

Statement
by the Delegation of Ukraine at the UN GA Sixth Committee meeting under
agenda item 110 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

(2 October 2024, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on the assumption of this position and wish every success in your work.

Terrorism poses one of the gravest threats to global peace, security, and stability, affecting every region of the world. It respects no borders, spares no nation, and undermines our shared commitment to uphold human dignity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the rule of law.

We are affected by more sophisticated methods and tactics by terrorists, their mentors and sponsors are becoming crueler and more ambitious. Furthermore, some countries have integrated terrorism into their state policy that consequently has already led to flagrant violations of international law.

Ukraine remains committed to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) which, inter alia, reconfirms respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, focuses on tackling the root causes and conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism as well as strengthening states' capacity to counter this evil.

However, we know too well the horror of terrorism. For over a decade, Ukraine has been a victim of hybrid warfare, where state-sponsored terrorism plays a key role.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine began 10 years ago with the illegal occupation of Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, leading to countless terrorist acts. One of the earliest and most devastating was the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 by pro-Russian militants, killing 298 civilians. Yet, the world hesitated to call this what it was—state terrorism.

On February 24, 2022, Russia escalated its war with a full-scale invasion, using terrorism as a key tactic. Ukraine has faced constant missile attacks, ecocide, and nuclear blackmail. Russia deliberately targets civilian infrastructure and residential areas, aiming to destroy what it cannot capture and killing civilians.

Russia's occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), the largest in Europe, presents another grave threat. The plant has been militarized and used as a base for attacks, with personnel forced to work in dangerous conditions. Russia's actions risk a nuclear catastrophe, endangering not just Ukraine but the entire world.

Russia's actions have been recognized as state terrorism by several countries and international bodies. We call on more nations to follow suit in condemning Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. The atrocities committed against Ukraine's civilian population

and critical infrastructure are acts of state terrorism, and they must be met with decisive action by the international community.

On 31 January 2024 the International Court of Justice delivered its judgment on the merits of Ukraine's case against the Russian Federation under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Court concluded that Russia violated both treaties. This is the first time in the history that the ICJ has reached a final judgment on Russia's violations of international law.

Finally, Ukraine is deeply grateful to all partners who have supported us in our fight for peace and justice. We urge the international community to continue standing with us as we strive for a world free of terrorism, where all nations can live in safety and dignity.

All terrorist acts, regardless of who commits them, must be condemned and prosecuted. Ukraine fully supports global efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms.

Thank you.