



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

1059th FSC Plenary Meeting
(18 October 2023)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

Before starting our statement, I would like to say a couple of words about the recent terrorist attacks in France and Belgium. Ukraine strongly condemns these appalling acts of violence. There is never any justification for terrorism. We express our sincerest condolences to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded persons.

And now, on behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine allow me to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Last week we witnessed a notable escalation in the Russian Federation's military efforts. Russian forces have intensified military operations, trying to breach through Ukraine's defence lines and halt the ongoing counter-offensive operation in the South.

Today, the most intense fighting is taking place in the northeastern segment of the frontline, in the Donetsk and the Kharkiv regions. According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, every day the Russian occupiers carry out more than 700 strikes on the Kupyansk – Lyman axis.

However, neither a significant increase in artillery and missile strikes, nor the deployment of additional reserves helped the Russian forces turn the situation in their favour and break down our defence. A highly attritional offensive on the eastern frontline failed to achieve significant

operational results. With an average of 800 soldiers lost daily, it is not an exaggeration to say that every metre seized by the aggressor comes at a cost of hundreds of Russian soldiers.

The situation on the front line shows us that even using the advantage in the number of artillery and aviation, the Russian military leadership cannot achieve its goals and continues to bear significant losses sending its troops in senseless attacks that rather remind us of the tactics of the First World War more than a modern warfare.

Esteemed colleagues,

The Russian forces persistently disregard the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, continually targeting numerous civilian communities across Ukraine and causing extensive damage to the country's critical infrastructure and social facilities.

Let me recall just a number of cases since the last week's FSC meeting.

On 11 October 2023, Russian artillery shelled a school in the city of Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region, killing four civilians and wounding two more. The school building, as well as more than 40 private houses and several vital infrastructure facilities, were seriously damaged.

On 13 October 2023, a Russian missile attack on a residential area in the city of Pokrovsk in the Donetsk region resulted in the tragic death of one civilian and injuries to 24 others. The residential building that was hit by the missile is in a badly damaged state.

On 15 October 2023, a Russian missile and UAV attack resulted in injuries to three civilians, including a 10-year-old child. Numerous private houses were significantly damaged as a result of this attack.

Although these cases represent only a small number of Russian atrocities, they clearly demonstrate the terrorist nature of the Kremlin regime and its war of choice. There is no doubt that each and every Russian strike against civilians in Ukraine is not an isolated incident, but a part of a deliberate campaign mandated by the Russian criminal leadership to destroy the people of Ukraine and erase Ukraine as a country from the world map.

In nearly 20 months since the start of Russia's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine, there has been an endless stream of evidence that Russia has committed a wide range of violations of International Humanitarian Law. Numerous reports by credible governmental and

non-governmental human rights organisations regularly report on Russia's complete disregard for all norms and principles of international law aimed at protecting civilians in times of war.

We are convinced that all those guilty of the numerous crimes cannot escape the strictest responsibility. All relevant reports will be duly taken into account in future legal cases and investigations aimed at bringing all perpetrators to justice.

Madam Chairperson,

Constant Russian missile attacks and regular artillery shelling have already led to a serious humanitarian catastrophe in many regions of Ukraine. This issue is especially acute in connection with the upcoming winter season.

As the Situation Report of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs issued on 11 October 2023 noted: "The humanitarian situation is expected to deteriorate in the coming months, as the onset of the winter brings additional challenges and risks to people facing harsh conditions".

Russian missile terror clearly demonstrates how urgently Ukraine needs air defence and anti-missile systems to protect citizens and civil infrastructure from reckless Russian attacks, in particular during the winter season.

We are very grateful for the actions our international partners are taking to enhance Ukraine's combat capabilities, in particular within the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in the Ramstein format, which recently met successfully in Brussels on 11 October 2023.

The military assistance provided to Ukraine helps us save lives. We call on all countries to continue it till the aggressor is defeated and long-awaited peace is established.

Esteemed colleagues,

When talking about the Kremlin's war against Ukraine, it is important to remember the global context of Russia's aggressive actions. The far-reaching consequences of aggression continue to undermine the established rules-based order and international stability, making it crucial for the international community to act decisively.

Being isolated in the international arena and understanding that the international community will not give up in the face of Russian threats, the Kremlin continues to invest

substantial efforts to rally other totalitarian regimes around itself. Sharing common revisionist objectives, this axis of global pariahs seeks to deepen cooperation, in particular in the military sphere.

Russia continues to falsely claim that international support for Ukraine's defence is escalating the war. At the same time, it is stepping up military cooperation with North Korea and Iran. We find it extremely alarming that a state that once aspired to be a great power is now forced to seek military support from fellow regimes in Tehran and Pyongyang.

This process is fuelling international instability and inciting international pariahs to act aggressively. Recent information about the supply of arms and ammunition from North Korea to Russia to replenish the latter's weapons arsenal in exchange for technologies to boost North Korea's military programme is extremely concerning, but at the same time indicative.

Against this backdrop, it is critically important for all of us to have a common understanding of these issues and develop a common long-term strategy to counter threats from the Russian Federation and its allies in order to provide security for the whole world.

Enduring international solidarity in the face of the brutal breakdown of the world order is essential to our joint efforts to restore peace and stability in Ukraine, Europe and the world.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.