



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

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

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1398<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council  
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#### **Mr. Chairperson, esteemed colleagues,**

russia continues its barbaric and daily attacks in different localities in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Dnipro regions.

Donetsk and Luhansk regions remain the epicentre of russia's attacks, and Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Kreminna, Svatove, Pavlivka are the hottest spots.

The danger of missile terror remains high. Especially with the upcoming winter days.

Constant shelling and provocations are carried out in border areas in Sumy, Chernihiv and Kharkiv regions. They probably call it as disturbing fire – just to terrorize people.

However, human suffering in Ukraine is not limited to daily armed attacks.

There is also an invisible front of russia's crimes. They are covered with fogs of occupation.

russians continue mass forced relocation of residents of the left-bank Kherson region, primarily Skadovsky and Kakhovsky districts, to the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea or the russian federation.

Similar deportations are also carried out in Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk and Donetsk regions, as well as in Crimea.

russia is doing this in gross violation of international humanitarian law, which clearly prohibits the deportation of protected persons.

In particular, these russia's actions violate the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Population in Time of War, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

More and more reports are also coming from the occupied south about looting of industrial, infrastructural, cultural, educational and medical institutions as well as private houses and apartments.

Ongoing criminalization of the russian regular army by private companies like Wagner group raises even more concerns about the behaviour of these soldiers of fortune.

But we know for sure that as long as the russia's occupation continues, it will inflict large-scale humanitarian suffering to innocent children, women and the elderly.

Thousands are facing a risk of being kidnapped, tortured, mobilized or even executed.

This must be a strong reminder for us that the silence of guns should not mislead us into an illusion of normalcy.

**Dear colleagues,**

Last week the russian diplomacy followed the example of the russian army and proved that it, also, is capable of making a “gesture of goodwill”.

By tabling its manipulative draft resolution on neo-Nazism in New York, for decades russia has been investing colossal efforts to monopolize victory in World War II.

But now it's gone.

As amended the resolution notes with alarm that russia tried to justify its territorial aggression against Ukraine on purported basis of eliminating neo-Nazism.

This aggression actually undermines genuine attempts to combat this evil.

Moreover, it is a well-known fact that russia uses far-right movements to advance its own interests.

The amended draft resolution is an important step in debunking russian lies and depriving Moscow of the possibility to abuse historical memory within the international organizations.

And I believe that today the kremlin's envoys will not mention this amendment, but will spare no effort to blame other delegations of forgetting the lessons of the past.

However, next russian generations will study this resolution with great interest, asking themselves why their predecessors betrayed and sacrificed their future for the narrow interests of one man sitting in the kremlin.

As would people do in another neighbouring country – Belarus.

Last week the Belarussian delegation complained about calls to disassociate from the government's actions.

No, this is a misinterpretation.

But this is not surprising if one forgets that every government is elected to serve its people, not vice versa.

So, our calls are about that it is high time to stand by your own people, their interests and their future.

Because it is hard to imagine that the Belarussian people want to share a responsibility with russia for the crime of aggression against the Ukrainians.

And when the first missiles were fired from the territory of Belarus, just a few days after minister Khrenin reassured Kyiv that there would be no threat from Minsk, we felt not a psychological pressure.

Our feelings were about the danger of death and betrayal.

Did the Belarussian delegation also say lies intentionally during the meetings invoked under the Vienna document last February just to cover up preparations for war?

Or was Belarus not aware about russia's preparations for the attack, which means that Minsk does not control its sovereign territory?

No matter what we hear from moscow or Minsk, the truth always finds a way.

As this happened this time with the russia's disinformation campaign about the "dirty bomb".

Last week, the IAEA inspected three Ukrainian facilities and found no evidence of any "dirty bombs".

And we are grateful for the IAEA's prompt cooperation, which helped to counter russian falsehoods.

**Esteemed colleagues,**

The same people who for four long months denied russia's preparations for invasion and continue to spread nonsense about "combat mosquitos" and "dirty bomb", are trying today to convince the world of alleged moscow's preparedness for negotiations with Ukraine.

But if russia truly wanted to negotiate, it would not respond with shelling of residential areas, new terrorist attacks on critical infrastructure, cyber-attacks, nuclear saber-rattling, attempted annexation, illegal seizure of the biggest NPP in Europe, as well as would not ask for additional weapons from Iran or weaponize the food by resuming the delays of the inspections in the Black Sea.

And very often oleaginous appeals for peace from moscow are followed by loud air alerts in Kyiv.

These actions speak for moscow's genuine intentions.

While russia uses public statements as a smokescreen for further aggression, Ukraine, with continued support of its partners, can pave a real way to a just and lasting peace in Europe.

Strengthened sanctions, new weapons, systems needed to close skies, equipment for repair of energy infrastructure, further international isolation together with suspension of moscow's participation in respected organizations would force russia into genuine peace negotiations.

And the world knows Ukraine's position. We never wanted this war. And there is no other country in Europe that is as interested in peace as Ukraine. We want a fair and just peace.

And russia knows very well what needs to be done to prove its good faith.

We repeated this many times at every possible level.

And this can be repeated once again – withdrawal of the russian troops, restoration of territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized border, compensation for all damages caused by the war, punishment of every war criminal and providing guarantees that the aggression will not happen again.

This is what all participating States need to feel secure that the norms of international law, including the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, are respected by all and the rules-based order is preserved for the generations to come.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**