

Statement during the First Session of the UN-Habitat EB of 2022

(29.03.2022)

Distinguished Chairperson,

Madam Executive Director,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

First of all, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the statement, delivered by the European Union and to all those delegation, who supported it. The strong solidarity with Ukraine, that we can feel here, in Nairobi and in all corners of the world, gives us additional strength to fight for truth, for justice and for the prosperous, free and democratic future of next generations.

In my response to the so-called statement of the representative of the Russian Federation I will be brief and will be guided by facts, not by fakes and propaganda.

First of all, there is no “special military operation” in Ukraine. My country is suffering from unprovoked and unjustified full-scale Russian invasion in violation of Article 2 of the UN Charter. 141 UN Member-States acknowledge it in the Resolution approved on March 02, 2022 during the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

Moreover, the International Court of Justice in its Order from March 16, 2022 has established provisional measures, according to which Russian Federation shall immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine.

However, the ICJ Order is not enough for Kremlin to stop. They show no respect for international law, most probably due to practical inexistence of the rule of law as such in Russia.

Kremlin regime, following it's criminal tasks, kills thousands of innocent civilians, destroys critical and civilian infrastructure worth billions US dollars and creates humanitarian crisis in Ukrainian cities and villages. Last week 140 UN Members-States in the UNGA Resolution on humanitarian situation in Ukraine condemned Russian crimes, such as attacks striking civilians, including journalists, civilian objects, in particular schools and other educational institutions, water and sanitation systems, medical facilities and their means of transport and equipment, and the abduction of local officials, as well as attacks striking diplomatic premises and cultural sites.

But Russians continue saying that it is all lie.

How could more than 2/3 of the UN Member-States from all continents of the globe tell lies?

As Hannah Arendt stated in her “The Origins of Totalitarianism”, I quote “The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist, but people for whom the distinction between fact and fiction and the distinction between true and false no longer exist.” And that is what happened to the majority of Russians including those, sitting in this room.

I don't know what future is waiting for Russia and its officials. It may bring them to the Hague or Chornobaivka or somewhere else, but definitely to justice.

And I know one thing for sure, very soon together we will start to rebuild my beautiful country and the expertise and practical knowledge of UN-Habitat will undoubtedly be in demand. Our friends from Africa and Asia, from Europe and Americas, from Australia and Middle East – will all meet one day for Borsch and Varenyky in Kharkiv, for Chicken Kyiv in my Capital and for a glass of wine from the best cellars of beautiful Odesa.

Thank you.