



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**

As for delivery by the Ukrainian delegation  
to the 1458<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
26 January 2024

**Madam Chairperson,**

We are grateful to the Maltese CIO for convening a special meeting.

Over the last month Ukraine has been witnessing massive missile attacks.

In this regard, let me also express Ukraine's appreciation for a joint statement issued on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

The condemnation of the attacks, as well as a call of the OSCE CIO and OSCE Secretary General upon russia to end the war was very timely.

On that day Ukraine faced probably the most massive combined air attack with hypersonic missiles by russia.

Together with 10 hypersonic Kinzhals russia, in total, launched 35 attack drones and 99 cruise and ballistic missiles at Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Kropyvnytskyi, and other cities and settlements.

This attack was as massive as it happened just a few days before, on December 29, when russians used about 158 weapons unit – 122 missiles of various types and 36 attack UAVs. Unfortunately, since then russia has continued to escalate its aerial attacks.

On January 6, the russian federation launched multiple S-300 missiles on the city and outskirts of Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, killing at least 11 civilians and 5 children.

This attack reminded that children remain the most vulnerable amidst russia's war. Furthermore, on January 8, Ukraine again was under missile barrage.

As reported, russia launched eight drones "Shahed 131/136", seven S-300/S-400 anti-aircraft guided missiles, four "Kinzhal", 24 Kh-101/Kh-555/Kh-55 cruise missiles, eight Kh-22 cruise missiles, six Iskander-M ballistic missiles, two Kh-31P guided air missiles.

As it was the case in the past, critical and civilian infrastructure was among key russia's targets.

As a result, Kharkiv and the region, Zaporizhzhia, Kryvyi Rih, and the Khmelnytskyi region were affected, with casualties among the civilians.

And just days before the inauguration of the Maltese Chairpersonship, on January 23, russia carried out yet another attack with 41 missiles.

Cruise and ballistic missiles flied across the country, while Kyiv and Kharkiv were the main targets. Currently, 18 people are known to have been killed across the country.

More than 130 are known to have been injured.

More than 200 various objects were damaged – 139 of them are houses.

For Kharkiv it was one of the most massive barrages. The city was attacked three times in the course of the day.

Every time these attacks bring pain and suffering. Among the victims, this attack claimed the lives of an 8-year-old girl and her mother.

21-year-old student Kostiantyn has survived but lost his leg; however, his girlfriend was killed.

Bodies of Valerii and Yuliia were retrieved from the rubble of their house, which was a shelter for them for 30 years. When founded, they were embracing their two dogs.

The body, or to be more correct – its 15 fragments - of 38-year-old Serhiy was identified only after the DNA expertise.

Even days after the attack, the number of victims continues to raise. This morning, a 61-year-old woman died in the hospital in Kharkiv.

Unfortunately, shelling of Kharkiv and the region has already become a bloody routine for russia.

Only in the course of the last week, the Kharkiv region was under 19 missile attacks. In total, it was hit with 26 S-300 missiles and 3 Iskander-M.

And on the very day of the inauguration of the Maltese Chairpersonship, russia attacked the city of Odesa with drones.

A residential building was hit. Reportedly, two people sustained injuries. Furthermore, even this night russia hit Myrnohrad (Donetsk region) and Kherson with S-300.

Reportedly, seven people were injured, including children. Also residential buildings, a shopping mall, a school and a kindergarten were damaged.

Unfortunately, this proves once again that convening today's meeting was well justified. All these attacks speak volumes about russia's real attitude to its commitments within the OSCE.

And what, actually, we can expect from the delegation which considers as "ultimatums", as we heard yesterday, calls to respect human life, territorial integrity and sovereignty of neighbours – principles of the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act on which the Ukrainian Peace Formula has been elaborated?

### **Excellencies,**

In 2023, the Ukrainian people passed through 6 000 air alerts.

The new attacks committed already in 2024 are a stark reminder that the kremlin's regime is not going to stop using violence.

Only since December 29, when russia has resumed mass bombardment of Ukraine, it has launched more than 500 missiles and combat drones. In particular, on the New Year night, Ukraine was attacked with 90 UAVs.

Moreover, russia uses a significant number of guided aerial bombs – about 1000-1200 per month primarily in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia regions.

These bombs are far from being precise and cause heavy damage not to a specific target, but to a particular sector.

And according to the UN reports, the use of explosive weapons with a wide-impact areas is one of the key reasons of casualties among the civilians.

russia is also increasing the use of ballistic missiles to overcome Ukraine's defense systems and, thus, aiming to inflict more damage and cause more casualties among the civilian population.

In this regard, reports about the supply of ballistic missiles from North Korea, as well as existing cooperation with Iran are of deep concern.

At the same time, when we speak about the russian production of weapons, moscow heavily depends on the evasion of the sanction regime.

According to some data, up to 95% of the foreign-produced critical components, that were found in russian weapons destroyed in Ukraine, come from abroad.

This is a weak point of the russian war machine, which must be hit. Cutting these black supplying channels would significantly undermine russia's potential to attack and kill.

On the other hand, russia's false narrative and disinformation campaigns are telling a lot. It is clear that russia is trying to impose the feeling of defeatism on Ukraine and the Free World.

For long 700 days of its full-scale war, they want to convince us that there is no sense to resist to the aggression.

The kremlin believes that what it fails to achieve on the battlefield could be accomplished at the negotiation table.

In parallel, moscow tries its best to undermine our unity, to challenge Ukraine's credibility and to portray russia a victim.

The aim is more than clear – to stop arms transfers to Ukraine in support of its inherent right of self-defense.

However, the latest rhetoric of the russian officials leaves no room for guessing what Ukraine could expect from moscow – the erasure of the Ukrainian people and dismembering of the Ukrainian state.

And this provides us with the understanding of what should be done to ensure that justice and the rule of law prevail.

As Minister Kuleba stated, there are the five steps that can be taken right now. These steps include:

- delivery of additional air defense systems and ammunition to Ukraine;
- providing Ukraine with combat drones of all types;
- providing Ukraine with long-range missiles of 300 km+ range;
- approving the use of frozen russian assets for assisting Ukraine;
- and isolating russian diplomats in relevant capitals and international organizations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all participating States for your powerful messages delivered yesterday.

As well as for your strong statements in support of Ukraine and OSCE principles, and unwavering commitment to continue practical aid to my country that simply stops russia from committing crimes we have seen in many places across Ukraine.

**I thank you, Madam Chairperson.**