



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the address by Secretary General of the Council of Europe
H.E. Alain Berset
as delivered by Viktoriia Kuvshynnykova, Head of Delegation, Deputy
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in
Vienna,
at the 1540th meeting of the Permanent Council
30 October 2025**

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, colleagues,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In our national capacity, we wish to add the following remarks.

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, I would like to thank you, Secretary General, for your and the Council's continued solidarity with Ukraine.

Ukraine highly values the unwavering commitment of the Council of Europe to justice and accountability for the crimes committed in the course of Russia's war against Ukraine.

The establishment of the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including the opening of its Office in Kyiv, represent a truly historic step towards restoring justice for the victims of Russia's aggression.

We are grateful for the Organization's leadership in launching this mechanism and for the growing number of member States joining it.

We equally commend the Council of Europe's efforts to promote accountability through its work on a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, and its active engagement on returning Ukrainian children illegally deported to Russia. These initiatives demonstrate that the Council of Europe continues to stand firmly on the side of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law even under the most challenging circumstances.

A clear political stance by the Council of Europe in recognizing Russia's actions as the crime of aggression, supporting a just end to the war, and rejecting any attempts to legitimize Russia's occupation of our Ukrainian territories has helped shape Europe's unified political response.

The agreement on the establishment of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression, signed this June by President Zelenskyy and by you, is only the beginning.

We must take concrete steps to ensure that it becomes fully operational.

This requires strong political and legal cooperation to deliver justice for every Russian war criminal – including Putin.

The consolidation of efforts by the Council of Europe and the OSCE is of paramount importance.

Excellencies,

One of the principal reasons for the Council of Europe's effectiveness and moral clarity was the courageous and principled 2022 decision to expel the Russian Federation from the Organization.

This step safeguarded the integrity of the Council's values and enabled decisive action in support of Ukraine and the European rules-based order.

A country that wages war, occupies foreign territory and commits atrocities cannot and must not shape the policies of international organizations.

This is a strong signal of global unity in defence of international law and human dignity.

Excellencies,

Ukraine fully supports the continued cooperation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE – two organizations united by shared values and facing the same challenges resulting from Russia's war.

I would also like to emphasize the crucial importance of the project activities of both Organizations in Ukraine – the OSCE Support Programme for Ukraine and the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine "Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction" – implemented in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine and aligned with national recovery priorities.

Their joint efforts provide tangible support to institutions and communities, strengthening democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights protection, and sustainable recovery.

This practical cooperation constitutes an essential element of Ukraine's post-war reconstruction and directly advances the country's European integration path.

In conclusion, I wish you, Secretary General, every success in your important mission, and assure you of Ukraine's steadfast support in advancing our shared goals of peace, justice, and accountability.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.