



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yuriy Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the
International Organizations in Vienna

1533rd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine”
(11 September 2025)

Madam Chairperson,

Just two days ago, on 9 September 2025, the OSCE participating States convened for a special meeting of the Permanent Council to discuss the substantial intensification of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, in particular the unprecedented, large-scale bombardment of 7 September 2025, which caused extensive damage across Ukraine and left more than 40 civilian victims.

Regrettably, even before the meeting concluded, we were confronted with yet another appalling piece of news. On the same day, Russian forces once again targeted civilians, this time in the village of Yarova in the Donetsk region. Russian terrorists deliberately struck the mobile post office precisely when elderly people had gathered there to collect their pensions. This barbaric attack killed 25 people and injured 19 others.

As Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Andrii Sybiha, underlined in his statement on the tragedy: “Russian propaganda claims to be ‘saving’ people in the Donetsk region, but in reality it is dropping massive air bombs on people who came to receive their pensions. Russia brings only death, horror, and destruction.”

Indeed, Russia’s war against Ukraine, driven by the Kremlin’s imperial ambitions, exemplifies how a state can distort reality in order to justify senseless killings. It also demonstrates how, in its pursuit of territorial expansion, a state can barbarically trample upon the fundamental principles of international law, as well as the very foundations of responsible conduct and basic humanity.

Dear colleagues,

The situation on the ground demonstrates that, with every passing day, Russia's war effort is becoming ever more reckless. The number of drones and missiles employed to carry out new strikes is increasing, more and more civilians are falling victim to this imperialistic war, and the Kremlin shows no intention of halting its campaign.

Let us be clear: Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is a war of total annihilation. Russian forces wage this war not only against Ukrainian troops on the frontline, but also against elderly people waiting to collect their pensions at post offices, children attending school, patients preparing for surgery in hospitals, as well as first responders and humanitarian workers striving to alleviate the consequences of Russia's barbaric warfare.

The latter was illustrated by the missile strike on a humanitarian demining site in the Chernihiv region on 28 August 2025, which claimed the lives of two deminers from the Danish Refugee Council and left eight others injured.

These were humanitarian workers engaged in clearing mines from territory previously occupied by Moscow's forces. Yet for the Russian military they became just another target.

The official reaction of the Russian ministry of defence makes this plain: in its official statement it did not even try to deny the attack but instead described the strike in detail, falsely claiming it had struck a military target.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me reiterate the position that my Government has expressed on numerous occasions: as the victim of armed aggression, Ukraine is more interested in peace than any other country in the world. Ukraine seeks peace and stands ready to take all necessary steps to bring it closer.

In stark contrast, Russia has persistently obstructed every pathway to peace. Despite repeated appeals from Ukraine, the United States, Canada and many European nations, Moscow continues to reject ceasefire frameworks and to decline high-level meetings aimed at ending this war. Instead, the Kremlin pursues a parallel campaign of disinformation while simultaneously escalating its military aggression, deploying ever more drones that now strike territories far beyond Ukraine, as was recently the case in Poland.

Russia's ongoing war of aggression requires immediate and decisive action by the international community. Every Russian attack must be met with a proportionate response through military support to Ukraine, sanctions, and concrete steps to hold Russia accountable.

To prevent further casualties and destruction, we must act proactively to compel the Russian Federation to recognise the futility of its criminal war of aggression and its attempts to destroy the Ukrainian state.

Thus far, the Kremlin has ignored such messages, leaving the international community with no choice but to continue the fight and to raise the cost of this war for Moscow – by further weakening its military-industrial base and striking at the core of its economy, which finances the war and malign activities across the world. As the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, recently stressed: “Russia's economy and the Russian state must feel pain every time they kill, every time they strike.”

All participating States in this room have subscribed to the commitments enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act. These include respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. If one State fails to honour its commitments, it becomes the responsibility of all others, acting as more responsible members of the international community, to ensure their enforcement.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.