



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

1538th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, "The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine"

(16 October 2025)

Mr Chairperson,

With each passing day, the cost of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to grow. Russian artillery barrages erase new cities from the map, while missiles and drones claim ever more innocent lives of civilians, including children.

On 10 October 2025, the anniversary of the first large-scale assault on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in 2022, the Russian Federation launched a massive attack on Ukraine, employing nearly five hundred missiles, drones, and other means of destruction. The strikes targeted energy facilities and residential areas across the country. Electricity was disrupted in nine regions, leaving more than one million households and businesses temporarily without power.

As a result of this large-scale strike, numerous civilian casualties were recorded. In Zaporizhzhia, a seven-year-old boy was killed, while dozens of civilians were injured across Ukraine.

During the recent weekend and already into this week, Russian forces have continued almost daily attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing blackouts and disrupting water supplies for hundreds of thousands of people in various regions.

There should be no doubt that every single strike carried out by Russian forces is a calculated and cynical act to deprive Ukrainians of basic necessities as the winter approaches. Or, to use the language of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide: "Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part."

To go further, what we witnessing today in Ukraine, at the onset of winter, is nothing short of energocide on the part of Russia. This is why we are grateful for the Triika statement and its strong, principled reaction to the strikes. This is yet another proof that the international community will not allow Russia to go unpunished for its crimes.

Distinguished colleagues,

The aggressor's actions are yet another clear demonstration that the Kremlin is not interested in peace but is waging a war aimed at erasing Ukraine from the world map. Russia's attacks on first responders, social workers, and humanitarian missions working to help people in war-affected areas only confirm this genocidal intent.

The most recent example of such targeting occurred on 14 October 2025 in the Kherson region, where Russian forces struck a humanitarian convoy operated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Fortunately, all staff members survived. However, two trucks delivering food and essential aid from the World Food Programme for the local population were damaged in the attack.

As Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha emphasised in his reaction, this assault represents yet another brutal violation of international law and underscores Russia's utter disregard for civilian lives and its international obligations.

Indeed, both Russian rhetoric and actions on the ground demonstrate that the Kremlin does not seek peace. Every strike proves Moscow's determination to exploit every opportunity to continue its war of aggression.

It is particularly alarming that Russia's war efforts extend far beyond conventional methods of warfare. Missiles, drones, and artillery are only part of a broader campaign to spread aggression and undermine the very foundations of international security, including the principles of nuclear safety and the regimes governing the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

One of the most concerning examples is Russia's ongoing nuclear blackmail targeting Ukrainian nuclear facilities, in particular, the continued destabilisation of the situation around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which has been without an external power supply for three weeks already.

Another grave example is Russia's persistent disregard for the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Last week, this issue was raised at the session of the OPCW Executive Council in The Hague, where Ukraine presented evidence of nearly 11,000 documented instances of Russian forces using munitions containing hazardous chemicals — a direct violation of the Convention. As a result, 2,862 Ukrainian servicemen were reported poisoned.

Let me underline once again, such acts are not isolated incidents but part of a systemic pattern observed along the entire front line. They pose a grave threat not only to Ukraine's national security but also to the very foundations of the global regimes. Ukraine continues to document and report these violations and will keep the international community informed of such egregious breaches.

Mr Chairperson,

Despite all this, the Russian Federation continues to portray itself as a peaceful, constructive, and trustworthy state. It publicly rejects the very idea of a rules-based international order while occupying the seat in the UN Security Council. It continues to bombard civilians and civilian infrastructure while hypocritically proclaiming its adherence to international humanitarian law. It employs chemical agents as a method of warfare, yet seeks election to the OPCW Executive Council.

Such hypocrisy is unacceptable. A state that does not respect international law cannot be treated as an equal partner. On the contrary, it must face unified and decisive international action to halt the violations.

Terrible inhuman crimes cannot be ignored or tolerated. They must be met with a strong and coordinated response, including sanctions on the economy and financial sectors to deprive the aggressor of resources to finance its war; export control measures to prevent military industry from obtaining critical technologies and components; and further personal sanctions against those who promote and enable the war in any form. Only such actions can influence the aggressor state, compel it to change course, and restore adherence to the principles of international law.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.