

**Statement by the representative of the Russian Federation during the meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes in the exercise of the right of reply
(June 19, 2023, Geneva)**

Dear Madam Chair,

We did not want to politicize today's event, but we are forced to take the floor in order to exercise the right to reply, in connection with the statement pervaded with ideology of hate against our country.

The destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant was the result of massive strikes that the armed forces of Ukraine had been inflicting on the station for a long time. Due to the fact that we are witnessing attempts to misinform the participants of today's meeting, we ask the Secretariat to publish as an information document for this session the facts of shelling of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant recorded by the Russian side, which the armed forces of Ukraine began back in the summer of 2022.

In total, within summer and fall of 2022, more than three hundred missiles were fired from the HIMARS MLRS alone at the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant (we will submit the relevant materials to the Secretariat).

Russia strongly condemns the deliberate acts of sabotage committed by the Ukrainian armed forces against critical civilian infrastructure - the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant and the Tolyatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline. Kiev's actions are of an extremely dangerous nature and, in essence, can be classified as war crimes or terrorist attacks.

We would like to remind you that back in October 2022, the Russian side warned of the danger of terrorist attacks at the Kakhovka HPP. On October 21, 2022, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN in New York sent a corresponding letter to the UN Secretary General, which was published as an official document of the Security Council. I ask you to record

this information in the report of our meeting, the reference number of this SC document is **S/2022/786**. Back then, the Russian side called on the UN Security Council to pay attention to the air strikes of the Ukrainian side on the locks of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant, but the Western masters of Kiev chose not to notice the emerging situation.

We call on the world community to condemn the criminal acts of the Ukrainian authorities, which are increasingly inhuman and pose a serious threat to regional and global security.

The issue of the current situation in Ukraine does not fall within the competence of this meeting. Provocative actions and manipulative rhetoric have already turned the UNECE into an arena for settling political scores. They jeopardize socio-economic and environmental cooperation in the region. This is absolutely unacceptable under the Water Convention, which aims at promoting international cooperation for sustainable development.

We encourage member States to return to substantive discussions within the mandate of our unique platform for international cooperation in the field of sustainable water resources management.

We would ask you, dear Madam Chair, not to allow any further discussions on this issue within the framework of our meeting.

Thank you.