



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1024th FSC PLENARY MEETING**
(5 October 2022)

Agenda item 2, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved the decision of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine of 30 September 2022, according to which no negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin or another Russian president are possible anymore.

This decision of the National Security Council is a response to an attempt by the Russian Federation to annex new Ukrainian territories - Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions of Ukraine.

Indeed, the recent week broke all records of the absurdity of decisions taken by the Russian Federation. Following the organisation of the so-called «referendums on joining Russia» in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, the Kremlin organised one more performance, this time in Moscow.

On 30 September 2022, Russian president Putin signed the so-called «treaties» on the accession of the occupied territories of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. Putin's speech and the Red Square concert that followed to mark the declared annexation was the crowning moment of the campaign of lies, distortion, manipulation, and an entire spectrum of logical fallacies.

Pro-Kremlin blogger Vladlen Tatarsky, participant of Putin's speech show in the Kremlin, briefly conveyed the essence of the Kremlin's politics. "We'll conquer everyone, we'll kill everyone, we'll loot whoever we need to, and everything will be just as we like it." This leaves no doubt about the sanity of the Russian regime and its henchmen.

The fake agreements "on joining the Russian Federation" were "ratified" by the upper chamber of the Russian parliament on 4 October, foreseeing the transitional period till the year 2026. The cherry on the top of this absurdity was the statement that along with Kherson Region, two communities of the neighbouring Mykolaiv Region were also "annexed".

These illegal acts, that are null and void, change neither the legal status of the population of the temporarily occupied territories nor the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine.

It is another gross violation of the very basic principles of international law, in particular, the provisions of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, which clearly rule out any kind of territorial changes made by force.

Our stance is clear: these territories remain temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and will be liberated by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

An attempt of the Russian Federation to absorb Ukrainian territory burns all bridges for the possible politico-diplomatic resolution. After the obvious violation of international law, the Ukrainian leadership believes that we cannot negotiate with the Russian leadership.

Central to this issue is the Moscow's position. Regrettably, so far, this position leaves no room for any constructive negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. After all, the openly stated goal of the Russian leadership is the destruction of the Ukrainian state and the annexation of its territories to the Russian Federation.

Mr Chairperson,

By repeating its 2014 playbook, when the Russian Federation attempted to annex Crimea, the Kremlin has deliberately opted for war, not for peace. Against this backdrop, the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine adopted a number of urgent measures to strengthen the national security of Ukraine. These measures include, in

particular, a historic decision to apply for NATO membership. The respective application was signed by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy on 30 September 2022.

As President Zelenskyy said in his address after signing the application: «We must de jure record everything we have already achieved de facto. It is in Ukraine that the fate of democracy in the confrontation with tyranny is being decided. It is here, with the strength of our state borders, that we can secure the strength of the borders of all European states. We can guarantee that no one else will dare to bring war back to our continent».

Ukraine demonstrated in practice its true dedication to the European and Euro-Atlantic values and the readiness to fight for them. Ukraine as a part of the North Atlantic Alliance will strengthen European security. Our course towards membership in NATO remains unchanged and is safeguarded in our Constitution. 83% of Ukrainian citizens support accession to NATO.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite the clear strategic failure and strong political and economic pressure, the Russian Federation continues to wage its war relying on its numerical superiority in manpower, artilleries, rockets and missiles.

As a result, every day we are horrified by reports about the atrocities committed by the Russian occupying forces against the civilian population of Ukraine.

On the morning of 2 October, the city of Mykolaiv came under rocket fire from the S-300 missile systems. In particular, hits were recorded near two four-storey buildings. As a result, the houses were damaged, and a fire broke out in one of them. A hit was also recorded near the hospital. In total, seven people were injured by the shelling.

On 30 September 2022, when the Russian forces using the S-300 missile system attacked a civilian car convoy on the outskirts of Zaporizhzhia killing over 30 civilians, including 2 children, and about 100 civilians, including a 3-year-old girl, were wounded.

