



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Ambassador Michael R. Carpenter
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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As heads of state and foreign ministers convened this year in New York for UN High-Level Week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov made a rare, honest assessment of his country's place in the world. Lavrov said, "everything is fine, we are only suffering from isolation." He's right. Who can forget the UN General Assembly's vote of 143-5 condemning Russia's actions in Ukraine. Here at the OSCE, just as at the UN, we've seen Russia create this isolation for itself through its utter contempt of OSCE principles and commitments.

And it's not just Russian diplomats who are expressing beleaguerment. Russian conscripts and their families are feeling it too. The wife of a Russian soldier recently called into a live teleconference in Russia to complain about the situation, saying "my husband has been fighting, living, sleeping, eating in a trench for almost 10 months now. He has never been on leave during this time. Of course, it's enormous physical and moral fatigue. I would even say exhaustion."

Mr. Chair, why does it have to be this way? We again call on Moscow to pull its forces back into Russian territory. If not for the sake of Helsinki principles, then at least for the sake of the younger generation of Russians themselves. End this madness now. Russia is a vast country that spans 11 time zones, with plenty of land. There is no need to perpetuate this frenzy of violence in an attempt to annex another country's territory. A continuation of the killing and plundering will not make Russia stronger; to the contrary, it only results in the exhaustion of its resources and its isolation on the world stage.

Mr. Chair, we spoke last week about Russia's truly mind-boggling attempts to frame democratic pluralism as modern-day Nazism. Surely, hundreds of years from now, this will go down in the annals of doublespeak as one of the most outrageous semantic inversions of our time. So, let's all remember that it is Russian TV stations like Tsargrad TV that continue to "incite ethnic hatred." That's not my characterization, by the way. That is how the Ministry of Information and Social Development from one of our fellow participating States in Central Asia characterized this outlet on August 17 of this year when it banned its broadcasts.

Let me repeat, there's only one participating State here that is living in a hall of mirrors. Putting multiple Current Issues on the agenda with outlandish titles does not make any of its claims true; nor does it convince anyone of the merit of these arguments. Indivisibility of security does not mean: "No one does anything without my permission, but I get to do whatever I want without anyone's permission." No, that's not what is meant by sovereign equality of states. That is also not how this organization can function in the future.

Mr. Chair, our support for Ukraine only grows stronger in the face of these outlandish attacks on Ukraine's democratic character. Allow me to provide you with some updates. We are now providing Ukraine with several cutting-edge capabilities to allow them to defend their territory and their people. On September 21, we announced our latest assistance package totaling 325 million dollars. Capabilities in this announcement significantly strengthen Ukraine's air defenses, including a second HAWK air defense battery. And we'll continue to provide steady deliveries of additional air-defense systems each month during the winter.

We will help Ukraine protect its critical infrastructure. This will also empower Ukraine to defend itself against Russia's unrelenting missile and drone assaults on grain silos, hospitals, schools, and power plants. Attacks like Russia carried out just last night when it again launched 44 suicide drones at Ukraine.

We're also providing Ukraine with additional munitions, anti-tank weapons, and light tactical vehicles. This week, the first U.S. Abrams tanks were delivered to Ukraine, a major and very advanced capability. All this material is helping protect Ukraine's soldiers from Russia's aggression and will help Ukraine's armed forces successfully break through Russia's military lines in Russia-occupied parts of Ukraine's sovereign territory.

In total, the United States has committed more than 43.9 billion dollars in direct military assistance to bolster Ukraine's defenses since Russia's 2022 invasion. For context, that's almost half of Russia's 2023 defense spending target. And we will not tire.

In addition to our military aid, we're already getting to work to help Ukraine rebuild. That's why President Biden on September 14 appointed Penny Pritzker as our Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery. Special Representative Pritzker is galvanizing international partners to increase their support for Ukraine while engaging with the Multi-Agency Donor Coordination Platform to ensure assistance aligns with Ukraine's most pressing needs.

Special Representative Pritzker will also work closely with Ukraine as it intensifies reforms needed to open export markets, mobilize foreign direct investment, and catalyze economic recovery. These reforms will help Ukraine win the future by unlocking U.S. private sector investment, one of the most powerful economic forces on the planet. Special Representative Pritzker's appointment demonstrates our commitment to strengthening Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic future and follows new economic and security commitments announced at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London and in Vilnius by the "G7 Plus" and NATO.

Let me state very clearly: we're here for as long as it takes to help democratic Ukraine forge a prosperous and secure future fully integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community.

Mr. Chair, after meeting with President Zelenskyy last week in Washington, President Biden said, "Putin thought he would break Ukraine... He underestimated the consequence of taking on [the] Ukrainian people... He also thought he could break the Western alliance and NATO in support of [Ukraine]. And he thought that he'd break the will of nations around the world... Well, he was wrong. He continues to be wrong. Ukraine is unbroken, unbowed, and unconquered, proving that nothing can dim the flame of liberty that burns in the heart of free people."

Ukraine's defense of its freedom against naked aggression is why Russia is isolated and Ukraine has such broad international support. It's why after over a year and a half, we stand, and we'll continue to stand, with Ukraine. We are proud to do so.

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