



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1135th FSC Plenary Meeting

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Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

There are no credible indicators whatsoever that the Russian Federation intends to end its war of aggression against Ukraine. On the contrary, Moscow's actions demonstrate a clear determination to pursue its aggressive objectives through military force, hybrid tactics, and cynical manipulation.

Tragically, the human cost continues to mount on Ukrainian soil. Over the last and current week, Russia continued its massive air terror against Ukraine. In just past 10 days, Russia killed at least 47 civilians, and injured more than 300 across Ukraine.

On 4 May, a Russian ballistic missile struck the city of Merefya in the Kharkiv region. Seven innocent civilians were killed and 36 more were injured. These were ordinary people going about their daily lives, far from the front lines.

Just yesterday on 5th May Russia carried out numerous attacks across Ukraine. As a result of strikes targeting 9 regions, at least 27 people have been killed and over 120 injured – let me stress: all this happened in just 1 day.

Such strikes on civilian infrastructure and residential areas are deliberate, indiscriminate, and constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law.

Against this bloody reality, the Kremlin's proposal to declare a two-day "ceasefire" on 8–9 May – solely to hold its parade on Red Square without disruption – is particularly

cynical. This is not a genuine peace initiative. **It is yet another round of so-called "Russian-style humanism"**: a country that unleashed this war, that kills Ukrainian civilians every single day, that has destroyed the lives of millions, and that continues its aggression despite enormous losses on its own side, now pretends to care about a single day of quiet for propaganda purposes. Ukraine, instead, ceased fire last night, thereby demonstrating its readiness for genuine diplomacy, the outcome of which should be an end to the war. As President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rightly stated: "Peace cannot wait for parades and celebrations."

Unfortunately, ever since the ceasefire was declared in Ukraine last night, the Russians have been violating it and continuing to attack peaceful Ukrainian cities. Reports indicate ongoing Russian shelling and strikes in Kharkiv, Kherson and Zaporizhia regions, with Kryvyi Rih facing UAV attacks at the moment. This proves that Russian forces are continuing its war of aggression despite Ukraine's unilateral and unconditional ceasefire declaration.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia's full-scale invasion represents a direct and systemic threat not only to Ukraine's security but to that of the entire civilized world – first and foremost, Europe. This is not a distant regional conflict; it is a fundamental challenge to the European security order, the rules-based international system, and the principle that borders cannot be redrawn by force.

A recent example from right here in Vienna underscores this reality. Just days ago, Austria expelled three Russian diplomats, including personnel from Russia's mission to the OSCE, for activities incompatible with their status – presumably, for espionage. This incident once again proves that Russian hybrid threats and subversive activities pose risks even to traditionally neutral countries. No state in the OSCE area is immune. Russian intelligence operations, influence campaigns, and hybrid aggression are a continent-wide security concern. This shows once again that Russia abuses diplomatic cover, exploits Vienna's international environment, and treats international organisations not as platforms for dialogue, but as targets for espionage and hostile influence. **Austria has earned deep respect by taking a decisive axe to the branches of Russia's "antenna forest."**

Mr. Chairperson,

The aggressor comprehends nothing but strength. Cosmetic pauses and hollow rhetoric will not stop Russia. The only effective way to halt this aggression is through resolute, unified pressure – long-range capabilities combined with far-reaching, crippling

sanctions. Both military support for Ukraine's defence and comprehensive economic pressure on Russia must be sustained and strengthened until Moscow is forced to end its war.

Ukraine proves that it remains committed to a just and lasting peace based on international law, the full restoration of our territorial integrity, and accountability for all crimes committed. We call on OSCE participating States to stand firm in defence of these principles.

We cannot allow fatigue or wishful thinking to weaken our collective response. The security of the entire OSCE area is at stake.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.