



**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine during  
158<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

(26.05.2022)

**Mr. Chair,**

**Madam Executive Director,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished participants,**

Good afternoon.

I would like to start by expressing our gratitude to UNEP Secretariat and personally to Madam Executive Director for the rapid response of the Programme and its readiness to help in resolving environmental issues in Ukraine within its mandate.

We welcome the decision of the UNEP leadership to allocate a specialist to work in Ukraine and provide every possible assistance to our Government in combating environmental damages in Ukraine posed by the invasion.

**Dear colleagues,**

We consider such a decision of the UNEP Secretariat as a very important step not only for the environment of Ukraine, but for the nature of entire Europe.

As you have probably seen from the latest information, prepared by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine and kindly distributed among you, dear colleagues, by the Secretary of Governing Bodies on Tuesday evening, the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of the Russia has caused an unprecedented danger to environment of Ukraine, Black and Azov Seas region.

Russian troops' actions show disrespect to the obligation to protect the environment in times of armed conflict.

The ongoing hostilities and damage, caused by missiles and bombs in forests pose a serious threat to the biodiversity of Ukraine. Hundreds of objects of Ukrainian civilian and critical infrastructure have already been destroyed.

Russian military units have destroyed or damaged water supply and sewage systems and communications in many Ukrainian cities and villages.

As we have already mentioned, shelling of sewage systems directly threatens accidental pollution of rivers, which are the sources of water for our population and for industrial and municipal enterprises. Pollution in rivers will contribute to pollution of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

**Dear colleagues,**

Once again, I would like to emphasize, my Delegation considers UNEP as a universal fora for dealing with environmental issues.

We kindly ask all delegation to stand with us on resolving environmental issues, caused by the invasion of Russian Federation and not to tolerate any attempts to use UNEP as a fora for spreading propaganda and fake news.

Once again, we are grateful for each of you who helps us to safeguard the environment and biodiversity in Ukraine and Europe.

Acting together with UNEP, which has an extensive experience and profound expertise as well as with likeminded countries, we will be able to minimize the negative impacts of the invasion to the environment and restore the nature of my beautiful country.

**Thank you.**