



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1027th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(2 November 2022)**

Agenda item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

No matter what new fables Russia makes up to justify its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the facts remain unchanged.

It was Russia's conscious choice to launch the military aggression against Ukraine in 2014. It was the Russian Federation that started its invasion of Ukraine under false pretexts this past February. Russia is solely responsible for insecurity and instability in Europe and for the devastating war it wages against Ukraine.

The Ukrainian people are fighting for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Ukrainian State, and for the right to choose their own future.

The Russian side keeps reiterating that the so-called «special military operation» is going on in line with the plan. We hear such statements from the Kremlin, Russian MoD and MFA as well as from Russian delegations in international fora, including in this room.

Apparently, from the very start of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, this plan foresees constant terror against the civilian population and regular attacks on critical infrastructure facilities. The terror used by Russia now is a pathetic attempt to cover up its military defeats on the battlefield. The terror is used to exert pressure on Ukrainians, on Europe, and on the whole world.

This Monday, many Ukrainian cities went through another wave of air and missile attacks when Russian troops launched 55 Kh-101 missiles, 1 Kh-59 missile, 22 anti-aircraft missiles of S-300 system and 4 UAVs of Shahed-136 and Lancet-3 types. While most of Russian missiles and UAVs were intercepted by the Ukrainian air defence, the rest caused substantial damage leaving people without heating, electricity and water supply.

The situation is especially difficult in the areas adjacent to the front line, in particular in the settlements that are located within the range of Russian artillery. Numerous settlements in the Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Kherson regions are regularly shelled by Russian troops with the use of tube artillery, MLRS and missiles.

In line with its appalling plan, the Russian Federation continues to kill the civilian population and destroy the peaceful settlement in its attempt to destroy Ukraine and its statehood.

Recent most tragic cases clearly demonstrate the medieval barbarism of Russian troops and their non-selectivity. In particular:

On 25 October, in the city of Dnipro, one Russian missile hit a local gas station. This bloody attack killed 2 people, including a pregnant woman, 4 more civilians were wounded.

On 29 October, in Bakhmut, an adult civilian was killed and a 14-year-old child was severely wounded after the Russian troops shelled a residential area causing substantial damage to 4 apartment houses and 3 private houses.

On 30 October, as a result of a deliberate attack against a residential area in the Dnipropetrovsk region, a 73-year-old woman was injured.

On the same day, three people were injured as a result of shelling in the Donetsk region. A number of private houses, a school and an administration building were damaged.

These attacks constitute only a small number of the crimes Russian troops commit in Ukraine. As a consequence, the human toll of the conflict both among the civilian population and military personnel keeps rising. According to the UN High Commissioner

for Human Rights, the total number of casualties caused by the full-scale Russian invasion constitute at least 6,430 killed and 9,865 injured.

The high number of casualties does not stop the Russian Federation and its leadership from the continuation of this senseless war. On the contrary – the Kremlin continues to mobilise new soldiers.

Yesterday, on 1 November 2022, the Russian Federation launched another conscription campaign in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. In the newly occupied territories, the Russian Federation tries to implement the same strategy as it uses in Crimea where approximately 36,000 local residents have been already conscripted since 2015, when the first illegal campaign started.

Particularly cynical in that light is that the Russian conscription campaign deliberately targets ethnical Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars which are considered by the Kremlin's regime unreliable groups.

The ongoing mobilisation conducted by the Russian occupation authorities is a gross violation of norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law, in particular of the IV Geneva Convention of 1949 that clearly prohibits the conscription of protected persons for the service in the armed forces of the occupying power.

Russian attempts to bypass these norms by attempting to annex sovereign territories of Ukraine and issuing Russian passports to all local residents are simply absurd and contradict the very logic of International Humanitarian Law. Conscription of the local population of the occupied territories is a war crime which will be punished.

The ongoing mobilisation of Ukrainians in the temporarily occupied territories is, regrettably, not the only example of the total Russian disregard for the norms and principles of international law.

In full violation of the IV Geneva Convention of 1949, which provides for the obligation of the occupying state not to change the civil status of children, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the Russian Federation continues to transfer Ukrainian children from the occupied territory to the Russian Federation. The Russian authorities do not even try to deny such transfers.

In her recent statement, Russian commissioner for children's rights Maria Lvova-Belova confessed to adopting of a Ukrainian child, who had been abducted from Mariupol

by the Russian army. The Russian commissioner also admitted to facilitating the illegal adoption in the Russian Federation of about 350 more children from the occupied regions of Donbas.

These facts are further evidence of Russia's deliberate intention to destroy the Ukrainian nation and its statehood by targeting children. Russian actions constitute war crimes for which the perpetrators must be held accountable.

We have no doubts that other war crimes conducted by the Russian troops in Ukraine will not go unpunished as well. To this end, Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies in close cooperation with their international partners continue to investigate more than 43,000 cases of crimes of aggression and war crimes committed by the Russian occupying forces since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

Mr Chairperson,

The situation in the Black Sea remains especially tense after the Russian Federation announced its withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative. By withdrawing from the initiative, the Russian Federation broke its obligations before the UN and Türkiye. This decision of the Russian Federation undermines global food security and aggravates the existing crisis. In fact, two-thirds of Ukraine's food exports under the grain initiative went specifically to Africa and Asia. Ukraine has already sent almost 200,000 tons of food only within the framework of the United Nations Food Programme.

At the same time, we cannot say that this step of the Russian side was unexpected. We regard it as a primitive and predictable element of blackmail. Even before the announcement of its withdrawal, the Russian Federation hindered the realisation of the Grain Initiative, in particular by creating artificial delays and attacking Ukrainian ships and ports in the Black Sea – just recall the strike on Odesa port that was carried out by the Russian Federation on the second day of the Grain Initiative implementation. Russia remains the only source of threat in the Black Sea.

Russia's despicable and cynical decision to use grain stolen from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine while blocking Ukrainian ports is a pure propaganda attempt to cover up the fact that Russia deliberately provokes the repetition of the global food crisis. That is how we see the recent statement of the Russian minister of agriculture

Dmitry Patrushev on the decision to provide 500,000 tons of grain to the «poorest countries» for free within the next four months.

Like 90 years ago, when Stalin`s regime organised Holodomor in Ukraine, today the Kremlin tries to use an artificial famine as a political instrument to achieve its criminal goals. This time, however, the scale is even bigger - Russia's provocation of the food crisis is a global issue and poses a threat to millions of people in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia.

Ukraine has always been and is ready to continue to be a guarantor of global food security. We are determined to work with our partners in order to ensure the restoration of the safe passage of commercial vessels through the grain corridor.

Mr Chairperson,

The previous month was one of the most difficult in the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Many Ukrainian cities experienced massive air and missile strikes against civilian infrastructure facilities.

For the first time since summer, Russian troops massively attacked Kyiv and other cities across the entire territory of Ukraine in a terroristic attempt to destroy critical civilian infrastructure and undermine our ability to defend our country.

However, atrocities committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine cannot change the main thing – the readiness of Ukraine and its people to resist and fight against the aggressor.

In response to Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov`s words that "Russia is ready to negotiate on Ukraine if the West offers "realistic proposals", I would like to make it clear and reiterate: the only realistic proposal should be an immediate cessation by Russia of the war against Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory beyond the borders as of 1991.

Mr Chairperson, I thank you and ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.