



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

### **Statement on the Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, to the 1377th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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

First of all, I would like to thank you for inviting the special guest as well as to thank Mr Oleksandr Samoilenko, the Chairman of the Kherson Oblast Council, for being with us today and for sharing information about the situation in the region.

And I believe that the OSCE and executive structures will redouble its attention to the region.

Especially his testimony is important at a time when emissaries of the aggressor state openly threaten to annex the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions by this autumn.

To that end, the invaders utilize their traditional playbook, including information blockade, forced passportization, the introduction of the ruble zone and so on.

Also, russia's invaders are demanding schools in Kherson to switch to russia's curricula.

And this takes place amidst public discussions in russia about plans to erase Ukraine's identity, cancel culture, exterminate the most active and re-educate the rest.

I have to say that according to Ukraine's intelligence only two of 60 school directors agreed to collaborate.

That's why, being confronted by strong pro-Ukrainian resistance, the russian troops terrorize the local population.

According to the Permanent Representative of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, there are about 600 people in the Kherson region who are kept in basements, specially equipped rooms, and in torture chambers.

Some are facing inhumane conditions and tortures. Some were taken to the occupied Crimea.

Recently, the story of Denys Myronov has become public. After his illegal detention in Kherson in March he was transferred to Crimea and tortured to death there. Only at the end of May his body was returned to his family.

It is how the Crimean Peninsula has been turned not only into a military base but also has become a human rights' ghetto.

And over the last eight years Crimea clearly displayed key elements of russia's policy towards occupied territories. This is about persecution, deportation and assimilation.

Also, the occupation of Crimea plays an important role in the maritime blockade of Ukraine and as we see it now in a looming food security crisis.

In view of these we appreciate the efforts of our partners aimed at unblocking Ukrainian ports.

However, we have to be cautious. russia's promises are always empty. How many times did they promise not to attack the Ukrainians?

That's why Ukraine has made its position on the sea ports as clear as possible: military equipment is required to protect the coastline and a navy mission to patrol the export routes in the Black Sea.

Given the recent russian missile strike on a grain terminal in Mykolaiv, we cannot rule out russia's plans to use such a corridor to attack Odesa and southern Ukraine.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

During our previous meeting, the russian delegation delivered a number of statements trying to question ODIHR's seat in Warsaw.

If we really need informal consultations, they must focus solely on one topic.

If russia fits its seat in the OSCE. We have to think about this seriously.

Because it is ridiculous when russia's representative quotes OSCE documents in order to convince us that russia has no obligations not to intimidate or detain SMM personnel in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

However, it is not about immunities or privileges. It is about everyone's right to life, liberty and security of person. This right cannot be questioned and russia must stop targeting SMM personnel.

And if someone really wants to quote the OSCE or other documents it must be done in order to implement, protect and promote human rights. Not vice versa.

Such a manifestation of belief in its impunity clearly shows why every possible OSCE tool has to be used in order to investigate all violations and crimes against human dignity committed by russia in Ukraine.

And we strongly believe that the reinvoation of the Moscow mechanism we have done last time is yet another contribution to ensuring long-overdue accountability for russia.

According to Ukraine's General Prosecutor, there are about 15000 cases related to war crimes.

There are many untold stories of pain and humiliation. When victims choose rather not to speak publicly about the hell they endured through.

Here I want to mention a story told two days ago by Sevgil Musaieva, the Ukrainian editor at the TIME100 Summit.

A couple of weeks ago, Sevgil arranged for an interview with a victim of sexual violence by the russian military.

They talked for a long time, but then the victim asked not publish the story. Instead, she asked the journalist for help getting access to medical abortion drugs.

It's impossible to imagine the scale of her pain and suffering.

And when next time russian diplomats decide once again to whitewash criminals or attack the victims, they have to remember - russian leadership and soldiers have already inflicted enough suffering.

And all their victims deserve some respect and sympathy.

On our part, we will spare no effort in investigating each and every case.

Currently in Ukraine, the largest team of experts and investigators in the history of the International Criminal Court is conducting an independent investigation.

They gather evidence for the court directly at the scene of war crimes. We are also grateful to all countries that have already joined the investigation.

For sure, all responsible will be brought to account. For killing, for raping, for looting. For everything.

Everyone will pay for what they deserve, especially those who ordered, who committed, and who whitewashed the crimes, especially war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**Dear colleagues,**

Russian troops control almost 20% of Ukraine's territory. 2603 populated localities need to be liberated.

It means that at any time at any of these communities could happen or is happening a new Bucha or Mariupol.

With fierce fighting in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near Severodonetsk we know that Russia observes no moral limits.

With continuous attacks on Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and border areas of Sumy and Chernihiv regions, we understand that Russia will not stop in Donbas.

With the maintenance of additional forces, deployment of Iskander missile systems, and increase in reconnaissance activities by Belarus close to Ukraine's border, we have to be ready for possible provocations from the North.

With the concentration of military equipment in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, we can see that Moscow has not given up its plans to dismantle the Ukrainian state.

With never-ending propaganda on Russia's TV, we have to acknowledge that the only outcome Putin wants to see is Ukraine's surrender. Minister Kuleba was very precise in describing Russia's intentions yesterday. When Russia says that President Zelenskyy's demand for them to withdraw behind the February 24th line is 'not serious', this proves that Russia remains focused on war, not diplomacy.

At the same time, we salute the bravery of Ukrainians who were not afraid of going into the streets – in Kherson, Berdiansk, Melitopol – with the slogans "Russian invaders go home!" and "We are Ukraine!", even under the gun of Russia's troops.

We are admiring the courage of Ukrainians who tear down Russian flags and put on pro-Ukrainian posters.

We praise the unbreakable will of Ukrainians who refuse to collaborate with the aggressor because they believe in Ukraine and in the determination of the Free World to protect them.

We, the international community, have to remember that every new day of this war means new violations, new crimes and new deaths of these Ukrainians.

As President Zelenskyy recently stressed that in order to prevail, freedom must be armed better than tyranny.

Providing Ukraine with all possible support, including sanctions and all necessary weaponry, would be a strong deterrent for Russia.

We have to do everything possible not to allow Moscow to dig in Ukraine and regroup in order to attack us again in a few months.

And providing Ukraine with all necessary means in order to win the war would display the benefits and advantages of being a part of the family of democracies as well as a real game changer for the region where Russia is trying to implement its revanchist policy.

To that end, we have to force Russia to withdraw its troops, restore Ukraine's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including Crimea and, of course, to 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.

**I thank you, Mr Chairperson.**