



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

1542nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine”

(13 November 2025)

Mr Chairperson,

Two days ago, on 11 November, the world commemorated another anniversary of the end of the First World War, a conflict the international community had hoped would never be repeated. Yet, in just two decades, war returned on an even more devastating scale, resulting in unprecedented destruction and suffering for many nations of the world.

The bitter lessons of the two world wars in the twentieth century led to an intensification of international initiatives to establish effective mechanisms for the prevention of armed conflicts and to strengthen the global security architecture.

As a result of this tireless work, considerable progress has been achieved, including the development of international humanitarian law and the establishment of a comprehensive system of international organisations dedicated to fostering the peaceful coexistence of states.

One of the outcomes of these efforts is the OSCE. An organisation that brought together the basic principles guiding relations between states and enshrined them in a set of common commitments, the Helsinki Decalogue. This comprehensive approach to security has long served as a symbol of stability in Europe and a model for other regions.

Today, however, the OSCE area starkly demonstrates how dramatically the global situation has changed. Russia's war of aggression, fuelled by the Kremlin's imperialist ambitions and its rejection of the very principle of sovereign equality of states, shows that not all states have learnt the lessons from the darkest chapters of world history.

Distinguished colleagues,

Today, Europe once again witnesses the horrors of war, including mass war crimes and unrestricted warfare. Demonstrating their absolute disregard for the norms of international humanitarian law, Russian forces continue to raze entire settlements to the ground and destroy everything on their way in order to advance by at least a few metres.

Most recently, during the night of 7 to 8 November 2025, the Russian Federation carried out yet another large-scale attack against Ukraine, launching 450 drones and 45 missiles. Across the country, six people were killed and more than 25 were wounded as a result of that attack.

Even humanitarian missions operating near the front line are regularly targeted by the Russian forces. The most recent such case occurred on 8 November 2025, when a Russian FPV drone struck an armoured vehicle belonging to the Ukrainian NGO "Proliska", which was conducting a humanitarian mission in the city of Kostiantynivka in the Donetsk region and was carrying two foreign journalists from Austria and Spain.

Equally alarming is the continuation of Russia's energy terror or energocide. Severe strikes continue to be directed against critical infrastructure, particularly Ukraine's electricity and gas systems. We are also witnessing intensified attacks on the railway network, clearly aimed at disrupting civilian railway connections. By doing so, the aggressor seeks to make normal life impossible for millions of Ukrainians and to break their will to resist.

As Danielle Bell, Head of the UN Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, underlined recently: "As civilians in Ukraine head into another winter, the increase in attacks on energy infrastructure and resulting power outages heightens risks for the population."

Today, in most regions of Ukraine, repair crews, power engineers, and utility services are working around the clock. Thousands of people are engaged in stabilising the energy system and repairing the damage - often under Russian fire.

In order to maximise civilian casualties, Russian forces continue to employ the tactic of "double-tap" strikes, deliberately targeting first responders. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, over the past three months alone, Russian forces have attacked rescue workers more than 60 times, including those operating at the sites of previous Russian strikes. As a result, five rescuers of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine have been killed and more than 30 wounded. The use of such tactics by the Russian Federation underscores the terrorist nature of its warfare.

Yet even such reckless actions cannot undermine the resilience of the Ukrainian people. Moscow clearly understands this reality, but instead of abandoning its aggression, it continues to expand the geography of terror by striking nuclear facilities and their electricity supply lines. In particular, during the most recent large-scale attack against Ukraine's energy system, Russian forces damaged power lines connected to the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear power plants.

Mr Chairperson,

The situation on the ground clearly demonstrates that the Russian Federation not only ignores all peace initiatives but responds to them with further escalation, as the intensity of its attacks against civilians continues to grow. Despite the worsening humanitarian consequences, the Kremlin refuses to agree to a ceasefire and start a meaningful negotiation process based on the principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Moscow continues to insist on maximalist demands that amount to nothing less than an ultimatum for Ukraine's surrender, while blaming other states for an alleged lack of constructiveness. Cynically, this also includes attempts to portray Ukraine's legitimate right to self-defence as "militarisation" and "escalation." Here, in the Permanent Council, we witness such attempts on a weekly basis.

By spreading these false narratives, the Russian Federation once again demonstrates that it perceives the OSCE only as a platform to conceal its own aggressive actions. In reality, its true objective remains the destruction of the rules-based international order, regardless of the cost.

Such actions can never be accepted or justified. On the contrary, they highlight the urgent need to increase pressure on the aggressor state in order to compel it to end its war. As has already been demonstrated numerous times, any lack of a resolute response will be interpreted by Moscow as weakness and a "carte blanche" for further escalation.

President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy rightly underlined by saying: "Weakness does not produce dialogue with Russia. To the Russians, it is simply weakness – and that means they can impose their narratives."

From its side, Ukraine remains firmly committed to a just and lasting peace based on the principles of international law, including the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. We have stated this before and reiterate now that the bloodshed must come to an end.

Ukraine continues to rely on the support of all responsible States that stand united in defence of these fundamental principles. The strength of our collective response will determine whether peace, justice, and respect for sovereignty prevail in our region and beyond.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.