



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1136th FSC Plenary Meeting

(13th May 2026)

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.

On 8 May, Ukraine and the international community commemorated the 81st anniversary of the victory over Nazism and the end of the Second World War in Europe. For Ukraine, this date holds profound significance. Our people endured immense suffering during the war and made a decisive contribution to the defeat of Nazi aggression.

During WWII, Ukraine lost approximately eight million lives – around five million civilians and three million soldiers. Ukrainians fought bravely within the anti-Hitler coalition, with nearly six million serving in the Red Army and hundreds of thousands participating in resistance movements and allied forces of Poland, the United States, Canada, France, and other nations. We remain deeply grateful to our allies for their historic solidarity and for standing with us today in defence of our freedom and sovereignty.

While the end of WWII brought peace to Europe, it did not bring freedom to all. The Soviet Union's occupation and control replaced one form of totalitarianism with another across Ukraine, the Baltic states, Poland, and other Central and Eastern European nations.

Esteemed colleagues,

No single country has the right to claim exclusive ownership of the victory over Nazism. That victory was achieved through the collective sacrifice and efforts of many nations. It is particularly unacceptable to invoke the moral legacy of the Second World War to justify new acts of aggression or violations of international law.

We must reject attempts to portray ongoing conflicts as a continuation of the fight against Nazism. Such narratives distort history and undermine the shared values that united the anti-Hitler coalition.

Putin's regime continues to represent its war against Ukraine as a continuation of the Second World War, claiming that it is fighting fictional "neo-Nazis." Many Russians have been influenced by this narrative and genuinely believe they are engaged in a just cause while invading a neighboring country.

In reality, soldiers who marched on Red Square on 9 May 2026 may have been directly linked to horrific atrocities committed against civilians in Bucha, Irpin, Iziom, Mariupol, and other locations – some of the most severe crimes in Europe since the Second World War. By mid-January 2026, Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine had already lasted longer than the entire Soviet-German war of 1941–1945. As of now, Russian losses exceeded 1,343,000 soldiers killed or wounded, while it has failed to capture a single additional regional administrative centre in Ukraine since 2014 and has not achieved any of its originally declared strategic objectives.

Distinguished colleagues,

My country demonstrated goodwill by agreeing, in accordance with a decree of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to observe a three-day ceasefire from 9 to 11 May, proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump at Russia's request. Regrettably, this initiative was not respected. During this period, 265 combat engagements were recorded, and Ukrainian cities faced over 60 drone attacks, resulting in civilian casualties, including two eight-year-old boys injured in a strike on a residential building in Kharkiv.

Ukraine suggested to extend the partial ceasefire beyond May 11 but yesterday Russia answered by launching more than 200 drones against Ukraine, striking civilian infrastructure,

including a kindergarten. This is a stark reminder that Moscow continues to choose terror over peace.

My country nevertheless refrained from long-range strikes on Russian territory during this time. We reserve the right to respond in a mirror manner to such attacks.

Ukraine remains committed to achieving a just and lasting peace. We are ready for constructive negotiations aimed at establishing an effective ceasefire, releasing all prisoners of war, and returning Ukrainian civilians unlawfully detained in Russia. Human life and dignity must remain our highest priority.

We stand ready to transfer 1,000 Russian prisoners of war in exchange for the release of Ukrainian civilians and military personnel. We are grateful to the United States for its valuable mediation efforts in facilitating prisoner exchanges and would welcome its continued support in ensuring the full implementation of these agreements.

At the same time, we must note with deep concern that Russia continues to violate the Geneva Conventions. Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians face systematic ill-treatment, including torture, starvation, psychological abuse, and denial of adequate medical care. Russia also fails to provide complete information on captured persons and restricts access for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

On 4 May, it was reported that Russia had returned the bodies of 375 Ukrainians who had been held in captivity – a clear breach of international humanitarian law and further evidence of the gravity of the situation.

Esteemed colleagues,

The establishment in June 2025 of the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine represents a historic step toward accountability. For the first time since the Nuremberg Trials, the international community is working together to ensure that the crime of aggression does not go unpunished, regardless of the position or status of those responsible.

Ukraine expresses sincere gratitude to the 29 states that have already joined the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal. We strongly encourage other countries to support this important initiative. Accountability for the crime of aggression is not only a matter of justice – it is essential for achieving a comprehensive and sustainable peace in Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.