



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 848th FSC Plenary Meeting
(15 March 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 1)

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, we wish also make some remarks in our national capacity. The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers, and thanks them for their valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the item **“Multidimensional Security of the Black Sea”**.

Addressing security in the Black Sea region, it is important to remember and draw lessons from what prompted the ongoing grave crisis in European Security.

On February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation launched the military aggression against the sovereign state of Ukraine. So called «little green men» appeared in the Ukrainian Crimea. The elite units of the Russian special operations forces on Kremlin's order seized the Ukrainian governmental buildings and legitimate bodies of power in Crimea. By pursuing the armed aggression against Ukraine, illegal occupation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as its further military intervention and hybrid warfare in the Donbas region of Ukraine Russia has positioned itself as a country ready to use force in violation of international law and a clear threat to the European and global security. In particular, Russia undermined global non-proliferation efforts by acting to violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity despite the security assurances provided to Ukraine, including by Russia, according to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

Russia has challenged the rule-based security order thus deliberately generating instability, uncertainty and unpredictability of its further actions.

The illegally occupied Crimea, closed for any form of international monitoring, is now an area of systemic violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, targeting, first of all, the Ukrainian community and the indigenous people of Crimea - Crimean Tatars, but also cruelly suppressing all dissenters. The citizens of Ukraine who live in Crimea are detained on politically-driven charges, activists were killed and disappeared, their families and friends face intimidation. The Mejlis, a representative body of the Crimean Tatar people, was banned.

In this challenging circumstances we remain confident of the imperative to strongly uphold the OSCE norms and principals, and seek correction of the violations committed by Russia. It is not the principles which are at fault, but the behavior of this one country.

Ukrainian side is grateful to the OSCE and broader international community for the strong support and solidarity in this difficult time of the history of Ukraine. By adopting the UN General Assembly Resolutions "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" in March, 2014 and "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" in December 2016 the world has clearly said "no" to violation of territorial integrity and sovereignty of an independent state, condemned the occupant and reconfirmed the necessity of full respect for human rights. Personal and economic sanctions against Russia have been a response to aggression and must remain in force until de-occupation of Crimea and restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

**Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

We consider it extremely important and relevant to draw attention of the FSC to a very dynamic and threatening process of militarization by Russia of the temporary occupied territory of the Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Along with modernization and replacement of military equipment, the active measures of operational combat training include expansion of the military infrastructure.

Comparing to the pre-occupation period, Russia has more than doubled personal strength of its military in Crimea (from 12,500 before the occupation to 29,300 as of October 2016). In the near future till 2025 it plans further increase up to 43,000. Russia also has substantially reinforced and modernized its Crimean military land, air and naval components. Since February 2014 it has increased a number of: - battle tanks from 0 to 40; - armed combat vehicles from 92 to 583; - artillery systems of the caliber more than 100 mm from 24 to 162; - combat aircraft from 22 to 101; - attack helicopters from 37 to 56; - anti aircraft systems from 0 to 16; - war ships from 26 to 30; - submarines from 2 to 5.

Particularly dangerous are the Russian actions to prepare Crimean military infrastructure for **deployment of nuclear weapons**, including refurbishing of the infrastructure of the Soviet-era nuclear warheads storage facilities. Potential carriers of nuclear weapon, such as warships, short-range missile systems and combat aircraft, have been already deployed in the Crimean peninsula. These developments testify to the gross violation by Russia of the basic principles of international law and numerous international documents, among them - the Budapest Memorandum, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, UNSCR 1540 etc.

Crimea has been already used by Russia for supporting its combat activities in Syria. Such role for military facilities in Crimea might be developed in the future which further undermine the regional and global security. In August 2016 Russia deployed a new anti-aircraft missile system S-400 "Triumph" in Feodosiya.

Resorting to aggression against Ukraine in spring 2014, the Russia's Navy and Special Forces have seized Ukraine's warships and vessels, a substantial number of other weapons and military equipment, which have not been returned to Ukraine, occupied Ukrainian naval bases, other sites and infrastructure of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Ukraine is deeply concerned over Russia's continuous steps that destabilize the security situation in the Black Sea region. The Russian army continues to undertake so-called inspections on combat readiness of military units and districts as well as large-scale military exercises in the vicinity of the Russian-Ukrainian state border, in illegally annexed Crimea and in the Black Sea. In the period 5-10 September 2016 the strategic command-staff exercise "Kavkaz-2016" was held. About 12.600 troops, up to 90 battle tanks, 310 armoured combat vehicles, 20 aircrafts and 15 warships were involved in the military exercise.

The illegal occupation by the Russian Federation of the Crimean peninsula, which is an integral part of Ukraine, flagrantly breached the basic norms and principles of international law, but also the provisions of the Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

As the experience of history shows, the international community must maintain solidarity in countering the Russian aggression, in particular by strengthening political, diplomatic and economic pressure on the aggressor state. The dialogue needs to be anchored by the existing, not virtual, reality and the need of restoration of full respect to the OSCE principles.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.