On 29 September, the Russian military shelled the city of Dnipro. They targeted the bus station and destroyed more than 100 city buses. 61 private houses, one multi-story building, dozens of cars and the power line were also damaged. This shelling took the lives of a family of four - a grandmother, a mother and two young children.

These strikes are an act of intimidation for everyone who is going to escape. The Russian army needs a human barrier of women and children, as Putin has said before.

These strikes are meaningless and aimed at killing as many civilians as possible, at destroying the infrastructure. These are revenge attacks. These are because we did not meet Russians with flowers, did not fall happily on our knees, did not take the vassal oath.

In total, according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, since 24 February 2022, there were recorded 15,246 civilian casualties, including 6,114 killed and 9,132 wounded (as of 2 October 2022). The number of casualties of the war in the very heart of Europe in the XXI century strikes the imagination. However, the understanding of the fact that these figures will continue to grow due to the actions of the Russian armed forces, strikes the imagination even more.

All crimes committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine will not go unpunished. They will be investigated and the perpetrators will be brought to justice. We are convinced that all responsible for the numerous crimes will not be able to avoid the strictest responsibility. To this end, Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies continue to work in close cooperation with their bilateral partners and respective international organisations.

We also call on the participating States to support the initiative of establishment of a special international tribunal to investigate Russian leaders and military commanders and their allies for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Esteemed colleagues,

For the millions of Ukrainians who have been wounded, lost their families and their homes and were forced to flee it is clear that the only way to stop Russia is to defeat it on the battlefield.

The continuation of the war is a conscious decision of the Kremlin. The ongoing mobilisation in the Russian Federation is clear evidence of this decision. It is unacceptable that the mobilisation is going on in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Fully ignoring norms of international Humanitarian Law, the Russian Federation conscripts the population of the temporarily occupied territories as cannon fodder, forcing mobilized Ukrainians to fight against their fellow citizens

Moreover, mobilisation is used as an instrument of additional pressure against social and ethnic groups considered «unreliable». Crimean Tatars are in particular focus of the Russian conscription centres. The number of Crimean Tatars among those who are planned for the mobilization is approximately 27%. According to various estimates by human rights activists, from 1,500 to 2,000 draft cards have been already given to the Crimean Tatars in the temporary occupied Crimea. It is one more example of the political persecution of Crimean Tatars by the Russian occupation administration.

The ongoing mobilisation conducted by the Russian occupation administration is a clear violation of norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law aimed at the protection of the civilian population during armed conflicts. The IV Geneva Convention of 1949 clearly states that «the occupying power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. No pressure or propaganda which aims at securing voluntary enlistment is permitted».

The Kremlin cannot just bypass this provision by declaring the population of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine to be citizens of the Russian Federation. Conscription of the local population of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine is nothing but a war crime.

Mr Chairperson,

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has far-reaching consequences that extend way beyond a breach of international law and a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia's neglect of international nuclear obligations constitutes the breach of non-proliferation regime established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Russian Federation continues to use nuclear blackmail as an instrument of its war against Ukraine. The situation at and around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is tense due to the Russian military presence there and regular attempts to tighten its grip on the NPP.

Moreover, the Russian side increases its pressure on the personnel of NPP. The recent illegal detention of the Director General of the ZNPP Ihor Murashov by the Russian occupiers has become another example of these efforts.

We reiterate the urgent need to mobilise international efforts to demilitarize and de-occupy the ZNPP and return the facility under the control of Ukraine. It is the only way to eliminate the current threats to nuclear safety and security. The ongoing Russian blackmail and nuclear sabre rattling is unacceptable and must be stopped immediately.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite all difficulties, the Ukrainian Defence Forces continue to fight against the Russian invaders, step by step liberating temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Last month only in the Kharkiv region we succeeded in liberating more than 3,800 square km of our territory. On 1 October, Lyman, a strategic settlement in the North of the Donetsk region was liberated. Currently, the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to conduct the counteroffensive operation in the Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk and Kherson regions.

The liberation process will continue till the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, including the territories that the Russian side attempted to annex in Crimea, Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Mr Chairperson, I thank you and ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.