



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1108th FSC Plenary Meeting
(04 June 2025)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

This war began not in 2022, but in 2014, with Russia's illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea, followed by the destabilization of the Donbas region through Russian proxies. Russia's aggression has never been about "security concerns" or "protecting Russian speakers." It has always been a war of imperial conquest—waged by a permanent UN Security Council member against a sovereign state whose only "offense" was to choose democracy, dignity, and a European future.

Russia's narrative of a "coup d'état" in 2014 is a cynical falsification of history. President Yanukovich's rejection of the EU Association Agreement triggered mass protests against corruption, authoritarianism, and the betrayal of the people's will.

He fled Ukraine not under pressure from demonstrators, but under instruction from Moscow. Notably, at the time, Russia's envoy refused to sign – as a guarantor – the agreement between President Yanukovich and the opposition, having known—perhaps better than anyone—that Russia had already commenced its operation to seize Crimea.

Russia's claim that it was reacting to internal Ukrainian developments is a post-factum rationalization of a premeditated act of aggression.

The 1974 UN General Assembly Resolution on the Definition of Aggression unequivocally states that no consideration—political, economic, or otherwise—can justify an act of aggression.

Russia's justifications based on fabricated threats to language, identity, or imaginary persecution have no legitimacy under international law.

Moreover, the majority of Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine today strongly support Ukraine's independence and European future. According to the most recent data from the Razumkov Centre, only 6% of Russian speakers in Ukraine favour alignment with Russia. The rest overwhelmingly support a democratic, European course.

Ironically, it is Russia itself that has inflicted the greatest harm on Russian-speaking Ukrainians—especially those in Mariupol, Kharkiv, and the Donbas region, who have suffered immensely from Russia's brutal invasion.

Thousands of Russian-speaking Ukrainians serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice in defence of our common values. These brave men and women are not fighting because of language or ethnicity—they are defending their homeland from a foreign invader.

Let me also address Russia's continued distortion of the 1999 Charter for European Security—particularly the principle that “no State shall strengthen its security at the expense of others.” This clause must be read in full context, alongside the sovereign right of every participating State to choose its own security arrangements, including alliances. The principle of indivisible security does not grant any State the right to veto another's foreign or defence policy decisions.

In 2014, when Russia first attacked Ukraine, Ukraine was a non-aligned state. We had renounced nuclear weapons, sought a balanced foreign policy, and upheld neutrality. That did not deter Russia's aggression. And it was Russia's aggression in Crimea and Donbas that became the catalyst for Ukraine's shift in security doctrine—not the other way around.

The principle of indivisible security does not authorize coercion. It does not legitimize spheres of influence. And it certainly does not justify war.

Madam Chairperson,

Today marks 1,197 days since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This war has killed hundreds of thousands, displaced millions, destroyed vital infrastructure, and caused an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Despite the staggering losses, Russia continues to escalate its assault. In May alone, Ukraine recorded over 2,300 air raid alerts. On the night of 1 June alone, nearly 500 Iranian-made drones targeted Ukrainian territory, accompanied by three Iskander-M/KN-23 ballistic missiles and four Kh-101, Iskander-K air- and land-based cruise missiles.

And yet, Ukraine endures. According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, as of 4 June, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, Russian forces have suffered the following estimated losses:

- 991,820 personnel,
- 10,884 tanks,
- 22,678 armoured combat vehicles,
- 28,711 artillery systems,
- 1,402 multiple launch rocket systems,
- 1,176 anti-aircraft systems,
- 3,271 missiles,
- 38,924 tactical-level UAVs,
- 413 aircraft and 336 helicopters,
- 28 warships and 1 submarine.

These numbers reflect both the staggering cost of aggression and Ukraine's growing defensive capabilities.

Under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Ukraine exercises its inherent right to self-defence. Our military actions are focused strictly on lawful military objectives, consistent with international humanitarian law. We do not target civilians—we target the machinery of war.

In recent weeks, the Defence Forces of Ukraine have conducted a series of precise and successful operations against strategic military targets located within the Russian Federation and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine—targets directly involved in sustaining Russia's aggression.

