



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by the Ukrainian delegation
to the 1403rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to start with words of thanks to the Polish Chairpersonship for convening this special meeting as well as for inviting Mykola Lukashuk, the Head of Dnipropetrovsk Region Council, as a special guest.

I am also grateful to Mykola Lukashuk for being with us today and for sharing first-hand information about the situation in the region.

It is critically important to hear from those democratically elected representatives of people at the local level. As before, we hear again – russia brings only destruction, pain and death. That's all you need to know about what to expect from russia. Nothing good if it is not stopped.

Let me also apologize on behalf of Ambassador Tsymbaliuk for not being able to join today's meeting. He is currently participating in the Ambassador's conference.

I also want to share his first impressions of staying at home, in Kyiv, in these winter days.

It is dark and cold with shortages of electricity, heating, water and connection. But what is impressive is the attitude of people.

No despair. No defeat. No concessions.

But firm confidence in a common victory of the Free World over the aggressor.

And what can also be felt in Kyiv and throughout Ukraine is a lasting question – how long is the international community going to tolerate the russian regime at the table? “Why” remains the biggest question mark. Just to observe how russia is destroying what was built for decades?

Dear colleagues,

We have passed 300 days of russia's intended three-day aggressive war.

In the course these 300 days, russia conducted over 16000 shellings of Ukraine's territory. 97% of the targets were civilian objects.

About 54,900 crimes of aggression and war crimes were committed. More than 4,700 missiles were fired.

In the last week –two waves of air attacks were on Ukraine – with the use of 76 missiles and 35 kamikaze drones. Critical infrastructure was once again the main target.

One of the drones was spotted flying over the South Ukraine NPP. This is not the first time that russia launches its missiles and drones over the nuclear facilities. This is a part of russia's nuclear sabre-rattling and blackmailing. In this context the occupation of the ZNPP remains an unprecedented risk in history, deliberately created

by the aggressor. russia has completely discredited itself as reliable supplier of nuclear technologies. In fact, it is supplier of permanent nuclear threats. The time has come to end cooperation with russia in the nuclear field.

Despite russia's reckless attacks, Ukraine stands strong.

We are grateful to our partners for standing together with Ukraine.

Thanks to military assistance provided by over the recent months the efficiency of Ukraine's air defense has increased from 50 to 80%.

And with new systems, it will only increase. Therefore, we are grateful to the United States for the decision to provide Ukraine with the Patriot system.

Together with those provided by other countries – I will skip naming all of them since a list is quite long – this system, for sure, will make Ukraine's sky safer. We strongly believe that this decision will pave the way for other advanced systems.

As we are on the eve of Christmas holidays, it is time for wishes and greetings.

Often, our dreams about what should bring us happiness cannot be measured.

However, the end of 2022 is a special one. And our common desire for peace can be expressed in numbers.

Ukraine needs tanks, armoured vehicles, howitzers.

Let's be honest, this is a moderate price to defend OSCE principles, to save human lives and liberate those who remain under the occupation. Together we can make this dream come true.

Dear colleagues,

Christmas time also strongly associates with the song "Carol of the Bells".

As it is widely known, it is based on the Ukrainian folk song "Shchedryk" and music by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych. In this regard, allow me express the gratitude to the EU delegation for the opportunity to listen to "Shchedryk" last weekend.

How this music was born and the fate of the author are very much telling for today and for the understanding of russian policy towards Ukraine.

One of the music versions for the carol was written in Pokrovsk, a city in the Donetsk region, which is currently being shelled by russia.

And Mykola Leontovych himself was killed by an agent of the Soviet regime at his parents' home, where he was visiting for the Orthodox holiday of Christmas in 1921.

He became part of what later become known as "The Executed Renaissance". It was actually an attempt by the Soviet regime to kill the Ukrainian intellectuals who were willing to resurrect Ukrainian culture. moscow always considers independent thinkers and culture as an existential threat for its rule. And at that time Soviets believed that with the prosecution and execution the most active would help them to solve the Ukrainian issue forever. They failed.

So, we were not surprised to hear about new "execution lists" prepared by the russian authorities before the full-scale invasion in February.

This is what, actually, moscow has been doing with the Ukrainian nation through generations. president putin just wants to play according to the old script.

And this is why we should take seriously plans by russia's State Duma to repeal criminal prosecution and abolish punishment for any crimes committed in the so-called 'interests of russia' in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

This may de-facto mean permission for extrajudicial executions and arrests, placing the Ukrainian civilian population outside of any legal framework.

This is an additional argument why we should spare no effort to liberate the Ukrainian territories.

But even more important is that committing crimes is encouraged by the Russian highest authorities. So, do we need more evidence of a pre-planned and systematic policy coming from Moscow?

That's why we, the international community, must consolidate our efforts to bring Russia to account, including by establishing the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression.

Accountability matters for future generations. No more "Executed Renaissance" in Ukraine.

Dear colleagues,

We all admire the courage, resilience, and strength shown by defenders in repelling the enemy attacks.

However, admiration should not be the limit.

It is time to find a much broader solution to strengthen peace and security across the OSCE region.

We call on all states, including the OSCE as an organization, to work together to implement ten elements of Ukraine's Peace Formula suggested by President Zelenskyy.

This includes nuclear safety, food security, energy security, release of all prisoners and deported persons, implementation of the UN Charter and restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, full withdrawal of Russian troops and cessation of hostilities, restoration of justice, countering ecocide, preventing escalation, and ensuring that aggression does not repeat.

I want to conclude with words of President Zelenskyy during his visit to Bakhmut two days ago.

"Bakhmut Fortress. Our people, unconquered by the enemy, who prove with their bravery that we will endure and will not give up what's ours [...] With every day of heroic resistance, our Defense Forces and the entire people of Ukraine bringing closer the day when Ukraine will achieve victory – victory and peace, the real and durable".

And as President Zelenskyy said yesterday in his address to the US Congress, "we will celebrate Christmas – and even if there is no electricity, the light of our faith in ourselves will not be put out [...] And we don't have to know everyone's wish as we know that all of us, millions of Ukrainians, wish the same – victory. Only victory".

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.