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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

1155th FSC Plenary Meeting
(25 November 2026)
Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Brutal Russian air terror continues despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the war. Moscow's response to calls for peace remains a relentless campaign of missiles, drones and aerial bombs against Ukrainian cities and communities.

In the past week alone, Russia launched more than 4,150 attack drones and guided aerial bombs, as well as 165 missiles, striking 20 regions. These figures clearly demonstrate Russia's unwillingness to end its aggression and its disregard for the efforts of world leaders to stop the bloodshed.

The human cost is devastating. In October, Russian attacks killed 534 civilians, including 16 children, and injured nearly 3,000 others. That month Russia also struck 17 hospitals, 39 schools, around 500 apartment buildings, almost 2,000 private homes, and 19 museums and cultural sites.

Recent attacks have claimed more lives. On 22 November in Kyiv region, 14 people were killed, including a child. A Russian drone tore through a five-storey residential building; rescuers pulled a seven-year-old boy alive from the rubble after nearly 14 hours. In Vyshneve, another drone hit a supermarket while people were shopping, killing three civilians and injuring 15, including three children — the youngest just one and a half years old.

Russia once again used the terrorist tactic of double strikes. In Kryvyi Rih on 20 November, follow-up attacks hit while emergency personnel were working, killing a seven-year-old boy and a young paramedic and injuring more than 50 people. Targeting those who rush to save lives reveals the true nature of Russia's campaign of destruction against the Ukrainian people.

On 19 November, Russian attacks on Kyiv damaged the embassies of Austria and the Netherlands, as well as St. Volodymyr's Cathedral and historic buildings in the heart of Kyiv.

For Moscow, neither residential areas, diplomatic premises, monuments bearing witness to centuries of history, nor Orthodox sacred sites are spared - everything on Ukrainian soil is treated as a target to be destroyed.

Esteemed colleagues,

The danger does not stop at Ukraine's borders. On 17 November, Moldova's Ministry of Defence reported 7 unauthorised drone incursions into the country's airspace during Russian attacks on Ukraine. Russia is making the violation of other sovereignty a recurring feature of its war.

The same pattern was seen in Poland. During Russia's mass attack against Ukraine on 20 November, 3 cruise missiles entered Polish airspace and fell on Polish territory. On 22 November, Polish prosecutors confirmed that all three were Russian Kh-101 missiles. According to their preliminary examination, they had been manufactured in the fourth quarter of 2026 at facilities in Dubna, Russia.

Since the beginning of the full-scale war, more than 30 violations of Moldova's and Romania's airspace by Russian drones and cruise missiles have been recorded during air attacks on Odesa region. Russia openly shows contempt for the sovereignty of European states. Moscow is testing the vigilance, resilience and unity of NATO and its partners.

Ukraine stands in full solidarity with Poland, Romania, Moldova, all who suffered from Russia's hybrid aggression. We are ready to deepen practical security cooperation with EU and NATO partners to improve early warning, strengthen air and missile defence, protect civilian populations and safeguard freedom of navigation in the Black Sea.

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia's conduct is matched by its preparations for the future. According to a Finland reporters' investigation, supported by satellite imagery, Russia is rebuilding the Kamenka garrison approximately 60 kilometres from Finland's border. The site, which previously hosted a brigade of about 4,400 troops, is being developed as the main garrison for a division planned to comprise up to 11,000 personnel. This military expansion near a NATO border is a further warning against taking Moscow's language of de-escalation at face value.

Russia's budget choices point in the same direction. Federal budget for 2027 allocates approximately EUR 191 billion to national defence — around 35 per cent of total federal expenditure and substantially more than the 2026 allocation.

These decisions show no credible intention to end Kremlin`s military aggression against Ukraine or its wider hybrid campaign against Europe. A Europe that seeks lasting peace cannot ignore the forces, weapons and budgets that Moscow is assembling to threaten it.

Distinguished colleagues,

There is another matter to which our delegation wishes to draw the Forum's urgent attention. Recently, we addressed a Note to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Secretariat concerning 15 Ukrainian prisoners of war unlawfully convicted by the Russian Federation in the so-called "Aidar case", as well as the unresolved fate and whereabouts of Yevhen Piatyhorets.

On 17 October 2025, the Southern District Military Court in Rostov-on-Don sentenced 15 servicemen of the 24th Separate Assault Battalion “Aidar” of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to between 15 and 21 years in strict-regime penal colonies. On 2 June 2026, a Russian military appeals court upheld these convictions. The charges effectively criminalised their lawful service in the Ukrainian Armed Forces and their participation in hostilities. During the proceedings, defendants reported beatings, electric shocks, deprivation of food and pressure to record purported confessions.

Mr Piatyhorets was separated from the proceedings. His exact whereabouts and current legal status remain unresolved. The uncertainty surrounding his fate demands immediate and verifiable answers from the Russian Federation. The individual case details are included to the written version of this Statement.

International humanitarian law protects lawful combatants from prosecution for their mere participation in hostilities. The Third Geneva Convention requires humane treatment, prohibits coercion and protects prisoners’ ability to correspond with their families and receive visits from the International Committee of the Red Cross. These protections remain in force even where the Detaining Power has convicted a prisoner of war.

In paragraph 145 of its Ninth Interim Report of 15 July 2026, ODIHR documented cases in which Ukrainian prisoners of war were effectively prosecuted solely for taking part in hostilities, in violation of international humanitarian law.

We demand that Russian Federation provide official confirmation of the fate, precise whereabouts, legal status and state of health of all the persons concerned, with particular urgency in the case of Mr Piatyhorets. Russia must ensure their humane treatment and necessary medical care, restore contact with their families, allow regular and confidential ICRC access, set aside convictions imposed for lawful military service and participation in hostilities, and facilitate the earliest possible return of the 15 prisoners of war to Ukraine through humanitarian arrangements.

Dear colleagues,

On 21 November, Ukraine marked the Day of Dignity and Freedom. This day commemorates two defining chapters in our modern history — the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity of 2013–2014 — when the Ukrainian people stood up to defend their freedom, dignity and sovereign right to determine their own future.

Today, amid Russia’s ongoing war of aggression, this day carries a meaning far beyond historical remembrance. It embodies the very foundations of modern Ukrainian statehood: sovereignty, democracy, free elections, respect for human rights and our European choice.

Russia attacked Ukraine not because of territorial disputes, but because of the Ukrainian people’s civilisational choice — the choice to be part of the European democratic society rather than a totalitarian regime.

Enemy can attempt to destroy our cities and terrorise our people but it will never decide Ukraine’s future.

That right belongs only to us.

We defended it in 2004.

We rose for it in 2014.

And we will stand for it — for as long as it takes.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.