



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 Organisations in Vienna

1535th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

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

Mr Chairperson,

Just yesterday, at the joint FSC–PC meeting, participating States discussed yet another provocation by the Russian Federation against European security, this time, the violation of Estonian airspace.

Russia’s escalating terror and systematic provocations against other European countries demonstrate that Moscow seeks only further escalation, raising the stakes in its imperialist war of aggression against Ukraine and the entire rules-based order.

The unprecedented incursion of drones into Polish airspace on 9–10 September, the flight of a Russian drone over Romanian territory on 13 September, and, most recently, the violation of Estonian airspace by Russian MiG-31 fighter jets are stark reminders that Russia’s war of aggression threatens the whole of Europe.

Regrettably, despite repeated calls for meaningful dialogue, the Russian side continues to deny responsibility. This is the only message the Kremlin persists in sending to the international community, and it cannot be ignored. Such actions must not be tolerated or left unpunished. History clearly teaches us that Russia understands only the language of force.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha rightly underlined at the recent emergency meeting of the UN Security Council: “The Russian war machine can only be stopped through strength, not weakness. ‘Wait and see’ is not a strategy. We must abandon wishful thinking. Russia poses an existential threat to Europe, and it will not disappear even if we close our eyes.”

Distinguished colleagues,

Meanwhile, in the OSCE, Russian diplomats would prefer that we not focus on Russia's war of aggression. We regularly witness their attempts to distract us from setbacks and shift blame by doubling down on outdated propaganda narratives, seeking to justify the unjustifiable—the war launched with the genocidal aim of erasing an entire country from the world map.

The Russian side persists in concealing its own actions and attempting to divert the attention of participating States from the serious crimes it commits daily.

However, no one here is deceived. Participating States clearly recognise Russia's misconduct and continue to monitor all breaches of international norms. This will be demonstrated once again in this very Council through the presentation of yet another Moscow Mechanism report.

Regrettably, Moscow continues to ignore reality, further constructing a parallel narrative in which it portrays itself as a peaceful dove surrounded by hostile forces intent on its destruction. The truth, however, is quite the opposite: Russia is the aggressor. In blatant disregard of international humanitarian law, the aggressor state continues to attack Ukraine's civilian population and destroy critical infrastructure in an attempt to weaken the people's resolve by spreading fear and panic.

Over the past week alone, Russian forces launched more than 50 missiles of various types, 1,500 drones, and dropped 1,280 guided bombs on Ukraine. These attacks claimed further lives and caused widespread destruction across multiple regions.

One of the largest recent assaults occurred on 20 September, when Russian forces carried out one of their most extensive combined strikes, launching 579 drones, eight ballistic missiles, and 32 cruise missiles against nine regions of Ukraine. In the city of Dnipro alone, a residential building was hit, killing three civilians and injuring dozens more. Additional casualties were reported across several other regions.

As Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, Erik Møse recently stated during the presentation of the Commission's latest update: "Three and a half years of armed conflict in Ukraine continue to have a devastating impact on the civilian population. The violations and corresponding crimes we have documented have inflicted unspeakable suffering and hardship on those affected."

Mr Chairperson,

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has clearly demonstrated that international security and stability cannot be taken for granted. They require constant commitment, unity, and resilience to safeguard peace, sovereignty, and the international order.

When a state chooses to undermine the world order and its fundamental foundations, it becomes the moral duty of the international community to respond and put an end to such violations. The international community must act with determination to uphold these basic principles. Strengthening collective defence, supporting Ukraine, and investing in long-term security are essential steps in this regard. a meeting of the UN Security Council in New York.

As President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed during the recent High-Level Meeting of the UN Security Council in New York, I quote "Act together. Please. Unite at last to stop Russia's war. What we need now is a strong push – to force Russia toward peace" end of quote.

If the international community unites and acts decisively, Russia will have no choice but to move towards peace. This is why it is particularly important that those states with decisive influence act responsibly. As President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated **"Russia today depends almost entirely on China. If China truly wanted this war to stop, it could compel Moscow to end the invasion. Yet too often, China stays silent and distant instead of active for peace."**

The unity of the international community and its readiness to take all necessary measures to restore respect for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act is of paramount importance. We express our deep gratitude to all countries that continue to support Ukraine in its self-defence and that have endorsed Ukraine's vision of achieving peace on the basis of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

We firmly believe that this is the only path towards building a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine, thereby reinforcing both European and global security.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.