



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1394th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

13 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

On the same day as we met to discuss Monday's ruthless attacks, Ukraine suffered a second wave of missile terror.

On October 11, russia launched 28 missiles and over 15 drones at Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces intercepted 20 missiles and shot down almost all drones.

As a result of the attack, the infrastructure of more than ten settlements in Lviv, Vinnytsia, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions were damaged.

In total, according to the Ukrainian Minister of Energy, russia damaged or destroyed up to 30% of the energy system.

As we can see, moscow deliberately targets power plants and electric grids all over Ukraine.

The intention is clear – to leave people without heating and electricity.

This fits well into the genocidal plan of the leader of the russian regime.

Meanwhile, russia continues to fire rockets and use drones against the cities of Ukraine.

On October 12, objects and civilians in more than 40 settlements were damaged.

Among them are Lviv, Popivka, Chugunivka, Ladyzhyn, Kryvyi Rih, Zaporizhzhia, Pavlograd and Nikopol.

Also, the invaders used 14 Iranian kamikaze drones to attack critical infrastructure in Odesa and Mykolaiv regions, 12 of these UAVs were destroyed.

The Zaporizhzhia NPP was once again completely cut off electricity supply. This is for the second time in five days.

russia has been targeting Ukrainian infrastructure from the very first days of this war.

So far, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies registered damage or destruction of 48,866 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 38,664 residential buildings and houses, roads and bridges, 1,854 educational and 361 medical institutions, 377 cultural and 82 religious buildings, and 4,708 water and electricity networks.

These numbers do not include the occupied territories to which we do not have access. The real level of destruction is much higher.

At the same time, with every new village and town liberated from the occupation, new sites of crimes are disclosed.

As the National Police reported, more than 120 bodies were exhumed in recently liberated Lyman and Sviatohirsk, in the Donetsk region.

64 of them are civilians. Many of them have signs of violent death.

In this context, after all its crimes, it is not surprising that moscow wants to question Ukraine's commitment to international law.

Even despite the fact that upon Ukraine's invitation numerous teams, including under the auspice of the International Criminal Court, are working on the ground and verifying all available information, russia still wants to convince the world of its version of the truth.

And the work of mentioned teams is not about blaming or propaganda statements, but about real criminal responsibility of whoever is responsible.

But how it should be cynical that every time when russia raises issues about violations of OSCE commitments it does so only for one reason – to deny its responsibility and further justify its intention to attack.

Esteemed colleagues,

This year's Nobel peace prize sent a powerful message about a common threat we face.

The russian regime like a cancer is spreading its metastases across Europe.

This disease started unnoticed and grew slowly from internal repressions, killings of some activists and opposition leaders and from intimidation of others.

This was enough for putin to build a repressive and aggressive regime.

Further, it served as a model to be simulated by minsk.

And here I would like to quote the words of Oleksandra Matviychuk, the head of Center for Civil Liberties, she said during a special press conference dedicated to the laureates of the 2022 Peace Prize.

"It is important to call a spade a spade. russia, which has not overcome its imperial complexes, is a threat to Ukraine and the whole world".

After repressing human right defenders in russia and after helping to crack down on the belarussian one, putin's regime is keen to destroy democracies around him.

Therefore, putin's internal repressions transformed further into war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the Ukrainian people.

Ans if this disease is neglected, consequences will be even more devastating.

Food crisis, energy crisis, irresponsible talk of nuclear war. Just to name a few.

At the same time, belarus continues its walk on a slippery path.

Despite continuous assurances from minsk, we, in Ukraine, still remember a phone conversation, which took place on the 22nd of February and when the minister of defense of belarus reassured us that there would be no attack on Ukraine from their territory.

But the situation on the ground speaks for itself. And it is getting even worse.

Apart of the deployment of a joint military grouping, aleksandr lukashenko ordered to check combat readiness of his troops as well as sent first 20 T-72 tanks to Belgorod.

Given the provocative behavior of Minsk, yesterday the Ukrainian President suggested to deploy a mission of international observers to be stationed on the border of Ukraine and Belarus in order to monitor the security situation there.

Let's see what option Minsk will choose.

Esteemed colleagues,

These days, after the appointment of Surovikin to command Russia's occupation contingent in Ukraine, his "successes" in Syria were widely quoted in the media.

Russian forces under his command hit homes, schools, healthcare facilities, and markets.

So, today the Russian regime believes that this metastasis of impunity can work out once again.

Russian warmongers hope that the brutality and cruelty of this new commander would help them to turn the tide of the war.

This is how Moscow sees peace with Ukraine – by force, coercion and subjugation.

But the Middle East bloody campaign of Surovikin gives us an important lesson.

To commit all these crimes against the civilians he enjoyed uncontested sky and unlimited military resources.

That's why our response to Russia's preparation for a new act of this brutal war must be full economic, political and international isolation of Russia and ensuring Moscow's accountability for its crimes.

Ours another priority is defense support for Ukraine, especially to secure our skies.

In this regard we are grateful to all those who have already helped us to secure our air defense system, which allows us to neutralize some of the Russian missiles and drones as well as for new commitments done just yesterday in Brussels.

We are grateful to 143 states that yesterday supported the historic UNGA resolution "Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the UN Charter".

I can only add that this is also about the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

The world had its say – Russia's attempted annexation will never be recognized by free nations and Russia must withdraw its forces from all of Ukraine's territory.

I hope envoys of Putin's regime will use time left before the consideration of the current issues to change the title of their issue. Time to live up to the results on the screen. Despite attempts to get a secret vote on the resolution and escape a global shame, it is clear now – Russia's annexation policy enjoys support of only four. "The best of the best".

Dear colleagues,

In conclusion, I will mention Nikopol, a city in the Dnipropetrovsk region. This is yet another city that Russia wants to tear to pieces.

During the night of October 12, the Russian invaders fired more than 100 shells from "Grad" system, 122 mm multiple rocket launchers, and heavy artillery.

I can hardly imagine what people feel under such a barrage.

Especially, a six-year-old girl who lost her both legs that night. At her six years.

We have to finally cut off any prospects for terror by putin's regime and for his impunity.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.