



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1026th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(19 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.

At the outset let me recall two important documents adopted recently by the international community with regard to the ongoing war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The first one is the resolution «Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations» which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 12 October 2022. 143 UN member states not only condemned attempted annexation by the Russian Federation of Ukraine`s sovereign territory in the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions but also clearly qualified these actions of the aggressor state as inconsistent with the principles of the UN Charter.

Only four countries supported the Russian Federation during the voting. That is a clear failure of Moscow`s foreign policy based on lies, falsifications and false allegations.

The second resolution was adopted on 13 October by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and is entitled «Further escalation in the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine». This document sends a very powerful political signal to all Council of Europe Member States and all states of the world that Russia`s terrorist policy to suppress the will of Ukrainians to resist and defend their country makes the current Russian regime a terrorist one.

The terrorist nature of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine is becoming more pronounced. In total disregard of all norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law, the Russian Federation continues to attack the civilian population of Ukraine and destroy critical infrastructure.

The Russian military are deliberately attacking civilian infrastructure, and Russian propagandists are calling for the destruction of Ukrainians. They consciously want to wipe our nation, traditions, history and the country itself off the globe. As their predecessors wanted to, having arranged an artificial famine, the Holodomor, in the 30s of the last century. Decades have passed, but Russian imperialism, chauvinism and xenophobia remain unchanged.

President Putin thinks that by dropping missiles and Iranian drones on us, he will achieve some political goals. The Kremlin regime failed to understand anything about Ukraine and Ukrainians. Russia's barbaric actions only intensified the anger of the people of Ukraine and the desire to do their best to accelerate the victory over the aggressor state.

Intensive drone and missile attacks on Ukraine are consistent with the broader tactics of the Russian forces. The priority is clearly given to creating psychological terror effects on Ukraine for the Russian Forces failed to achieve tangible battlefield effects.

In one week alone since the recent FSC meeting on 13 October 2022, the Russian Federation launched 25 missiles, conducted 153 air attacks and more than 318 MLRS attacks using cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles, rockets, as well as UAVs of different types, including Iranian-made drones «Shahed-136», «Shahed-129» and «Mohajer-6».

On 13 October, as a result of the strike against a residential building in Mykolaiv 8 people including an 11-year-old boy were killed, four residential buildings suffered extensive damage.

On 17 October, the Russian troops launched a massive attack against Kyiv using UAVs. While the air defence forces intercepted most of them (25 out of 30), some kamikaze drones hit their targets. That led to horrific consequences: at least four people, including a pregnant woman, were killed and four people were wounded; a number of buildings, including a residential one, were severely damaged.

On 17 October, the Russian strike against infrastructure facilities in the Romny district of the Sumy region left three people dead and nine wounded.

In the night from 17 to 18 October, the Russian missile attack against the city centre of Mykolaiv caused one death and damage to a number of residential buildings and infrastructure objects.

It should be mentioned that part of those attacks were committed from the territory of Belarus. The Russian Federation continues to use Belarusian airfields to launch attacks, in particular with the use of Iranian-made UAVs. Against this backdrop, security concerns of the Minsk regime with regard to the «situation around the Belarusian state border» when it turns its own country into a big military camp look especially cynical.

The deliberate attack against civilians is a blatant violation of international law and it will be forgotten neither by Ukraine nor by the responsible members of the international community. It is simply impossible to forget more than 40,600 crimes of aggression and war crimes committed by Russian soldiers since 24 February 2022. All those giving, following and whitewashing illegal orders will be held to account regardless of their rank or position.

The current Russian regime does not demonstrate even a sign of readiness to stop the war. On the contrary, substantial intensification of the war efforts combined with ongoing Russian nuclear sabre-rattling rhetoric and persistent attempts to mobilise at least some foreign allies clearly demonstrate to us that the Kremlin is determined to wage the war at any price.

The Kremlin may talk as much as it likes about the absence of negative consequences from the international sanctions pressure, but nobody is a fool here. We can see that the Russian war machine experiences serious problems. Total incompetence of recently mobilised troops, logistics problems as well as the wide use of imported UAVs show it quite clear.

It also shows us that the restrictive measures against the aggressor state work, weakening Russia by making the war even more expensive for the Kremlin. International pressure should be reinforced further to undermine the very ability of the Russian Federation to wage the war, in particular by targeting the Russian military industry and its access to modern technologies.

It is also crucial to prevent Russia from receiving new weapons from third countries, in particular from Iran and other dependent autocratic regimes. Additional restrictive measures against the Iranian regime for helping Russia to kill Ukrainians as well as to reinforce measures aimed at detecting Russian attempts to bypass sanctions are urgently needed.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite the difficult situation caused by the substantial intensification of Russian air and missile attacks, the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to liberate new settlements from the enemy. Only during the last week, our forces liberated 5 settlements in the Kherson region. Moreover, the counteroffensive operation in the Kharkiv region is going on.

This process will continue until 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.

For Ukraine, it is clear that the only way to stop Russia is to defeat it on the battlefield. We have no doubt that this goal will be reached. The only question that remains open is how many lives the Russian Federation and its criminal regime in the Kremlin will take before recognising the defeat.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the words of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he said during the commemorative ceremony on the Day of Defenders of Ukraine on 14 October: «We have liberated the North of our country from the occupiers. We are liberating the Kharkiv region, we are liberating the East and we will definitely do it. We will return the Ukrainian flag to all our cities and communities in the South. We will return our Crimea. We will restore the territorial integrity of our country, because we have to do this, we have to return all Ukrainians who are now in Russian captivity or have been forcibly deported from our land».

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