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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

1151st FSC Plenary Meeting
(28th October 2026)
Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on the subject of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

Between 19 and 25 October, Russia continued its deliberate campaign of terror against Ukraine's civilian population. In just seven days the aggressor unleashed approximately 1,600 guided aerial bombs, 48 missiles and nearly 2,300 attack drones. Behind these numbers stand 23 lives extinguished and 145 people wounded: fathers, mothers, children whose ordinary days were torn apart by Russian weapons.

This is not a battlefield statistic. It is the measured scale of Moscow's effort to destroy the very conditions of civilian life. While the Kremlin speaks of diplomacy, its missiles and drones deliver a far clearer message. Having failed to break Ukraine's will to defend itself, Russia now weaponises cold, darkness and fear — hoping that exhaustion will succeed where its army could not.

The attack on Kyiv on 22 October exposed the criminal character of this strategy with particular clarity. Russia launched three ballistic missiles fitted with cluster warheads against Ukrainian capital. One struck the historic Pechersk district, in the area between the Holy Presentation Monastery and the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The strike damaged religious buildings, residential premises, shops and other civilian infrastructure. And there were no military facilities nearby. The use of cluster

warheads in a densely populated historic district creates a grave risk of indiscriminate harm. Attacks directed against civilians and civilian objects violate international humanitarian law; intentionally directing attacks against civilians constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute.

Russia is not merely attacking Ukrainian territory. It is endangering cultural and spiritual heritage of universal value. Those who order, facilitate and execute crimes against civilians must be held accountable.

Esteemed colleagues,

Ukraine's Defence Forces have recently documented Russia's use of a new ground-launched cruise missile, the "Filin" (Owl). Russia claims a range of up to 1,200 km and equips the weapon with a Chinese-made inertial navigation system that enables ultra-low-altitude flight to evade radar detection.

The missile reflects a broader Russian effort to field cheaper, jet-powered, ground-launched strike systems that bridge the gap between expensive conventional cruise missiles and one-way attack drones. Its relatively light warhead and extended range make it suitable for attacks on critical infrastructure deep inside Ukraine, while allowing higher production rates than traditional strategic missiles.

Mr. Chairperson,

Against the Kremlin's narrative of an inevitable Russian advance stands the result of Ukraine's counter-offensive operation in Donetsk region, conducted from May to October 2026. Our Defence Forces restored control over 16 settlements and liberated 277 square kilometres of Ukrainian territory in the Lyman sector.

The operation disrupted Russian advances and frustrated plans to outflank and encircle the Sloviansk–Kramatorsk agglomeration. Ukrainian forces inflicted significant damage on formations of Russia's 20th and 25th Combined Arms Armies and on its Rubikon unmanned-systems unit. Ukrainian military estimates put Russian losses at more than 8,000 killed and wounded; 270 Russian servicemen, including more than 20 officers, were taken prisoner.

This was the result of disciplined planning, coordination between units and the effective integration of unmanned aerial and ground robotic systems into offensive operations. It proves that Russian aggression can be resisted, Russian plans can be defeated and occupied Ukrainian land can be liberated. The Kremlin's ambitions are far removed from the military reality.

Colleagues,

Ukraine's partners are also helping us protect civilian lives. On 22 October, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo participated in the Ukraine–Finland Business Forum, where seven cooperation documents were signed in defence production, unmanned systems, transport, satellite communications and construction.

We particularly welcome Finland's leadership in the international Shelter Coalition, which already brings together 16 members. This practical initiative is helping Ukraine expand protective infrastructure, including mobile shelters and protection for hospitals and communities. We invite other participating States to join the Coalition, mobilise

funding and help build a safer, better-protected future together. Protecting civilians must become a shared international commitment, not merely an expression of concern.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, I wish to draw attention to the severe humanitarian catastrophe in the temporarily occupied town of Oleshky and neighbouring communities in Kherson region. Months of occupation, blockade and restricted access have left civilians — including the elderly and children — in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine and safe evacuation.

Ukraine has repeatedly called for humanitarian corridors and effective international action. We highly appreciate the efforts of United States First Lady Melania Trump and other partners in facilitating arrangements for a localised ceasefire and humanitarian mission that began yesterday, on 27 October.

These arrangements must deliver three concrete results: an effective cessation of hostilities in the agreed area; unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance; and the safe, voluntary evacuation of civilians to destinations of their own choosing. Ukraine stands ready to fulfil its commitments.

We remain fully aware of the risks of provocations or attempts to divert evacuees exclusively towards Russian-occupied territories against their will. The humanitarian operation must not become another instrument of coercion or propaganda.

Our priority is clear: save lives. We call on all those involved to ensure the strict implementation of the arrangements and to refrain from any actions that could endanger civilians or the mission.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia is already waging a campaign against European security. The recently uncovered sabotage network in Romania — linked to the September arson attack near a state-owned defence facility in Brașov — is a clear demonstration of this threat. We stand in full solidarity with Romania as it confronts hybrid operations and urge firm, sustained measures to counter Russia’s aggression across the continent. The Kremlin’s goal remains unchanged: to undermine Europe’s capacity to defend itself and to support Ukraine.

We remain committed to a just and lasting peace grounded in the UN Charter. Russia must end its aggression. Until it does, Ukraine will continue to defend its people, its sovereignty and its freedom.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.