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Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

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

1109th FSC Plenary Meeting

(11 June 2025)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

The longer this war continues, the more obvious is the growing dichotomy of Russia's aggressive course aimed at misleading the international community and justifying illegal aggression.

At the very same time as Russia declares its sincere interest in achieving longterm, lasting peace, its armed forces continue to kill Ukrainian civilians and to raze entire regions to the ground.

While Russian diplomats proclaim respect for international law, advocate for the restoration of military transparency, and call for the re-establishment of predictability, Russian military commanders authorise new waves of massive strikes using the full arsenal of destructive means.

This is not new. We witnessed the same pattern in 2014, when the Russian Federation conducted covert operations in Crimea and the Donbas, while denying any involvement. We heard similar statements in 2022, when Russian troops were massing along the border in preparation for an invasion, and the Russian Federation dismissed all concerns as anti-Russian hysteria.

We hear similar statements today, almost weekly. The Russian Federation, in the most cynical way, persistently plays the role of the victim, while in fact it is the aggressor.

Esteemed colleagues,

Since our last meeting, no day has passed without new Russian attacks.

On 4 June, the same day the Russian delegation in this very Forum once again reiterated its mantra on the "root causes" of the conflict, a drone attack on residential areas in the city of Kharkiv injured 18 civilians, including four children.

On 5 June, a Russian strike on Pryluky in the Chernihiv region killed five people, including a newborn. That same day, attacks on residential buildings in Kharkiv injured 19 more, including children and a pregnant woman.

On 6 June, Kyiv and five other regions came under fire during a massive aerial assault using drones and missiles. The attacks caused six deaths, including emergency responders in Kyiv, and around 80 injuries across various regions of Ukraine.

On 7 June, another strike on Kharkiv led to new civilian casualties, including 3 people killed and 22 wounded.

Between 9 and 10 June, Russia launched over 300 drones and 7 missiles, including ballistic missiles of North Korean origin. Civilian homes, city infrastructure, and medical facilities were targeted. Across Ukraine, including Kyiv, Odesa, Dnipro, and Chernihiv regions, 13 people were injured.

In Odesa, a missile killed a 59-year-old man and injured at least four people. One strike destroyed the administrative building of an emergency medical station, damaging ambulances and nearby homes. Another strike hit a maternity hospital, forcing the evacuation of patients and staff.

In Kyiv, strikes hit seven districts. Explosions and fires tore through apartment buildings, schools, private homes, and warehouses. At least 4 people were hospitalised.

The long list of daily atrocities committed by Russia in Ukraine has nothing to do with Russia's stated interest in a peaceful settlement. Instead, it reflects a deliberate tactic of intimidation and fear-mongering.

Since the beginning of this year, Russia has used more than 27,000 aerial bombs, 11,200 Shahed drones, nearly 9,000 other UAVs, and 700 missiles of various types.

These are not actions of a state seeking peace — they are acts of state terror. As Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha rightly noted: "Russia's only argument is terror."

Madam Chairperson,

Russia's distortions and propaganda aim to obscure the truth and shift blame. But let's be clear: the current European security crisis is a direct result of Moscow's disregard for all norms — bilateral and multilateral, political and legal.

The international response must remain firm. Sanctions — including a lower oil price cap, stricter banking measures, and secondary sanctions — are essential to weaken Russia's war machine, which targets not only Ukraine but the whole of Europe.

Equally important are steps to strengthen Ukraine's ability to defend itself, particularly through additional supplies of air defence capabilities.

As Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister Valerii Churkin recently noted: "Despite statements about a possible ceasefire, we see clear signs that Russia is preparing for an even larger war. They are conducting mobilization efforts, increasing arms production, and stockpiling long-range missiles."

We express deep appreciation to partners who continue to provide Ukraine with critical military support. The 4 June Ramstein meeting in Brussels was another important step.

Helping Ukraine defend itself is not just support for one nation — it is a strategic investment in a safer, rules-based Europe, where aggression cannot succeed.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.