



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

### **Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1399<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
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**Mr. Chairperson, esteemed colleagues,**

Over this week the Ukrainian flag has finally returned to Kherson.

This was the only one regional centre russia managed to get under its control since the 24<sup>th</sup> of February.

Or just 42 days after vladimir putin declared that russia was there forever.

We all were deeply moved how people were greeting the Ukrainian defenders. With flowers. With hugs. With tears on the eyes.

And we remember how russian invaders were met there in February-March. Also, with the Ukrainian flags but with demands to get out of Kherson.

Ukrainian flags in the streets of Kherson clearly showed that the so-called "ruskiy mir" is nothing else but a fata morgana of the russian propaganda.

And as soon as russian guns left the city, this "mir" disappeared like a mirage.

But while running away from Kherson, russian occupiers deliberately destroyed critical civilian infrastructure.

No communication, no Internet, no television. Bridges were blown up and the electricity grid was seriously damaged.

They did it deliberately, following the general genocidal pattern of this war, carefully developed in moscow.

Landmines remain another challenge for civilians returning to their homes.

russians left numerous booby traps with cynical inscriptions – "with love from russia" and "with a pure heart".

So, what kind of heart does one have to do such things?

Are 431 children killed and 834 injured since February 24 not enough for them?

Do they need more victims to sugar losses for the hard-liners?

The russian army also reminded that they are looters number one in the world.

They effectively demilitarized art galleries, museums, libraries, not to mention private households.

According to the Prosecutor's General Office, 10 mobile investigation groups have started its work in the Kherson region. The Office expects to increase a number of groups up to 30. They will register all crimes committed during the occupation.

So far, first torture chambers in the Kherson region have been identified. These chambers are already a signature line for Russia's occupied territories.

As we heard testimony by Yuliia "Taira" Paievska, a Ukrainian veteran and volunteer paramedic, the Ukrainian POWs are also subject to torture.

Therefore, the Russian Federation should, on a regular basis, allow full and unimpeded access to places where POWs may be held, including allowing confidential interviews with them.

The prevention of torture starts with public attention and independent monitoring. So, we call upon the ODIHR to keep its close eye on this issue.

We also believe that the ODIHR and relevant OSCE structures could contribute to activity of the Coordination Council of Ukraine for Child Protection and Safety.

Well-coordinated efforts are needed to stop the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia and return home all those who were forcibly deported.

### **Dear colleagues,**

While Russian military are losing on the ground, they continue to fight against the Ukrainian energy infrastructure and civilians.

On Tuesday, Russia launched yet another massive missile attack on our country.

In total, more than 90 missiles were fired at Ukraine. They were launched from the Caspian Sea, Rostov region, and the Black Sea.

I want to express our sincerest condolences to the Polish delegation as lives of citizens of Poland were claimed. We mourn together with our Polish friends.

Also at least two residential buildings were hit in downtown Kyiv.

As before, the main target was the energy system.

According to the IEAE, Ukraine's Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant lost all access to the electricity grid for more than 9 hours due to military attacks, forcing it to temporarily rely on diesel generators for back-up power. Two reactors were shut down. The NPP in Rivne was also affected.

The IEAE Director General reiterated that "this was a very concerning development. It shows the potential nuclear safety and security risks facing all of Ukraine's nuclear facilities during this terrible war".

I hope that at least Grossi's concerns about nuclear safety and Russia's responsibility in this regard are well heard in Moscow.

As a result of the terrorist attack, about 10 million Ukrainians were disconnected from electricity. This number includes the elderly, children, vulnerable groups.

This time, however, the attack was particularly cynical, as a drop in temperature was expected in the coming days. And actually, today, as we are sitting here, there is snowstorm in Kyiv and across Ukraine.

But Tuesday attack was not enough for Moscow.

This morning Russia launched another missile barrage at Ukraine's critical infrastructure. As stated by the Ukrainian Prime Minister, there are also new targets for Russian missiles – natural gas production.

Two Iranian drones were hit over the Kyiv water reservoir. There are some preliminary reports about explosions in Dnipro and Odesa.

While the temperature is dropping down, people are facing new outages.

This is another genocidal dimension of this war.

I have mentioned here before that such attacks could be an exemplary of the terrorist regime.

But for the OSCE participating State, this should be a solid reason to question its presence here.

With each new attack on critical infrastructure and civilians there are more and more arguments to suspend russia's participation here as well as to recognize it as a terrorist state.

And such russia's behaviour tells a lot.

This is how russia treats calls of the world to end the war. moscow is simply escalating.

This is how russia respects diplomacy. moscow simply authorizes the attack just after its foreign minister left the G20 summit.

This is how russia replies to a 10-point peace formula presented by President Zelenskyy at the summit. moscow simply fires missiles.

So, should we treat appeals for a peace from moscow as serious? Definitely, not.

### **Dear colleagues,**

The liberation of Kherson was a turning point in the war. And it also highlighted the way to victory.

Long-range precision firepower has proven to be capable to push russian forces from the west bank of Dnipro River in the Kherson region.

Even without major military clashes, thus, saving lives on the both side of the frontline.

This is how we can counterbalance russia's numerical superiority.

The sooner and the more we receive additional weapons, air and missile defense systems, the sooner the war will end with our victory.

It is also time to bring russia to account.

The recent adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution calling for russia to pay war reparations to Ukraine is a meaningful step in this regard.

The establishment of an international compensation mechanism will make it possible to compensate all the losses caused by the russian war, including those resulted from the latest attacks.

Nor should we forget about russia's legal accountability.

russia's war of aggression created a unique situation of impunity in the occupied territories and in the kremlin itself.

And it is in everyone's interest that this vicious circle be broken.

Otherwise, the same crimes will be committed again by the same people with the same cruelty.

This understanding helped humankind make a leap in humanity after the end of the Second World War.

Our predecessors managed to lay foundations for restoring justice and healing wounds.

We have to use our chance likewise to make this world more just.

And it is time to admit, it is the russian people who need the accountability the most. This would be their chance to sort out the situation, to understand how they ended with their current leadership in the war of aggression and to break with the violence.

These steps are part of the 10-point peace formula presented by the Ukrainian President at the G20 Summit.

This formula also includes nuclear safety, food and energy security, release of all prisoners and return of all deportees, withdrawal of the russian troops and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, ensuring justice and protection of the environment from the ecocide, preventing escalation and confirmation of the end of the war.

Is anything among these steps unjust? None of them.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**