



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yuriy Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the
International Organizations in Vienna

1555th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 2, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”
(26 February 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

Two days ago, Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine has entered its fifth year.

In order to properly commemorate this grim anniversary, a number of events took place on this day in Ukraine and worldwide, including at the UN, NATO, the EU.

Adding to this global mobilisation, the OSCE convened a reinforced meeting of its Permanent Council in Vienna. In this regard, we once again express our gratitude to the Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship for convening this reinforced meeting to mark the grim anniversary, as well as to all participating States that took the floor.

I would also like to use this opportunity to express our appreciation for the Joint Statement issued by the OSCE Triika, together with the OSCE Secretary General, Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, and the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Roberto Montella. The support expressed in the document to a just and lasting peace is highly valued by Ukraine.

It is important that the OSCE did not remain on the sidelines and, on this day—when the entire world commemorated the victims of Russia’s aggression—came together to address the ongoing war of aggression that the Russian Federation continues to wage against Ukraine.

Taken together, the events and documents of the recent days, unequivocally underscored that Russia’s war of aggression remains at the very top of the international agenda, with multilateral organisations and leaders across the world actively sustaining diplomatic, humanitarian, and accountability efforts to counter it and to uphold sovereignty and the international order.

Esteemed colleagues,

Over four years of full-scale war, its methods have remained unchanged: war propaganda, repression, and unrestricted terror against civilians.

Right on the anniversary of the invasion, during the night of 23–24 February, Russian forces launched an Iskander-M ballistic missile from temporarily occupied Crimea and 133 drones. These attacks struck residential infrastructure and other civilian targets. At least one civilian was killed in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Damage was also reported in the city of Kharkiv, while strikes on residential areas in Zaporizhzhia and the surrounding region injured five people.

The cynical manner in which Moscow chose to mark the fourth anniversary of its illegal invasion clearly demonstrates that, even amid intensified peace efforts, Russia is not prepared to take the peace process seriously. It continues to insist on its maximalist goals and remains unwilling to engage in genuine dialogue.

This approach stands in stark contrast to that of Ukraine, which continues to emphasise its readiness to engage in peace efforts and actively participates in initiatives led by the United States and supported by European and other partners. Our country has consistently advocated an end to the war and the achievement of a genuine peace grounded in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

This position was powerfully reaffirmed on 24 February 2025, when recently the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution “Support for lasting peace in Ukraine”. Supported by 107 UN Member States, the resolution once again demonstrated the international community’s commitment to international law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

However, let us be clear: for diplomacy to prevail, the necessary conditions must be created. And as Russia understands only one language, the language of power, it means that the Kremlin regime must be compelled to engage in diplomacy. Not the diplomacy of empty statements we so often hear from the Russian side, but genuine diplomacy guided by the principles of international law.

As many speakers rightly underlined during the recent reinforced Permanent Council, political declarations must be backed by concrete actions. Such actions must include strengthening Ukraine’s defence capabilities, increasing the cost of aggression for Moscow, and depriving Russia’s war machine of both the means of destruction and the resources used to finance this war.

Finally, a just and lasting peace requires credible and legally binding security guarantees for Ukraine, guarantees that will ensure long-term stability across Europe. In this regard, we appreciate the important work of the Coalition of the Willing, whose most recent meeting took place in Kyiv on 24 February and brought together 36 representatives. We reaffirm our readiness to engage constructively with partners in this effort.

Esteemed colleagues,

Today Ukraine marks the Day of Resistance to the Occupation of Crimea, commemorating the events of 2014, when thousands gathered in front of the Crimean Parliament to oppose Russia's attempt to seize the peninsula. On that day, Ukrainians demonstrated unity and a readiness to resist aggression.

That spirit of resistance endures today.

It is visible in the temporarily occupied territories, where the Ukrainian resistance movement continues to operate with courage despite relentless repression by the occupying authorities.

It is visible on the frontline, where Ukraine's Defence Forces continue to inflict significant losses on the enemy.

It is visible in peaceful cities, where civilians maintain their resolve under daily missile and drone attacks that disrupt heating, water, and electricity supplies.

It is also visible in the Kremlin's obvious failure to achieve the goals of its so-called "special military operation". In 2022 the Kremlin criminal regime expected a Blitzkrieg, but instead it got hundreds of thousands of killed soldiers, economic isolation and shameful mark of being recognised as a biggest threat to international peace and order.

To conclude, allow me to quote President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who stated in his address to the nation delivered 24 February 2026: "Looking back at the beginning of the invasion and reflecting on today, we have every right to say: we have defended our independence; we have not lost our statehood. Ukraine exists not only on the map. Ukraine is an actor in international relations. [...] Putin has not achieved his goals. He has not broken Ukrainians. He has not won this war. We have preserved Ukraine, and we will do everything to secure peace and justice."

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.