



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

1573rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, "The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine"
(16 July 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

Since the very beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Kremlin has consistently sought to undermine the unity of the international community in its resolute response to the aggression.

Recent high-level international meetings have, however, once again demonstrated that this strategy has failed. The G7 Summit in Evian, the NATO Summit in Ankara, and, most recently, the meeting of the Coalition of the Willing in Paris all reaffirmed the international community's steadfast support for Ukraine, and its unequivocal rejection of Moscow's neo-imperial ambitions.

In particular, as emphasised in the statement by the Coalition of the Willing's co-chairs, all its member states remain firmly committed to achieving a just and lasting peace for Ukraine, in accordance with international law, while safeguarding Ukraine's security and the shared security interests of all partners.

This broad and growing coalition sends a clear message: despite Moscow's persistent attempts to evade responsibility and portray itself as the victim, the international community remains unequivocal in its assessment. It is Russia, and its war of aggression against Ukraine, that constitute one of the gravest threats to international peace and security, as well as to the rules-based international order.

And it is not only about political messages, but also about practical steps. One of the meeting's most significant outcomes was the establishment of the Integrated Anti-Ballistic Missile Coalition. This marked an important step towards countering one of Russia's principal instruments of terror – its ballistic missile capabilities.

Ukraine deeply values the solidarity and support by its international partners, and remains committed to strengthening this cooperation. While Ukraine continues to face unprecedented security challenges and relies on sustained international solidarity, we also stands ready to contribute to the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic community.

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine remains fully committed to the politico-diplomatic path towards ending this war. As Ukraine's leadership has repeatedly stated, we are ready to implement a ceasefire along the line of contact, and to engage constructively in meaningful negotiations based on international law.

Yet the Kremlin's response to every peace initiative remains the same: unrestricted terror against the civilian population.

Over the past week alone, Kyiv, Sumy, Odesa, Kherson, and numerous other towns and cities across Ukraine have once again come under Russian attack.

Just yesterday, Russian strikes killed at least three civilians in Sumy and three more in Odesa, while injuring many others there and across the country. Guided aerial bombs, missiles, and drones struck residential neighbourhoods, civilian infrastructure, and places where people were simply going about their daily lives.

Last night five people have been injured, including a child. The Russians have damaged a residential high-rise, warehouse facilities, and vehicles. Russian strikes on the Kharkiv region have left four people injured. In Sumy, a public park was struck, and in the region, a tractor brigade was targeted. Apartment buildings were damaged in Zaporizhzhia. Damage has been reported at power grid facilities in the Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Mykolaiv, and Donetsk regions. In total, the Russians launched 13 missiles, including eight ballistic ones, and 151 drones. This was already the sixth ballistic attack on Kyiv in July alone.

As a result of such actions, the human cost continues to rise at an alarming rate.

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has verified that, just during the first six months of this year, 1,396 civilians were killed and 7,978 injured. This represents a 37 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2025, and a 114 per cent increase compared with the previous year.

As the Mission's report states, "Civilian casualties in Ukraine have risen steadily from month to month and from year to year, amid the intensifying use of powerful weapons, in a disturbing escalation."

A similarly alarming conclusion is also reached in the Ninth Interim Report of the ODIHR on reported violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in Ukraine, issued yesterday. The document confirms that during the period from 1 December 2025 to 31 May 2026, verified civilian casualties in government-controlled areas of Ukraine increased by 45 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 2025. It is worth noting that 97 per cent of civilian casualties occurred in the government controlled territories of Ukraine, while 3 percent occurred in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories.

This appalling trend must neither be normalised nor accepted. It requires a strong and coordinated response. Tougher economic and financial sanctions to limit the aggressor's ability to fund its war. Strengthening export controls so its military cannot obtain the critical technologies and components it needs. Expanding personal sanctions against those who support, enable, or promote the war in any way. And Boosting Ukrainian defence.

As Minister Sybiha stated following Russia's most recent attack on Ukraine: "Russia has a predictable habit: whenever the world gathers to discuss peace for Ukraine, Moscow answers with more terror against civilians. Every such attack should have only one consequence: stronger sanctions, stronger defence packages, and stronger support for Ukraine. Terror must never dictate Europe's agenda. Strength, unity, and resolve must."

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.