

Dear Chair and delegates,

Large-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine, supported by the Republic of Belarus, continues. Actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine represent a brutal breach of the international environmental law, human rights, environmental and nuclear security, and global peace.

The war has already claimed thousands of lives, including children, and severely damaged Ukraine's economy, infrastructure, environment and natural heritage.

The global nuclear security is at stake today. There is also a direct threat of Russian terrorist actions at the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, which might result in radiation damage to the people in Europe and beyond.

Russian intruders destroy our natural heritage. More than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered losses due to Russian aggression.

Despite the state of war, the Ministry of environmental protection and natural resources of Ukraine 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 hit our critical infrastructure and homes every day, cause significant fires. This leads to massive destruction of ecosystems and extensive air pollution.

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.

The Ministry of Environment of Ukraine gathers information on the state of the environment and environmental crimes with the help of a 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. To date, the damage caused to the environment by Russia's military aggression amounts to 395 billion dollars.

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.

Thank you for attention