



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

1557th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”

(12 March 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

One year ago, in Jeddah, Ukraine accepted the United States’ proposal to cease fire in order to give diplomacy a chance and advance peace efforts. What followed made it very clear who the only obstacle to peace is. And this is certainly not Ukraine. Russia rejected everything: a ceasefire, dialogue, and diplomacy. Instead, Putin bet on more terror, trying to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people.

In the past week alone, Russia carried out more than 1,000 attacks on Ukraine. These included nearly 1,750 attack drones, around 1,530 guided aerial bombs, and 39 missiles of various types. The main targets were, as usual, residential buildings and critical civilian infrastructure – including energy, water supply, and logistics facilities.

One of the most horrific attacks occurred on Saturday, when a Russian missile struck a five-storey apartment building in Kharkiv, completely destroying one section and killing at least 11 people. Among the victims were two children aged 9 and 13, who died together with their mothers.

Is this the behaviour of a state that genuinely seeks peace? Clearly not. These are the actions of a state pursuing further escalation and demonstrating complete disregard for international law and human life.

Unfortunately, the arrival of spring has brought no relief to people in Ukraine. Russia’s strategy of systematic genocidal destruction and terror continues unabated. After failing to break the Ukrainian spirit through unprecedented energocide strategy, the Russian side began deliberately striking water supply infrastructure in Ukrainian cities.

In March, precision strikes have also increasingly targeted transport infrastructure and railway rolling stock. Since the beginning of the month, the Russian Federation has attacked Ukraine’s railway network 18 times.

Mr Chairperson,

The situation remains especially tense in regions bordering Russia. In areas adjacent to the Russian border, the situation is especially alarming. Local residents are not only subjected to regular strikes but also face incursions and raids by Russian forces, like this was the case in the village of Sopych in the Sumy region, which came under Russian attack early in March. Russian forces not only occupied the village, but also detained 19 local residents, transported them to Russia's Bryansk region, and later filmed them for propaganda broadcasts on Russian state television.

Forced deportation is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Russia must immediately stop this shameful practice and return all illegally abducted Ukrainians. Particular attention must be paid to the issue of deported Ukrainian children. As it is well-known, Russia not only removes them from temporarily occupied territories but has also created conditions for their long-term placement, including through foster families or adoption, as well as by granting them Russian citizenship. As much as 70,000 children have been illegally deported. A new report by the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine clearly states that "Russian atrocities at the highest level" are complicit, with Putin's direct involvement having been visible from the outset. Summing all evidence up, the UN unambiguously states that the deportation and forcible transfer of thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia "constitutes a crime against humanity and a war crime".

Esteemed colleagues,

While Russia uses its most sophisticated drones and missiles to strike civilian targets in Ukraine, its attacks on the positions of Ukraine's Defence Forces often rely on outdated tactics reminiscent of the First World War – human-wave, meat-grinder assaults aimed simply at exhausting Ukrainian defences in costly frontal attacks. As a result the cost of aggression for Russia itself continue to grow.

Recently, Ukraine's Defence Intelligence has obtained important documents regarding Russia's own assessment of its battlefield losses. In particular, a change has been recorded in the killed-to-wounded ratio among Russian forces: out of 100 % of losses, 62 % are killed and 38 percent wounded.

In their classified official reports, the Russians themselves estimate their irrecoverable losses at 1 million 315 thousand killed and seriously wounded. And if such figures appear in official reports, there are strong reasons to believe that the real numbers are even higher as most probably, Russian army commanders try to hide the real figures.

As underlined in the recent Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, many soldiers who deserted the Russian army testified about violent practices used by their commanders against their own troops.

These included summary executions, beatings, detention in pits, or tying soldiers to trees as punishment for refusing to participate in assaults that would almost certainly lead to death, or for withdrawing from the frontline when injured or lacking supplies.

The Commission clearly states that these testimonies demonstrate a total disregard for human life and dignity and suggest that the use of violence against subordinates is widespread and systematic within the Russian armed forces.

Mr Chairperson,

A state that does not respect international law cannot be treated as an equal partner. On the contrary, it must face unified and decisive international action to halt these violations. Current global developments clearly demonstrate that if one regime is allowed to act with impunity, other pariah regimes will follow suit.

Terrible and inhuman crimes cannot be ignored or tolerated. They must be met with a strong and coordinated response, including sanctions targeting the economy and financial sectors in order to deprive the aggressor of the resources needed to finance its war; export control measures to prevent its military industry from obtaining critical technologies and components; and further personal sanctions against those who promote and enable the war in any form. The aggressor state must remain isolated and any normalisation of Russian aggression is unacceptable.

Only such actions can influence the aggressor state, compel it to change course, and restore adherence to the principles of international law on which the security of all of us depends.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.