



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

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Madam Chairperson,

Last Friday, December 13, the Russian Federation carried out yet another massive missile and drone attack. It was 12th attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure since the beginning of the year.

Reportedly, 94 missiles and 193 drones were launched, including "Kinzhal" aeroballistic missiles, Iskander-M ballistic missiles, KN-23 ballistic missile, Kh-101, Kh-555, Kalibr and Iskander-K cruise missiles.

This attack demonstrates Russia's determination to further escalate the war and to worsen the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, as the temperatures drop below zero.

The conduct of the attack just a few days after the anniversary of the Genocide Convention is a stark reminder of Russia's criminal intentions – to deprive Ukrainians of electricity, heating and running water, thus, putting their lives on the edge.

Moreover, it took place just hours after the IAEA Board of Governors, at its extraordinary meeting, adopted the resolution "Implications of Unstable Energy Infrastructure Critical to Safety and Security of Nuclear Power Plant".

The resolution underlines the unacceptability of attacks on electrical substations providing external power supply to the Ukrainian nuclear power plants. The IAEA Board of Governors recognizes such attacks as a direct threat to nuclear safety.

The consequences of Friday's attack have shown how dangerous Russian actions are. According to the IAEA, five of Ukraine's nine operating nuclear reactor units have reduced power output due to renewed attacks on energy infrastructure, further underlining persistent risks to nuclear safety during the military conflict. One of the power units was disconnected from the energy grid.

As the IAEA Director noted, "the NPPs need reliable connections to the grid both to transmit the electricity they produce and to receive off-site power for reactor cooling".

This reckless behaviour by the Russian Federation has once again demonstrated the Kremlin's contempt for the fundamental norms of international law, including the UN Charter and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

Excellencies,

Emboldened by its impunity, Moscow has even stopped hiding its intentions. If Ukraine continues to resist and exercise the article 51 of the UN Charter for its self-defense, Russia is threatening to destroy my country.

Putin's speech on 16 of December is illustrative. Let me quote a person from the ICC's wanted list "the extremely powerful Oreshnik system, which has already proven itself well [...], the simultaneous use of several such systems can be compared in power to the use of nuclear weapons. But it is not nuclear, as there is no nuclear fuel, no nuclear component and no contamination. This is a very important element in deciding what weapons we can use".

After the attack on the city of Dnipro, the leader of the Russian regime is trying to justify the use of this system by emphasizing its non-nuclear character.

But let's make no mistake. It does not matter whether it is a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological or other device, but it can only be effective if it is used to harm a large number of people. As Moscow is doing by dropping its bombs on our cities.

The goal of these threats to use the WMD against the Ukrainian people is clear, as Russia continues to terrorize the Ukrainians and insist on the capitulation of Ukraine.

For my country, this means the same destruction. As the occupied territories show – filtration, killing lists, forced Russification, and assimilation is the Russian plan for Ukraine.

And if Russia gets what it wants with its WMD saber-rattling, what is the future of the non-proliferation? If we fall short of rebuffing a missile bluff, where will these missiles be flying next? If we fail to protect Ukraine today, what country will be named tomorrow as a threat to Russia or any other would-be aggressor?

That's why every threat by Russia to commit a new act of terrorism must be met with an even stronger response. Whether it is an attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, the indiscriminate use of highly explosive weapons against civilian objects, or new attempts to dehumanize Ukrainians.

The establishment of a special tribunal is already a necessity. We should not wait for another Mariupol or Bucha to act. Russia has killed too many innocent people.

And the cost of the war for the aggressor must continue to rise.

"We should continue to increase the pressure through sectoral sanctions against Russian metallurgy, energy and other vital sectors. The lower the oil prices and energy profits for Russia, the closer a just peace will be," as Minister Sybiha recently said.

In view of this, we are grateful to our partners for stepping up pressure on Moscow's shadow fleet, including the EU's adoption of the 15th package of sanctions.

The crash of two ageing Russian tankers in the Kerch Strait on 15 December shows why the operation of this fleet must be stopped as soon as possible.

The threat to the global environment is growing as Russia uses ageing and poorly maintained ships to fuel war. They usually switch off their transponders to avoid being tracked. They change flag to avoid sanctions. And they usually tranship the oil on the high seas to disguise its origin.

It could be very attractive to buy this oil at high discounts. But shouldn't we be worried about the possible damage this transport could do to the environment?

What damage could be caused by this fleet transporting the oil from Novorossiysk through the Bosphorus Strait? Or in the Baltic Sea, as these ships travel to and from the Leningrad region? Or in any other place where Russia abuses the freedom of the seas, violating all its duties and responsibilities?

Esteemed colleagues,

In the light of Russia's new threats, increased military spendings, the use of North Korean soldiers on the battlefield, it is clear – the only obstacle to peace is Russia.

Russia's so-called "peace proposals" are nothing else but demand for the entire civilized world to surrender.

This explains Russia's consistent calls for leaving Ukraine, which is defending itself against the genocidal aggression, without the means for self-defense.

All of this is unrelated to any genuine desire to restore peace.

In view of this, it is extremely important to refrain from any unilateral contacts with the aggressor state that could undermine collective efforts to end the war or help Moscow to spread its propaganda and evade responsibility.

Russia's attack on critical nuclear infrastructure just hours after IAEA members called on it to refrain from such attacks; its total disregard for the rules of maritime safety in its attempts to prolong the war through oil revenues; its indiscriminate attacks on civilians and the execution of the POWs in gross violation of the universal norms of international humanitarian law; the use of banned chemicals despite its obligations under the Chemical Convention - all this is a stark reminder that in dealing with Moscow, the strength of diplomacy must be backed by the strength of weapons, sanctions, our unity and the determination to protect people.

And the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol" is the latest manifestation of that resolve. We are grateful to all those who supported this document.

It highlights the atmosphere of fear, repression, and lawlessness imposed on Ukrainians under Russian occupation. Moreover, it reminds that the occupied Crimea was a launchpad for Russia to start the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Ukraine will use all available means to protect its people and ensure their liberation from Russian occupation in accordance with the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Ac. And as provided for in Ukraine's Peace Formula. This is the only guarantee for the restoration of stability in Europe. And this is how we can effectively protect our societies from the threat of the Russian terrorist state.

And as a final remark of today's statement, let me thank you, Madam Chairperson, and your entire team for maintaining focused attention to the Russian war of aggression throughout the year.

We are also grateful to distinguished delegations for standing with Ukraine, for practical aid rendered to my country, and for keeping pressure on Russia within the OSCE.

We look forward to continuing these efforts with the incoming Chairpersonship of Finland.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.