



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1031st FSC PLENARY MEETING
(14 December 2022)
Agenda item 1, Closing session**

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, let me express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Didier Nagant De Deuxchaisnes and the able team of the Delegation of Belgium for guiding the work of our Forum during these extremely challenging times. We appreciate the efforts by the Belgian FSC Chairpersonship to organise the work of our Forum during the third trimester in a professional and well-balanced manner.

We also would like to commend the Belgian FSC Chairpersonship for the right choice of priority topics for this trimester. It was important to pay special attention to the devastating impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on all aspects of life in our country as well as on the entire OSCE region.

In particular, we commend Belgium for the strong focus on the topics that are especially relevant from the point of view of the Russian ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, such as protection of children during armed conflicts, the problem of explosive hazards in the OSCE area, the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as security challenges related to armed forces and environmental protection.

We appreciated the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the International Humanitarian Law during the joint FSC-PC meeting. In this context, we would like to express words of gratitude to the Polish OSCE Chairpersonship for the contribution to the FSC work as well as the overall leadership that the CiO demonstrated during the year.

It is key that the military and political aspects of the ongoing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine remain at the forefront of discussions at the FSC. Appalling acts of aggression committed by the Russian Federation and its accomplice Belarus

against Ukraine have shattered the very foundation of international security architecture and undermined our work within the OSCE.

This war of aggression is a brutal violation of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act. Acts of cruelty and violence committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine constitute a gross violation of the norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law and they will not go unpunished.

Until international law is fully restored, there can be no «business as usual» in the work of the OSCE and the Forum for Security Cooperation as the main politico-military body of this Organisation. For us, it is extremely important that this approach was adopted by the vast majority of the OSCE participating States and we hope that it will remain at the core of our approach to the FSC work next year.

Ukraine strongly believes that it is in the common interest for all responsible participating States not to allow using our Organisation and in particular this Forum, for spreading false allegations and whitewashing war crimes committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine under cover of the so-called need to restore the «normal functioning of the OSCE».

I would like to use this opportunity and to thank all our partners for their unwavering support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders as well as their practical assistance provided to Ukraine, including in political, military, economic and financial spheres. Broad international support and solidarity with Ukraine in the face of a brutal act of armed aggression remain essential to our common efforts to restore peace in Ukraine and entire Europe.

It is also a clear message to the Russian Federation that armed aggression against an independent and sovereign state never will be accepted by the international community because the civilised world cannot tolerate the barbaric use of war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Esteemed colleagues,

To conclude, let me once again express our gratitude to the Delegation of Belgium for its work and cooperation during this trimester and to wish the best of luck in all their future endeavours.

Ukraine looks forward to the Chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the new year and warmly welcomes the Delegation of Bulgaria as a new Troika member.

We expect that the constructive approach to the FSC work laid down by Belgium will be continued during the future FSC Chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Let me assure our colleagues from the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the Delegation of Ukraine stands ready for constructive and fruitful cooperation both in preparing for the Chairpersonship as well as during the next trimester.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.