Among them:

- The Kronstadt plant in Dubna, the Moscow region, where various unmanned aerial vehicles—such as Orion, Inokhodets, Molniya, Grom, Termit, Helios, and Sirius—are produced, alongside ground control systems;
- The Raduga plant in Dubna, which manufactures cruise missiles including the Kh-101/555, Kh-69, and Kh-59MK—missiles regularly used by Russia to strike civilian targets in Ukraine;
- The Angstrom factory in the Moscow region, which develops microelectronic components vital to Russia’s military-industrial complex;
- The Dmitrovsky chemical plant in the Ivanovo region, responsible for producing components of explosives, gunpowder, and fuels for missile and aviation use.

On 29 May, our Unmanned Systems Forces successfully struck an RB-301B *Borisoglebsk-2* electronic warfare station from approximately 70 km—a significant degradation of Russia’s battlefield electronic capability.

On 1 June, Ukraine carried out a carefully planned and highly effective special operation exclusively targeting military aviation assets used to attack Ukraine. The operation—code-named *Pavutyna* (Spider Web)—struck 41 aircraft stationed at Russian air bases, including strategic bombers such as the A-50, Tu-95, Tu-22M3, and Tu-160. These aircraft are key delivery systems for Russia’s long-range missile attacks. It is estimated that 34% of Russia’s strategic cruise missile carriers were affected. The total value of the destroyed aviation assets exceeds \$7 billion.

This complex operation involved over 117 unmanned aerial vehicles and required more than 18 months of detailed preparation. Intelligence gathered prior to execution confirmed that these aircraft were being readied for another wave of massive strikes on Ukrainian civilian and energy infrastructure.

These defensive actions demonstrate Ukraine’s capability and determination to degrade Russia’s capacity to wage war, while fully respecting the laws of armed conflict. They are proportionate, targeted, and designed to protect lives—Ukrainian and European alike.

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine remains committed to a just and lasting peace—one based on the UN Charter and OSCE principles. Ukraine does not seek war. We have repeatedly called for

a complete and unconditional ceasefire and for negotiations based on respect for international law. The United States proposed an immediate, interim 30-day ceasefire on 11 March. Ukraine supported it. Russia rejected it.

At the 30 May UN Security Council meeting, Russia made clear its intent to “continue and step up military activities as long as necessary.” This is not just a rejection of peace—it is a challenge to the entire international order and to the OSCE itself.

Ukraine continues to seek peace through dialogue. At Russia’s request, a new round of negotiations took place on 2 June in Istanbul. Ukraine’s delegation, led by our Minister of Defence, presented three clear agenda items:

1. A full and unconditional ceasefire.
2. Confidence-building measures: including the return of deported children, the release of all civilian hostages and POWs—particularly through an “all for all” exchange mechanism. At the meeting, Ukraine formally submitted a list of abducted children and awaits Russia’s response.
3. A summit of leaders: Ukraine proposed such a meeting between 20 and 30 June.

However, at the meeting in Istanbul, Russia did not make its proposals any more realistic, doable, or flexible. Despite the fact that they promised the United States to do this. The Russian document shared with Ukraine in Istanbul is a set of the same old ultimatums and unrealistic demands, echoing Russia’s 2022 positions.

Russia continues to reject any meaningful forms of a ceasefire. Instead, it puts forward various unacceptable conditions and demands in order to stop the killing. The consensus between not only Ukraine, the U.S., and European partners, but literally the entire world, is that there needs to be a full and unconditional ceasefire.

Nevertheless, some limited agreements were reached: the exchange of seriously wounded POWs, young soldiers aged 18–25, and the repatriation of 6,000 fallen soldiers. Ukraine believes further talks make sense only if they lead toward a leaders’ summit and concrete progress.

Madam Chairperson,

Russia continues to reject peace. The international community must increase pressure—military, economic, and diplomatic. Sanctions on Russia’s key sectors—

energy, banking, defence—must be expanded. Export controls tightened. Accountability pursued.

The path to peace runs through justice, respect for sovereignty, and upholding the principles we all pledged to defend in this forum. Russia's war is not only an attack on Ukraine—it is an attack on the very fabric of the international system.

Ukraine will continue to defend its people, its land, and its democratic future. We call on all OSCE participating States to maintain and deepen their support in this just cause.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.