



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1020th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(7 September 2022)**

Agenda item 1, Opening session

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement. In addition, let me make some remarks in my national capacity.

The Delegation of Ukraine is glad to resume its usual participation in the work of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) after 4 months of Belarusian Chairpersonship. We remain convinced that the main politico-military body of the OSCE should not be chaired by the state that not only supports the Russian brutal and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine but also enables it by providing the aggressor-state with the territory and resources for the intervention. The FSC Chairpersonship of Belarus has been inconsistent with the letter and spirit of the existing commitments in the politico-military dimension.

We welcome that Belgium is taking over the role of the FSC Chairpersonship in this trimester. We also express our gratitude to Azerbaijan leaving the Troika and welcome Bosnia and Herzegovina as the new Troika member.

I would like to congratulate the FSC Chair, Ambassador Didier Nagant De Deuxchaisnes, and the entire team of the Belgian Delegation on assuming this important and responsible task and wish them every success in guiding the work of our Forum.

Mr Chairperson, let me express our gratitude for outlining the priorities of Belgian Chairpersonship. I wish to assure you of our Delegation's full support and readiness to cooperate during your FSC Chairpersonship. We particularly rely on your professionalism and devotion in the run-up to this year's Ministerial Council in Lodz the Forum will be guided by Belgium.

We appreciate the decision of Belgium to reflect the impact of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine in the programme for its FSC Chairpersonship. In particular, we welcome the strong focus on the issues related to the protection of children during armed conflicts, the problem of explosive hazards in the OSCE area, the Women Peace and Security agenda, and security challenges related to the environment. These topics are of particular importance for Ukraine in light of the devastating impact of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war on all aspects of life in our country, and we look forward to participating in the respective Security Dialogues.

We also support the organisation of several side-events, which, we believe, contribute to a broader discussion of certain topical issues and help highlight their cross-dimensional character.

Distinguished colleagues,

It is obvious to us that since the Russian Federation continues to wage its war of choice, «business as usual» is not an option for the FSC. It is hardly possible to imagine constructive talks conducted at one table with a state that openly disregarded all possible norms and principles of international law. It is hardly possible to imagine substantive consultations on our common normative documents occurring at the same time when the hostilities along the almost 2,500 km-long front line are going on in the very heart of our common OSCE area.

For the first time in history, on 4 March 2022 a civil nuclear facility was turned into a military target and a military base in blatant breach of international law. For the first time in history the world is witnessing how nuclear terrorism, sponsored by a nuclear-weapon state is becoming a reality. We believe that our common endeavour should be geared to eliminate the nuclear threat stemming from Russian aggression for the whole Europe.

Until the situation changes and the Kremlin stops its military aggression, restoration of the work of the FSC and the entire Organisation in its usual mode would be barely achievable. We believe that the majority of participating States not only understand that but also share this approach.

Mr Chairperson,

Full and faithful implementation of core OSCE principles and commitments, embedded in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, and our politico-military acquis should have led effectively to transparency, predictability and trust in the OSCE region.

But instead, Moscow's total disregard for these fundamental principles – in particular full respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty of states, non-use of force or threat of use force in interstate relations – led to the largest armed conflict in Europe since 1945.

The ongoing unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression against Ukraine is a gross violation of the OSCE principles and commitments and imperative norms of international law. It is unacceptable and must end immediately without any preconditions on the part of the aggressor state.

Until that, the politico-military aspects of the Russian-Ukrainian war of aggression should stay in the spotlight of the Forum's considerations.

The collective stance of participating States in defending and restoring OSCE principles and commitments is essential at this critical moment. We are grateful to our partners for supporting Ukraine, protecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.