



**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

### **1539<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

Agenda Item 2, “The Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine”  
(23 October 2025)

**Mr Chairperson,**

Regrettably, as we once again address Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine in the Permanent Council, we are compelled to speak about the consequences of Russia’s deliberate strategy to destroy Ukraine’s energy system which amounts to nothing short but energocide.

Over the past week alone, the aggressor has launched more than 3,200 attack drones, 1,370 guided aerial bombs, and around 50 missiles of various types. The vast majority of these weapons were directed against civilians and energy facilities. As a result, many communities have been left without electricity and water supplies.

Most recently, on 16 October, in a single overnight attack, Russian forces launched more than 300 drones and 37 missiles targeting critical infrastructure and civilian areas. This large-scale assault caused severe destruction in the Vinnytsia, Sumy, Poltava, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv regions. These days Kyiv goes through emergency power shutdowns.

All this week, Russia continued its unlimited missile and drone barrage. Just yesterday, on 22 October 2025, we were yet again horrified by another attack that killed seven people and left dozens of wounded. In the city of Kharkiv the aggressor targeted a kindergarten where at that moment were 48 children.

Moscow’s miserable attempts to justify its energocide and killings of civilians by falsely classifying civilian infrastructure as military targets are both morally and legally indefensible. Let us be clear: such strikes represent nothing less than a terrorist strategy aimed at breaking the resilience of Ukraine and compensating for the lack of results on the battlefield – something the Kremlin is unwilling to accept at any cost.

As my Minister emphasised during the recent EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg: “Russia failed to achieve any significant results during its summer offensive, so it now tries to use winter as a weapon against Ukraine.”

**Distinguished colleagues,**

As Russian forces continue to target civilians across Ukraine, its occupation administration in the temporarily occupied territories persists in its campaign of persecution.

In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of participating States to the latest report of the UN Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, recently presented at UN Headquarters in New York. It confirms a persistent pattern of grave violations, including arbitrary detentions, torture, sexual violence, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and politically motivated persecution of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars.

The document also provides irrefutable evidence of the devastating human rights repercussions for children. They are subjected to war propaganda and deprived of education. Deportation, separation from families, forced passportisation, Russification, and militarisation are systematically used to turn Ukrainian children into instruments of hatred towards their own homeland.

Remarkably, just one day before the report’s presentation, on 15 October 2025, occupation security forces conducted mass raids on the homes of Crimean Tatars in several districts of occupied Crimea. Among those detained were Esma Nimetullaieva, the wife of political prisoner Remzi Nimetullaiev and mother of five children; Nasiba Saiidova, a pedagogical college student and kindergarten teacher; as well as Elvira Alieva and Fevzie Osmanova.

Regrettably, the Russian Federation continues to disregard not only such reports and their recommendations but also the very principles of international humanitarian law and its obligations as an occupying power.

This is particularly evident in the ongoing violations of the rights of Ukrainian prisoners of war held in Russia. On 17 October 2025, the Southern District Military Court of the Russian Federation issued yet another politically motivated verdict against 15 soldiers of the 24th Separate Assault Battalion “Aidar.” The court sentenced these Ukrainian defenders to lengthy prison terms solely for their military service.

This sham trial is a clear example of Russia’s blatant disrespect for international humanitarian law. Under the Geneva Convention, any prosecution for prisoners of war based on their participation in hostilities or membership in the armed forces is strictly prohibited. Therefore, all attempts by the Russian Federation to prosecute Ukrainian prisoners of war for their lawful defence of their homeland are null and void.

**Mr Chairperson,**

Despite all Moscow's attempts to conceal its non-compliance with international law all its unlawful actions remain in the spotlight of the international community, including states, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, and human rights defenders.

The recent Warsaw Human Dimension Conference clearly demonstrated this. We are grateful to the OSCE Chairpersonship of Finland for organising this event and for its efforts to ensure that the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine remained high on the agenda. This is indeed a clear demonstration of the role our Organisation can play in holding Russian war criminals to account and thus bringing a just peace closer.

At the same time, we must not forget that words alone cannot stop the Kremlin. The only way to influence the aggressor state and compel it to end the bloodshed is to exert stronger pressure and ensure that not a single transgression is left without a firm and practical response – a response that carries real consequences and further increases the cost of the aggression. That is why we cannot but welcome yesterday's US decision to impose fresh sanctions on Russia's major oil companies that help Moscow genocidal war machine going.

Otherwise, Moscow will continue to reject all peace efforts, just as it now dismisses every peaceful initiative, including the peace plan proposed by US President Trump.

Finally, allow me to conclude by quoting the most recent Joint Statement of European leaders on Peace for Ukraine: "Russia's stalling tactics have shown time and time again that Ukraine is the only party serious about peace. We can all see that Putin continues to choose violence and destruction."

Together we have to change Moscow's genocidal calculus.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**