



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,

Even having been already seen in many places, the Russian crimes still leave us speechless.

The exhumation activities are underway in the recently liberated territories of the Kharkiv region.

So far, about ten places have been discovered where people were subject to tortures.

The investigative teams continue to find bodies with signs of violent death. There are corpses with broken ribs and heads. There are men with tied hands behind their backs and severed genitalia.

This is the repetition of a pattern we saw in the Kyiv region.

And this clearly serves the genocidal purposes declared and promoted by the Russian president against the Ukrainian people from the very beginning of this all-out invasion.

Esteemed colleagues,

On 20 September, Russian occupation administrations in the parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine announced plans to conduct during 23–27 September so-called “referenda” on the accession to Russia.

The fact that there are only three days between the announcement and the implementation proves – these actions were rash, hasty and impulsive in view of Ukraine's successful counteroffensive.

And I would like to thank to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Secretary General, Parliamentary Assembly President and ODIHR Director for their prompt reaction and condemnation of Russia's plans.

No matter how many illegitimate polls the Russian Federation holds in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, there will be only one result.

These referenda will be null and void. All Ukrainian regions will be liberated from the Russian occupation. The Russian leadership will be brought to account for terror, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed on the Ukrainian soil.

Even after months of losses, Putin still fails to understand what Ukraine is about.

He still continues to underestimate the resolve of Ukrainians to resist the occupation.

He still doesn't want to acknowledge that there is no support in Ukraine for his russkiy world.

And putin still believes that he can fool the world with orchestrated shows in the occupied territories.

So much the worse for him. Dictators never recognize mistakes until their desperate decisions lead to their personal catastrophe.

The partial mobilization announced yesterday by president putin and minister shoigu are telling much in this regard.

If according to shoigu, russia has just lost about 5 900 of its troops, what is not true, so why russia needs the partial mobilization?

Because whatever they say, the kremlin clearly understands that they are losing.

With such velocity, that the kremlin has no time to wait if their energy blackmailing works through the winter.

And announced mobilization changes nothing on the ground.

A hidden mobilization has been underway for months being unable to change the dynamics of the war.

And the official announcement was just a formality.

By his decision, putin has just reconfirmed that he is ready to throw more men into the flames of the war he has no chance of winning.

He does not care about thousands of ordinary russians and how many coffins would arrive to the russian families.

What he really cares about is the prolongation of his kleptocratic rule.

However, putin is afraid of disclosing a public discontent with his plans.

The legislation voted by the russian parliament before the announcement of mobilization, which endorses penalty for the desertion and criminalizes voluntary surrender, indicates the problems with russian soldiers unwilling to die for putin's imperialist war.

So, what should we do? The war cannot last without resources.

russia was at the peak of its strength on the eve of the 24 of February. Now moscow has no time and no resources to prepare the army it had before.

What the kremlin can still do is to prolong the endgame with more destruction and deaths.

And it is time to deprive russia of money, to introduce more sanctions and to close loopholes allowing the kremlin regime to be afloat.

Another effective deterrent against the kremlin's plans would be to arm Ukraine in sufficient quantity as soon as possible.

Ukraine can and has to win this war on its own terms. And this is also what he heard just yesterday from representatives of the russian society.

Because this will give us a chance to properly solve the russian crisis before us and will secure us from the repetition of the war in the near future.

Distinguished colleagues,

When speaking before the journalist in Samarkand, putin said the following.

“Recently, russian armed forces delivered a couple of sensitive blows to [Ukraine]. Let’s call them warning shots. If the situation continues like that, our response will be more impactful”.

Actually, he meant attacks against energy critical infrastructure in the Kharkiv region as well as against dam in Kryviy Rih.

And after this confession, terrorist attacks against civilians continue, while kremlin’s speakers on TV shows even call to destroy all energy infrastructure to plunge Ukraine into darkness before the winter.

In view of this the invaders are trying to destroy the dam of the reservoir in the settlement of Pechenigy, the Kharkiv region. It is after they hit the dam in Kryviy Rih.

A few days ago, at night, a missile fell 270 meters from the Pivdennoukrainsk NPP. There was a short-term power outage.

Just yesterday, in the morning, the russian occupiers shelled once again Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. As a result, communication equipment of power unit number 6 was damaged.

This is not to speak about regular shellings.

Only yesterday the russian occupiers have launched seven missile and 20 airstrikes, fired numbers of MLRS missiles at objects on the territory of Ukraine, violating the norms of international humanitarian law and customs of war.

As a result, the infrastructure of more than 20 settlements was damaged. Among them are Sloviansk, Siversk, Soledar, Bakhmut, Vugledar, Stepne, Nikopol and Ochakiv.

Already this morning nine missiles hit Zaporizhzhia. Among the targets - electric power substation – should we be surprised? A hotel in the central park was also destroyed with people under its debris.

In view of this, all those action-plans we are discussing and adopting on preventing and countering the terrorism have no added value until we do address the main source of the terrorism in the OSCE area. Namely, russia’s state terrorism.

By its irresponsible and deliberate actions, russia endangers the whole world. We have to stop it before it is too late.

And here we must address the source of russian confidence, which is impunity.

Impunity of its armed forces for all crimes committed in Ukraine and beyond.

Impunity for years of politically motivated persecution of people, who are held hostage by the criminal Putin regime due to their disagreement with the occupation of Ukraine’s territories. While yesterday’s sentencing of Nariman Dzhelyal to 17 years in prison is the latest example.

Impunity for terrorizing the OSCE itself with staging kangaroo trials against the SMM national staff.

Impunity of its diplomats for the justification of the war of aggression.

Impunity of its leadership for the promotion of a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

And we must break this vicious circle of impunity.

The establishment of the Special Tribunal on the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine would be a proper and right to point step in this regard.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to conclude my statement with words of a 14-year-old Ukrainian boy.

“Mr President, this is my dad's hand, of Sova Serhiy, a Defender of Ukraine. He is from Nikopol, he had fought for freedom of our country since 2014. Mom recognized our dad by tattoo on his body after the exhumation conducted in Izum. This hand is a symbol of Ukraine's Warrior, unbreakable and courageous. I ask you so much to help to return my dad to home, for a decent funeral ceremony. I'm proud of him... Respectfully, Son of the Defender of Ukraine”.

I want you to remember these words of Marat Sova. He is proud of his father. Who defended freedom for him.

But Marat will never hear how his father is proud of him. For his successes in school. For goals he will score while playing football. For happiness during the wedding ceremony.

No more. Because of putin's war. Because one man in the kremlin believes that the Ukrainians and russians are one people and those who disagree with that concept must be eliminated.

And I hope that in years we, the representatives of the participating States, will be proud of ourselves to say that we use every possible instrument to defend the principles of our Organization and to stop this genocidal war.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.