



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

STATEMENT

**CONDEMNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY CRIMES OF AGGRESSION AND
WAR CRIMES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN UKRAINE**

22 June 2023 No. 105-P-62

Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

referring to the provisions of Resolution No XIV-930 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 February 2022 on the aggression of Russia and Belarus against Ukraine and Resolution No XIV-941 of 17 March 2022 on active measures to ensure the security of Ukrainian civilians and critical infrastructure;

recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 2 March 2022 on Russia's aggression against Ukraine and Resolution of 24 March 2022 on the humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine;

shocked by the Russian Federation's terrorist attacks on the Nova Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant and other civilian infrastructure and civilians as well as both short-term and long-term damage caused to Ukrainian nature and the resulting major environmental crisis that will have an impact on soil degradation and future changes in flora and fauna: Ukraine cannot physically preserve the biodiversity, with most animals having died within the range of tens of miles from the hotspot of the attack, while flood waters carry litter, sediment and contaminants that cause water pollution and damage to aquatic habitats and wildlife;

arguing that this is the biggest environmental disaster in Ukraine since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986;

reasonably suspecting that the explosion was intentional and targeted at causing as much damage as possible, because Russians raised the water levels to record 17.5 meters before destroying the Hydroelectric Power Plant and left the floodgates closed;

recognising that the damage caused to Ukraine is of an unprecedented scale: more than 80 settlements in the Kherson Region have sustained damage, some 200 tons of machine oil have entered the Dnipro River, while the irrigation system in southern Ukraine and the water infrastructure of the occupied Crimea have been destroyed, creating the preconditions for unbalancing the cooling system of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which poses a nuclear threat to the entire world;

underlining that the Russian Federation is liable for the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant and the ecological and humanitarian catastrophe in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia Regions, which are set to produce grave consequences for the global food supply chain and pose an even greater threat to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant;

strongly condemns the Russian Federation's attack on the Nova Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant and the continued military aggression and war crimes against sovereign Ukraine and its people;

stresses that the targeted attack by the Russian Federation on the Nova Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, the killing of civilians targeted by the rescue effort and volunteers contributing to rescue operations, as well as the attack on civilian infrastructure are war crimes and crimes against humanity, for which the perpetrators shall face legal liability;

calls on the international community to assist Ukraine in thoroughly documenting the crimes committed by the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine and to engage in international legal processes regarding the international crimes committed by Russia and its ally Belarus;

reiterates its call on the international community to actively and urgently support the establishment of a Special International Criminal Tribunal for investigation of the crime of aggression with a view to holding the aggressor fully responsible;

condemns the actions of the Russian Federation that threaten the civilian population as well as the ecosystem of Ukraine and the Black Sea Region as a whole and condemns the deliberate attempts of the Russian Federation to provoke a food crisis not only in Ukraine but also in other regions of the world;

demands that the Russian Federation immediately withdraw troops from the surroundings of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure safe operation of the plant, preventing new environmental threats from occurring;

urges for the introduction of new or additional sanctions against the Russian Federation for its military attacks against the environment;

proposes, together with its partners at the United Nations, to suspend participation of the Russian Federation in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations;

calls on the international community to continue providing a wide range of weapons to Ukraine, empowering Ukraine to defend its freedom and sovereignty, restore territorial integrity and prevent further mass killings of civilians and similar environmental crimes and humanitarian tragedies, as well as to provide all the necessary assistance to restore the use of contaminated areas;

supports efforts to establish a Ukrainian Solidarity Trust Fund to rebuild Ukraine after the war, launch a large-scale investment programme and restore the country's growth potential;

calls on the European Union, its Member States, allies and international organisations to provide financial support to Ukraine and to the states facing food shortages as a result of the environmental crimes committed by the Russian Federation.

Chair of the Committee

Žygimantas Pavilionis