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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

1583rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, "The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine"

(29 October 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

The closer we come to winter, the more intense the Russian attacks against Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure become.

Since mid-summer, when Russia launched its campaign of escalation, Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been attacked every day, with the total number of attacks already exceeding 2,000.

The recent report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has once again confirmed that these deliberate attacks constitute war crimes, while the large-scale and systematic strikes that have inflicted severe suffering on civilians amount to crimes against humanity.

Of fundamental importance is the Commission's finding that these attacks were deliberate and formed part of a state policy pursued by the Russian Federation. The purpose of this policy is to deprive civilians of essential energy supplies and inflict suffering upon them. In other words, the UN confirmed that Russia has deliberately weaponised cold and darkness against Ukrainian civilians.

The scale and persistence of these attacks underscore the growing recklessness with which Russia employs its weapons against Ukraine. It is equally important to highlight the means Russia uses to target Ukraine. The extensive range of weapons and methods employed by Russia clearly demonstrates that the primary objective of its strikes is to maximise damage to the very human life.

On 22 October 2026, the aggressor carried out yet another large-scale strike against Ukraine, killing two people and leaving 34 others, including five children, wounded. One of the missiles, carrying a cluster warhead, was deliberately directed at the very heart of the Ukrainian capital. It struck Kyiv's historic centre, in an area containing world-renowned holy sites between the Holy Presentation Monastery and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Needless to say, that cluster munitions are indiscriminate weapons that inflict devastating harm and suffering on civilians and contaminate Ukrainian land. Their use in the historic centre of a capital city highlights the grave risks that Russia's attacks pose not only to civilian lives, but also to cultural and religious heritage.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia's war of choice against Ukraine continues to pose a serious and growing threat to European security. Attacks against civilian vessels in the Black Sea, including the most recent incident on 23 October, when a Comorian-flagged merchant vessel sank off the coast of Romania, resulting in the death of one crew member, as well as repeated airspace violations and attacks targeting international border crossing points, are all part of this pattern.

Those targets that are laying beyond of Russian missiles and drones, are systemically attacked by the activities of the special services. Russia is already undermining European security from within, using sabotage, arson, and covert operations to target European states. The Russian sabotage network most recently exposed in Romania is yet another stark example of these activities.

As Minister Sybiha noted: "Such incidents should not be treated as separate episodes. Moscow's methods may differ, but the objective is consistent: weaken Europe's ability to defend itself and support Ukraine."

This assessment underscores the need to recognise the common objective underlying Russia's actions: to undermine European security, weaken the resilience of European nations, and erode their capacity to support Ukraine in defending itself against Russian war of conquest.

Russia's war against Ukraine and its efforts to destabilise European nations are interconnected manifestations of the same challenge to European security and the principles underpinning the international order. A resolute response to Russia's aggression is therefore essential not only for Ukraine, but also for the security and resilience of Europe as a whole.

Mr Chairperson,

Against the backdrop of the current situation, it is more critical than ever to mobilise all efforts aimed at stopping this war. Ukraine believes that a ceasefire is achievable.

The recent agreement on a ceasefire for the humanitarian mission in Oleshky in the Kherson region, reached with the support of US First Lady Melania Trump, demonstrates that this is a realistic objective. It shows that practical steps to prevent further suffering are possible when the necessary efforts and support are brought together.

Our priority now must be to turn the possibility of peace into meaningful action for durable peace. Russia must stop attacking Ukraine's civilian population and critical infrastructure. The international community must remain resolute in upholding international law, protecting civilians, and supporting Ukraine.

We must not allow further civilian suffering to become the price of inaction. Our objective is clear: to stop the bloodshed, prevent further destruction, and restore a just and lasting peace based on international law, including the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.