

Russia - Right of reply – Agenda item 1

Our delegation has taken the floor in order to respond to the representatives of Ukraine, Great Britain speaking on behalf of western countries and EU.

We have responded to such allegations on numerous occasions, so we will not do it today again.

Please note that the issues raised in statements are in no way related to the agenda items which are under consideration today.

The level of hypocrisy is overwhelming. We would like to remind the western delegates of actions of their countries in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yugoslavia and others. It was never raised at UNEP. Millions of people died. These actions caused severe environmental damage. Where was UNEP? Where were all those states speaking of environmental damage now?

I would like to remind the Ukrainian delegation of the following.

On September 23-27, the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics, Kherson and Zaporozhye regions held referendums on their accession to the Russian Federation. The results of the voting have been tabulated, with the overwhelming majority of voters supporting unification with Russia.

Despite the provocations of the Kiev regime that gave criminal orders to massively shell areas where civilians gathered and civilian facilities, people were not afraid to come to the polls and express their will. Donbass, as well as the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions have made a free choice in favour of Russia.

In fact, they had no alternative left. Far from all people in Ukraine accepted the coup in Kiev in February 2014 that brought to power radical nationalist forces that unleashed a bloody fight against those that would not accept it. For eight years, the population of Donbass was subjected to persistent and cynical attempts to destroy them. The decision of the residents of Donbass, the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions to seek protection from Russia was a natural result of the inhumane policy pursued by the Kiev regime.

The referendums took place in full conformity with the standards and principles of international law. The people of Donbass and South of Ukraine exercised their lawful right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter.

People of Crimea have made their right choice to join Russia back in 2014.

In the end I would like to stress that it was the Kiev regime 8 years ago who unleashed a war against the Russian-speaking part of population of Ukraine with the silent approval of the western countries.

The aim of the Russian armed forces is to put an end to the atrocities of the Kiev regime.

Russia has never started wars. We end them. And we will do it again!