



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

1581st meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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

Mr Chairperson,

At the previous Permanent Council meeting, ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric rightly underlined that humanitarian considerations must drive efforts towards de-escalation.

Yet, rather than taking meaningful steps towards a ceasefire, Russia continues to intensify its attacks against civilians and critical infrastructure in Ukraine.

The consequences of Russia's escalation for the civilian population are nothing but devastating.

On 8 October, exactly when in this very room the participating States were discussing Russia's attack on the city of Pryluky, the aggressor committed yet another war crime by targeting two civilian buses in Kramatorsk. That attack killed 30 people and injured 20 more.

Later that same day, another Russian strike on Kramatorsk killed a further two people.

On 10 October, Russian forces attacked Zaporizhzhia, killing 23 people, including four children, and injuring at least 32 others. Eight more people were injured in Kyiv.

On 11 October, massive Russian attacks on Kharkiv and other cities in the Kharkiv region killed five people, including one child, and injured 45 others, including four children.

That same day, Russian forces attacked energy infrastructure in Kyiv and Kharkiv. The attack came just within hours after US President Donald Trump announced an energy ceasefire.

Over the past week alone, Russia has carried out more than 200 strikes against Ukraine's electricity generation and transmission facilities, as well as 17 attacks on gas and oil infrastructure.

Just yesterday, Russia launched a massive strike against critical infrastructure in Kyiv and the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions using 40 missiles. In total, 30 energy infrastructure facilities, including electricity and gas facilities, were damaged, leaving approximately 600,000 people without electricity. In Kyiv, the State Emergency Service reported 21 casualties, including three people killed.

Esteemed colleagues,

Last Monday, addressing the EU Foreign Affairs Council, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Andrii Sybiha, stated: "When it comes to peace efforts, Ukraine is ready for different types of ceasefires. Energy. Food security. Full ceasefire. The question is how to force Moscow. And for this, we need decisive pressure. Ukraine knows where to press. But we need your readiness to do it."

Ukraine has made its position clear at every level and in every forum: we are ready for a ceasefire. We are ready to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries, provided that Russia stops attacking Ukraine's energy infrastructure. This is fair.

But if Russia refuses to reciprocate and continues to demonstrate its utter disregard for peace efforts, there can be no meaningful progress towards a ceasefire.

De-escalation must be mutual and backed by credible guarantees. Russia must stop its attacks and take a genuine step towards a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace.

Ukraine, and its legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence, are not obstacles to peace. Ukraine's determination to defend its people and territory against Russia's aggression must not be confused with an unwillingness to pursue peace. The one and only obstacle is Russia's continued refusal to end its attacks and engage meaningfully in de-escalation.

Until Moscow responds with concrete peaceful action, Ukraine's Defence Forces will continue to defend our country and inflict losses on the aggressor and the military capabilities it uses to wage this unlawful war.

The scale of those losses is considerable. In September alone, Russian forces suffered more than 50,000 casualties, including as many as 28,000 troops killed. On average, the Russian army loses around 1,500 personnel every day through death or severe injury. All for nothing more than the revanchist Kremlin's ambitions, which are doomed to fail.

Mr Chairperson,

While Ukraine continues to defend itself, sustained international pressure on the aggressor remains essential.

Russia's attacks on residential areas, leaving dozens dead and injured, must not go unpunished. Kremlin's attacks on energy infrastructure, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without electricity, water, and heating, must have consequences. Its already regular attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea, destroying food cargoes and endangering the lives of seafarers, must not go unanswered.

Every measure that deprives Moscow of the means to wage its war of terror helps to protect lives and brings us closer to ending the bloodshed.

We therefore urge our partners to step up the pressure on Russia, strengthen sanctions, and take decisive action to ensure accountability. This is essential not only to defend Ukraine, but also to uphold the principles of international law on which our common security rests.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.