the Russians.

Massive missile attacks and drone strikes on Ukraine over the past month – when the Russian forces deliberately target critical infrastructure such as medical and educational institutions, electricity and water supply facilities – are yet another demonstration of intimidation and terror at the state level.

On 29 December 2023, the Russian Federation launched one of the most massive attacks on Ukrainian territory, firing 158 drones and missiles, including five “Kinzhal” missiles. The attack resulted in the deaths of over 40 civilians.

Just since the beginning of this year, the Kremlin has already conducted four massive missile strikes against Ukraine, launching in total more than 200 assault UAVs as well as ballistic and cruise missiles. The latest large-scale attack occurred yesterday, on 23 January, when the Russian forces launched 41 ballistic and cruise missiles of various types against Kyiv as well as other cities in the Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions. According to preliminary estimates, six people were killed and more than 40 were wounded. Numerous residential buildings and objects of civilian infrastructure were damaged, including 2 schools and the local sports centre.

The Russian Federation persistently denies responsibility for indiscriminate attacks on civilians. However, it is hardly possible to find a single day when independent international monitors did not record a violation of IHL by Russian troops.

Danielle Bell, Head of the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, recently said: "Civilian casualties had been steadily decreasing in 2023, but the wave of attacks in late December and early January violently interrupted that trend."

The Russian side is persistently trying to convince us that the majority of the world community supports its actions, accepting the war as a suitable foreign policy instrument. However, reality contradicts this claim. The world remains acutely aware of all the transgressions committed by Russia in its aggressive war against Ukraine.

On 14 January, the fourth meeting of national security and foreign policy advisors on the implementation of Ukraine's Peace Formula took place in Davos, Switzerland. Representatives from over 80 countries and international organisations participated in this meeting, highlighting the increasing global interest in President Zelenskyy's peace initiative.

The growing number of states supporting and actively participating in its implementation demonstrates that responsible members of the international community are not going to stay aside and they are ready to counter the Russian threat. As President Zelenskyy rightfully stated in his address during the World Economic Forum in Davos: "If anyone thinks this is only about Ukraine, they're fundamentally mistaken. Possible directions and even the timeline of new Russian aggression beyond Ukraine become more and more obvious."

Mr Chairperson,

Demonstrating the highest possible level of hypocrisy, the Russian Federation keeps criticising lawful arms transfers to Ukraine that are done in support of Ukraine's inherent right of self-defence in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter. The Russian Federation spares no efforts to disrupt transfers of defensive weapons to Ukraine at the same time importing arms from Iran and North Korea to enhance its capacity to continue its war of aggression.

Moreover, despite its regular statements on the so-called "industrial self-sufficiency", Russia spares no efforts to evade sanctions and to illicitly procure Western military technologies to support its military industry. According to some data, up to 95% of the foreign-produced

critical components, that were found in Russian weapons destroyed in Ukraine, come from Western countries.

These transfers are known to be conducted not by government agencies, but rather by private firms. Moreover, the exports entering Russia are not necessarily military goods, but also dual-use goods or civilian products or even household appliances.

That is exactly why, we all must remain vigilant against such procurement attempts and prevent them. Disrupting supplies of critical goods and technologies to Russia requires large-scale, concerted efforts by the private and public sectors. But it will save the lives of many civilians in Ukraine and disarray Putin's war machine.

The comprehensive block on the access of the Russian Federation to modern and sophisticated military technologies ultimately impacts Russia's ability to manufacture, sustain and deliver advanced weapons to the battlefield in Ukraine. We firmly believe that measures directed at dismantling the military-industrial capacity of the aggressor state can bring us closer to the end of the war and the long-awaited peace and stability.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.