



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1042nd FSC Plenary Meeting
(26 April 2023)

Agenda Item 1, Opening Session

Madam Chairperson,

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

We would like to convey our gratitude to the Chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for chairing the FSC in the first trimester of 2023 and welcome the Delegation of Bulgaria taking over this responsible and challenging task in the second trimester. We also welcome Canada as a new Troika member and express our gratitude to Belgium, who is leaving Troika.

We believe, that the agenda of Security dialogues, presented by the Bulgarian Chairpersonship, is well-balanced and diverse. It features a number of important and very timely topics.

In particular, we find the issue of the Black Sea security crucial for the Black Sea Region as a strategically important part of Europe and its gateway to countries and regions far beyond the continent. The attempted illegal annexation of Crimea and its heavy militarization allowed the Russian Federation to significantly increase security risks to the regional states. We believe that discussion under this topic will be an important contribution to the process of returning security and stability to the Black Sea region.

Another topic that requires Forum's increased attention is humanitarian mine action. Regrettably, mines still pose significant challenge in many participating states still contaminated by explosive remnants of war. Ukraine is one of them. Due to Russia's war against Ukraine and massive violations of international law by Russian troops, Ukraine is

now one of the world's most heavily mine-contaminated countries. Thus, the task of making my country safe again will be extremely complex and prolonged in time effort.

We welcome the topic of the security challenges related to the environment, proposed for discussion at the joint FSC-PC meeting. This issue is of particular importance for Ukraine due to the devastating impact of Russia's war against Ukraine, causing extensive environmental damage to our country. We look forward to engaging in the discussion and sharing our experience in this area.

We also appreciate that the UNSC resolution 1325 on the Women, Peace and Security agenda has been identified by the Chairpersonship as a topic for discussion at the Forum. This milestone document continues to play an important role in the OSCE area and we are ready to engage in the respective Security Dialogue.

Ukraine commends Bulgaria for its comprehensive approach to security which remains to be the core principle of our cooperation in the OSCE. We strongly believe that, with a view to restore the rule of international law and recreate the efficiency of international institutions, the Bulgarian Chairpersonship should continue to pay its utmost attention to the devastating effects of brutal and unjustified war of aggression that the Russian Federation wages against Ukraine, and its lingering influence on European and global security.

Until the situation changes and the Russian Federation stops its military aggression, there can be no room for «business as usual» in the work of the FSC. The Kremlin's total disregard for the fundamental principles of international law, in particular, regarding full respect for territorial integrity and non-use of force, is the biggest threat to European security. Not to mention its irresponsible nuclear rhetoric in an attempt to intimidate the international community. The latter is especially relevant today, on 26 April, as Ukraine together with its partners across the globe commemorates International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day. The bitter experience of the past did not stop the Kremlin and it continues to use nuclear terrorism, sabre-rattling and blackmail to achieve aggressive revisionist goals.

Against the backdrop of current security challenges, the OSCE and its participating states should stay firm in urging Russia to stop aggression against my country. The collective unity of all responsible participating States in defending and restoring our common principles and values is essential as never before.

As a final point, taking this opportunity, we would like to wish you, Ambassador Kraleva and your professional team every success in guiding the work of our Forum in this trimester. From our part, we assure you of our full and resolute support.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.