

**Statement by the Russian Delegation in realization of the Right of reply
to the EU, USA and Ukraine**

at the 1st session of the Plastic INC, Punta del Este 29/11/2022

Our delegation has taken the floor in order to respond to the yesterday's and today's allegations against Russia made by the representatives of the USA on behalf of JUSCANS, EU and Ukraine.

Mr.Chairman, please, don't interrupt me if it takes longer than three minutes, considering that I have three rights of reply to three interventions which totals to nine minutes.

Moreover, Mr.Chairman, we have noted that you have given the Ukranian delegate the possibility to reproduce his statement twice , each exceeding three minutes . This is a violation of the norms of conducting buiseness. We didn't raise the point of order for the second time in this regard but we hope that such practice will be stopped in our forthcoming deliberations .

Mr.Chairman,

First of all, I would like to stress that international meetings on environmental matters are not the right place to discuss current geopolitical situation and armed conflicts. In accordance to the UN Charter this is a prerogative of the Security Council.

Most of the delegations have come long way to Uruguay to negotiate new environmental agreement on combating global plastic polution and not to witness a political show which has nothing to do with the agenda of the First Session of the INC.

It is a principal position of my country that international environmental cooperation should be free of politics. Current conflict in Ukraine is not the only one that had happened in more than 50 years of UNEP's history. And I am afraid it is not the last. All conflicts come to end with a peace settlement. The conflict in Ukraine will also be over. But our common work on new environmental agreement on combating global plastic pollution is aimed at wellbeing of the Mother Nature and many new human generations which will come after us. We simply have no right to jeopardize it!

I would like to call on all delegations to note that it was not the Russian delegation that has started the political discussion at this meeting. Now we are simply exercising our right to reply.

First of all, we have to acknowledge the erosion of the multilateral environmental process for the sake of political interests of Western countries and the Kiev Regime.

We believe that countries like the US, their NATO and JUSCANS allies simply do not have the moral right to comment on what is happening now when Russia stood up to help the people of Ukraine to liberate from the ultranationalist regime which came to power as a result of the unconstitutional coup d'etat in Kiev in February 2014 with the active support from the USA and their EU NATO member allies. What we witness in Ukraine now is the direct result of their illegal interference in the domestic affairs of Ukraine.

If the USA and their NATO allies in reality want to stop the conflict they must stop pumping the Kiev regime with arms and ammunition, which simply prolongs the conflict and multiplies the suffering of the civilian population.

In response to the statement of the US delegation I can reproduce a very long list of illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggressions of the US and their NATO allies starting from the war in Korea up to the war in Syria. And in between there were more than 30 countries including Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Lybia and many others. Millions of lives have been lost during these acts of aggression. But it's fine with the US as long as it makes the US dollar stronger at the international market.

All these countries are thousands of kilometers away from the US borders, but they were labeled as threat to the US national security as an excuse for aggression.

Russia has its legitimate interests in neighbouring Ukraine. There are millions of Russians living in this country. All what Russia wanted in this country is peace, respect for the legitimate rights of the Russian-speaking population and a neutral military status of Ukraine. But all our attempts to reach these goals by diplomatic means have failed.

The armed conflict in Ukraine has started not 9 months back, as many believe, but almost nine years ago. Starting from February 2014 the Kiev Regime was pursuing the policy of ethnic cleansing against Russians living in Southern and Eastern parts of the country. Since 2014 more than 5 million of Russian-speaking people have immigrated to Russia in order to escape oppression on the ethnicity basis. More than 14 thousand - and among them 152 children - were killed by the Ukrainian armed forces in the Donbass region alone. Many more people who could not agree with the policy of the Kiev ultranationalist regime disappeared without any traces.

In these circumstances Russia had no other choice but to start the Special military operation to protect Russian-speaking population and to demilitarize the Kiev regime.

As for the general and plastic pollution on the territory of Ukraine we have to say the following. On the liberated territories of Lugansk, Donetsk, Zaporozhie and Kherson regions which have decided to join their historic motherland - Russia - as a result of referendums in September this year, there was no system of secure general treatment of waste at all, not to mention plastic. All waste was simply accumulated at the open dump sites without any treatment and separation. Only now, when these territories have been liberated, along with the reconstruction of civilian infrastructure, Russia has started to introducing and building systems of separate collection of waste and treating plastic waste accordingly. For example, in the liberated city of Mariupol alone we have supplied 88 garbage trucks and more than 9 thousand garbage containers and other special machines to collect and treat waste accordingly, with one of the aims being separating and extracting plastic for recycling.

And to conclude, Mr.Chairman, one more time I would like to ask all involved delegations to stop using our meeting as a venue for political accusations which have nothing to do with the agenda ahead of us.

Reply to the second statement of the Delegation of Ukraine

Once again the delegation of Ukraine is trying to further politicize the work of our meeting by accusing us of doing this. We call upon all delegations present here today to take note that it was not us who have started the political discuss. We were simply replying to false accusations.

And we have to do it again.

All the unfortunate events happening now in Ukraine are the direct outcome of barbarian actions of the Kiev regime which took place in the former Eastern and Southern part of Ukraine during the last nine years. One more time I have to underline that the current Kiev regime came to power as a result of illegal violent coup d'etat in February 2014 with the direct support of the USA and some EU member-states.

Before accusing us we recommend the representatives of Ukraine to look at the actions of the Kiev regime accountable for grave acts of massive oppression if not genocide against Russian-speaking population.

Russia is simply responding to the criminal actions of the Kiev ultra-nationalist regime. Let me remind that one of the first barbaric acts of the supporters of the regime was burning alive more than 40 Russian-speaking civilians in the city of Odessa on May 2, 2014 who participated in a peaceful demonstration against overthrow of the legitimate authority in the country. Nobody was held accountable for this barbaric act by the Kiev regime despite the fact the identities of the culprits were well known.

Let me assure you that all goals of the Special military operation are going to be fulfilled. And never again Ukraine is going to become a breeding ground for ultranationalist ideology.

And at the end of my intervention once again I would like to call on the delegations involved in this exchange of views to stop politicizing the session and concentrate on the substantive matters which we have to discuss during this week.

Thank you Mr.Chairman!