



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

As for delivery by the Ukrainian delegation
to the 1459th meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
01 February 2024

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine, more than anyone else, struggles to end the russian war.

Ukraine, like no one else, wants the restoration of a just and lasting peace.

However, this peace is possible only when respect for the principle of the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act is restored.

In its Peace Formula, Ukraine has suggested a clear path how to achieve this.

As the Permanent Representative of Switzerland mentioned last time, the Presidents of Ukraine and Switzerland agreed to prepare for the Global Peace summit.

This political process is aimed to develop and agree on a single joint peace plan.

What Ukraine asks for is respect for its internationally recognized borders.

What Ukraine asks for is respect for the lives of ordinary Ukrainians.

What Ukraine asks for is respect for the rule of law.

And what is russia's response to this?

Even only a few days after our last meeting, russia's response to our calls to stop missile terror were continued attacks.

Drones, S-300 and Iskander missiles were fired at Ukraine each and every night.

Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia regions, Nikopol and Marhanets in the Dnipropetrovsk region and other settlements were under attack.

The situation in many border communities is extremely difficult.

This week especially hard was for the Sumy region.

On January 27, russia's subversive group shot a brother and sister.

They were just driving in their private car from one village to another.

The next day, the last resident, 60-year-old Oleksandr, of the village of Stepok was killed.

He didn't want to leave his home, rejected the offer to be evacuated and was simply killed by russia during its numerous shelling of civilian objects.

On January 29, three more people were killed in the Sumy region.

For a better understanding of the intensity of attacks, let me give you an example from January 30.

During that day, russia shelled the Sumy region 55 times.

Of course, from the russian territory. 286 explosions were recorded.

They call it as a disturbing fire to keep the Ukrainians on the edge.

However, it claims the lives of civilians daily.

In the meantime, intense fights take place along the front line.

For instance, on January 30, there were 88 combat engagements.

In total, russia launched 9 missile and 99 air strikes, carried out 129 attacks from the MLRS on the position of the Ukrainian defenders as well as against peaceful settlements.

Unfortunately, there were killed and wounded among the civilians.

Residential private and multi-apartment buildings, a school and other civil infrastructure were destroyed or damaged.

Furthermore, five days ago, a 13-year-old girl died in the hospital.

She was wounded on January 17. She went into a coma after russia dropped a bomb on the settlement Malyi Burluk in the Kharkiv region.

As I mentioned last time, children are paying the highest price for russia's war.

In addition to those killed and wounded, there are those whom russia wants to re-educate and forcibly adopt.

This reminds us every day about the genocidal nature of this war.

A decree signed by the russian president on January 4 is one of many steps in the execution of this inhuman state policy.

The document stipulates that orphans and children left without parental care and who are citizens of Ukraine can acquire russian citizenship by personal decision of the president of the russian federation.

This another illegal act grossly violates international law and deprives kidnapped Ukrainian children of the opportunity to return to Ukraine.

We need to increase collective international pressure on the aggressor to protect these children.

At the same time, being unable to turn the tide on the battlefield, russia adds war crimes to already existing record.

In violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, russian troops use K-51, RGR and Drofa PM gas grenades.

For instance, K-51 grenades with chlorpicrin is a prohibited chemical weapon. In high concentration it can lead to death.

In total, 626 facts of the use of toxic chemicals by russia were already recorded.

81 of them were registered just in December alone.

The dynamics of the chemical use is growing. Up to 10 cases are recorded daily.

As usual, russia is lying about the fulfilment of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

According to the Convention, russia had to destroy weapons and the production facilities.

Likewise, russia violates its obligation in the area of nuclear safety.

As IAEA reports, mines along the perimeter of the ZNPP are now back in place.

russia has restricted the access of IAEA experts to critical areas of the ZNPP.

The reduced number of qualified staff because of unprecedented pressure by russia is another issue of deep concern.

This has a negative impact on the maintenance of equipment.

This makes the situation extremely fragile and underlines the importance of the end of Russia's occupation and return of the plant under Ukraine's civil control.

However, these facts speak volumes that Russia is not interested in peace.

That Moscow is focused on the continuation of the war.

That the Kremlin considers Ukraine's occupation as the only acceptable option.

And it will use all available revenues, including from selling of oil and gas, to sustain its war.

At the same time, growing allocation of funds for the war against Ukraine leads to problems in Russia itself.

As Russia is focused on the destruction of Ukraine's critical infrastructure, its own infrastructure continues to degrade.

Freezing cities is a clear illustration of the Kremlin's failure to fulfil obligations before its own population.

For Moscow it would be better to spend its funds not to get ammunition from North Korea or Iran but to buy new pipes and modernize a heating system.

Furthermore, recent protests in Bashkortostan is another reminder of the dire situation faced by national minorities in Russia.

This is how the Kremlin consolidates so-called unity in Russia – through violence and repression.

This also takes us to disproportionately high numbers of mobilized among the national minorities. This is what we have already discussed in the past.

The OSCE, in particular the High Commissioner for National Minorities, has to keep in focus situation with the national minorities, including with the Ukrainian community, in Russia.

Excellencies,

On January 29, Ukraine marked Kruty Heroes Remembrance Day.

106 years ago, young students were standing against Bolsheviks attack on Kyiv.

70 years of Soviet repressions that followed speak volumes about what is at stake today.

That's why we will continue our fight for independence and freedom.

From day one of Russia's full-scale invasion, this war was about two things.

About the readiness of Ukraine to fight.

About the readiness of Ukraine's partners to support this fight.

As the two passing years testify, Ukraine must be given all what it takes to win.

And we are very grateful to all those countries that stand in unity with Ukraine.

More than ever, it is clear what is the value of unity for the preservation of rules-based order and principles we believe in.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.