



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by Ukraine on the escalatory
use of strategic weaponry in Russia's aggression against Ukraine**

as for delivery by the Delegation of Ukraine
to the 93rd Joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council,
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Chairpersons, distinguished Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank the Maltese OSCE and Danish FSC Chairpersonships for arranging this special discussion on yet another dangerous escalation of the war by Russia.

Early in the morning of 21 November the Russian war criminal regime attacked a peaceful and still sleeping Ukrainian city of Dnipro with, as the Russian dictator Putin said himself, an experimental intermediate-range ballistic missile.

That day Ukraine was celebrating the Day of Dignity and Freedom, remembering the two Ukrainian revolutions and honouring what Ukrainians truly were.

As the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, with this missile attack Russia has once again shown how they despised dignity, freedom and human lives.

Putin's speech on the use of this weapon is another evidence and de facto admission of guilt in the crime of aggression against Ukraine and all the resulting atrocities against our people.

This confession is well documented and will be used for bringing Putin himself and other war criminals of Moscow regime to justice.

Having attacked one of the biggest and densely populated cities in Ukraine with the new type of strategic weapons, Russia made it clear that people's lives don't matter for Putin. They never have been.

Any Ukrainian city can be considered by Putin as a testing ground for the deadly weapon. This was his threat.

Russia, which raised dozens of Ukrainian cities and hundreds of villages to the ground, destroyed the Kakhovka dam, committed massacre in Bucha, bombed Mariupol... has once again demonstrated its unwillingness to stop committing war crimes in Ukraine.

It is high time the Special Tribunal on the Russian war crimes in Ukraine is established and started considering the evidence.

This attack has also shown that the Russian dictator remains the only one standing in the way of restoring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Europe.

It is Putin, who ignores all those world leaders, repeatedly calling on him to stop the war against Ukraine. Instead, he expands and escalates it.

Moreover, he openly threatens to use strategic weaponry also against those countries which support Ukraine in its rightful resistance against the Russian aggression and terror. So, we have no other option but to stop him together.

In the comment by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's missile threat, dated 21 November, it is noted (I quote): "Putin himself has proved to the world that he can only be forced to peace, no amount of talking will work. Appeasement has never worked and will not work now. The only realistic approach is peace through strength, restoration of full respect for the UN Charter, international law, and Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity..."

... We call on the nuclear club countries to warn the Russian Federation against threatening the use of nuclear weapons" (end of quote).

Dear Colleagues,

Targeting our peaceful cities with missiles and Iranian "Shahed" drones is already not enough for Putin.

To break the will of the Ukrainian people to resist, Russia is trying to escalate the terror.

Russia's recent steps to expand the war include the involvement of DPRK troops, strikes on Ukraine's nuclear energy facilities, and the use of a medium-range ballistic missile.

But Russia will never succeed in intimidating the brave people of Ukraine and our heroic Armed Forces, who defend our country's sovereignty, independence and the very right to exist.

We are grateful to all our partners around the world, who did not remain silent and have been responding to Putin's disregard, unacceptable threats and nuclear blackmailing.

The civilised world must react to the Russian escalation of war timely and decisively.

We have to exert even more pressure on Putin and his regime, including through the intensified international sanctions and closure of existing loopholes. Including with regard to such Russia's allies as Iran, North Korea and Belarus.

Furthermore, it is vital, on the one hand, to strengthen Ukraine's air shield.

On the other hand - to apply systemic measures to deter and counter Russia's ability to produce and use any missiles.

And it is critically important to deprive Russia of oil and gas revenues used to finance the war.

Chairpersons, dear Colleagues,

Ukraine is defending itself against the Russian aggression under the Article 51 of the UN Charter and has every right to strike any Russian legitimate military targets to protect the Ukrainian population in accordance with international law.

We will continue to do so, until Putin stops his aggression and withdraws his troops from the sovereign internationally recognised territory of Ukraine.

The best response to Putin's threats is to force him to just and lasting peace.

The Ukrainian Peace Formula provides the necessary roadmap for reaching this goal.

It is high time to act. Otherwise, there will be another Russian deadly strikes, threats and escalation of war. And not only against Ukraine...

The just and lasting peace is worth all the efforts. Only together we will be able to establish and secure it for the sake of the whole civilised world and for the sake of future generations.

Thank you, Chairpersons.