



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1073rd FSC Plenary Meeting
(13 March 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Closing Session

Mr 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.

At the outset allow me to welcome the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Andreas Louka to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and thank him for the remarks outlining the main outcomes of the Cyprus FSC Chairpersonship.

Ukraine expresses its sincerest gratitude to you, Ambassador Ignatiou, and your able team for the professional stewardship of the FSC during these challenging times. We commend Cyprus for the choice of thematic priorities for this trimester, which have proven to be timely and relevant. Our Security Dialogues not only provided an opportunity for the participating States to address various issues of the current security landscape but also allowed us to discuss the broader consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for European and global security architecture.

The Delegation of Ukraine appreciates Cyprus's efforts to organise consideration of such issues as Humanitarian Mine Action, International Humanitarian Law, Environment and Security and the WPS agenda in the light of the current security situation in the OSCE area, first and foremost unprovoked and unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. The invitation of Ukrainian panellists and the opportunity provided to share their first-hand experience with the FSC are highly appreciated.

Despite persistent efforts of the Russian delegation to disrupt the work of the Forum by abusing the Chairpersonship, blocking the FSC agenda and attempting to dictate the selection of discussion topics and panellists, Cyprus has demonstrated remarkable skill in effectively managing the FSC's activities, faithfully adhering to its mandate and the common principles this Organisation is built on.

Mr Chairperson,

The aggression that Russia launched against Ukraine more than ten years ago, and the Russian full-scale invasion of our country that started two years ago with the support of Belarus, continue to erode the very foundations of the international security architecture and the world's rules-based order.

Against this backdrop, the “no-business-as-usual” mode of operation continues to be the only appropriate response of the OSCE to the current security challenges. Ukraine firmly believes that nothing can harm our Organisation more than turning a blind eye to current security realities and continuing business as if nothing has been happening. We hope this approach will remain at the core of our work in the FSC until the aggressor state is defeated and the rule of law is restored.

It is important that the vast majority of participating States share this approach to the work of politico-military dimension, demonstrating a true commitment to the rule of law and willingness not to leave without response Russia’s despicable violations of established international norms.

We express our sincere gratitude to all international partners for their solidarity with Ukraine in countering the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation. Unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and practical assistance in the political, military, economic, and financial spheres is crucial.

In conclusion, we warmly welcome Croatia as the upcoming FSC Chairpersonship and extend our best wishes for success in undertaking this important task. Our sincere thanks also go to the outgoing FSC Troika member, Canada, for its dedicated work. And we welcome Denmark as a new Troika member.

Dear colleagues, we assure you that the Ukrainian Delegation stands ready for constructive and fruitful cooperation both in preparation for the next trimester and throughout the entire period of your chairpersonship.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.