



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

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

**1050<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(21 June 2023)

Agenda Item 2, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine allow me to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The intensification of hostilities is taking place along the whole front. The Ukrainian Defence Forces are continuing to carry out both offensive and defensive operations on various segments of the frontline.

The strategic goal of the Armed Forces of Ukraine is the liberation of all occupied territories. The success at the front is measured not only by the advance of the troops. Success is also measured by inflicting maximum losses on the enemy and weakening its logistics and supply system in the rear.

In the Berdiansk and Mariupol sectors, the Ukrainian forces are steadily advancing. Over the past week, 8 settlements have been liberated. The most recent case is the liberation of the settlement of Piatykhatky in the Zaporizhzhia region on 18 June. In total, Ukraine's Defence Forces have liberated 103 square kilometres during the two weeks of counteroffensive actions.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine also continue to conduct an offensive operation in the area of Bakhmut, making progress on the flanks, launching counterattacks and improving their tactical positions. The enemy continues to suffer significant losses. In the previous week alone, the Russian army lost 4,600 soldiers, both killed and wounded.

Overall, the Russian army has already lost over 220,000 soldiers, more than 4,000 tanks, more than 7,700 armoured vehicles, 314 aircraft, and 306 helicopters in Ukraine (as of 21 June 2023).

On the battlefield, we can clearly observe the results of unwavering support for Ukraine from our partners. With the help of modern and advanced weaponry provided to Ukraine by our international partners, the Ukrainian Armed Forces are now able to conduct counterattacks, effectively disrupt enemy supply lines and destroy ammunition depots. Last week, Ukrainian forces successfully destroyed a large Russian ammunition depot in the Henichesk district of the Kherson region.

We are most grateful for the actions taken by Ukraine's international partners to increase our combat capabilities, in particular within the framework of the Rammstein format, the last meeting of which was quite successful on 15 June in Brussels.

At the same time, in order to halt Russia's aggression, Ukraine requires additional weapons. As Minister of Defence of Ukraine Oleksii Reznikov said: «We can win this war and restore peace in Europe. Weapons, ammo, and equipment bring us close to this goal».

Against the backdrop of the ongoing intense hostilities, international military assistance to Ukraine is now more crucial than ever. Heavy armoured vehicles, in particular tanks, advanced air defence systems and combat aircraft, are especially necessary for liberating Ukraine's sovereign territories from the occupiers.

Equally important is further weakening the Kremlin's war machine. It is evident that the sanctions and other restrictive measures imposed against the aggressor state are effective. They are eroding the military strength of the Russian Federation, increasing its international isolation and exerting additional pressure on the Russian economy, thereby making the war an unbearable burden for the criminal regime in the Kremlin.

The international pressure must be further intensified to undermine the Russian Federation's ability to wage war, especially by preventing Russia's attempts to circumvent the sanctions in order to acquire access to modern technologies.

Despite Russia's repeated claims of self-sufficient economy and advanced production capabilities, we are all aware of its critical reliance on foreign technologies, as clearly demonstrated by deepening military-industrial cooperation with other pariah regimes such as Iran and North Korea.

Esteemed colleagues,

Being unable to advance, the Russian Federation continues to rely on its numerical artillery superiority, persisting in indiscriminate barrage shelling. In pursuit of their strategy of pointless destruction, Russian forces consistently launch new missile strikes throughout Ukraine.

On 14 June 2023, Russians targeted Kyiv and Odesa. Even the official visit of leaders from seven African countries to Kyiv on that day did not dissuade the Russian military leadership from launching the missile attack. Russian missile attack during the stay of African leaders in the capital of Ukraine is president Putin's message to Africa: Russia seeks only war, not peace.

Yesterday, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported a large-scale air attack by the Russian Federation, when the enemy launched 35 Shahed-type UAVs, with the Ukrainian Defence Forces successfully intercepting and destroying 32 of them.

The situation in the areas adjacent to the frontline is equally tense. Numerous settlements located close to the areas of hostilities continue to endure significant destruction.

The Russian forces persist in shelling peaceful settlements in close proximity to the frontline, targeting critical infrastructure such as medical and educational institutions, as well as electricity and water supply facilities.

An illustrative example of such deliberate strategy occurred on 17 June, when artillery shelling of the Kostiantynivka settlement in the Donetsk region resulted in the injury of a woman and a child. Additionally, at least 11 residential houses, as well as gas and electric supply chain facilities, were damaged.

Regular indiscriminate Russian attacks against the civilian population continue to worsen the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. Numerous people in war-affected communities are very often deprived of access to basic needs, including health care, food and water. Against this backdrop, it is not only cynical, but criminal on the part of the Russian Federation to obstruct access to the areas still under its occupation for international humanitarian missions.

Such facts are regularly registered and documented by representatives of international organisations engaged in humanitarian missions in Ukraine. The most recent statement on this issue was released on 18 June by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine, Denise Brown, regarding Russia's refusal to deliver UN humanitarian aid to areas affected by the devastating destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant Dam.

These inhuman actions are unacceptable and must be stopped immediately. As clearly prescribed by International Humanitarian Law, the occupying power must allow free access of all humanitarian organisations and allow relief operations necessary to aid the local population in the temporarily occupied territories.

Madam Chairperson,

On 15 June 2023, the Russian military court in Rostov-on-Don started a hearing on the case of 22 captured representatives of the Azov regiment of the National Guard of Ukraine.

By doing this the Russian Federation once again demonstrates its complete disregard for its obligations under International Humanitarian Law that regulate the treatment of Prisoners of War. Following the infamous traditions of Stalin-era «show trials», the Russian Federation

exploits Ukrainian Prisoners of War in the same way as typical terrorists in order to increase pressure and make political demands.

The so-called «Rostov trial» represents another example of Russia's systematic violation of the rights of Ukrainian Prisoners of War, which includes acts of murder, torture, and physical exhaustion.

It is quite clear, that the real motive behind this so-called «trial» is the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine. Unable to change the course of events on the ground, the Russian Federation is trying to instil fear and undermine the resolve of Ukrainian military to continue fighting. It is nothing but an attempt of psychological pressure to slow down the advance of Ukrainian troops.

But we have something to say in response to this with the words of the President of Ukraine: «Russia will lose the occupied territories. There is no alternative to our steps for de-occupation. Our troops are making progress, position by position, step by step, as we move forward».

The full liberation of the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders remains our utmost goal. And we are confident that this goal will be achieved.

Ukraine remains unshakable in its desire to restore the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, including the territories that the Russian Federation attempted to annex in Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.