



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
in response to the presentation  
“Efforts in the Field of Disarmament” delivered by the UN High Representative for  
Disarmament Affairs  
H.E. Angela Kane**

As for delivery by  
Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk  
to the 57<sup>th</sup> Joint FSC-PC meeting,  
21 May 2014

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes H.E. Angela Kane – United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and highly appreciates her vision of the past, current situation and future challenges in the field of disarmament. We thank you for drawing again our attention to the role and activities of the United Nations in handling disarmament issues and in maintaining international peace and security. Disarmament has a significant role in building up and maintaining global security, provided this security is indivisible and strengthens security environment for each and every member of international community. The United Nations Charter defines fundamental norms of international law, providing the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member-states, the prohibition on the threat or use of force, as well as contains provisions on disarmament and regulation of armaments. The norms and principles, enshrined in the UN Charter, constitute the bedrock of the contemporary international order, they are legally binding and must be implemented in good faith by all member-states.

Within the OSCE area a number of important demilitarization and disarmament projects are carried out with the view to enhance cooperative and national security of participating States, improve ecological situation, promote economic growth and social stability.

In this context let me recall that in March 2014 Joint Ukraine - OSCE project on the liquid rocket fuel component “mélange” was successfully completed.

In the framework of this project, launched in 2009, about 16,000 tons of highly dangerous toxic liquid, inherited by Ukraine from the former Soviet Union, were disposed. “Mélange” was used as an oxidizer of the rocket fuel for intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. Thus the acute necessity to dispose “mélange” emerged in the process of Ukraine’s fulfillment of its international commitments according to the Treaty between the USA and the USSR on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) of 1987 (entered into force for Ukraine in 1992). We are proud that successful implementation of this treaty resulted in significant increase of security of the population of several European cities, which were targets of Soviet missiles with nuclear capability, substantial number of which was deployed on Ukrainian soil.

Now together with our OSCE partners we took a deep sigh of relief as disposal of such enormous quantity of mélange in Ukraine was completed and potential risk of ecological catastrophe and direct threat to the lives of the people in the suburbs of 5 military storage

sites of “mélange” was eliminated. Such success story would have not been achieved without financial contribution of the donor-states to whom we express our gratitude again.

Mr.Chairman,

The OSCE as a unique regional Organization is consistently striving to determine its complementary yet important role in the global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. The Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, which are integral part of the politico-military toolbox of the OSCE clearly state that “non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament are mutually reinforcing”.

In this context Ukraine, as a strong advocate of non-proliferation, particularly welcomes the FSC decision on Update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation and relevant Ministerial Declaration adopted in Kyiv last December during Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship. We note that in this document the OSCE participating States highly appreciated “the contribution of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ukraine to nuclear disarmament and to strengthening international peace and security as non-nuclear-weapon states Parties to the NPT”.

Let me remind you that in 1991 as Ukraine became an independent state it possessed the following nuclear weapon capability:

130 liquid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles, each containing six nuclear warheads;

46 solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles, each containing ten nuclear warheads, flight distance up to 11 000 kilometers;

25 strategic bomber-missile-carrier TU-95MS;

19 supersonic strategic bomber-missile-carrier TU-160 with changing geometry of the wings;

1080 cruise missiles with nuclear payload, type “air-land”, long flight distance;

Several hundreds units of tactical nuclear weapons.

In 1991 this was the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. The historical decision of Ukraine to abandon nuclear weapon capability resulted in significant enhancement of security for all.

To ensure Ukraine`s national security alongside the implementation of this decision the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine`s Accession to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, was signed in Budapest, on 5 December 1994.

In particular, the State-signatories to the Memorandum «reaffirmed their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations».

We deem necessary to emphasize that the aforementioned Memorandum was signed in connection with Ukraine`s adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon state and in pursuance of its commitments to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory within the specified period of time and duly implemented by the Ukrainian side.

From February this year Ukraine has faced the aggression of the Russian Federation, occupation and annexation of the part of its territory - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which was followed by destabilization of the situation in the south and in east of Ukraine, supported by Moscow. Such actions of the Russian Federation are a grave violation of the imperative norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements, which ensured the territorial integrity of Ukraine, inviolability of its borders and non-interference in the domestic affairs.

These violations were committed by the state-guarantor of the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum.

These actions have broad international repercussions in terms of undermining global disarmament and, especially, non-proliferation efforts.

Therefore Ukraine deems as highly pertinent to pursue all possible measures to counteract breach of the international order and restore credibility of serious security guarantees to countries that renounce nuclear weapons.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.