



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1028th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(9 November 2022)**

Agenda item 2, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

Today is the 259th day of the active phase of the almost 9-year war that Russia is waging against Ukraine. 259 days ago, a country whose size is 28 times greater than the size of our state, whose population is 4 times larger than ours, whose military potential is many times greater than our capabilities, declared to the world that it is afraid of Ukraine, its spirit of freedom and independence, its aspirations to democratic changes and its path to a decent European and Euro-Atlantic future.

For 259 days of a full-scale Russian invasion of our land, the Ukrainian army and the Ukrainian people courageously defend their homeland, demonstrating unprecedented resilience, courage and thirst for victory.

As of the 259th day of war, the Russian army continues deliberate strikes against critical infrastructure facilities across Ukraine, creating a severe humanitarian situation. Millions of Ukrainians are experiencing serious problems with water, electricity and heating supplies. Only within a week after the recent FSC meeting on 2 November, the Russian forces launched 32 missiles, conducted 160 air attacks and more than 399 MLRS attacks using cruise missiles, anti-aircraft missiles, rockets, as well as UAVs of different types, including Iranian-made «Shahed» drones.

The situation is particularly difficult around Kherson. Realizing that further advance of the Ukrainian forces cannot be stopped, the Russian occupation administration

conducts mass forced relocation of local residents first to the left-bank part of the Kherson region, and then to the temporarily occupied Crimea or the territory of the Russian Federation.

Similar deportations are also being carried out by Russia in the Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk and Donetsk regions, as well as in Crimea. Against the backdrop of ongoing deportations, alarming reports are circulating about Russian troops mining the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, the detonation of which could cause a large-scale man-made and humanitarian catastrophe equal to the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Such actions by Russia grossly violate international law. According to Article 49 of the IV Geneva Convention of 1949, an occupying Power is prohibited from carrying out forced individual or mass resettlement or deportation of protected persons.

We also cannot rule out that the Russian forces could mine the entire centre of Kherson in order to lure the Armed Forces of Ukraine there and try to destroy them in this way. Russian war of choice has already clearly demonstrated that the Kremlin has no moral red lines and it would rather raze the entire city to the ground than admit its military failure.

Mr Chairperson,

Regular Russian strikes continue to increase the number of war casualties among the civilian population of Ukraine.

On 3 November 2022, a missile strike against the residential area in the Pokrovsk settlement located in the Donetsk region left 1 civilian killed and 6 wounded. A school and 20 private houses were severely damaged.

On 5 November, 9-year-old girl was wounded by Russian shelling of residential areas in Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

On 6 November, the Russian troops conducted artillery shelling of villages in the Sumy region. 1 civilian person was killed and 1 more was wounded. Several private houses and some infrastructure facilities were damaged.

These cases constitute only a small number of all crimes committed by the Russian troops; however, they clearly demonstrate the terrorist nature of the Kremlin regime and its total disregard for all norms and principles of international law, in particular for the

provisions of International Humanitarian Law aimed at the protection of the civilian population.

In total, according to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, since the beginning of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, there have been already recorded 16,462 civilian casualties, including 6,490 killed and 9,972 injured.

Despite heavy loss of manpower, substantial logistic problems and low morale of the newly mobilised troops, the Russian forces continue their persistent efforts to establish full control over the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as well as to hold temporarily occupied territories in the Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Mykolaiv regions.

As of now, the most intense hostilities are going on in the direction of Bakhmut and Avdiivka in the Donetsk region as well as in the area of the Novopavlivske settlement in the Mykolaiv region, where the Russian troops have substantially intensified their offensive efforts. According to the information of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, on some segments of the front line, Ukrainian troops repel up to 80 attacks every day.

At the same time, the state of play on the front line shows us that even using their superiority in the number of artillery and aviation, the Russian troops are not able to reach their goals and continue to bear significant losses both in the number of manpower and weapons.

The figures speak for themselves: for 8,5 months since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation has already lost twice as many aircraft as the Soviet Union lost during the 10 years of the Afghanistan war - 278 Russian aircraft in Ukraine against 118 Soviet aircraft in Afghanistan.

As at 9 November, the combat losses of the Russian Army totalled, approximately: 77950 persons killed; 2801 tanks, 393 MLRS, 260 helicopters, 1483 UAVs of operational-tactical level, and 399 cruise missiles destroyed.

In an attempt to intimidate the population of Ukraine and undermine their ability to fight, the Russian Federation continues to attack energy facilities across the entire territory of Ukraine. The consequences of these actions are horrifying: nearly 40% of

Ukraine's energy facilities were severely damaged or completely destroyed leaving 4,5 mln people without energy.

Regular Russian strikes against the Ukrainian critical infrastructure are an act of state terrorism that is directed not only against the people of Ukraine but against the fundamental principles of humanity, the right to live in peace, dignity and security.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke clearly on the issue: «The very fact that Russia resorted to terror against the energy industry shows the weakness of the enemy. They cannot defeat Ukraine on the battlefield, and that is why they are trying to break our people in this way - to humiliate Ukrainians, to strike at the morale of our people, at the resistance of our people. I believe that Russia will not succeed».

Esteemed colleagues,

The ongoing Russian nuclear sabre-rattling rhetoric remains to be a matter of the utmost concern for the entire international community. The reiteration of false narratives on the so-called «dirty bomb» combined with unequivocal hints of the Russian leadership about the readiness to use nuclear weapons demonstrate that this plan remains on the table in the Kremlin.

Last week the IAEA inspectors completed their in-field verification activities at three locations in Ukraine that were carried out at the request of the Government of Ukraine. As it was clearly stated by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, the Agency did not find any indications of undeclared nuclear activities and materials at the places of verification.

The visit of the IAEA experts has clearly demonstrated that Ukraine not only remains fully committed to its international obligations but also continues to take the necessary steps to show its transparency and openness. It has also proved that all Russian allegations, be it dirty bombs, chemical or biological weapons, are nothing but absurd propaganda that is neither supported by any credible evidence, nor can be confirmed by specialized international organisations.

In conclusion let me reiterate that despite all difficulties, all Ukrainians remain truly devoted to the fight for the liberation of Ukraine from the Russian invaders. No matter how much time it requires, Ukraine will continue to do its best to counter Russian aggression till the full restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its

internationally recognised borders, including the territories that the Russian side attempted to annex in Crimea, Donbas, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.