



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

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Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine continues to defend itself against a terrorist regime that uses the word “peace” only as camouflage for murder. Every single day, Russia kills Ukrainians. Every single night, it launches missiles and drones to destroy homes, hospitals, and schools – to burn our children alive in their sleep. This is not a “conflict”. It is a war of annihilation, waged by a permanent member of the UN Security Council against a sovereign European nation.

Over the month of October alone, Russia launched nearly 5,300 attack UAVs against Ukraine. In just the past week, it has used 1,170 guided aerial bombs, and more than 70 missiles of various types to strike at life itself in Ukraine. Residential buildings, civilian infrastructure, and energy facilities once again became targets of deliberate terrorist attacks.

Colleagues,

Moscow's propaganda machine works day and night to distort reality. It tells you this war was “provoked”. It tells you Russia is “protecting Russian speakers”. It tells you Ukraine is to blame for its own destruction. Every word of that is a lie. Russia has been preparing this war for years.

It began in 2014, when war criminal Putin sent Russian soldiers in unmarked uniforms to seize Ukrainian Crimea. At first, he denied everything – and now, he boasts about it.

The war continued when Russian special forces and mercenaries – led by figures like Igor Girkin (Strelkov) – started the war in Donbas. Behind them stood Kremlin

advisors such as Sergey Glazyev, who coordinated efforts to destabilize Ukraine long before the Revolution of Dignity. And Vladislav Surkov, the self-proclaimed architect of the so-called “russkiy mir” – the man who turned imperial nostalgia into a doctrine of hatred and genocide against Ukrainians.

Allow me to remind colleagues: in mid-2014, Ukraine’s Armed Forces were conducting a successful counter-offensive in Donbas that was about to collapse the so-called “republics”. Then, Russian artillery from across the border began shelling Ukrainian positions, and the regular Russian troops illegally crossed the border to fight our defenders.

Then, on 17 July 2014, the world witnessed the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over Donbas by Russia.

The Kremlin’s regime lied to the international community about everything – even as its soldiers died on Ukrainian soil.

Then came Ilovaisk – extermination disguised by russians as mercy. On 28 August, Putin proposed a so-called “green corridor” for Ukrainian withdrawal. On 29 August, as our columns retreated under that guarantee, Russian forces opened fire – killing hundreds. Putin promised safety, then ordered killing.

Later came Debaltseve, another betrayal – a direct violation of the Minsk Agreements. While the world spoke of ceasefires, Russia continued its assault. All these facts are well-documented.

What happened in 2022 was not a “new phase”. It was the culmination of years of lies, hatred, and impunity. False “military drills” near our borders. False assurances that there would be “no invasion”. All while Russia was assembling the largest invasion force in Europe since Second World War.

The result – names the world will never forget:

- Bucha, Irpin, Borodianka – mass executions and torture chambers created by Russian occupation forces;
- Mariupol – a theatre clearly marked “CHILDREN”, bombed by Russian forces with hundreds of civilians sheltering in its basement. They knew who was inside – women, the elderly and children – and still dropped bombs;
- Olenivka – Ukrainian prisoners of war burned alive by Russia;
- Kakhovka – a dam blown up by Russian troops, flooding homes, poisoning the land, and destroying lives.

And the list grows: tortured civilians, raped women, executed soldiers, deported children, energocide. Every crime is deliberate. Every act approved by command. This is not “collateral damage” – this is a strategy of extermination, planned in the Kremlin long before the first missile was launched.

Colleagues,

This aggression is not isolated – it relies on the systemic complicity of third countries that provide Russia with logistical, technological, and economic support, fully aware of its consequences. Belarus, as Russia’s key ally, is deeply integrated into the Russian defence complex, transferring both technologies and manufactured military products.

We draw attention to the recently published investigations by the Belarusian non-governmental organization “BelPol”, operating in Poland, which provide additional documentary evidence of cooperation between Russia and Belarus in the defence industry and of the involvement of Belarusian enterprises in the implementation of Russia’s State Defence Procurement Program. Among other things, the new materials indicate that Belarus has supplied the aggressor state with equipment used for the production of artillery ammunition, as well as that Belarusian specialists have been repairing equipment for intercontinental ballistic missile systems.

Previously, at the Permanent Council, we reported shocking evidence of mass production by Belarusian enterprises of hundreds of thousands of components for artillery shells, opto-mechanical units, and aiming devices for various types of weapons, armoured vehicles, and tanks. Overall, according to “BelPol”, several hundred Belarusian enterprises are involved in fulfilling Russia’s defence procurement orders.

The very fact that Russia remains capable of obtaining all necessary dual-use materials and specialized components for its military-industrial complex sends a clear signal: more sanctions must be imposed not only on Russia, its economy, and its defence industry, but also on those countries that assist Russia in implementing its State Defence Procurement Program and in circumventing existing restrictions.

Colleagues,

We have long ceased to be surprised by Russian cynicism. This is a state built on lies – a regime that speaks of “tradition” while its soldiers commit rape; that speaks of “faith” while it burns churches; that speaks of “freedom” while it imprisons its citizens for using the word “war”.

Ukraine continues to fight – not because we seek war, but because we stand for democratic values, for the rule of law, and for the very principles that are so alien to Putin’s authoritarian regime.

The war that Russia started must not end through words but through justice – through accountability for every war crime, through the return of every abducted child, and through the liberation of every occupied city.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.