

**Dear Madame Chair,**  
**Distinguished delegates,**  
**Dear participants of the Meeting,**

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

Ukraine, as a country that has been granted the status of a candidate country for the EU membership, reaffirms its commitment to continue reforms in line with the desire for further integration into the European Union.

In the water sector, the main priority of state policy is the incorporation of integrated water resources management on a water basin basis in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, and the development of transboundary water cooperation.

Ukraine has achieved a significant progress in that thanks to the support of the European Union and our partners. We have many tasks and expectations in our plans. However, Russian military aggression has hampered our ambitious plans.

I have to once again recall on joining efforts to protect humanity and nature.

As you know since the 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 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.

During the Russian military invasion, shelling and bombing of cities and civil 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.

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.

As you may remember the Government of Ukraine has invited 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 once again 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.

Thank you for your attention!!!