



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine on Commemoration of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1352nd meeting of the Permanent Council,
27 January 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Kathrin Meyer, Secretary General of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the presentation.

Every year, on this date, the 27th of January, the world commemorates the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The memory of this atrocious tragedy resonates deeply in the Ukrainian society as 1.5 million Ukrainian Jews fell victims to the Holocaust, which represents a quarter of all of the Holocaust victims in Europe.

We join other delegations in reiterating Ukraine's strong commitment to the pledges of "we remember" and "never again". This truly horrible chapter in human history must never repeat. It is only through the comprehensive and dedicated joint efforts that we can ensure that the lessons of the past are not forgotten.

Also, the 27th of January is an official "Holocaust Memorial Day", established by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the occasion of the tragedy of Babyn Yar - the horrible massacre related to the Holocaust committed in Kyiv when it was occupied by Nazis. For two days, almost 34,000 Ukrainian Jews were executed by Nazis in a ravine on the outskirts of Kyiv, known as Babyn Yar. The trail of death in Babyn Yar did not end until Kyiv was liberated. The lives of more than 100,000 Ukrainians, Jews, Roma and people of other nationalities were taken, which makes Kyiv one of the epicenters of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

On the 80th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy in Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stressed that "Preserving the memory of World War II, in particular the tragedy of Babyn Yar and the Holocaust, is our duty to future generations. Honoring the memory of all those who perished is our duty to past generations".

Millions of Ukrainians sacrificed themselves and made an enormous contribution to the victory over Nazism by exemplary heroism in the struggle for the liberation of their native soil and countries of Europe. 2659 Ukrainians who saved the Jews during the Holocaust hold the high title of Righteous Among the Nations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine is proud to co-sponsor the recent UNGA resolution on "Holocaust Denial". We reaffirm our strongest condemnation of all forms of Nazism, neo-Nazism, racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, discrimination, intolerance and hate crimes.

On several occasions in the past Ukraine expressed its view about the need for the OSCE to adopt a working definition of anti-Semitism, endorsed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

We encourage the Polish OSCE Chairpersonship to apply the necessary efforts in

2022 in order to build consensus on the adoption of respective OSCE document incorporating non-legally binding working definition of anti-Semitism.

I take this opportunity to inform the Permanent Council that at the national level Ukraine has implemented this step and on 22 September 2021 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On preventing and combating anti-Semitism in Ukraine", which, inter alia, stipulates that "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

Distinguished colleagues,

The tragedy of the Holocaust also serves us as a powerful reminder about the danger of war and the value of peace.

Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea and on-going aggression in Donbas abundantly demonstrate that grave breach of international law by one country inflicts grave damage to democratic stability, human rights and peace in the entire Europe.

It is critically important to hold the aggressor to account and employ all necessary instruments to make it return to the tenets of international law and the core principles of the European security order.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the issue of the UNGA Resolution, on which Ukraine voted against was raised in this hall again, let me add a few words to my main statement.

I would like to explain once again the vote on the resolution, presented in the UN by the Russian Federation "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

I reaffirm our strongest condemnation of all forms of Nazism, neo-Nazism, anti-Semitism and other forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

I would like to reiterate our consistent and longstanding position that the mentioned resolution represents a clear example of manipulation of historical narratives, when a sacred issue of fight against Nazism, neo-Nazism and other forms of intolerance is clearly abused in pursuance of one's aggressive political interests, including glorification of Stalin ideology.

Ukraine voted against such a "trojan" resolution, which is by the way not supported by countries of Europe, North America and other allies, who fought against Nazism.

Mr. Chairperson,

The penholder of the draft, the Russian Federation, endeavors to monopolize the victory over Nazism and twist the essence of the Nuremberg Tribunal. In 2021 yet another new language was introduced to the draft, which has nothing common with combating Nazism but is aimed at glorification of criminal communist party led by Stalin.

We continue to strongly condemn totalitarian regimes and honor all their victims, in particular the memory of those who perished from Holodomor perpetrated by Stalin's regime in 1932-33 in Ukraine as well as the Holocaust.

In this regard, we regret that the president of the Russian Federation Volodymyr Putin has changed his earlier belief in Stalin's crimes against humanity to the glorification of the regime. We expect that Kremlin will officially condemn the crimes of Stalin's dictator regime, which by the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact divided the Europe for decades and thus fully shares the responsibility for triggering the Second World War with the Nazi regime. Such act of "repentance" could become a vaccine against fueling

unprecedented rise of radicalism, hatred, racism, neo-Nazism and xenophobic manifestations in the Russian Federation.

We sincerely hope that someday we will see a draft text in the General Assembly condemning Nazi and all other totalitarian regimes, which could gain support of all countries, which like Ukrainians, laid down millions of lives for overcoming Nazism. Nowadays, regrettably, we only witness aggressive plans and actions of the ideological successors and followers of Stalin's regime, who, I remind again, signed the dividing criminal Pact with Nazis.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.