



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

**1088<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(25 September 2024)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine, allow me to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

At the last FSC meeting, we all witnessed how Russian propaganda works, when the Russian Federation once again attempted to portray itself as a victim fighting for a just cause. The Russian delegation accused all other countries except its own of violating international law — from the most fundamental provisions of the UN Charter to the specific regulations governing the use of weapons on the battlefield.

The hypocrisy of these accusations is evident if we recall that they were voiced by the delegation representing a country that launched a war of aggression against its neighbour and whose armed forces continue to commit hundreds of crimes daily, demonstrating a complete disregard for basic norms aimed at protecting civilians.

Regrettably, this last week has been no exception to the grim reality of everyday life in Ukraine, marred by the ongoing war, as not a day has passed without Russian artillery, missiles, or strike drones claiming civilian lives or causing further destruction.

On 19 September, a Russian attack on the city of Sumy damaged a nursing home, killing one person and wounding 20 others.

On 20 September, a Russian strike on the Odesa sea port wounded four people, damaged several buildings and an Antigua-flagged cargo vessel.

On 21 September, in the city of Nikopol, Russian shelling targeted a civilian car with a family inside, killing a mother and her 12-year-old daughter and wounding a father and a 4-year-old girl.

Just yesterday, on 24 September, the Russian Federation dropped 8 guided bombs on the city of Kharkiv. As the local administration reported, at least 3 people were killed and 31 were wounded after the Russian bomb targeted a residential building and a bakery factory.

Mr Chairperson,

The Russian Federation may persistently deny that it cynically kills civilians to sow fear and targets critical infrastructure to destroy Ukraine. However, the facts clearly show that these actions are part of a deliberate and coordinated strategy of annihilation. Numerous Russian strikes, documented by independent international observers, reveal a clear pattern of intentional actions by the aggressor.

In particular, the recently published report by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission highlights that from 22 March to 31 August 2024, the Russian armed forces carried out nine waves of large-scale attacks on the Ukrainian energy system, damaging or destroying numerous power generation and electrical distribution facilities. The report emphasises that the strikes had widespread effects, harming the civilian population and disrupting Ukrainian electricity supply, water distribution, sewage and sanitation systems, heating and hot water, public health and education.

In this regard, we cannot but mention our particular concern about the situation at the Ukrainian nuclear facilities temporarily occupied by Russia. Possible damage to such facilities could create a high risk of a nuclear incident with global consequences.

Over the past few weeks, more than 100 Russian drones and missiles flew near Ukrainian nuclear power plants. In particular, on the night of 20 September, a Russian Shahed-type drone was detected flying in close proximity to the Khmelnytskyi NPP.

Therefore, it is no surprise that the issue of nuclear safety and security in Ukraine was among the key topics discussed at the recent IAEA General Conference. The strong support of the international community was clearly demonstrated by the adoption of the resolution "Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards in Ukraine", in which the General Conference called on

the Russian Federation to urgently withdraw all unauthorised military and other personnel from Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and to return full control of the plant to the competent Ukrainian authorities.

While the Russian Federation may ignore such calls, we firmly believe that persistent international pressure remains crucial. The violating state will inevitably be forced to comply with the legitimate demands of the international community.

The information presented by our delegation today represents only a small part of the crimes committed by Russian occupation forces in Ukraine. To date, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine has recorded more than 143,000 crimes for which the Russian Federation, as an aggressor state, bears full responsibility.

Notably, last week in Vienna, the 11th meeting of the Core Group on establishing a special tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, took place. At the current stage, the Core Group moved from general discussions on the format of the tribunal to discussing the draft Statute, and agreed the general concept for establishing a special tribunal.

Mr Chairperson,

This war was not a choice of Ukraine, and Ukraine's actions are self-defence against unprovoked and unjustified aggression. The Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to take all necessary measures to repel the Russian invasion and stop the terror unleashed by the enemy. The Defense Forces of Ukraine have managed to reduce the assault capabilities of the occupiers in the Donetsk region. However, the situation remains extremely challenging, with fierce battles taking place daily.

And while Ukrainian troops continue to spare no effort, they need principled and consolidated support of the international community.

It is crucial to weaken the aggressor's capabilities in all spheres: in the political sphere - not to allow misguide the international community and normalise the use of force; in the financial sphere - to prevent the financing of the war; in the technological sphere - to stop the production of new weapons.

Finally, it is crucial not to allow the Russian Federation to hide behind its geography and to allow the state that defends itself to hit legitimate targets of the aggressor, wherever they may be located.

In this regard, Ukraine welcomes the resolution by the European Parliament entitled “Continued financial and military support to Ukraine by EU Member States,” which calls for lifting restrictions on the use of weapons systems delivered to Ukraine against legitimate military targets on Russian territory.

Ukraine values this important message, as well as many other messages of support, and views the resolution, that was adopted by the European Parliament and thus by the representatives of the peoples of 27 European states, as a clear proof of the high level of solidarity.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.