



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1558th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”

(19 March 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

This week marks 12 years since the events that profoundly changed the course of European history. During these days in 2014, the Russian leadership escalated its aggression against Ukraine, which had begun on 20 February 2014, by orchestrating the so-called sham “referendum” and subsequently attempting to annex the sovereign territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

In doing so, Russia blatantly violated the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Decalogue - sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, the inviolability of frontiers, and the territorial integrity of states.

Massive repressions and human rights violations arrived on the peninsula on the bayonets of the Russian occupiers. Russia has turned Crimea into a territory of lawlessness, where people are intimidated, persecuted, and imprisoned solely for the language they speak, the views they hold, or the faith they practice. Over the years of occupation, Russia has illegally banned the activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and forcibly terminated the activities of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Over the years of occupation, at least 430 individuals have been subjected to prosecutions. The real number may, however, exceed 500, as the occupation authorities do not publicly report all such cases. Right now, nearly 300 people are being held in captivity on politically fabricated charges, including 159 Crimean Tatars.

Moreover, during the years of occupation, Russia has effectively turned Crimea into a military base and a bridgehead for further aggression against Ukraine, as well as for the destabilisation of the Black Sea region and Europe as a whole. Instead of being a space of security, prosperity, and peace, the Azov-Black Sea region has become another hotspot on world map.

Mr Chairperson,

Having occupied Crimea, Russia launched a direct invasion of Donbas, and in 2022 escalated its aggression into a full-scale war - the largest war Europe has faced since 1945.

More than 12 years after Russia began its attempt to annex the sovereign territory of Ukraine, the criminal regime in Moscow continues to wage its genocidal war against Ukraine.

And this regime is indeed criminal, as it is led by the internationally recognised war criminal Vladimir Putin, for whom on 17 March 2023 the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for the unlawful deportation and forced transfer of Ukrainian children. Putin himself, along with his associates in the Kremlin who are also subject to international justice for war crimes, must have no illusions regarding the true nature of this regime.

Repeated and deliberate attacks by the Russian armed forces against Ukrainian civilians and critical infrastructure continue to claim innocent lives, cause extensive destruction, and lead to widespread disruptions in electricity, heating, and water supply across Ukraine.

Let me recall just one case, which occurred on 14 March 2026, when Russia carried out a massive combined aerial strike against Ukraine, launching almost 500 means of destruction, including 68 missiles and 430 attack drones, with Kyiv and the Kyiv region among the main targets. This attack killed six civilians and left more than 20 injured.

In total, during the past week alone, the aggressor attacked Ukraine with 86 missiles, 1,770 drones, and more than 1,530 guided aerial bombs.

To illustrate the scale, each guided aerial bomb weighs between 500 kg to 1.5 tons and contains hundreds of kilograms of explosives.

As a result of these persistent attacks, the civilian death toll continues to rise dramatically. According to recent figures from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), last month Russia's genocidal war killed at least 188 people and injured 757 others. UN estimates indicate that February 2026 saw 31 per cent more casualties than February 2025, and 83 per cent from the same period of 2024 - a striking trend reflecting Moscow's disregard for peace efforts led by the United States.

Allow me to quote one resident of the city of Kharkiv, whose testimony was documented by the OHCHR: "I saw the bodies of my neighbours. It was unbearably painful to realise that this attack killed a family who, just yesterday, were living, working, and enjoying their lives."

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine's position remains unequivocal. We stand ready to take the necessary steps towards achieving a just and lasting peace as swiftly as possible, together with the United States, Europe, and all our partners. Russian atrocities must come to an end. Otherwise, unprecedented global instability will only deepen.

Each and every report documenting yet another attack or armed provocation is nothing less than a demonstration of Russia's true attitude toward any peace initiatives. It is completely unacceptable that, while claiming an alleged readiness for a political-diplomatic resolution, Moscow continues to bomb the civilian population.

As Minister Andrii Sybiha recently stated: "In response to such actions, Moscow should not receive any relief from international pressure or isolation. Appeasement has never brought peace. It can only lead to the expansion of terror and war."

Indeed, the sooner we deprive the Russian war machine of its fuel, the sooner the war will end. The sooner peace and stability will be restored in Europe and the sooner Moscow will lose its ability to bolster other terrorist regimes worldwide.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.