

Text of Mr. Kosachev's speech in the General Debate

Dear Madam Chairperson, colleagues,

Yesterday morning, our plenary started with a minute of silence, commemorating those, who passed away or were killed in terror attacks. Among them are victims of a terrible terror attack recently in Moscow region with at least 137 people dead. And this number will definitely increase. We are very grateful for all delegations, which approached us, expressing words of condolences. We asked the Secretariat to issue some official statement with a reaction of the IPU on that terror act. Unfortunately, it was not possible due to Rules of procedure. And this is how we decided that we would draft a written declaration, condemning this terror attack. In that draft we reaffirm the crucial need for all states and nations to combat by all possible means against terrorism. We have collected dozens of signatures. Thanks for all who did it, and we invite all other delegations, who did not do it yet to join this written declaration.

Now let's move on to the topic of our discussion. Exactly 25 years ago, on the 24th of March 1999, a war started in Europe. Some European countries, some NATO countries attacked another European country. NATO countries bombed at that moment Yugoslavia. Madam Chairperson may confirm that it happened exactly 25 years ago. At that moment, many people believed that it was just an "unlucky accident". "No other way to interfere, but to start this military operation" - this is how NATO countries tried to explain this illegal operation. Ok. Nobody reacted properly.

Four years later, NATO countries attacked another country, another state – Iraq. And again, on false grounds. And it started to become dangerous, because we understood that: 1) NATO continue to exist though all possible agreements about the future security in Europe; 2) NATO is going to enlarge; 3) NATO will try to dominate, preserving a right to attack any country, which NATO dislikes.

And this is why, four years later after Iraq, President Putin at the Munich Conference on Security Policy (2007) said the following words:

"We [all] have reached that decisive moment when we must seriously think about the architecture of global security. And we must proceed by searching for a reasonable balance between the interests of all participants in the international dialogue".

Zero reaction from the West. And another 4 years later one more attack against Libya. And then – invitation to Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO with all the following consequences. During all these years, NATO ignored Russia's fundamental security interests, interests of other countries in the world. As a result, we are all in this crucial situation.

Of course, it disturbed Russia, because many things started to happen in Russian close neighborhood. And this is mostly about Ukraine. We tried to support Minsk agreements in 8 years while Kiev continued to bomb its own citizens. It collapsed for the simple reason: Russia was the only part in these agreements trying to preserve them. At the end of 2021 we proposed security arrangements to the NATO countries. It was totally ignored. The same happened in March 2022, when certain NATO countries literally prohibited Ukraine to start negotiating peace with Russia.

Despite all this, Russia is ready to build bridges for the sake of peace and mutual understanding. We are committed to the "spirit of Geneva" - the city where conflicts ended and the most important international conventions were developed.

But what is important? It is so important to pay attention to the protection of the principle of the supremacy of international law. No "rules-based international order" should be relevant, because no rules exist. And each and every country, which uses this word combination, has to admit that there are no rules, but each time this group of countries decides what is right and what is wrong, and which people has the right of self-determination, like the people of Kosovo, for example, and which people does not have this right, like the people of Crimea.

My dear friends, we are very much concerned about what is happening in terms of security in Europe. And believe me, Russia is definitely not the problem. Russia is definitely not the reason why we all are so much concerned about our theoretically common arrangements in terms of security. Russia will not let anybody wait as soon as this group of western countries will start talking "Not fighting, not starting new wars in Europe, where else in the world".

Thank you very much.

Written declaration¹

We, the undersigned representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union national member parliaments, participating in the IPU's 148th Assembly in Geneva, are deeply shocked by the horrible terrorist attack at the concert hall in Krasnogorsk, Moscow Region, Russian Federation, on March 22, 2024.

We strongly condemn this evil and senseless act of terror aimed at damaging innocent people and bringing horror to the civil society of Russia.

We express our deep condolences to the families of the victims and the Russian people.

We stress the need to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of the terror attack in Moscow region.

We confirm that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustified, regardless of their motivation or political orientation, wherever and by whomever they were committed.

We reaffirm the crucial need for all states and nations to combat by all possible means, in accordance with their obligations under international law, threats to peace and security caused by terrorist acts, and to cooperate appropriately.

¹ This text is the sole responsibility for those who signed it.

A written declaration on the terrorist attack in the Moscow region,

22 March, 2024

**List of signatures of the national member parliaments, participated in the IPU's 148
Assembly in Geneva**

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Arab Parliament
4. Armenia
5. Austria
6. Azerbaijan
7. Bahrein
8. Bolivia
9. Brazil
10. Burkina Faso
11. Cambodia
12. China
13. Cuba
14. Democratic Republic of Congo
15. Egypt
16. Ethiopia
17. India
18. Indonesia
19. Iran
20. Jordania
21. Kazakhstan
22. Lao PDR
23. Mali
24. Morocco
25. Myanmar
26. Namibia
27. Pakistan

28. Palestine
29. Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (PACSTO)
30. Qatar
31. Russia
32. Saudi Arabia
33. Serbia
34. South Africa
35. Syria
36. Tajikistan
37. Tanzania
38. The Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPACIS)
39. Turkey
40. United Arab Emirates
41. Uzbekistan
42. Vietnam
43. Yemen
44. Zambia
45. Zimbabwe