



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on russia's missile attacks on Ukraine

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

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Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

It is extremely important that the OSCE Permanent Council focuses its attention on russia's recent missile attacks on Ukraine.

Realizing that the war cannot be won on the battlefield, russia has again resorted to state terrorism.

In recent days these massive russian missile attacks killed dozens of civilians in Kremenchuk, Mykolaiv, Serhiivka and other localities.

Even this morning, before our meeting, seven missiles were fired at the Dnipropetrovsk region. Also, the city of Mykolaiv and Shostka in the Sumy region sustained the missile strike. Six missiles were fired at the small town of Bashtanka, nearby Mykolaiv. This is how a new day has started in Ukraine.

I want to remind you that just a week ago, at the ASRC session the russian representative delivered vigorously russia's usual playbook denying the attack on the shopping mall in Kremenchuk.

However, for his leadership it took just one day to recognize russia's attack on Kremenchuk and two days to repeat this bloody attack, this time, in the settlement of Serhiivka, in the Odesa region.

Three missiles hit an ordinary residential building, a nine-story building, and a recreation centre in the seaside area.

No weapons, military equipment or ammunition there. Only a residential building with 160 people normally living therein.

So far, only in a case related to the attack on Serhiivka, it is known about 21 people were killed, and 40 injured, including children. It is how russia wants to turn the summertime in a time of killing and terrorism.

To hit the civilian object, they used an obsolete X-22 missile and launched it from a Tu-22M3 rocket aircraft.

The russian leadership is well aware of the specification of weaponry they used against Ukraine. And given their indiscriminate and wide impact, they are doing this on purpose.

Given the brutality of recent attacks, this time the russian delegation has decided that mere denials would not be sufficient and introduced a current issue with the aim to shift the blame on Ukraine. We had seen the same accusations before russia

launched the ongoing war. And maybe, this time russia lacks arguments for the mobilization of its own population.

But let me remind the russian delegation of one undeniable fact that russian forces are in Ukraine and there are no Ukrainian forces in russia. And there is one aggressor here who fires missiles, targets civilians and razes cities to the ground.

Actually, the numbers of air bombs, MLRS rockets, and artillery shells hitting our cities cannot be counted.

By doing this, russia wants to provoke chaos and force Ukraine to capitulate.

It is quite illustrative that on the next day following the attack on the shopping mall in Kremenchuk, the spokesperson of the russian president delivered an ultimatum.

And I quote.

“The Ukrainian side can end everything by the end of today. They just need to order Ukrainian troops to lay down their weapons and fulfil russia’s conditions. And it will all be over”. End of quote.

It is the acknowledgment of the guilt and responsibility for the attack, isn’t it?

But what is more appalling is that moscow is practicing more actively the terrorist tactics.

At the same time, the russian leadership and its diplomats continue to repeat that the war is going “according to the plan”.

But the implementation of these kind of plans would lead only to relevant criminal proceedings, including at the international level, to be followed with concrete sentences against those who give orders, fulfil these orders and whitewash the war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression.

Distinguished colleagues,

russia is firing its missiles from several directions, including the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the territory of Belarus.

And the use of the Caspian Sea to fire missiles at Ukraine is disrespectful by russia to other countries of the region and undermines regional security.

The launch of missiles by russia against the civilian infrastructure facilities of Ukrainian cities from the Caspian region grossly violates the provisions of the Convention on the Caspian Sea Status.

Paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Convention provides for “the use of the Caspian Sea for peaceful purposes, its transformation into a zone of peace, good neighborliness and cooperation, the resolution of all issues related to the Caspian Sea by peaceful means”.

Ukraine calls to exert every effort to force the russian federation to comply with the international legal obligations, in particular the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, as well as to prevent the further militarization of that region area to continue armed aggression against Ukraine.

Let me also refer to the case of Belarus. Just two days ago the Belarussian people were celebrating Independence Day when a number of revealing remarks were done related to the russian war.

To enjoy real independence and sovereignty Minsk has to end complicity in russia’s war of aggression.

However, by continuing to provide support for attacks against Ukraine, the Belarus regime is committing a historical mistake that will leave for future generations only memory about Belarus sharing responsibility for the bombardment by the Russian aggressor of Ukrainian peaceful cities.

Dear colleagues,

Russia's rocket and missile attacks prove once again that we need a serious discussion about European and global security.

It is not the right way OSCE participating State has to behave.

And I will repeat myself by saying again and again that there can be no peace in Europe with such an aggressive Russia.

Actually, the Russian Federation has lost its moral and political right for a place it tries to occupy and abuse in the European security system.

Of course, we cannot change the geography but we can effectively restrain the aggressiveness of this participating state.

Russia has been appeased for too long and now we have to deal with Russia destroying everything in its way.

However, the return of Zmiinyi Island under the Ukrainian flag has clearly displayed a way to change Russia's course of actions.

Russian weapons can be stopped by more powerful weapons and more comprehensive sanctions.

That's why partners should not be wary of providing Ukraine with more heavy weapons, including modern air defense and anti-missile systems that can ensure effective protection for civilians against possible new attacks.

With enough support Ukraine can stabilize the frontline and then push the Russian troops back to Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

And Russia must face consequences for such barbaric behaviour.

Russia has to be recognized as a state sponsoring terrorism.

There should be a clear understanding that every cent of revenues can be used by Russia to finance the new killing of the civilians and not only in Ukraine.

In times when the future of the security order in Europe is at stake, resolute actions need to be taken. We cannot leave things as they are and allow Russia to ruin our Organization.

And it is in the powers of the participating States to decide on an appropriate course of actions not to allow the OSCE to be taken hostage by the Russian Federation.

That would be also our contribution to common efforts aimed at bringing to justice those responsible as well restoring peace and rule of law in Europe, and preventing the repetition of such atrocities in the future.

This was one of the key messages by Minister Kuleba during the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference.

If we want to succeed in preserving a Europe we believe in, we have to win the war, free Europe from dependencies that the Russian state has been creating for decades as well as bring those in power in Moscow to account.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.