



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Yurii Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1565th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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

Mr Chairperson,

Last week the Permanent Council addressed the horrific Russian strike against Ukraine carried out overnight from 13 to 14 May, on the eve of the meeting.

I would like to return to this issue once again, as the full scale of the devastation became clear only after a rescue operation that lasted more than 28 hours.

The attack, involving 1,567 drones and 56 missiles launched across Ukraine, became one of the largest and deadliest since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion. Civilian infrastructure and residential areas were targeted throughout the country – from Odesa, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Kherson, Cherkasy, and Poltava, to Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne, Zakarpattia, and beyond.

At least 24 people, including three children, were killed in Kyiv, while 47 others were injured. Another 28 people were injured in Kharkiv.

On 14 May, following this barrage of missiles and drones, a vehicle belonging to a UN-led humanitarian mission was struck in the Kherson region.

This happened on the very same day that the Delegation of Ukraine, here in the PC, was drawing attention to the disastrous humanitarian situation in parts of the Kherson region caused by Russia’s systematic obstruction of humanitarian assistance.

More recently, during the overnight attack of 18 May targeting Dnipro and Odesa, Russian forces launched 524 attack drones and 22 missiles of various types. At least 27 people, including three children, were injured.

Russia’s behaviour clearly shows that Moscow is not moving towards a diplomatic resolution. Instead, it continues to mock peace through relentless deadly attacks. At the same time, Russia further destabilises European security through provocations and threats.

Clear examples include Russia’s disinformation campaign against the Baltic States and the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons to Belarus. Just yesterday, both issues were discussed in the FSC.

Mr Chairperson,

The crimes committed by the Russian occupiers are a stark reminder of the critical importance of accountability. Without accountability, there can be no just and lasting peace. That is why, together with partners worldwide, Ukraine continues to work tirelessly to establish a comprehensive infrastructure of accountability.

This infrastructure rests on three pillars: the Special Tribunal, the Register of Damage, and the Claims Commission. Together with investigations conducted by the International Criminal Court, national judicial authorities, and non-governmental organisations around the world, these efforts send a clear message: no one in the aggressor state, regardless of rank or position, will escape responsibility.

The irreversible nature of this process was clearly proved on 15 May 2026 during the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. On that day, 36 countries and the European Union expressed their intention to join the new Enlarged Partial Agreement establishing the Management Committee of the Special Tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

As Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha underlined in this regard: "We have passed the point of no return. The Special Tribunal is becoming a legal reality. [...] One year ago, in Lviv, we approved the political decision. Just one year later, we have the implementation agreement."

Mr Chairperson,

Last week, Ukraine marked two important commemorative days: the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Genocide of the Crimean Tatar People, and the Day of Remembrance of Victims of Political Repression.

Both commemorations recall the tragic events of the last century, when the Stalinist regime sought to eliminate the people of Ukraine, suppress their identities, and destroy all dissent. Millions of Ukrainians were subjected to political repression, forced deportations, and artificial famine.

Yet despite the immense suffering caused by Stalin's genocidal policies, Ukraine and its people endured. And as endured then, it has endured in 2014 and in 2022, when the Kremlin once more sought to impose its will through violence and terror.

Tragically, the countless crimes committed by the Soviet regime were never properly condemned, investigated, and punished. It is precisely this long-standing impunity that paved the way for the mass atrocities committed by the Russian Federation in its ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

Today, Ukraine and the international community have a real opportunity to break this vicious cycle of impunity. It is high time to firmly condemn the Kremlin's crimes, strengthen sanctions pressure on Russia, and provide Ukraine, the victim of the aggression, with everything necessary to protect civilians and prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.