

**Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Forty-second session  
Geneva**

**(12–16 December 2022)**

**Statement by Ukraine**

*After the adoption of the agenda of the meeting*

**Dear Madame Chair,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

More than 40 years ago, representatives of the countries of European region signed the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and agreed to protect people and environment from atmospheric air pollution.

40 years later atmospheric air pollution along with climate change became one of the main challenges for all humankind.

Ukraine now faces the biggest challenge ever - as the existence of our state and the Ukrainian people as such are at stake due to the unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine by russia, which started on 24 February 2022.

Over the past 9 months, Russia has launched more than 16,000 missile attacks on Ukraine. 97% of Russian targets are civilians.

In revenge for its military losses on the ground, Russia continues terrorizing Ukrainian industrial facilities and civil population. From 10 October to 5 грудня, Russia launched almost 600 missiles. Russian officials openly state that Ukraine must fulfil Kremlin's demands, otherwise civilians will continue suffering.

As a result of Russia's terrorist attacks against Ukrainian energy grid, situation in this sphere became even more critical. About 220 energy infrastructure facilities and almost 250 objects of transport infrastructure have been damaged due to the russian strikes. Ukrainian government is doing its best to mitigate negative consequences for population and economy. However, energy consumption in Ukrainian households is limited. Ukraine will not be able to continue exporting electricity to Europe. Regular power outages caused by Russia's attacks undermine economic activity and recovery.

Despite of the significant success of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in liberating territories temporarily occupied by russian military forces, the damage to the environment and nature is only increasing.

As a result of forest fires caused by Russian military actions, attacks on oil depots and industrial facilities, emissions into the atmosphere have already exceeded 67 million tons.

We all know that polluted air has no borders. As a result of explosions, toxic gases are released into the atmosphere. We breathe this air. With rain, these pollutants enter the soil and water.

As of now, the direct damage caused to the climate by Russia's war against Ukraine is estimated at least 31 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Almost a third of Ukraine's forest fund has suffered significant loss. On the territories liberated by the Armed Forces of Ukraine the huge damage can already be seen as extensive territories have been burned down and dug up with trenches. It will take decades to recover.

Russian aggression turned the world's most fertile chernozem soil into a huge minefield. Almost 1/3 of Ukraine's territory requires demining.

The aggressor country deliberately destroys the water supply infrastructure.

Water polluted as a result of Russian aggression leaks into transboundary rivers, the Black Sea, and the Sea of Azov, and can reach neighboring countries.

Since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, we have recorded more than 2,200 cases of environmental damage. A preliminary assessment of the damage caused by russians to the environment of Ukraine exceeds 37 billion euros.

Across the UNECE region and beyond, the war has led to increased level of air pollution, that must be properly considered and addressed by the Convention and related UN bodies, that could provide important guidance in this regard.

Trying to overcome challenges to our environment, Ukraine hopes for the support from the parties of this Convention within its framework in the post-war reconstruction and recovery of Ukraine.

We would like this statement to be included in the report of the meeting.

Thank you.