



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to Ambassador Villadsen,
the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

As for delivery by Ms Viktoriya Kuvshynnykova,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1379th meeting to the Permanent Council,

23 June 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by expressing my gratitude to Ambassador Villadsen for his comprehensive report.

The Russian war is the most brutal in Europe, and people of Ukraine are bearing the heaviest burden of this war, which will not immediately disappear after it ends.

The effective and tangible decisions of the international community aimed at mitigation of people's suffering are very much needed. The PCU, in the strict accordance with its mandate, has been addressing the aftermaths of Russian aggression since its very beginning in 2014, and has promptly adapted the activities to the full-scale invasion on the 24th of February.

For instance, being deeply involved in the process like humanitarian demining and psychological assistance to people affected by the war, the PCU has been able to continue its humanitarian activity in the most effective manner.

Due to Russian war such work of the PCU has become even more required and should be continued.

In this respect, we welcome that the PCU signed a MoU with the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining as well as the cooperation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities regarding the environmental impact of Russian military activities in Ukraine.

We are also grateful for the development of a roadmap for local authorities and social service providers on psycho-social rehabilitation and reintegration of veterans and their family members. Another prominent example of the PCU's relevance is a creation of the chat-box "Stay safe!" to inform people about safety rules and give them all available assistance.

The project on humanitarian assistance to support the Ukrainian governmental partners to effectively fulfil their mandates during and after the Russian war is much appreciated as it has already made the difference on the ground.

The PCU work in Ukraine has been effective throughout 23 years.

I would like to stress that the achievements in four main programmes could have brought real positive changes in the Ukrainian society if the Russian invasion had not happened.

Dear colleagues,

By its decision not to support the continuation of the PCU's mandate, Russia has proved its unconstructive approach once again, which resulted in the decision to temporarily suspend the activities of the PCU against the backdrop of its ongoing war against Ukraine.

This decision of the Russian side is predictable and regrettable. Despite this, Ukraine strongly supports the PCU's mandate established by the Memorandum on the Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999. We also believe that the PCU's valuable experience, expertise and fruitful long-lasting cooperation with the Ukrainian partners must not be lost due to Russian willingness to eradicate the OSCE presence from Ukraine.

Dear Ambassador Villadsen,

I would like to express sincere gratitude for your personal attitude and dedication in implementing your mandate. Your understanding of the processes in the country together with a successful implementation of the PCU's projects in previous years have led to effective adjustment in terms of the new reality created by Russia.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to thank all our partners who have been providing funding for the PCU projects. Your support is very much appreciated and needed even more due to ongoing full-scale war.

Ukraine strongly supports further PCU's mandate extension after the 30th of June despite all the obstacles created by Russia.

I heartily thank you, Ambassador Villadsen, and all PCU's team for your useful and important work, and wish you every success in your future endeavours. We stand for and we are looking forward to the constructive approach from all participating States in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.