



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by H.E. Emine Dzhaparova, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to the 1391st reinforced meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
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Mr. Chairperson,

I thank the Polish Chairpersonship for keeping the focus of the OSCE on the most pressing threat to international peace and security this century, Russia's genocidal war of aggression against Ukraine, and for convening this reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council.

And there is something special I brought here to Vienna - these are the sincerest words of gratitude of all Ukrainian people that we convey to you - our partners for your tremendous support that helps us to fight in this war with dignity.

Excellencies,

My country for recent years has strived to live up to high standards of vibrant society where freedom and democratic change was the core and the essence.

I can personally attest to this, representing here not only the Government of Ukraine, but also speaking as woman, as former civil society activist and as a representative of the largest indigenous community of Ukraine - the Crimean Tatars.

And This is exactly what Russia wants to destroy in Ukraine. Our freedom, our democracy, and our independent and prosperous and different future.

Please allow me also to refer to a very personal reflection during the speech as I believe it can give you a better sense of how the war looks like not only on the map but in human heart.

I still remember the first day of this war. 8 o'clock in the morning while hundreds of cars were leaving the Kyiv city I rushed into my office where I had to take leadership in the Ministry as the Minister was on his way back to Ukraine from United States.

After having urgent planning MFA meeting, we all decided to check the bomb-shelter and our diplomats were still in kind of keeping the spirit high mood, still joking, and talking.

After the check up, I went back to my cabinet at the upper floor of Ministry and had a minute of break with a cup of coffee in front of the window watching the fantastic Dnipro River view of the capital.

In couple of minutes, I've heard distant sound of explosion and tubers of smoke on the island. This is the place where UA intelligent service premises is. The Russian missile hit it. I was stunned for a second and screamed out to my staffers to immediately go to the bomb shelter.

And this second time there was a grave silence, our diplomats could not talk and joke. We already knew that our lives would have changed forever.

We all left literally everything behind - everything human being tends to tackle to - houses, families, dreams, and plans.

The government started evacuation to the western part of Ukraine, and I left Kyiv with only a hand back with my notebook and salmon sandwich.

That was the moment of my personal flash back. To the year of 2014 when I already lost my home Crimea, my house in Simferopol, and my future with my big CT family on the native soil by abandoning the occupied peninsula in two cars with my husband daughter and a cat in the basket.

I could feel what my predecessors felt when they were deported from Crimea by the Stalin regime in 1944. And now I understand why my grandmothers cried every single time when they tell me the story of their survival of inhuman exile, hunger, and death.

CT had only minutes to pack their belongings before they were taken in the cattle shed wagons into unknown. Unfortunately, every second Crimean Tatar died as the result of this tragedy while in half a year after world leaders gathered in Crimea at Yalta Peace Conference to fix the new post war rules and borders.

And these days, when Russia arranges yet another "referendum masquerade" to legitimize newly occupied parts of Ukraine, I once again recall my personal memory.

In March 2014 as a journalist, I remember a small room of the Crimean media company filled with foreign journalist and cameras from all over the world. There was only a narrow passage to the "stage" where the invaders held a briefing on the sham "referendum" results.

At some point, a man with his tripod and camera stood in this narrow passage and started filming. A foreign journalist approached him, politely asking him not to block the way. The only answer he got was: "This is already my land and it's not for you to tell me where I can stand and where I cannot!"

I was in a meter behind silently witnessing this arrogance and it was a moment when I realized what happened to my homeland. This disgusting feeling haunts me to this day.

Esteemed colleagues,

Reşat Ametov has become the first victim of the Russian aggression.

On March 15, 2014, just a day before the so-called 'Crimean referendum' he was tortured to the death. It was already a wake-up call demanding us to stop Putin.

On those March days the world was still guessing how to react and how not to provoke further escalation.

However, since then, number of victims of Putin's war has already reached tens of thousands of killed, disappeared tortured raped wounded and illegally detained.

Since then, Russia fully turned into a totalitarian regime with violence and repression, cult of leader and overall police and FSB control.

Since then, Russia has crossed a line from controlled escalation to all-out full-fledged unprovoked war at the heart of Europe.

So, as today's reality shows that the only provocation for Putin's further escalation was actually our hesitation to act.

And every new day of this war adds a new bleeding wound to the soul of my people.

Torture chambers and mass graves in Izyum, destroyed Bucha and Mariupol, recent verdicts against my friend vice chairman of the Mejlis of the CT people Nariman Dzhelyal for participation in the Crimea Platform summit and Akhtemov's brothers – this is an alternative reality putin is preparing for Ukraine, for Europe and the OSCE in general.

And by waging a genocidal war against Ukraine, the kremlin regime also wants the internal crime campaign to be implemented unnoticed.

Yakutia, Saha, Buryatia, Dagestan, Chechnya are facing mobilization in disproportionately large numbers from the very first day of the war.

