

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/142/24
15 February 2024

ENGLISH only



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly**

As delivered by Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova, Chargée d'Affaires a.i,
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna
to the 1460th meeting of the Permanent Council,
08 February 2024

Dear Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Pia Kauma back to the Permanent Council.

We appreciate today's opportunity to exchange views with the Parliamentary Assembly on how we can further use the OSCE toolbox in a manner that will allow us to effectively address the biggest ever threat to security in the area of responsibility of the OSCE, which is the Russian Federation's full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine.

Dear Madam President,

Just a couple of days ago when visiting Kyiv, Bucha, Irpin and Hostomel, you have seen with your own eyes the destruction and suffering caused by Russia to Ukraine and its people.

We sincerely appreciate your heartfelt compassion, as well as strong support for Ukraine, its sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, strongly reiterated during your visit to Ukraine.

We welcome the fact that the OSCE PA took concrete practical steps such as a creation of the Assembly's Parliamentary Support Team for Ukraine to help consolidating efforts in addressing the challenges and threats stemming from the Russian aggression.

The OSCE PA's contribution to the restoration of the rules-based international order is of great importance. We believe that the Assembly has all relevant tools, experience and capacities to contribute to the implementation of the goals of the Ukrainian Peace Formula, initiated by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

We also encourage the OSCE PA to take an active role in facilitating the tracing and return of all forcibly deported Ukrainian children, as well as of thousands of civilian hostages Russia illegally detains.

Madam Chairperson,

The aggressor-state shattered not only the fundamentals of the Helsinki Final Act, but also the very basics of humanity and dignity. Gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocidal atrocities continue to be committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine on a large scale.

We view as a top priority for the civilized world to put an end to Russia's impunity and to hold to account the aggressor-state and its war criminals.

Ukraine reiterates the need to finalize the preparations leading to the establishment of a special international tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression against Ukraine.

Dear colleagues,

It is important to remember that Russia has launched its aggression against Ukraine ten years ago, in 2014, with the invasion and illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We appreciate the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's strong voice in support of Ukraine along these 10 years, starting with the Assembly's Baku Declaration and its Resolution on "Clear, Gross and Uncorrected Violations of Helsinki Principles by the Russian Federation".

The liberation of Crimea remains crucial for ending the war, restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity, and achieving peace and stability in the entire region.

We take this opportunity to thank President Kauma for her active support of the International Crimea Platform.

Ukraine counts on the Assembly's official reaction with a resolute condemnation of the attempts of the Russian Federation and its occupation administrations to organize and hold the illegal so-called "presidential elections" in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine on 15-17 March 2024 in violation of the norms and principles of international law, OSCE commitments and national legislation of Ukraine.

We reiterate our call on the OSCE PA and its member-states to refrain from sending observers to the above-mentioned illegal elections.

Dear President Kauma,

We stand ready to further support the OSCE PA endeavors aimed at achieving peace and security in Europe based on the OSCE principles and commitments, enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.