



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

98th FSC and PC Plenary Meeting

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Agenda Item 2, General Statements

Mme. Chairperson,

[Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the EU-26 under this agenda item. In my national capacity, I would like to add the following remarks].

Last week, Ukraine commemorated the anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity. Our freedom was not granted to us — it was won by ordinary people who cared about the future of Ukraine and the future of Ukrainian children. We remember the price paid in 2014. We honour the courage of everyone who stood on Maidan and did not leave.

We also firmly reject the repeated attempts by Russia to cynically describe the Revolution of Dignity as a “coup d'état.” Such language only demonstrates how far today's Russia has moved from the very notions of democracy, free choice, and the sovereign right of a people to determine its own future. Tragically, when dictatorships respond to citizens with violence, there are victims. Ukraine remembers this. And we will not accept lectures on democracy from a regime that has long dismantled pluralism and repeatedly normalized force in its own political life.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia continues its campaign of terror against civilians and its systematic attacks on critical infrastructure, in blatant violation of international law and OSCE principles and commitments.

In the last week alone, Russia intensified its campaign of large-scale air attacks against Ukraine, launching multiple waves of missiles and drones primarily aimed at crippling civilian infrastructure. Over this period, Russian forces deployed hundreds of Shahed-type and other strike UAVs (including Gerbera and Italmas), alongside ballistic and cruise missiles such as Iskander-M, in nightly barrages that struck at least 14 locations across northern, southern, and eastern regions.

These assaults killed and injured civilians — including children — and inflicted severe damage on energy, heating, and municipal systems. In Odesa, for instance, repeated strikes on critical substations and facilities left vast areas without electricity, disrupted water supply for hundreds of thousands of residents, and caused prolonged outages in heating amid freezing temperatures. Similar blackouts and infrastructure failures affected thousands in other regions, including Kyiv suburbs and central regions, exacerbating hardship for families already enduring harsh winter conditions.

This pattern underscores Russia's systematic targeting of Ukraine's energy grid and essential services, far beyond military objectives, with devastating humanitarian consequences.

Madam Chairperson,

The Geneva round of talks with the participation of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia has once again demonstrated a simple reality: Ukraine is committed to peace efforts and is ready to move quickly toward a dignified agreement to end this war. The key obstacle remains unchanged — Russia's desire to continue the war and its constant use of ultimatums instead of genuine diplomacy.

As we approach the fourth year of Russia's full-scale aggression let me be clear: Ukraine is ready for real compromises, but not for compromises at the cost of our independence and sovereignty. What Russia presents as a "compromise" is, in essence, extortion: "accept occupation, and we may refrain from seizing more." That is not compromise. That is coercion.

We are ready to work with the United States and all partners on practical, dignified solutions for peace. But forcing an ultimatum on us won't work.

Colleagues,

A particularly alarming aspect of the ongoing aggression is Russia's deepening military cooperation with North Korea. Approximately 10,000 North Korean troops are currently deployed on Russian soil, where they are acquiring critical, battle-tested expertise in modern

hybrid warfare. This includes tactics for countering advanced missile systems, as well as a wide range of drones—from FPV and fiber-optic-guided systems to long-range unmanned platforms.

This development poses a grave threat that extends well beyond Ukraine. At the very least, these soldiers will carry this hard-won knowledge and experience back to North Korea, significantly enhancing Pyongyang's military capabilities and amplifying risks to regional and global security.

We also draw special attention to the role of Belarus in enabling Russian aggression. On 18 February, Ukraine imposed sanctions on the self-proclaimed president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, for assisting Russia's war against Ukraine. The reasons are clear: facilitation of Russian strike capabilities, including drone relay infrastructure, support to Russia's military-industrial chain, and complicity in actions that threaten not only Ukraine but the wider region — including the deployment-related infrastructure for systems such as the Oreshnik missile on Belarusian territory. Ukraine has also publicly stressed Belarusian involvement in facilitating Russian drone attacks and other forms of support to Moscow's war effort.

Let me stress: sanctions against Lukashenko are not new in principle. The European Union and other partners have already sanctioned him and the Belarusian regime for repression and for support to Russia's aggression. We urge all states — in the OSCE area and beyond — not to become satellites, enablers, sanctions-circumvention hubs, or logistical extensions of Russia's war machine. History will clearly record who stood with international law and human dignity, and who chose complicity with aggression.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.