



**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 1385<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

09 August 2022

#### **Mr. Chairperson,**

Thank you for convening this special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

At the outset, I also would like to express our gratitude to the Polish CiO and the OSCE Secretary General for their visit paid to Ukraine last week.

In view of this, visiting Bucha was extremely important not only to pay tribute to the victims of the russian aggression but also to see what the russian aggression means, what grave consequences it has and what other areas in Ukraine could face if russia's invasion is not effectively repelled. That said, it is important that the OSCE continues efforts to document russia's war crimes.

#### **Esteemed colleagues,**

The russian aggression, unfortunately, knows no summer breaks.

Only yesterday the russian troops shelled 42 localities in different regions of Ukraine.

The situation in Donbas remains especially tense. Avdiivka, Pisky, Maryinka, Bakhmut, Kramatorsk are the key hotspots there.

The russian troops concentrate their effort also in the Kharkiv region and in the south part of Ukraine.

Kharkiv and Mykolaiv are under constant fire. Let me remind, that these cities are densely populated and indiscriminate attacks on them cause nothing else but civilian casualties and the destruction of the critical infrastructure.

And it is not by accident but tactics of the russian army we observe in the course of five months.

In the meantime, russia continues terrorize border areas of the Symu and Chernihiv regions with mortars and tube artillery.

These attacks prove once again – that terrorizing of the population and deliberate destruction of the infrastructure is a part and parcel of the russian aggression. Being unable to reach its unlawful goals on the ground, moscow focuses on the terror.

In parallel, russia has intensified its disinformation campaign by trying to challenge the supplies of weapons to Ukraine.

Thanks to these supplies, russia is losing ammunition depots, command posts, military equipment. And therefore, the initiative on the ground.

Due to this the russian army cannot use artillery without restraint for indiscriminate shelling to destroy everything in front of them. That's why moscow is trying its best to stop vital military aid to the Ukrainian nation.

And the most cynical thing is that russia is attempting to convince the world that had the Ukrainian army stop resisting and had the Ukrainian defenders leave the cities there would be no casualties and suffering in Ukraine.

However, we know very well what happens when russia's army enters Ukrainian cities and villages. Killings, rapes, abductions, filtration, deportation – all this we have already seen in Bucha, Irpin and other localities across Ukraine after their liberation.

And russia would be more than happy to implement its genocidal intentions against the Ukrainians in shadow and with no resistance.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Regretfully, every such a special meeting of the Permanent Council means new appalling russia's war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Despite all atrocities already committed by the russian army, however, every time they manage to reach a new low. Every time the brutality of these crimes leaves us shocked and speechless.

The mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners of war in a correctional facility in the occupied Olenivka as well as released videos showing horrible cases of torture, physical abuse, inhuman treatment, and wilful killing of Ukrainian prisoners of war clearly show that russia knows no limits for its cruelty and barbarity.

There are a sufficient number of evidences of what happened in Olenivka to believe that this was a pre-planned mass murder of those who were under the protection of international law.

Namely, satellite images show only one building was damaged, prisoners of war had been transferred there right before the attack and photo analysis hints at a thermobaric explosion from the inside.

And it is really regretful that there is no difference between russian diplomats, especially led by a former ambassador to the OSCE, calling for execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war and russian troops doing it in Olenivka.

This gross and serious violation of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, deserves not only our resolute condemnation but also the use of every available mechanism to bring all perpetrators of russian war crimes to account.

No matter how long it takes.

Neither we should allow russia to use its puppets and proxies to bypass its international commitments and to escape the criminal responsibility – be it the illegal detention of the SMM local staff or the ill treatment and torture of prisoners of war or the preparation for show trials against the Ukrainian defenders.

No more impunity for moscow.

Also, no more chances for russia to hide behind the backs of its puppets, as the kremlin is harshly preparing for sham referendums in the newly occupied areas. russia must stop fooling us.

Yet another anniversary of the Great Terror of 1937-1938 we commemorated in Ukraine on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August is a vivid reminder why we must spare no efforts but to liberate all Ukrainian territories.

85 years ago, the Soviet Commissariat for Internal Affairs, so-called NKVD, enacted the Decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party “about the anti-Soviet elements”.

In fact, that launched mass extrajudicial executions of the Ukrainian elite with a potential to restore and develop Ukrainian statehood.

Doesn't it look like as intentions declared by today's russian leadership who denies the right of Ukraine to exist?

And nostalgia among some russian diplomats accredited to the OSCE for the NKVD troikas, the main executors of this great terror, display how carefully these intentions have been nourished by the russian leadership.

That's why we have to break a vicious circle of the repetition of crimes by russia on Ukraine's soil.

Furthermore, after attempts to blackmail the world with hunger, russia has switched to the nuclear terrorism.

After the military trucks filled with weapons were moved to the premises of the 1st and 2nd blocks of the ZNPP, which are under the service, at the beginning of August 2022, artillery shelling of the territory near the ZNPP industrial site took place in the course of the last week.

As a result, the high-voltage power supply line of the ZNPP – Zaporizhzhia TPP was damaged. Any shelling of this facility is an open act of terror.

And attack on this facility is more than just attack on critical civilian infrastructure. It is attack against our common security and future.

The possible consequences of hitting an operating reactor are equivalent to the use of an atomic bomb.

Irresponsible provocations at the nuclear facility would have consequences for Europe as no one would stop the wind of the radioactive contamination.

And this is yet another argument why russia must be recognized as a state sponsoring terrorism.

This is yet another argument in favor of applying tough sanctions against the entire russian nuclear industry.

This is purely a matter of our common safety and security.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Fourteen years passed since the beginning of the armed aggression of the russian federation against Georgia.

Back in 2008 russia has made a claim to restore its empire with arms and aggression. Unfortunately, this claim passed almost unnoticed.

Having received no proper response to its aggression against Georgia, russia continued its aggression against Ukraine in 2014. It had occupied Crimea as well as a part of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

And now, since February 24, 2022, kremlin has been waging a full-scale war against Ukraine as well as food, energy and nuclear terrorism against the world as a whole.

The pattern of behaviour is more than clear.

Mr. Putin will not stop until he is stopped.

The time for our naivety to take Moscow's words and promises for it is over.

The task instead is to limit Russia's ability to attack anyone again in the foreseeable future.

With sustained and timely assistance, Ukraine is ready and able to do so.

And if Russia really wants a lasting and durable peace, it is up to Moscow to take concrete steps to achieve it.

To that end, Russia has to withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea, as well as territorial integrity of other participating States, and, of course, assume the responsibility for all crimes committed against the Ukrainian people as well as to provide assurance of non-repetition of the aggression and reparation to the victims and return to the tenets of international law.

And we also believe that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Crimea Platform scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August will give a new impetus for the OSCE's activities on the Crimean track. No doubts, our Organization has sufficient expertise and tools to contribute to achieving rightful goals of the Crimea Platform.

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