This is a systematic effort which intentionally targets ethnic minorities. russia believes that fogs of this war could help them cover new heinous crimes.

However, how the occupant of the kremlin must be obsessed with his power and how he must be afraid of losing it, so that he is threatening the russians with ten years in prison for the refuse to be mobilized and thus to die for geopolitical aberration of the russian perverted leadership?

Furthermore, in occupied Crimea the mobilization also looks more like as a special operation with raids that disproportionately target Crimean Tatars.

This is how russia wants to solve the Crimean issue by getting rid of the non-loyal residents and by killing Ukrainians with hands of Ukrainians.

While losing on the battlefield, russia's president resorted to nuclear blackmail of the world. russia has not only turned into a target Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station – the largest one in Europe, but also started using the rhetoric about possible nuclear strikes on Ukraine.

We are aware that the nuclear blackmail is nothing but agony and attempt to scare. Well, we are not afraid. However, we must take this threat seriously.

Ukraine will not agree to any ultimatums from russia. moscow's attempts to weaken international support for Ukraine are doomed to failure. Just like in a case of so-called "referenda:" on occupied Ukrainian territories, the invaders staged on September 23-27.

By doing that, and by declaring the mobilization inside the country, russia has once again deliberately demonstrated that all its signals of readiness for negotiations are only a cover operation for armed aggression.

Ukraine calls on all states and international organizations to immediately condemn the illegal actions of the kremlin in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and to strengthen the isolation of russia.

Dear colleagues,

With every new victim, the aggressor's appetite grows. This is an axioma.

And let me be clear. We have never wanted this war and we never chose it.

Today nearly 1/5 of Ukraine's territory remains occupied by russia.

In the occupied areas, russia reproduces the same patterns it has been using in Crimea and parts of Donbas since 2014: appoints occupation administration, imposes russian passports, and recruits Ukrainian men into the russian armed forces, persecutes activists and journalists, install russia's mobile connection and of course brings in the zombie box – russia's tv and radio broadcasting.

And they already have skills and expertise to make it much faster than in 2014 in Crimea.

Ukrainian law enforcement agencies registered damage or destruction of more than 43 000 civilian infrastructure facilities. These numbers do not include the occupied territories to which we do not have access. The real level of destruction is much higher. Vast areas are mined.

By waging war against Ukraine and by openly declaring intentions to dismember the Ukrainian state, Russia is responsible for the proliferation of the use of force in the international relations.

This is what Europe has been trying to avoid for decades since the end of the Second World War.

And this is what matters for all participating States from Balkans to Central Asia.

By its irresponsible and aggressive behavior, Russia is provoking an immense and existential crisis within the OSCE.

And it is a matter of credibility for the OSCE to find a long-term solution to this Russian crisis. This is the key for long-lasting peace in Europe.

We still have hope in peace in Europe and we use all means at our disposal to create the ground to liberate our lands, including Crimea. We created a unique foreign policy tool called the International Crimea Platform, which main and only objective is complete de-occupation of Crimea. And today it unites almost one third of the globe.

Let me express our profound gratitude to the OSCE and personally the OSCE Secretary General Madam Helga Schmidt for her participation in the second Summit of the ICP on August 23, 2022. Your participation added a great value and professional expertise to this event.

OSCE should play a leading role in defending security in Europe, defending the norms of the international law, ensuring territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

Dear colleagues,

The Crimean lesson teaches us one simple lesson - when aggression is not stopped it becomes bigger. The so-called fake referendums held by Russia in Ukraine is yet another crime and aggression. If it is not stopped, what and who would be the next?

And these days we in Ukraine are more than ever confident that we can protect our very basic right – right to live.

The only question is at what price we will do that.

Ukraine has a clear formula for achieving peace. It was presented by President Zelenskyy at the UN General Assembly.

This includes accountability for the crime of aggression; protection of life by providing military and financial assistance to Ukraine; restoring security and territorial integrity; providing security guarantees; and determination of international community to protect Ukraine and thus the international order.

We have proposals to upgrade the security architecture for Ukraine, and for Europe and the world, which will not allow any more aggression against us. The main idea of recently presented “Kyiv Security Compact” is to establish a coalition of security guarantors for Ukraine with the purpose to mobilize necessary political, financial, military, and diplomatic resources for Ukraine’s self-defense, both to deter

an external aggression and to protect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity if such aggression takes place.

At the same time, we must send a clear signal to all "would-be" aggressors, that they must value peace or be brought to responsibility by the world. That is why a Special Tribunal should be created to punish russia for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. As well as an international compensation mechanism must be established.

Time for empty compromises is over.

We have no right to give any chance for the language of threat and blackmailing to be successful.

The only response to the referendum theatre performance organized by moscow must be speeding up and increasing military and financial aid to Ukraine and, at the same time, increasing sanctions' pressure on the aggressor.

The more support we receive now, the faster this war will end.

The faster this war ends the more secured and stable Europe and the globe we can build.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson!