



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

99th joint meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council and the OSCE Forum for Security Co-Operation

Agenda Item 1, “Recent Aerial Attacks in the Context of the Russian Federation’s Ongoing Aggression against Ukraine”

(26 May 2026)

Chairs,

Ukraine expresses its gratitude to the OSCE Chairpersonship of Switzerland and the FSC Chairpersonship of Georgia for convening this joint FSC-PC meeting in response to Russia’s latest massive strike against Ukraine.

We highly appreciate the prompt and decisive reaction of both Chairpersonships to this unprecedented large-scale assault carried out during the night of 23–24 May 2026.

Let me recall, that on that night, Russia launched 690 airborne weapons, including 600 UAVs of various types and 90 missiles targeting the city of Kyiv, as well as the Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Odesa, Poltava, Sumy, and Zhytomyr regions.

Among the weapons used was an “Oreshnik” nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile deployed against the city of Bila Tserkva in the Kyiv region.

This is already the third recorded use of this weapon in Russia’s war against Ukraine, which constitutes yet another dangerous escalation. This escalation once again demonstrates Russia’s complete unwillingness to agree to a genuine politico-diplomatic settlement.

Ukrainian air defence forces intercepted and neutralised 549 drones and 55 missiles, demonstrating remarkable effectiveness. Another 19 missiles failed to reach their targets.

Nevertheless, the remaining Russian weapons caused significant destruction of the civilian infrastructure. The consequences of the strike are staggering.

The massive combined assault by Russian armed forces claimed at least four lives and injured at least 89 people, primarily in Kyiv and the surrounding region, which became the epicentre of the attack.

In Kyiv alone, Russia damaged a water supply facility, destroyed a market, and struck dozens of residential buildings, as well as several schools. One residential building was completely destroyed from the first to the fifth floor.

Esteemed colleagues,

It is especially cynical that Russia has deliberately targeted sites of cultural heritage in Ukraine. The damage inflicted on these sites deserves particular attention.

The National Art Museum, the Philharmonic, the Music Academy, and the Yaroslav the Wise Library sustained severe damage.

The Chernobyl Museum was almost completely destroyed. It had reopened less than a month ago following reconstruction to mark the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. President Zelenskyy and the IAEA Director General Grossi jointly visited this museum on 26 April 2026.

Architectural landmarks in Podil and Kyiv's historic centre were also damaged, including the Contract House, the Postal Station, the Church of the Nativity of Christ and the Kyiv Opera. Needless to say that all these places have nothing to do with what Moscow claims "military targets."

The extent of damage to cultural heritage sites serves as yet another reminder that this is a war not only against our people, but also against our culture, memory, and identity. For centuries, Moscow has sought to destroy everything that makes us Ukrainian. The latest strike once again demonstrates this genocidal nature of Moscow's war.

Yet, Ukraine's memory cannot be erased by missiles. Ukraine is documenting every one of these crimes for future tribunals. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has already confirmed that they are investigating the consequences of this attack. We expect their findings to be fully reflected in forthcoming reports by the United Nations and other independent monitoring mechanisms, including those of the OSCE.

Chairs,

Yesterday, during a joint visit by the MFA leadership and diplomats accredited in Kyiv to the site of a Russian strike in Kyiv, Minister Sybiha stressed: "We must intensify global pressure on Russia and make clear that these brutal attacks will never go unanswered."

Indeed, this appalling act of aggression cannot remain without consequences.

The latest Russian threats of new waves of strikes, particularly those directed at foreign diplomats in Kyiv, only confirm that, being unable to change the situation on the battlefield, Moscow is once again resorting to blackmail and indiscriminate terror - tactics that history has long recognised as signs of desperation. Acts, that, nevertheless, represent grave violations of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Against this backdrop, it is crucial to send a clear message to Moscow: such tactics will not prevail and will instead lead to even more severe consequences. As underlined in the recent statement of the MFA, the best response to the Kremlin's threats remains increasing pressure on the aggressor and boosting support for Ukraine, particularly by strengthening air defense capabilities.

We express our deepest gratitude to all partners who share this approach and stay with us in Ukraine, who have unequivocally condemned appalling acts of Moscow terror, and who have already announced further strengthening of defence assistance to Ukraine.

Thank you, Chairs.