



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 1401st meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania His Excellency Mr Gabrielius Landsbergis to the Permanent Council.

We are grateful to the Minister for his strong words of support and for a sober assessment of the developments in the region, including of the role of international organizations.

We also share a vision of a way ahead as presented by the Mr Landsbergis. This resonates with Minister Kuleba's remarks in Lodz that the OSCE must fight for its principles, as the OSCE faces an existential choice: dying with Russia or living without it.

And we fully agree with Minister Landsbergis that we must take necessary lessons from the ongoing war – in order to defend our principles, ensure a victory of justice and make a future Europe more fair.

And after the successful conclusion of the Ministerial Council, I want also to express words of gratitude to the Polish Chairmanship, especially to Ambassador Halacinski and his team, for a highly principled stance, hospitality and excellent organization of the meeting as well as to all delegations for their unwavering support for Ukraine.

Also, availing myself of the presence of Minister Landsbergis, I want to thank him personally for the very able Lithuanian team here in Vienna.

Esteemed colleagues,

The Russian war against civilians continues.

This week, Ukraine witnessed yet another barrage of Russian missiles.

About 70 missiles were launched from the Caspian Sea and Volgograd, as well as from the Black Sea.

As a result, critical energy infrastructure was damaged in Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Odesa regions.

There were also interruptions with electricity supply in Moldova again. And this once again proves that Russia's aggressive war is a threat not only to Ukraine, but also to our entire region.

And as we heard from our partners at the Ministerial, the Russian's aggressive behaviour is undermining stability in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific Region as well.

Two days ago, there was another attack with 14 Iranian drones.

Neither has Russia stopped shelling Ukrainian cities with S-300 systems. And let me touch on that in greater details.

During a number of the PC meetings Russian diplomats were trying to question reports about the use of S-300 systems by Russian troops to hit ground targets.

Last time, the Russian representative even characterised it as a malarkey or “небылица” in Russian.

Well, it only took a few minutes to find a press statement by the Russian Eastern Military District issued May 30, 2017. It is still available on the website of the Russian defense ministry. At least, it was a day ago.

It says that “crews of the S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems in the Khabarovsk Territory carried out electronic launches of missiles at ground targets [...] It is noted that the S-300 anti-aircraft systems are capable to destroy ground targets after receiving their coordinates from reconnaissance units of the ground forces”.

Let me repeat – S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems are capable to destroy ground targets, as confirmed by the Russian military.

So, should we be surprised to hear lies from Russian diplomats in this room?

After hearing the same lies from the same representatives last November, December, January and February about the non-existence of a Russian threat, it is clear that Russian diplomacy is not going to change its approach.

But should we keep diplomatic channels open for such lies? The OSCE was not established for this. It is not a platform for disseminating false narratives but a platform for making people’s lives better.

And lies can be different, but this one is especially cynical, as it is aimed at covering the genocidal war against the Ukrainian people.

However, Russians continue to call it “serious and professional diplomacy”.

As the Ministerial demonstrated, we are going to watch a new stage setting by the Russian diplomats – how they are conciliatory in their statements and committed to a dialogue.

There is a clear reason for this, as well as a clear explanation why it is a trap.

As Russia is losing the war militarily, they are trying to re-write the end of the story diplomatically.

But whatever tricks the Russian diplomacy may use, their goals have not change.

Yesterday’s meeting of President Putin with the so-called Council for Civil Society and Human Rights is very telling in this regard.

He was very enthusiastic to announce that gaining new territories for Russia was a tangible result of the war he started.

For Putin it is nothing else but a war of conquest.

This time he declared the Sea of Azov as Russia’s internal sea.

Unfortunately, President Putin failed to learn the recent lesson of Kherson.

Well, for some it’s better to learn from own mistakes.

And if one may still believe that the Kremlin is negotiable, let me remind that the last missile attack took place on the 28th anniversary of the Budapest Memorandum, which was signed, by the way, in the margins of the OSCE Summit in 1994.

Having concluded this document, Russia reaffirmed its obligations to respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

But Moscow defiantly violated its obligations by unleashing a full-scale war against Ukraine and by trying to destroy the Ukrainian nation as part of its genocidal policy.

So, the Budapest memorandum proves that no agreement with the Russian Federation works if Russia retains the physical ability and motivation to violate them.

Dear colleagues,

Last time about 60 out of 70 launched missiles were intercepted.

Every intercepted Russian missile is someone's saved life.

And we are grateful to our partners for delivering air defense systems to Ukraine.

This is a concrete proof of why we must focus on prevention of Russia's terror.

More modern anti-missile and air-defence systems can effectively close the skies over Ukraine.

Another point is the production of the Russian missiles. The good news is that they have started using newly produced items – it means that their stockpiles are running dry. However, the bad news is that they can still produce them. It should be put on hold.

As it was established, Russian missiles rely on foreign microchips, including those supporting GLONASS system.

In this case, in addition to improved export control and closing sanction loopholes, removal of the function of supporting GLONASS system is critically important.

Another critically important issue is addressing Russia's impunity.

After all crimes committed, the Russian leadership, military and diplomats still believe that they will come out dry. As they did for decades before. That's why they keep the tone of 'ultimatums'.

They mistakenly believe that sovereignty is a kind of indulgence to commit crimes against other sovereign neighbours with unprecedented cruelty over and over.

That's why Ukraine's message is clear: no more impunity for Russia. It is in everyone's interest that this vicious circle will be broken.

There is a clear individual responsibility for planning, preparation, initiation and waging war of aggression against Ukraine, while the Kremlin bets on its impunity.

Indeed, we have seen this before. Let me quote from one official.

"[They] knew that by their predatory attacks on other countries they committed the gravest Crimes against Peace. They knew it, and they know it now, and that is the reason why they attempted and are now attempting to camouflage their criminal aggression with lies about defense ... [they] knew that cynical mockery of the laws and customs of war constituted the gravest of crimes. They knew it, but they hoped that total war, by securing victory, would also secure their impunity".

This statement is not recent and belongs to Roman Rudenko, Chief Prosecutor for the USSR, which was delivered on the 8th of February, 1946, during the opening of another historical Tribunal.

At that time, this extraordinary and unique step helped to restore the rule of law and to heal broken societies.

Based on the lessons of that war, an extensive system of human rights protection was developed by our predecessors.

Even more, brand new organizations were established to serve to people.

We have to use our chance likewise to make this world more just by establishing a special tribunal to address the crime of aggression against Ukraine. In the name of our successors and their better future.

And it is time to admit – it is the russians who need this Tribunal the most.

Up to these days, russians saw how their leadership managed to escape the responsibility for the gravest crimes and to remain respectful in the civilized world.

This led to a criminal conspiracy and turning the machinery of the russian state into a mechanism for the preparation and prosecution of a criminal aggression.

All aggressors follow the same pattern.

So should we follow our own pattern by bringing to justice those responsible for crimes against peace and our common security.

This is a part of a “peace formula” presented recently by President Zelenskyy.

And we invite the OSCE to make a contribution to its implementation.

Ukraine wants peace more than any other country.

But russia's blatant violation of its obligations emphasizes the need to develop a new high-quality system of security guarantees for Ukraine and the world, which will effectively prevent any possibility for the russian aggression to occur again.

And as it was agreed in Łódź by Minister Kuleba and EU High Representative Borrell, if russia wages the total war against Ukraine, it means that Ukraine needs total support to ensure that justice prevail.

This is the only way to restore a lasting peace in Europe.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.