



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

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

1112th FSC Plenary Meeting
(16 July 2025)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Four months ago, Ukraine unconditionally accepted a proposal by the United States to establish a ceasefire. It was a timely initiative that should have opened a pathway towards ending the aggression and restoring the long-awaited peace.

Regrettably, despite Ukraine's openness and constructive approach, that peace remains elusive due to Russia's clear and persistent unwillingness to negotiate in good faith. The facts speak for themselves. In recent months, despite direct negotiations with the Russian side in Istanbul, the security and humanitarian situation in Ukraine has continued to deteriorate, as Russian forces have significantly intensified their war efforts.

As a result, we have witnessed the deadliest period since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. As highlighted in the latest update on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission, June recorded the highest number of civilian casualties in the past three years, with 232 people killed and 1,343 injured. The Mission noted that the Russian Federation launched ten times more missile and loitering munition attacks in June than during the same month in 2024.

Esteemed colleagues,

This sharp rise in civilian casualties is a direct consequence of the Russian Federation's systematic deployment of advanced long-range missiles and drones against populated areas and critical infrastructure. The escalating intensity and frequency of these attacks, coupled with the increased lethality of the weapons used, reflect a deliberate strategy of destruction and constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law as well as key OSCE principles.

Such tactics lead to tragic consequences, significantly increasing the number of innocent civilian casualties. This was the case on 9 July 2025, when Russian forces attacked the small village of Pravdyne in the Kherson region. The strike, which targeted a residential area, claimed the life of a one-year-old child and seriously injured his grandmother.

This heartbreaking event occurred on the very same day that this Forum, together with the Permanent Council, was discussing the protection of children during armed conflicts in this very room. Let me recall how the Russian delegation cynically denied responsibility for the targeting of civilians and even rejected the possibility of addressing the protection of children within the politico-military dimension of our Organisation.

In total, 9 July 2025 witnessed the most extensive attack by Russian forces on Ukraine to date, with 741 means of destruction deployed by the aggressor state. This included more than 720 UAVs and 13 missiles of various types. While the main strike targeted the city of Lutsk, damage has also been reported in the Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Khmelnytskyi, Cherkasy, and Chernihiv regions.

Russia's persistent use of heinous terrorist tactics, deliberately targeting the civilian population, clearly demonstrates the Kremlin's intent to continue its war of choice, regardless of the human cost.

Let us be clear: this is not the conduct of a state committed to peace. Rather, it reflects the behaviour of a state seeking to use diplomacy as yet another instrument of warfare aiming to deceive the international community and justify unjustifiable.

It is particularly telling that these attacks continue as so many efforts are being made to establish a ceasefire. Russia alone continues to rebuff them all. In doing so, it not only seeks to mislead the global community but also reveals its true attitude towards the sincere efforts of all states working tirelessly to bring peace closer. This is nothing but an affront to every country that has facilitated the negotiation process or offered its good offices in good faith.

Madam Chairperson,

The Russian Federation still clings to the hope that its vile strategy will succeed. However, no tactic from Russia's familiar playbook of deception will shield the aggressor from accountability.

Recent actions by the international community aimed at holding all perpetrators of war crimes to account clearly demonstrate the world's true commitment to justice. This was reaffirmed by the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ukraine and the Netherlands v. Russia.

In this landmark decision, the Court unequivocally held Russia responsible for the downing of Flight MH17 in 2014. It further stressed that Russia's actions are unprecedented in the history of the Council of Europe and pose a grave threat to peaceful coexistence on the continent.

This ruling is a significant step towards holding the Russian Federation accountable under international law for its aggression and related violations. Ukraine regards this judgment as an important milestone in the broader effort to ensure justice for all perpetrators of international humanitarian law violations committed during Russia's war of aggression.

Ukraine remains fully committed to a just and lasting peace, based on the UN Charter and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. Yet we see no such commitment from the Russian Federation. Instead, Moscow continues to exploit the current every opportunity to weaken Ukraine, undermine its defence capabilities, and obstruct the provision of military assistance.

We are fully aware of Russia's strategy and will never accept any outcome that leaves Ukraine weakened or defenceless. On the contrary, a just and lasting peace requires strong and enduring security guarantees to ensure its sustainability.

In this connection, we are thankful to our partners for all the necessary aid provided so far. At the same time, we urge our allies to supply Ukraine with advanced air defence systems and to consider funding Ukraine's interceptor drone programme, which has proven effective in countering Russia's relentless aerial assaults.

Second, we call for the swift adoption of the EU's robust 18th sanctions package and the US Graham-Blumenthal bill, targeting Russia's energy sector, shadow fleet, and financial systems, to limit its ability to sustain this war and curb its circumvention tactics.

As Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Mr Andrii Sybiha, recently stated at the Dubrovnik Forum in Croatia: "To reach a fair and lasting peace, we need strength. We have to make the 'peace through strength' approach really work."

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.