



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

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to the 1499th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
28 November 2024

Madam Chairperson,

Once again, I would like to express gratitude to both, to Malta and Denmark, for organizing yesterday a special discussion within the joint FSC/PC meeting to consider the Russian attack on Ukraine with a strategic ballistic missile.

For the third winter in a row, Russia is still trying to freeze Ukraine into submission.

Just a few hours ago, Russia carried out yet another massive missile attack. Its main target was Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Ukraine was under the barrage of cruise and ballistic missiles fired from strategic bombers and ships, as well as from the ballistic launchers deployed in the Russian territory.

This attack caused disruption of water supply in certain cities, power outage and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

Russia must be held accountable for its terror against the civilians.

In addition to missiles, Russia continues to rain Ukraine with drone, actually, every night.

On 26 of November alone, Russia attacked Ukraine with almost two hundred drones. In one night. Different regions.

As President Zelenskyy said, and I quote, "it is nearly two hundred proofs that Russian ambitions are completely detached from any idea of real peace".

Air alarms last for many hours having a dire impact on the mental health of civilians, especially children. And it is our duty to protect them.

All the recent escalatory steps taken by Vladimir Putin, including the deployment of North Korea's troops, the attack on nuclear energy facilities and the use of new ballistic missile, are signs of his desperation.

Ukraine's resilience and the unity of the Free World is his weakness.

Putin seeks new means of terror to break the will of the Ukrainians to resist.

He is stepping up blackmail to stop our friends and partners from supporting Ukraine.

So, how should we respond to this escalatory weakness?

By enhancing Ukraine's defense capabilities.

By strengthening Ukraine's air shield.

By boosting Ukraine's economy.

By integrating Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.

By ensuring the full use of Russia's frozen assets to support Ukraine.

By countering Russia's ability to produce military equipment and missiles.

By depriving Russia of oil and gas revenues. By enhancing sanction against Russia. All these steps are already necessary to break the vicious circle of violence.

As we see, emboldened by its impunity, Russia continues to commit new serious crimes, including the execution of Ukrainian soldiers on the battlefield in violation of the IHL.

This week the Prosecutor's General Office opened investigation into new cases.

Reportedly, five Ukrainian defenders were executed near Pokrovsk.

As the Prosecutor's General Office stated: "After surrounding the house, the Russian military took the Ukrainian soldiers prisoners. They were forced to leave the shelter unarmed and lie on the ground. In violation of international humanitarian law, the occupiers shot the Ukrainian prisoners of war with automatic weapons".

Five others were executed in the vicinity of Vuhledar. Such reports are too frequent. Russian troops are committing these crimes openly and systematically.

And how should we respond to Russia's contempt for international law?

By stepping up our efforts aimed at ensuring accountability for all crimes committed by Russia.

In view of this, we are grateful to all participants of the 12th meeting of the Core Group on the Establishment of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine hosted by Latvia on 22 of November following the meeting of the Group in Vienna in September.

A relevant Declaration was adopted. And let me reinforce the invitation of the Core Group to other states "to actively consider endorsing the establishment of a Special Tribunal".

Russia must understand that accountability is inevitable. Political. Legal. Financial. Diplomatic.

The recent elections to the OPCW Executive Council demonstrated such accountability.

Of course, Russia can continue to organize large gatherings with pomp, however, the voting results of 140 participating states speak for themselves.

It is yet another proof of an ongoing international isolation of the aggressor state, as Russia failed to secure a seat in the Council for the second year in a row.

As long as Russia continues the war against Ukraine, uses banned chemicals against Ukrainian soldiers and violates the Chemical Weapons Convention, it lacks the moral authority to be elected to the governing bodies of international organizations.

Colleagues, last Saturday, on 23 November, Ukrainians all around the world commemorated one of the darkest tragedies committed by the Soviet regime against our people – the Holodomor-Genocide.

Sadly, in the midst of its aggression against Ukraine Russia continues to weaponize food to provoke the starvation in different corners of the globe. A dire reminiscence of the dark past for us.

So, how should we implement the commitment “never again”, when Russia is trying to replicate the worst policies of the Soviet Union?

By helping others to avoid the tragedies of the past. This is the best way to honour to the victims. And Ukraine will continue to do so.

On 23 November, on the Holodomor commemoration day, Ukraine hosted the Third International Summit on Food Security under the auspices of the Grain from Ukraine humanitarian program.

Against all odds, including mine contamination, shelling of fields, attacks on port infrastructure and grain storages, Ukraine remains one of the contributors to global food security. This is thanks to the courage of our farmers.

At the same time, as President Zelenskyy said, “We do not want just to export food. We want to share with African countries technologies, food processing, our experience of the land cultivation”. This will contribute to their sustainability.

We believe that when Russia violates every single letter of international law, we can prevail only by standing together and strengthening the resilience of others. When Russia provokes chaos. We must help bring stability.

Dear colleagues,

The coming weeks will be difficult. Most probably, the terror will be intensified, further escalatory steps will follow and new reckless attacks by Russia will continue. Putin believes that fear and terror are his allies and will help him to get what he wants.

But should we let ourselves be intimidated?

While Moscow is trying to convince the world in its strength and that the war has created an economic miracle in Russia, the facts say the opposite.

The Russian currency continues to depreciate. When Russia started the war, the dollar was worth 70 rubles, today it is about 110.

In February 2022, the interest rate in Russia was about 8%. Now it has reached 21%. Not to mention the other consequences.

The war of aggression always backfires. Sending thousands of soldiers to die for so-called “historical lands” takes its toll. And spending national wealth to launch more and bigger missiles against another country destroys your own prospects.

This shows that we have a chance to force Russia to respect the rule of law, the inviolability of borders and human rights and freedoms. If Russia’s weakness is timely exploited.

As Minister Sybiha said at the G7 special session in Italy, “Supporting Ukraine is the best investment in the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic community and the world. With timely and sufficient support, we are able to overcome aggression and achieve a comprehensive, just and sustainable peace based on the Peace Formula”.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.