



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,
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Mr. Chairperson,

As its offensive in Donetsk region has stalled, in desperation, russia continues its missile terror on Ukraine.

As we met last time at a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, a russian missile hit four passenger cars at the railway station in Chaplyne, Dnipropetrovsk region.

This barbaric attack claimed lives of 22 people, and about 50 wounded.

Two days ago, on August 30, 16 missile S-300 were fired on Mykolaiv. At least, two people were killed and 24 injured.

The day before, they shelled the centre of Kharkiv. Also, with S-300 missiles. Launched, probably from the Belgorod region in russia. Likewise, on March 1, they hit the square in front of the regional administration.

The next day, Kharkiv was shelled with artillery. Among the targets were a kindergarten, recreation park, residential buildings. At least 4 killed and 11 people wounded.

Just imagine that people live a normal life. And in one moment, your life is over.

As it happened in Kharkiv, August 30, in the morning. One man did not manage to get one meter to the pharmacy, another was heading to his car, the third - home. The fourth person was taking water. And there are thousands of such stories.

Let's take another story. A 17-year-old boy died yesterday in Dnipropetrovsk region as result of detonation of a cluster munition. Only one touch ended his life.

What was the fault of all these victims? This is one man in the kremlin who believes that he can decide the fate of other people and even the whole county.

According to the recently released Cluster Munition Monitor 2022 report, russian forces' repeated use of cluster munitions, including two newly developed types, has caused lasting harm to hundreds of Ukrainian civilians.

And Ukraine is the only country in the world where cluster munitions are used as of August 2022.

Preliminary data indicates at least 689 casualties reported during cluster munition attacks in Ukraine for the first half of 2022. Many casualties may have gone unrecorded. The use of cluster munitions by russia in populated areas is another proof that moscow blatantly disregards international humanitarian law.

Esteemed colleagues,

The aggressor has intensified artillery shelling of the areas of Nikopol and Oleksiivka settlements. For these attacks they also use the nuclear power plant's infrastructure as a shield.

At the same time, a few days ago, for the first time in history, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was shut down, as it was cut off electricity supply due to the russian shelling. Thanks to efforts of the Ukrainian personnel a possible nuclear accident was prevented. However, today's shelling has also caused reactor number 5 shut down.

This clearly indicates how dangerous is the seizure and presence of the russian military at the NPP. This is a threat to the whole world.

Today the IAEA mission has finally arrived at the plant and is expected to start its inspection of the site upon the request of Ukraine's government.

The IAEA mission to nuclear facility has never been held under such challenging circumstances as this time.

It was not surprising, but russia violated even guarantees provided to the IAEA mission by heavy shelling of Zaporizhzhia region the same day the IAEA experts came to Kyiv.

And the mission was moving much slower than planned due to severe security deterioration caused by russia's continued shelling of the routes planned for mission to get to the ZNPP.

As it was expected, the russian military first shelled the area close to the agreed route and then tried to shift the blame on Ukraine. It is a very well-known playbook.

By the way, a version of events as it was presented by the russian ministry of defence looks like a scenario for an all-action blockbuster. I think that the russian delegation will repeat it later today.

However, let me stress, that the IAEA mission must enjoy full access to the Zaporizhzhia NPP site and must be able to carry out duties without threats or pressure to acquire information relevant to nuclear safety, security and safeguards implementation. This would be the first important step to address the occupation of the plant in a comprehensive manner.

Only restoration of full control over the Zaporizhzhia NPP by the competent Ukrainian authorities together with its immediate de-militarization and de-occupation will strengthen nuclear safety and security in Ukraine and beyond.

Dear colleagues,

On August 29, we, in Ukraine, commemorated the Day of Remembrance of the Fallen Defenders who died in the struggle for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state.

On this very day, in August 2014, Ukrainian defenders were cowardly killed by russian military near the city of Ilovaisk in Donbas, in violation of provided guarantees, international law, and basic moral norms.

Since 2014, a pattern of russia's behavior has not changed.

The deliberate murder of our prisoners of war in Olenivka is one of the most recent despicable crimes committed by russia in Ukraine. The ICRC has still not been granted access to the site of the crime.

The preparation of a kangaroo court against Ukraine's defenders in Mariupol is another appalling violation of POWs' rights. However, attempts to make it by hands of its puppets in Donetsk displays that the accountability matters for moscow.

So, it is time to reassure russia once again that the accountability for crimes in Ukraine is inevitable. Even, when russia is trying to use its proxies to bypass international obligations and norms of law.

It also seems that imitation is becoming iconic landmark of the russian war. And this is already reaching caricature scale.

Especially, while russia is preparing to hold sham referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine.

Having no public support. Lacking collaborator to run so-called "commissions". Having clear understanding that these referendums would change nothing and would be null and void.

Anyway, russia is going to imitate their "legitimacy". So, we call on the international community to take this so-called "legitimacy" for its worth. Namely, in terms of sanctions.

Furthermore, having faced with resistance to planned assimilation, russia threatens parents in the Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv regions with sending children to orphanages if they do not sign them up to russian-seized schools.

But the problem is that Ukrainian teachers also refused to work with the invaders and they need to bring teachers from russia itself.

russians use not only sticks, but also carrots. A few days ago, the russian president even instructed to bribe Ukrainian parents with 10 000 rubles for sending their children to russian-seized schools.

moscow also promises one-time payments of 10 000-ruble to "almost everyone" to strengthen the economic integration of the occupied territories, as the first branch of the russian state backed Promsvyazbank has been opened in the Kherson region.

Under cover of provision of one-time financial assistance of 10 000 rubles the occupation administration started collecting personal data. It looks like that 10 000 is a kind of magic number for the kremlin.

But what should happen that russians finally acknowledge the truth - Ukrainian citizens do not accept the so-called "russian world" and there will be resistance as long as the occupation lasts.

Including in Crimea where since the beginning of the full-scale invasion more than 130 people have been illegally detained. So, even after eight years of repressions and intimidation, people continue to openly demonstrate resistance to the occupation and support for Ukraine.

Distinguished colleagues,

In conclusion, I would like to quote President Zelenskyy: "russia's war against Ukraine is not just a colonial war in the worst sense of the word, it is not just an attempt to appropriate our land, resources or the potential of our people. Through the destruction of Ukraine, russia is trying to destroy the hope of all nations near its borders and all peoples in the territory of russia itself that freedom will really work. That democracy will help with development. That human rights and human dignity can give society more than the mercy of some dictator. That is why the russian war against Ukraine is so brutal. That is why it became total from the first minute on February 24". End of quote.

That's why we have to do everything possible that Ukraine wins this war.

It is the only guarantee for a lasting and durable peace in Europe.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.