



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

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

As for delivery by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna, to the 1379<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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

It is already for four months that Russia has been waging its war of aggression against Ukraine.

At this moment the battles are taking place in Lysychansk and Severodonetsk, the Luhansk region.

In the meantime, Russia continues to terrorize the civilians.

Yesterday Moscow fired 7 missiles on Mykolaiv.

A few days ago, Odesa and the region witnessed a massive missile attack. The region was hit with 14 rockets.

So far, since the beginning of the war 55 residents of the Odesa region became victims of the attacks, and a number of infrastructure facilities were destroyed.

At the same time, the UN recorded about 10,403 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including 4,634 killed and 5,769 injured.

However, these figures cannot be final as neither the UN nor the Government of Ukraine have access to the temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine, such as the city of Mariupol.

Moscow is also trying to get revenge over Kharkiv by increasing the shelling.

Only on June 21, mass attacks on Kharkiv and the region left, at least, 15 killed and 16 injured.

All these attacks in Odesa, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and other cities have no tactical sense. The only reason is to intimidate the population. This is tactics of the terrorists.

The only difference is that this terrorism is being experienced at the state level.

Human casualties are increasing. Because the Russian troops massively use the artillery and they use it to target the civilians on purpose.

Not only Ukraine is a target. With provoking a global food crisis Russia wants to take other countries as hostages.

And they do not shy to admit it publicly.

One of Kremlin's key propagandists during the Petersburg Economic Forum, while President Putin was sitting in the panel, was cynical enough to declare a goal they follow. And I quote.

"The famine will start now and they will lift the sanctions and be friends with us, because they will realize that it is impossible not to be friends with us". End of quote.

Should we expect anything else from the country which follows the worst soviet practices including starvation tactics, like it was with the Holodomor?

In the meantime, by manipulating with and cutting gas supplies, russia is also looking for a new crisis – energy crisis.

This testifies to what Ukraine has always been stressing on for a long time - russia is unreliable supplier, which weaponizes the energy in order to blackmail us and promote its narrow geopolitical interests.

In other words, russia is saying – lift sanction to get the Ukrainian grain for those in need and stop supporting Ukraine to get the russian gas.

The more kremlin will try to nourish fatigue of the war, the more it will propose to sell out Ukraine for the sake of hybrid peace and economic stability.

Well, it looks like as a cutting a deal with the devil in order to sell our souls.

That's why, the sooner we will get rid of this dependence, the better for us.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Last Friday russian president delivered yet another neo-colonial speech and bravado about the sovereignty and colonies, about the so-called russian historical lands and fate of neighboring nations.

However, he missed a critically important point.

Sovereignty is not about conducting aggressive wars, killing civilians and subjugating neighboring countries. Not in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sovereignty is about ensuring people's welfare, promoting human rights and respecting fundamental freedoms.

Nevertheless, as we yesterday marked the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the day when Kyiv was bombarded for the first time at the Second World War, it has reminded how strong revanchist feelings prevail in moscow and what consequences it could have for the democratic world if not properly addressed.

And it is not only about the fact that russia followed the Nazi playbook and started bombarding Kyiv about at 5 in the morning on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, likewise it was in 1941.

There are many other things like, filtration, re-education, mass killings, denial of Ukraine's statehood and identity, russian historical lands, which bring to our memory the horrors of the Second World War.

And current neo-Nazi narrative russia is exploiting serves for both the extermination of the most active and assimilation of the rest.

In putin's view, Ukrainians can either become russians or be killed, as it was rightly underlined during our yesterday's informal meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian civil society.

Unfortunately, children are especially vulnerable in this regard. According to the russian ministry of defence about 300,000 Ukrainian children were forcibly deported to russia in order to assimilate them.

We call upon the OSCE, including the ODIHR and HCNM, to closely engage and follow this case. It is important to establish contact with these children and facilitate their return to Ukraine.

**Dear colleagues,**

Recent appearances by the Russian president have proven once again that he has never really got the strength of people's will. And I mean true people's will.

I mean the will of people who love their land and are resolved to defend their future.

And that's why, being lost in his historical illusion and geopolitical aberrations, he is still unable to acknowledge that the Ukrainian resistance has become the start of the Kremlin's defeat.

As this war is existential for us, we will keep fighting. The question mark is about a price we will pay for our victory.

If properly armed and with proper sanctions in place this price will be much lower. More heavy weapons and more sanctions will turn the tide.

**Excellencies,**

We are just a few hours before a historic EU summit, the political decisions also matter for our common success.

As Minister Kuleba has recently stated Ukraine's EU candidate status will draw a line under decades of ambiguity and set it in stone: Ukraine is Europe, not part of the "Russian world".

Likewise, we have to get rid of ambiguity about the diplomatic solutions of this war.

Since the Russian president remains focused on the war and conquest of new territories, it is clear that Putin's path to the negotiating table lies solely through battleground defeats.

To conclude, let me highlight what is at the stake.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June the Ukrainians paid their last respects to yet another young hero, Artem Dymydiv.

He was 27. He was killed in action while defending Ukraine in the Donetsk region. His dream was to tour the world. And his dream will never come true.

Three days ago, the mother of Artem was standing over his body and was singing the last lullaby to her son.

She was singing "I'm going to rock your cradle. Sleep, my little child, sleep...". She was also burring her dreams.

Her tragedy goes beyond our understanding.

However, we have all necessary instruments in our hands to end this absurd tragedy.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**