



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 986th FSC Plenary Meeting

(22 September 2021)

(Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue, Risks and challenges to security)

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Austrian FSC Chairpersonship for bringing this important topic to our attention.

During the last almost 8 years, the delegation of Ukraine has been addressing the most pressing issues to European and international security in this Forum.

It won't come as a surprise that to our firm belief, which I am confident is shared by many participating States, the most pressing of them is the continuation of gross violations of the OSCE principles and commitments and imperative norms of international law.

The sovereignty and territorial integrity of some participating States are being violated. Parts of the sovereign territories of Georgia and Ukraine have been occupied as a result of the use of force and ongoing armed aggression of the Russian Federation, including with the use of hybrid methods. The occupied territories are excluded from the verification measures and information exchange under arms control and CSBMs regime. Thus, the regime continues to be fragmented and huge numbers of unaccounted military force and equipment are stationed on the temporarily occupied territories without host nation consent.

These forces and military equipment are used to consolidate illegal acts of occupation, exert military pressure attempting to bend legitimate authorities to the will of the occupying power. The hostilities waged by Russia's occupation forces in Donbas claim the lives of Ukrainian servicemen and civilians, and bring enormous suffering to the population in the conflict affected area every day.

We are gravely concerned over the increasing militarization by Russia of the temporarily occupied Crimean Peninsula, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Illegal conscription campaigns, amassing of weapons, military equipment and troops on the temporarily occupied peninsula and its surrounding waters, impediment of the freedom of navigation lead to a long-term negative impact on the security and socio-economic, environmental landscape of the region in question and far beyond it. The security of littoral states is seriously jeopardized by these alarming developments.

This year's large-scale no-notice military exercises held by Russia near the borders of Ukraine which were accompanied by aggressive and provocative rhetoric were a stark reminder of the escalatory potential of selective implementation of and non-compliance with the Vienna Document 2011 provisions as well as the risks of further delaying modernization of this document. The exercises were used as a means of further military build-up along the borders and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Further military build-up is apparently taking place now after the completion of another large-scale military exercise involving establishment of new military bases and training centers where additional military equipment and troops are being deployed.

The international export control regimes and OSCE documents in the field of SALW and SCA are being undermined by state-driven irresponsible destabilizing transfers of weapons and ammunition, including landmines, across the borders to the temporarily occupied territories of the participating States. Distinct danger to the civilian population posed by landmines, which have been planted by the Russian occupation forces in Donbas, will remain a major security challenge in the decades to come.

Last but not least, the non-proliferation of WMD regime is compromised by the failure of one guarantor-state, the Russian Federation, to fulfil its obligations under the Budapest Memorandum to the non-use of force and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine that voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenals and acquired a non-nuclear status under the NPT. Such actions only discourage non-nuclear states to give up their intentions of acquiring the WMD.

These are the security challenges and risks that deserve our utmost attention. We should address them in a frank and constructive dialogue with a view to restore full compliance with our agreed principles and commitments embedded in the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter and our politico-military instruments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.