



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
AT THE 1001<sup>st</sup> FSC PLENARY MEETING  
(16 February 2022)**

**Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue: “European security architecture:  
The role of non-aligned countries”**

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned with the EU statement, which we fully support. Let me also add some remarks in my national capacity.

We thank the guest speakers for their valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the role and place of non-aligned OSCE participating States in European security architecture.

Development of mutual trust between states is the basis for building a European security architecture. This approach primarily implies that none of states considers the threat or use of force as an instrument of international politics. This approach meets the aspirations of the peoples of Europe and the spirit of international law. It is this approach that lies at the heart of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

An international architecture based on mutual trust allows states to choose freely how to ensure their own security by joining alliances or remaining non-aligned. However, an approach to building European security based on mutual trust is completely impractical if even one state does not want to follow it.

Under today’s Security Dialogue topic, I would like to reflect on the lessons learned from the history of Ukraine as regards the non-alignment.

The historical experience of the last 30 years indicates that some states striving for neutrality or non-alignment have found themselves under the threat of military invasion, armed aggression and occupation by the Russian Federation. The effects of such actions are experienced in Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

On 9 February, the spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry announced the Russian “ultimatum” to Ukraine, the so-called de-escalation programme. According to it, de-escalation in Ukraine can be achieved, inter alia, if Ukraine returns to a neutral non-bloc

status, proclaimed by it in the Declaration of State Sovereignty in 1990. Such a proposal, in fact, seeks to turn Ukraine not even into a neutral state, but into a former Soviet republic.

Russia's demands for NATO to withdraw to the 1997 borders and provide Moscow with so-called "security guarantees" are a desperate attempt by the Kremlin's rulers to restore the Russian empire or a new Soviet Union, whatever its name.

There is an opinion that Ukraine's refusal from NATO membership is able to appease the Russian leadership. This false logic is contrary to historical facts.

Here is just one of them. In 2010, Ukraine officially abandoned Euro-Atlantic aspirations and, by adopting a special law, proclaimed its non-bloc status. Moreover, we had an Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation with the Russian Federation, signed in 1997. However, at the beginning of 2014, after four years of Ukraine's neutral non-bloc status, Russian tanks crossed our state border, and Russian troops occupied Crimea and Donbas, in obvious violation of all interstate agreements and international law.

I want to emphasize that the law on the non-bloc status of Ukraine was then in effect. We were a non-bloc country. There was no talk of joining NATO. The majority of the population was against joining NATO. Support for this course in Ukraine did not reach 30%. It was clear to everyone that we did not threaten Russia in any way. However, that did not stop the Russian troops from invading the Ukrainian territory. "Green little men" appeared in the Crimea anyway. As result, the territorial integrity of Ukraine was blatantly violated and since then, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

Having said that, there is a question we cannot but raise. How is Ukraine's neutral, non-aligned status supposed to contain Russia now if it did not in 2014? The answer is obvious – there is no way.

The issue is not the neutrality of Ukraine. The problem is in the aspirations of Russia. Neo-imperial ambitions and revisionist encroachments of the Russian Federation, as well as the desire to divide Europe into "zones of interest" leave no room for the so-called non-bloc or neutral states and their peaceful existence. Russia's policy leaves no alternative in the form of neutrality or non-alignment.

Russia's demands for restoring spheres of influence and limited sovereignty of Eastern European nations, in particular Ukraine, is not acceptable. Under the guise of its own narrow interpretation of the principle of indivisibility of security in Europe, the Russian Federation deprives Ukraine and other neighbouring countries of the right to their own security.

To conclude, I would like to highlight that Ukraine's response to this geopolitical and military challenge is contained in the current Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine. The only acceptable alternative for my country in the face of modern threats is to ensure the independence and state sovereignty, restore the territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, counter the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, as well as pursue the course towards gaining full membership in the EU and NATO as enshrined in the Ukrainian Constitution.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.