



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

As delivered by HE Mr Yuriy Vitrenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”
(7 May 2026)

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has consistently reiterated that, for diplomacy to prevail, the necessary security conditions must be in place. It was in this spirit that, on 4 May, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, declared a ceasefire to begin at midnight between 5 and 6 May.

Many world leaders and institutions, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, have expressed strong support for this initiative. We highly appreciate their principled position.

But what was the response from the Russian side to this purely peaceful proposal? As usual, it was a barrage of drones, missiles, and aerial bombs. Let me recall the strikes carried out on a single day prior to the ceasefire entering into force.

During the night, Russian forces attacked energy infrastructure in the Poltava region. To increase the number of casualties, they launched a second missile strike while State Emergency Service personnel were on the site, dealing with the consequences. Tragically, four people were killed, including two rescue workers, and dozens more were injured.

The aggressor also struck the Kharkiv region, where one person was killed and four were wounded.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, critical infrastructure was attacked, and three people were injured. In Pavlohrad, a power line was damaged, leaving thousands of households without electricity.

In Zaporizhzhia, a guided aerial bomb directly targeted civilian infrastructure, affecting 37 people.

Strikes on the Kyiv region left three people wounded.

In Kramatorsk, in the Donetsk region, Russian air bombs struck the city centre, targeting civilians. Five people were killed, and five more were injured.

In total, in just one day, the Russian response to the ceasefire proposal left 26 people dead and 70 wounded, according to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

Esteemed colleagues,

Regrettably, after midnight, when the ceasefire came into force, the situation did not change. In fact, the ceasefire was violated within minutes of its start.

Russian attacks involving 108 drones and three missiles continued throughout the night, including morning strikes on Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia.

In total, only the first morning of the ceasefire, the Russian army had committed 1,820 violations of the ceasefire regime – shelling, attempted assaults, air strikes, and the use of drones.

As Minister Sybiha stated: “Moscow once again ignored a realistic and fair call to end hostilities, supported by other states, and international organisations.”

Indeed, instead of taking the first step to end the bloodshed, Moscow undermined the initiative, while continuing to insist on its own vision of ceasefire, an obvious attempt to secure its own commemorative activities on 9 May.

Regrettably, as the previous Russian so-called Easter ceasefire demonstrated, this offers no guarantee whatsoever that Moscow will act in good faith.

In this regard, let me underline: if the Russian side chooses to reject diplomacy, Ukraine is able to respond.

We are capable of doing so, and stand ready to employ all necessary instruments, in line with the inherent right of self-defence.

A clear example is the recent deep-strike operation conducted by the Armed Forces of Ukraine against enemy targets, including military-industrial facilities in Cheboksary.

Ukrainian F-5 Flamingo cruise missiles were used in this operation, successfully striking multiple targets linked to the Russian Navy, the missile industry, aviation, and armoured vehicle production.

The Ukrainian “Flamingos” covered a distance of more than 1,500 kilometres, successfully targeting producers of equipment used in the war against Ukraine.

Mr Chairperson,

Tomorrow, we will mark the end of the Second World War in Europe. It is the day of commemoration, and reminder of the huge price many nations paid for their freedom.

Yet, the bitter lessons of that past have not been learned by Russia that deliberately ignored them in its obsession with restoring its imperial project and redrawing the map of Europe.

Exactly as almost 87 years ago, when Stalin and Hitler concluded the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, that divided Europe and paved the way for conquests that escalated into the Second World War. During two years of the Second World War, Stalin and Hitler regimes operated politically, militarily, and economically. One of the best visual testimonies of this is a joint Nazi-Soviet military parade on 22 September 1939, following their coordinated invasion and division of Poland under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.

So, it was a deal between two dictators, Stalin and Hitler, who bear equal responsibility for triggering the war.

So, the only modern-day Nazis are the Kremlin's followers of Stalin, who was Hitler's ally for almost two years. And the fact that, in 1945, the Soviet Union was among the victors does not erase that responsibility for triggering the Second World War by its alliance with Hitler. For many nations in Europe, the end of hostilities, and the Nazi occupation just marked the beginning of Soviet occupation.

Today's regime in the Kremlin often invokes Stalin as an example of a statesman. Alarming, it does not merely glorify him, it follows his methods. On the battlefield, Moscow sends soldiers into senseless, grinding assaults. It suppresses all forms of opposition, and it conducts deliberate campaigns of persecution. Just like Stalin and Hitler, Putin's aim is imperialism and redrawing of borders.

This Monday, we had the opportunity to address these practices at a side event dedicated to the fate of civilians under Russian occupation, jointly organised by the delegations of Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. On Tuesday, we also addressed the issue of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia at a separate event co-hosted by more than 40 states.

The practices revealed at these discussions only confirm that today's Russian tactics are deeply rooted and even eclipse the Kremlin's conduct of the dark past. Had Moscow learned the lessons of its own history, it would not have launched yet another devastating war. A war that it cannot - and will not - win.

Looking back at the horrendous history of the 20th century, the conclusion is clear: if one country fails to learn its lessons of its own devastating mistakes and to fulfil own obligations, then it becomes the immediate responsibility of the international community to act and compel it to do so. Through sanctions, political pressure, and continued support for those who fight the aggressor on the frontline for the fifth year in a row.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.