



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

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

**1099<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(26 February 2025)

Agenda Item 2, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

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

This past Monday, 24 February, marked the beginning of the fourth year of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This invasion was not an isolated event but the next stage of Russia's aggression, which began with the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Three years ago, on that day, the Kremlin launched an unprovoked and unjustified assault on Ukraine, unleashing massive missile and air strikes on cities across the country and invading from Russian and Belarusian territories, as well as from the temporarily occupied regions of Donbas and Crimea.

This aggression was preceded by years of occupation and militarisation of Ukraine's territories, Russia's fuelling of conflict in Donbas, and a calculated global propaganda campaign. By 2022, Moscow had openly declared its genocidal intentions—the destruction of Ukraine's statehood and the erasure of the national identity of Ukrainians.

Moscow was certain that its war would be a swift victory. Instead, Ukraine has withstood the most devastating military attack in Europe's modern history, and three years on, we continue to defend our people, our statehood, and our independence. Ukraine has not only repelled the

sudden attack but has also demonstrated its ability to effectively resist the aggressor in a protracted war. Thanks to strong international support, Ukraine exercises its legitimate right to self-defence, as enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Russian generals expected to capture Kyiv in two weeks. Instead, they are mired in a war that has become Russia's greatest strategic failure in its modern history. Since the full-scale invasion began, 868,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces' operation in the Kursk region and long-range strikes on military targets deep into Russia have further demonstrated that the Kremlin's so-called "red lines" are nothing more than a bluff.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite the enormous cost of its aggression, Russia refuses to abandon its imperial ambitions and continues its attempts to seize Ukraine. Its methods remain unchanged – unrestricted terror against civilians.

The consequences are horrifying. According to UN estimates, at least 12,605 civilians have been killed, with more than 29,178 injured. Millions have been forced to flee their homes, either seeking refuge abroad or relocating within Ukraine. Many will never return, as their settlements have been razed to the ground by the Russian Army.

Even those far from the frontline are not safe. Russia continues to target civilians with missiles and drones, striking places beyond the reach of its artillery.

On 23 February, on the eve of the third anniversary of the full-scale invasion, Russia launched one of its largest drone attacks against Ukraine, deploying 267 drones across the country. The following day, 24 February, another 187 drones were launched, alongside air and artillery strikes. These attacks caused civilian casualties and widespread destruction.

In the city of Kryvyi Rih, one civilian was killed, and five others were wounded.

In Odesa, three civilians were injured when a drone struck a residential area.

In Zaporizhzhia, one person was injured after UAV debris fell on a residential building.

In the Odesa region, UAV debris damaged port infrastructure and a private house.

In Sumy, a Russian drone targeted a civilian vehicle, killing a 44-year-old man and injuring two others.

These relentless assaults highlight a grim reality—Russia's war crimes will not cease with a simple cessation of hostilities or a frozen frontline.

Russia has sought to internationalise the war by forming an axis of evil along the Moscow-Pyongyang-Tehran vector, hoping to shift the strategic balance in its favour. However, these alliances have not and will not enable Russia to secure victory on the battlefield.

Just as three years ago, at the most difficult moment in its modern history, Ukraine will not accept the Kremlin's ultimatums. Today, Moscow's only hope is to negotiate an end to the war behind Ukraine's back. However, our position remains unchanged: Ukraine will not accept any agreements concluded without its participation.

Esteemed colleagues,

On 24 February, at the "Support Ukraine" Summit, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated: "Peace cannot simply be declared in an hour; it cannot be declared in a day—today, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow. Unfortunately, that is the reality. If someone tries to do so in this way—without any foundation—it will not work. Without any security guarantees, it will not work."

We are deeply grateful to all states that share this understanding and continue to stand with Ukraine despite Russia's attempts at intimidation. Your support affirms that the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act are not just words on paper but essential guidelines that shape responsible foreign policy and concrete international action.

This was powerfully reaffirmed on 24 February, 2025, when the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution "Advancing a Comprehensive, Just, and Lasting Peace in Ukraine." With 93 UN Member States supporting this resolution, the international community has once again underscored its commitment to upholding international law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Both the Ukrainian leadership and Ukrainian society seek peace, but they do not agree to a temporary "freezing of the conflict" or peace not backed by real security guarantees. Three years of full-scale war have proven that Ukraine is capable of defending its sovereignty and will not agree to become a hostage to any external forces.

As Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha recently stated: «Nobody can force Ukraine to give up. We will defend our right to exist. »

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.