



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

### **RIGHT OF REPLY BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna

#### **1566<sup>th</sup> meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**

Agenda Item 1, “The Russian Federation’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine”

(28 May 2026)

#### **Mr Chairperson,**

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement by the Russian Federation.

Despite our protests and calls from other delegations, the Russian delegation has once again failed to refrain from using undiplomatic and offensive language.

In this regard, I would like once again to register our resolute protest against the repeated use of derogatory language by the representative of the Russian Federation, in particular the continued attacks directed at Ukraine’s legitimate authorities and attempts to question their legitimacy.

Second, on substance. Russia’s attempts to blame Ukraine are clearly aimed at justifying its own aggression. Let us be clear: Russia launched this war and bears full responsibility for its consequences.

Under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Ukraine has the inherent right to self-defence, including strikes against legitimate military targets on the territory of the aggressor state. Attempts to portray such actions as illegitimate merely seek to shift responsibility away from Russia. At the same time, numerous international organisations, monitoring missions, and independent observers have documented Russia’s deliberate and systematic attacks against civilians. This is the fact.

Let us not forget, that there are no legitimate targets for Russia on the territory of Ukraine at all. The UN Charter prohibits aggression and the use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of states. Only self-defence is lawful under international law. Russia’s claims regarding the so-called “pre-emptive” nature of its invasion are null and void.

Finally, Russia’s references to the occupied territories as its own lands are merely attempts to legitimise an unlawful occupation. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol, and the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions remain integral parts of the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine.

I kindly ask to reflect our protest in the Journal of the Day.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**