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PC.DEL/1160/26
17 November 2026

ENGLISH only

Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by Ambassador Yurii Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

1585th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council

Agenda Item 1, "The Russian Federation's ongoing aggression against Ukraine"

(12 November 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

The recent round of trilateral talks between the Ukrainian, American, and Russian teams took place in Abu Dhabi on 10-11 November. As President Zelenskyy said, the talks proved be quite substantive.

In Abu Dhabi we had important results – agreed on a new prisoner exchange, discussed guarantees for Ukraine's security. We are grateful to the US for the leading role.

We hope that the agreements reached will be successfully implemented. Yet much remains to be done to restore comprehensive, just and lasting peace grounded in international law and backed by credible security guarantees. This requires Russia to act in good faith and in line with the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Still, recent developments have also once again demonstrated that the Russian leadership lives in a parallel reality, in which Russian forces are supposedly advancing. A particularly telling example was Russia's attempt to portray the situation on the ground as one in which it controlled much more territory than it actually occupied.

Let us be honest: such claims can be easily verified using modern intelligence tools. Yet, Moscow continues to believe in its own narrative of military predominance.

The reality on the ground is quite the opposite. The Defence Forces of Ukraine have not only stabilised the situation but have also conducted a number of successful counter-offensive operations. Military objects, inducing those deep inside Russia, are regularly targeted by Ukrainian missiles drones, while the war continues to place a serious burden on the Russian economy and human resources.

The Russian Federation keeps reiterating that, in order to achieve a peaceful settlement, it is necessary to recognise the so-called "reality on the ground". Indeed, this is necessary, but first and foremost for Moscow itself.

The Kremlin must recognise that the level of Russian military casualties is unacceptably high and that Russian troops remain stuck in their positions. It must also recognise that its coward tactics of unrestricted terror against civilians and the weaponisation of freezing temperatures simply do not and will not work.

Esteemed colleagues,

At a time when some states are seeking to advance the peace process, Russia, a state whose actions demonstrate an interest only in further destruction, continues its despicable campaign of terror.

By intensifying its attacks on Ukraine, including amid ongoing peace process, Russia seeks to undermine Ukraine's position and exert additional pressure on its partners. At the same time, the Russian Federation demonstrates that it recognises no limits and is prepared to strike anyone and anything, solely to inflict as much damage as possible.

The most recent attack on bridge infrastructure across the Dnipro River is particularly illustrative in this regard. Over the weekend, Russia attacked the Pivnichnyi (Northern) Bridge using six ballistic missiles.

Six ballistic missiles! All this to strike a single civilian infrastructure facility in the very heart of a city with a population of almost three million. This was not a matter of imprecise targeting or lack of precautions. It was a deliberate attack.

In total, as a result of the attack on Kyiv and the Kyiv region on that day, six people, including a child, were injured.

Overall, the situation since the beginning of this week has been no less dire.

On 9 November, three people were killed and three others injured in a Russian attack on Odesa.

On the night of 9–10 November, Russian forces launched a large number of strikes against the Kyiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, and Kirovohrad regions. In all these cases, the targets were not military installations. They were civilian facilities: residential buildings, social infrastructure, and energy facilities.

Mr Chairperson,

Yesterday, 11 November, we marked yet another anniversary of the end of the First World War. This important historical date reminds us that all wars come to an end. But the question is always: how, and at what cost?

For its part, Ukraine firmly believes that Russia’s war of aggression can be stopped. As with the First World War, it must be brought to an end through a ceasefire. Full and comprehensive ceasefire that will allow diplomacy to work.

As Minister Sybiha underlined at the recent G7 meeting: "We should use this momentum to advance efforts towards a full ceasefire, as well as de-escalation steps and confidence-building measures."

Russia will not end its war of aggression out of goodwill or in response to appeals alone. Strong decisions are needed to advance peace. Russia must understand that there is no alternative to peace and that international support for Ukraine will not waver.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.