



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1053rd FSC Plenary Meeting
(26 July 2023)

Agenda Item 1, Closing Session

Madam 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, let me extend our appreciation to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairpersonship of Bulgaria for the dedicated efforts in organising the work of our Forum during this trimester with the utmost professionalism and true dedication.

Let me express our gratitude to you, Ambassador Krалеva, and your able team for the tireless efforts and true competence in guiding the FSC during this extremely challenging time when Russia's unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine continued to undermine the very foundations of the European security architecture laid down by the Helsinki Final Act.

Looking back at the second trimester, it is evident that the Kremlin's war of choice was a central topic in our discussions. Despite consistent attempts by the Russian delegation to exploit this Forum to propagate its false allegations, we have stood firm in upholding our common principles and saved the FSC as a platform for professional dialogue.

Today we note another case of self-suspension of Russian delegation. And this is for better. Less Russian statements – less propaganda, lie and groundless accusations will sound in this hall.

It is in the common interest of all responsible participating States not to allow engaging our Organisation in blackmail and whitewashing war crimes committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine.

It is important that crimes of the Russian Federation committed in the course of its war of aggression against Ukraine remain a top priority for the OSCE's politico-military dimension until the restoration of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles laid down in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

Dear colleagues,

Ukraine commends Bulgaria for its well-balanced and diverse agenda of Security Dialogues. The topics for our discussions not only allowed us to address various issues of the current security situation in Europe but also encouraged the discussion of destructive consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine for the entire international security architecture.

The subject of the security of the Black Sea region encouraged a productive debate within our Forum underlining strategic importance of the region. Recent Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and its reckless attacks against the port facilities and civilian infrastructure in the southern regions of Ukraine that we discussed just yesterday at the Special meeting of the Permanent Council (PC) underscore the urgency of this matter.

We appreciate Chairpersonship's strong focus on mine action. Since the start of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the extensive mine contamination of Ukraine's territory has been among the most important implications of the war due to its significant impact on the lives of the civilian population and the economic recovery of the affected territories. We deem it particularly important that one of the Security Dialogues in this trimester was dedicated to this topic and allowed us to discuss how to deal with these «silent killers».

We were particularly interested to participate in the discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, a fundamental and unique common instrument that fosters democracy, the rule of law and responsible behaviour of states in line with the principles of International Humanitarian Law in the OSCE area. Russia's invasion of Ukraine blatantly violated every single principle outlined in the Code and we consider the dedicated meeting an important reminder of how crucial the rules are and that none of the terrible crimes committed in this war will go unpunished.

The joint FSC-PC discussion on the security and environment nexus was particularly relevant against the backdrop of the dire consequences of the war waged by Russia for the ecology, specifically the blow-up of the Kakhovka Dam that caused economic, agricultural and ecological devastation that will last for years. We are pleased that the FSC Chairpersonship of Bulgaria, OSCE Chairpersonship-in-Office of North Macedonia and Austrian Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee also organised a side event to continue discussion on this matter.

The discussion on the WPS agenda was of great significance in terms of promoting full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the security dimension in line with the UN Security Council resolution 1325.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, let me use this opportunity to express our gratitude to all international partners for their political support and practical assistance provided to Ukraine to counter Russia's war of aggression.

We very much look forward to cooperating with the incoming Chairpersonship of Canada in the third trimester and wish our Canadian colleagues every success in fulfilling this important task. We also extend our gratitude to the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the outgoing FSC Troika member, and warmly welcome Cyprus as the new Troika member.

Dear colleagues, please be assured of the Ukrainian Delegation`s openness for constructive cooperation during the next trimester.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.