

**The Statement of Ukraine
concerning a full-scale unprovoked and unjustified war was launched
by Russia with support of the Republic of Belarus against Ukraine**

Dear Madame Chair,

You're Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear participants of Water Conference Preparatory Meeting,

I would like to thank you for giving me the floor and to raise some outstanding issues as a member of Ukrainian delegation.

I would like to start by addressing an urgent call to join efforts to protect humanity and nature. As all of you witness since 24th of February, a full-scale unprovoked and unjustified war was launched by Russia with support of the Republic of Belarus against Ukraine, in a brutal violation of basic norms and principles of international law, human rights, environmental and nuclear security, and global peace.

Ukraine recognizes these actions as an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within internationally recognized borders and genocide of Ukrainian nation. It causes significant damage to the environment of the Black and Azov Seas and other relevant water resources of Ukraine.

Russian Federation gravely breached its obligations under Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and its commitments under several international environmental conventions, as well as other international treaties, including Water Convention. The above listed actions make impossible to accomplish the object and purpose of such international treaties.

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

The Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, which was captured by Russian troops on March 4, is still used by the occupiers as a military base, and heavy weapons and ammunition remain on its territory.

Russian military forces are destroying our natural heritage, they are using more than a half of the Ramsar sites in Ukraine during hostilities against the Ukrainian people. This concerns the coasts of the Azov and Black seas and the lower reaches of the Danube and Dnieper rivers.

During the Russian military invasion, shelling and bombing of cities and infrastructure - water supply, sewerage and communications were severely damaged, directly threatening freshwater supplies, polluting rivers that are sources of water for industry, utilities and individual households. Wastewater treatment facilities of water utilities KP "Severodonetsk Vodokanal", KP "Lysychansk Vodokanal", KP "Rubizhanske VUVKG", KP "Popasnyansky Vodokanal", KP "Oblvodokanal" (village Verkhnya Krynytsia Vasylivsky district of Zaporizhzhia region) were severely damaged. The

wastewater treatment process is not provided for Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, Rubizne, Popasna and part of Zaporizhyya, causing pollution of water resources by untreated wastewater. As a result of the destruction of the dam of the Oskol Water Reservoir and the flood caused by it, the Seversky Donets River is being polluted.

Russian militaries do not show any respect for wild nature using it for military exercises. More than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered losses due to Russian aggression.

Thus the Government of Ukraine is inviting the Contracting Parties of Water Convention to start consultations on the suspension of the activity of Russian Federation as a Contracting Party. We also kindly ask you to treat this statement as a matter of urgency.

To conclude I will not dignify Russian and Byelorussian propaganda and lies we could hear today with the answer, as the facts and evidence speak for themselves and the whole world have seen in the city of Bucha and in many other Ukrainian cities and villages the real face of the Russian world.