

Dear Chair, secretariat, distinguished delegates,

The large-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine, supported by the Republic of Belarus, has created many environmental risks, which continue to worsen and threaten to increase the number of casualties among the population. The war has already claimed thousands of lives, including children, and severely damaged Ukraine's economy, infrastructure, environment and natural heritage. The war has a direct environmental impact on the air quality of other countries. This is caused by shelling of our oil depots, chemical plants and other industrial facilities - all this provokes a situation of chemical hazard.

Despite the state of war, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has prepared an annual report on emissions of pollutants into the air in accordance with the protocol of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP). The document was sent to the Governing Authority of EMEP in due time and it is published on the official website.

At the same time, experts are currently trying to predict what the emissions will be for the current year. Enemy shells, which hit our critical infrastructure and homes every day, cause significant fires. Russian army uses heavy spitfire weapons and ignition phosphorous bombs. This leads to massive destruction of infrastructure, destruction of ecosystems and extensive air pollution.

According to preliminary estimates, the volume of emissions of pollutants caused by the hostilities on the territory of Ukraine into the atmosphere can be equated to the annual emissions of a large metallurgical enterprise.

Polluted air has no state borders: air emissions caused by the Russian military aggression on our territory are transferred and have an impact on the territory of other states.

Given the difficult situation associated with the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against our country, given the damage to the environment in connection with hostilities and, as a result, the creation of environmental threats, the Ministry of Environment has started gathering information on the state of the environment and environmental crimes, as well as developed technical requirements for the new functional module of the Unified Ecological Platform "EcoSystem" - EcoThreat. The module provides a form for recording environmental crimes, information processing, transfer to the relevant public authorities.

Today, every country in the world should make every effort to stop Russia's invasion into Ukraine, which has the potential to lead to a global environmental and humanitarian catastrophe.

Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) provides that every treaty in force is binding upon all parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith. The Russian Federation is in a grave breach of its obligations and commitments under international law, including the UN Charter. Russia's invasion undermines the very foundations of the rule-based international order. The above listed actions make impossible to fulfil the purpose of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and accomplish its objectives.

The Government of Ukraine will engage in further consultations with interested contracting parties to explore all options to bring to responsibility the aggressor state with a full use of existing mechanisms of the Vienna Convention.