



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

### **Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**

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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna  
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#### **Madam Chairperson,**

In September we spoke about a family Russia killed in Lviv.

Three girls – Yaryna, Daryna and Emiliya – perished together with their mother under the rubble of their house. Only their father survived.

This week the tragedy has been repeated. This time in Kryvyi Rih.

32-year-old Olena and her three kids – 10-year-old Kyrylo, 2-year-old Demyd, and 2-month-old Uliana – were buried under what was left of their apartment after the Russian hit. Their father is the only survivor.

When Russia attacked Kryvyi Rih on 11 November, Moscow also killed five people in Mykolaiv on the same day, while air strikes on Zaporizhzhia claimed one life and injured 21 others, including children.

This is what denazification is. Killing family after family. This is what the Russian delegation means when it talks about denazification in its weekly statements.

The use of strategic aviation has also been resumed. On Monday, we observed a simulated launch by a number of Tu-95MS. Two days later Kyiv was under a barrage of drones, cruise and ballistic missiles. It is a reminder of Russia's preparations for attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, including those critical to the safe operation of the NPPs, as winter approaches and temperatures drop below zero.

Moreover, when Russia killed ten civilians and injured more than 40 people, including four children, in Zaporizhzhia on 7 of November, Vladimir Putin appeared at the Valdai Club saying, I quote, "today Russia is fighting for its freedom, for its rights, for its sovereignty".

But how? By killing whole families? By executing POWs, with new cases this week? By trying to enslave a neighbouring participating State? This is pure terror, nothing else.

Moreover, during his Valdai performance, Vladimir Putin also revealed how he sees the achievement of what he cannot achieve militarily.

Let me quote him again: "If there is no neutrality, it is hard to imagine good-neighbourly relations between Russia and Ukraine". End of quote.

So, Russia is trying to repeat its old tricks.

Because the truth is that "the closer a country is to Russia, the weaker the concept of neutrality becomes", as President Zelenskyy stated in Budapest last week.

Unfortunately, Ukraine has its own bitter experience of this.

The year of 2010 is worth mentioning. Then, as Russia is now insisting, Ukraine declared by law its status of a non-bloc or neutral state. Against this background, the stationing of Russia's Black Sea fleet in Crimea was prolonged for decades to come. Moscow could not have been more happy.

But did Ukraine get stability and predictability in return? Absolutely not. What Ukraine got was a war – the trade war.

By exploiting Ukraine's critical dependence on Russia's market and energy, the Kremlin tried to finally subjugate Ukraine by forcing it into its own alliance, the Custom Union.

In fact, it was an economic aggression long before Russia launched a military one.

This is despite the fact that by signing the Budapest Memorandum Russia obliged itself "in accordance with the principles of the [Helsinki] Final Act, to refrain from economic coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by Ukraine of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind".

Moreover, contrary to Russia's version of events, Ukraine was still legally neutral country, when Russia occupied Crimea and a part of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions by force in 2014.

So, neutrality did not work then. Why should it work now? Or, to be more precise, when Ukraine is weak, isolated and in a "grey zone", it works for Russia.

At the same time, following the initial show of force in 2014, the Russian Federation has significantly increased its military presence along Ukraine's eastern border. Since 2016, new military units have been created and deployed in the vicinity of the Ukrainian border.

Needless to say, that following its aggression against Georgia in 2008 Russia has been investing its oil and gas revenues in modernizing its army.

These preparations, accompanied by regular large-scale military exercises, culminated in a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which turns to be an existential struggle for the Ukrainian people today and the greatest challenge to both European security and rules-based international order.

Together with the fact that all 20 ceasefires, agreed for the occupied Donbas between 2014 and 2022, were violated by the Russian side, it is a stark reminder that only a strong deterrent will reverse Russia's aggressive policy and will set the right tone for diplomacy.

### **Esteemed colleagues,**

It is true, that Putin's goals have not changed. He still wants to destroy Ukraine.

But it is also true, that Putin calibrates his demands according to the resistance and unity he faces.

In 2022, he bluntly demanded Ukraine's total subjugation and NATO to roll back to the borders of 1997.

In 2024, Putin is already trying to camouflage his goals by demanding Ukraine's neutrality and five regions under his rule, as if we were living in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

And it is a clear indication, that in 2025 Putin can roll back his demands even further if enough pressure is put on him.

This is what President Zelenskyy has proposed in the Victory Plan.

Namely, it is a set of concrete steps, including long-range strikes and draining Russia's oil revenues, that will strengthen Ukraine militarily and diplomatically.

This will pave the way for the implementation of Ukraine's Peace Formula and for a just end of the war.

This is in the best interest of Europe. And of the Indo-Pacific region, as North Korea's growing involvement shows.

And if today we are talking about a just end of the war, it is also high time to think about a lasting stability in Europe afterwards.

As the recent past shows, this requires Ukraine's integration into the Euro-Atlantic security architectures.

Let me conclude with a reference to the second anniversary of the liberation of Kherson, we marked on 11 November.

It stands alone as a symbol of resistance to Russia's occupation and as a manifestation of Moscow's failed plans.

Even earlier, in March 2022, we were all inspired by the people who took to the streets of Kherson chanting "Russian invaders go home" and "We are Ukraine!" with no fear of the presence of Russian troops in full gear.

And for the third year in a row Ukraine continues to resist to the full-scale invasion, despite Russia's futile attempts to turn Ukraine into a fragile state since 2014, and even since 2010 if the economic aggression is taken into account.

This internal resilience of Ukraine, together with external resolve of our partners and friends, is how the Free World can prevail and achieve a just peace through strength approach.

This is how we can return true meaning to the rule of law by forcing pariah states to respect it.

**I thank you, Madam Chairperson.**