



**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

### **1534<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

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

#### **Mr Chairperson,**

Every day, Russia’s war of aggression brings grief and excruciating pain to Ukrainian people and communities. Deliberate missile and drone attacks on civilians, including children, have become a grim reality for millions of Ukrainians. Russia’s strikes on critical civilian infrastructure have already deprived many people of water, electricity, and access to basic needs.

According to the most recent update from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, in August alone, at least 208 civilians were killed and 827 injured. As report highlights, the highest number of casualties were caused by short-range drones and long-range strikes with missiles and loitering munitions launched by the Russian armed forces.

Regrettably, the Kremlin has shown not the slightest sign of readiness to end its campaign of terror. Since this Council last discussed Russia’s war of aggression just a week ago, not a single day has passed without new strikes.

Allow me to recall only a few of the most recent incidents.

On 11 September, Russian strikes in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions killed three people and left more than 20 wounded.

On 14 September, Russian forces launched a missile strike on a farm in the Sumy region, injuring 12 people who were harvesting crops in the field, and damaging over 30 units of farming equipment.

On 15 September, intensive bombardment of the Donetsk region left one local resident dead and 14 others injured.

On 16 September, a strike on a residential area in the city of Zaporizhzhia claimed the life of one person and injured 13 others, including two children.

Just yesterday, on 17 September, an air attack on the city of Inhulets in the Kherson region injured 3 adults and one child.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

At a time when Russian military forces continue to take the lives of Ukrainians, Moscow's political leadership persists in its attempts to tighten its grip on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Yet another example of these efforts occurred on 14 September, when the Russian Federation held illegal elections in the temporarily occupied Crimea. Let me stress that both the attempted annexation of Ukrainian territories and the sham elections staged by the Moscow occupation administration are null and void. They carry no legal consequences, and cannot alter the status of Crimea as an integral part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

As emphasised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in its official statement on the so-called "voting": "Mock elections on stolen land will not help Russia legitimise the occupation - stolen property will have to be returned."

It is particularly cynical that these so-called "elections" took place against the backdrop of intensified persecution of those who refuse to accept Russian occupation. Efforts to legitimise attempted annexation by forcing the local population to take Russian passports constitute a glaring political absurdity. People are subjected to administrative pressure and politically motivated persecution, while children are exposed to indoctrination, so-called "re-education", and militarisation.

The figures speak for themselves. Moscow has already prosecuted more than 1,500 people in occupied Crimea for their solidarity with Ukraine, subjecting them to unlawful fines and arrests. Moreover, as of September this year, Kremlin has illegally imprisoned 222 people in occupied Crimea on ethnic, religious, or political grounds.

Such actions constitute a blatant violation of international law. Despite all attempts by Russia to conceal its atrocities, they remain firmly in the spotlight of the international community, which will not allow those responsible to evade justice. In particular, soon Russia's violations in Crimea will be addressed at the forthcoming Fifth Summit of the International Crimea Platform, to be held on 24 September in New York, on the margins of the UN General Assembly's High-level Week.

**Mr Chairperson,**

Numerous violations of international humanitarian law, including killings, torture, and persecution, utterly dismantle the Kremlin's false narrative that its war is waged for the "liberation" and "protection" of people.

In reality, such statements are nothing more than a barefaced lie, spread by Russia to justify an imperialistic war of conquest – a war rooted in Moscow's total rejection of Ukrainian statehood. Russia denies the very existence of the Ukrainian people, and seeks to erase Ukraine from the world map. Crimes against humanity, terror, and war crimes have become the hallmarks of Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The response of the international community must be, in particular, to further intensify pressure on Russia, through political measures, personal and economic sanctions, and stricter export controls to prevent the circumvention of existing restrictions.

Despite all claims from the Russian side, the international community has the power to compel Moscow to end this war and to engage, at last, in meaningful dialogue without ultimatums and unlawful demands.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**