



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
ON RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

1087th FSC Plenary Meeting
(18 September 2024)

Agenda Item 1, General Statements

Mr Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to address the issue of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The past summer was neither calm nor peaceful for Ukraine. The Russian Federation continued to wage its unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine with unprecedented cruelty.

Russia's blatant disregard for international law led to a grim summer, breaking bitter records of new civilian casualties. According to reports from the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, over the past three months, more than 511 civilians have been killed, and a staggering 2,546 have been wounded as a result of Russia's constant strikes. Last month alone, at least 184 civilians were killed and 856 wounded across Ukraine.

This deadly trend shows no sign of abating. Numerous mass casualty strikes and daily attacks near the frontline continue to contribute to the high number of civilian casualties.

Here are just a few recent cases that have occurred since the last FSC meeting, when the Russian delegation stated that there can be no negotiations with the aggressors and occupiers. Thus, finally, 2,5 years after the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Federation has recognized itself as an aggressor and occupier.

Continuing its war against Ukraine, Russia launched multiple artillery strikes on the city of Kostyantynivka in the Donetsk region on 11 September, killing 3 civilians and injuring 5 others. Several residential buildings, a local store and a power line were severely damaged, worsening the already difficult situation in this frontline city.

On 12 September, Russian artillery killed three staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross mission while they were delivering humanitarian aid in the Donetsk region.

On 15 September, Russia attacked a multi-story residential building in Kharkiv with a guided aerial bomb. At least one person was killed and 43, including three children, were wounded.

In total, over the past week, the Russian Federation launched 30 missiles of various types, deployed almost 300 UAVs, and dropped over 800 guided bombs on various targets across Ukraine.

No matter how much the Russian Federation insists that its weapons are used only against military targets, the facts prove that Russian rhetoric is nothing more than war propaganda.

The Russian forces continue their deliberate strategy of sowing fear and demoralising the population of Ukraine.

One example of such strategy is Russia's treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war. As confirmed by the UN, more than 95% of prisoners were subjected to torture while in Russian captivity. However, not everyone has a "chance" to end up in a PoW camp, as the number of executions continues to rise.

Yesterday, 17 September, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets reported another war crime committed by Russian invaders against an unarmed Ukrainian prisoner of war with his hands tied with duct tape. The horrific footage shows a Ukrainian soldier stabbed with a sword bearing the inscription "For Kursk."

Ukrainian Ombudsman has already called on international organisations, including the Red Cross and the United Nations, to document yet another human rights violation by Russia. The world should not tolerate Russia openly demonstrating disregard for any norms and laws.

Ukraine will continue to make all possible efforts to bring those responsible for criminal actions to justice. We firmly believe that the international community will support us in this struggle for justice and the protection of human rights.

Esteemed colleagues,

Russia's ongoing war of aggression against my country requires immediate and decisive action by the international community. It is crucial that every Russian attack be met with a proportional response — through military force, sanctions, and practical steps to hold Russia accountable.

Mere resistance is not enough to restore a just and lasting peace. It is necessary to act proactively and force the Russian Federation to recognise the impossibility of continuing the criminal aggressive war and the destruction of the Ukrainian state. The resilience of the Ukrainian Defence Forces, which daily repel hundreds of enemy attacks despite Russia's superiority in artillery and aviation, is a clear testament to this.

In this context, the ability to hit targets on Russian territory becomes particularly important. Long-range weapons capable of reaching critical Russian military sites are key to weakening the aggressor's capabilities, preventing further escalation and saving human lives.

We know the military airfields where Russian aircraft take off, the supply routes for bombs and missiles, and the bases where launchers are stationed. Every day of delay in making this important decision — every day without the necessary weapons — means yet another Russian jet will drop a bomb on a residential house, a school, or a hospital.

As President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy rightly stated: "The only way to counter this terror is with a systemic solution, and that solution is long-range capabilities — enabling us to destroy Russian military aircraft at their bases. This is an obvious, sensible decision."

Mr Chairperson,

Russia's aggression against Ukraine is indeed a global war, since the Kremlin considers it a global struggle to shatter the very foundations of international world order.

For almost eleven years now, the Russian side has been trying to distort reality and create the impression that the war in Ukraine is part of a broader conflict between Russia and the West, although the reality is that this is, first and foremost, Russia's war against Ukraine. By spreading disinformation, Russia continues to try to justify the unjustifiable, presenting its aggression as a so-called forced response to the West's actions.

An isolated pariah state, the Russian Federation spares no effort to divert world attention from its violations of international law, to intimidate other states, and to strengthen alliances with authoritarian regimes around the world.

The Kremlin's hypocritical claims of interest in a political-military settlement, as well as the growing involvement of North Korea and Iran in hostilities against Ukraine, are obvious indicators of these efforts.

Another telling sign is the recent decision by Russia's authoritarian leader, Vladimir Putin, to increase the number of its armed forces by 180,000 troops, bringing the total to 1.5 million. In doing so, Moscow demonstrates its willingness for escalation rather than peace and its plans to continue a long war of attrition, relying on "cannon fodder".

The only effective way to respond to this behaviour and to counter the rise of authoritarian regimes is to prove that the world rejects aggression as a means of resolving disputes between states and remains united around the basic values of law and justice.

This unity was demonstrated on 11 September, when representatives from more than 60 countries and international organisations gathered in Kyiv for the Fourth Summit of the Crimea Platform. In the joint statement, the summit participants made it clear that the cessation of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, are key to ensuring respect for the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

As long as the Russian Federation continues to ignore this message, we have no choice but to fight and to increase the cost of this war for Moscow — by further weakening its military-industrial machine and striking at the core of its economy.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.