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Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE
1150th FSC Plenary Meeting
(21 October 2026)
Agenda item 1: General Statements

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia has intensified its systematic assault on Ukrainian civilians and the infrastructure essential to their survival. During the night of 18–19 October, Russian forces launched 16 ballistic missiles against Kyiv and its region and more than 200 drones across Ukraine. More than ten energy facilities were damaged, at least 550,000 households lost power, and at least three civilians were killed. Residential buildings and a metro station in Kyiv were also hit.

This followed another massive attack on 16–17 October involving 332 drones, four Kalibr cruise missiles and other missile types. More than 15 critical electricity generation and transmission facilities were targeted. Russia is attempting to deprive entire communities of electricity, heating and water precisely as winter approaches.

On 19 October, a Russian drone struck a crowded public park in Nova Vodolaha, Kharkiv region, killing six civilians, including two children, and injuring 15 others, seven of them also children. Among those murdered were primary school teacher Inna Mariukhna and her one-year-old daughter Anhelina, killed in her stroller. Her mother later died in hospital. An eleven-year-old schoolgirl was also killed. **Let me ask: - Does Russia consider a one-year-old baby in a stroller a threat to its national security? Does it regard a public park filled with families and children as a legitimate military target? And is the murder of innocent children and their mothers what the Kremlin cynically calls "denazification"?** These are the real victims of Russia's terroristic acts, for which there can be neither justification nor impunity.

The human cost is documented by the United Nations. On 16 October, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine confirmed at least 328 civilians killed and 2,105 injured in September — 85 per cent more casualties than in September 2025. Victims were recorded in 22 regions and Kyiv, where civilians were killed or injured on 22 of the month's 30 days. The Mission also documented deadly October attacks in Pryluky, Kramatorsk, Zaporizhzhia and Lutsk.

There is nothing accidental about this pattern. On 30 August, Russia's own Ministry of Defence publicly announced that it had begun preparations for massive strikes against Ukrainian energy facilities — a statement explicitly cited by the UN. On 13–14 October, Russian strikes hit Kyiv's three main power stations, temporarily leaving some 600,000 people without electricity.

These repeated attacks on the systems that sustain civilian life cannot be dismissed as incidental damage. On the contrary, clear evidence demonstrates the systematic and deliberate nature of Russian attacks.

On 16 October 2026, during a briefing to Putin at the auxiliary command post of the Joint Group of Forces, the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation, Valery Gerasimov, reported that "The Russian Armed Forces have begun delivering massive strikes against Ukraine's energy infrastructure. A list of these facilities and the necessary resources required to destroy them has been drawn up."

International humanitarian law prohibits attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects, as well as indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. Those responsible for such violations must face accountability.

Mr Chairperson,

The proposed energy ceasefire has exposed the same fundamental problem: Moscow refuses reciprocal restraint. Following the initiative announced by the President of the United States, Ukraine refrained from strikes on Russian oil refineries from 12 October until the restrictions were lifted on 15 October. Russia did not reciprocate. Russian forces struck Ukraine's energy and oil-and-gas infrastructure 76 times during those days.

Over that same week, Russia launched almost 2,700 strike drones, 1,700 aerial bombs and 66 missiles against Ukraine, most of them ballistic. More than 35 civilians were killed and over 170 wounded in strikes on residential and commercial areas. This is not a ceasefire in practice. It is Russia using diplomatic initiatives as cover for continued attacks.

Ukraine remains ready for a genuine, reciprocal and durable cessation of hostilities. Yet no unilateral restraint can be demanded of a country under attack while the aggressor continues to bombard its cities. Ukraine retains its inherent right of self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. Ukraine's Defence Forces have reported strikes on Russian military aviation at Borisoglebsk on 15 October and on oil logistics facilities in St Petersburg on 18 October, aimed at reducing Russia's capacity to sustain its aggression.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia's treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war is another grave concern. On 17 October, Ukrainian military officials reported the execution of at least two Ukrainian servicemembers after they had surrendered near Huliaipole in Zaporizhzhia region. Ukrainian defenders also reported intercepted communications indicating an order to kill the POWs. These acts demand accountability throughout the chain of command. The deliberate killing of persons *hors de combat* is a war crime.

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has never abandoned diplomacy.

On 18 October, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy held consultations with the United States' envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner on next steps towards negotiations.

Ukraine highly values the peace efforts of the US administration, but peace requires a change in Russia's conduct, not merely declarations of intent.

The United States must recognise that the Kremlin is not making any concessions in response to the lifting of sanctions or agreements. On the contrary, easing pressure sends the aggressor a false signal and is always interpreted by the Russians as weakness and an invitation to escalate.

It is precisely because of Russia's unwillingness to cease its aggression that the war is still ongoing, and not because Ukraine is defending itself lawfully and justly.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.