



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1032nd FSC PLENARY MEETING
(18 January 2023)**

Agenda item 1, Opening session

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to begin by conveying our gratitude to the previous FSC Chairpersonship of Belgium for its dedicated and professional work during the third trimester of 2022.

We welcome the Delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as the new Chairpersonship of the Forum for Security Co-operation and congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Sinisa Bencun and his team for assuming this important task of guiding our Forum. On behalf of the Delegation of Ukraine let me wish you every success in the work of our Forum during this trimester and assure you of our readiness for constructive cooperation.

Let me also express our gratitude to His Excellency Mr Josip Brkic, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for his opening statement outlining the main priorities and upcoming activities of the FSC Chairpersonship for this trimester.

The chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina falls on an extremely difficult security context in which we all found ourselves after the Russian Federation launched its unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine in February 2022. We welcome the strong focus of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the topics related to the mine action, implementation of the Code of Conduct as well as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. These issues are of particular importance to us and we look forward to participating in future discussions and sharing our experience.

We took note of the regional approach to the SALW/SCA and trust building mechanisms issues under the Security Dialogue. We would also consider the possibility to address these topical issues in the wider OSCE context.

Esteemed colleagues,

The premeditated and unjustified war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the entire rules-based order 11 months ago continues to be the biggest security challenge for the OSCE area. Appalling acts of aggression committed by the Kremlin with the support of other authoritarian pariahs, in particular Belarus, still undermine the very founding principles of this Organisation and our common security architecture. It is crucial to keep this issue at the forefront of discussions at the FSC.

Recent Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure, in particular, a strike against the residential building in the city of Dnipro with the Kh-22 missile that killed at least 45 civilians, is one of those facts, which clearly show that there can be «no business as usual». There can be no «business as usual» in the work of the OSCE until the war stops and the international order is fully restored. We should not fall into the trap of Russian propaganda and blackmail aimed to force us to return to the so-called «normal functioning of the FSC». It is nothing but a trick to take off the international community's attention from the ongoing devastating war and its ruining consequences for international security. Only by demonstrating a united and principled position we can resist Russia's cynical aggressive rhetoric and its regular attempts to distract our attention from the war crimes Russian troops have been committing in Ukraine.

The Kremlin's deeds speak louder than its words - the Russian forces continue their missile terror targeting the civilian population and critical infrastructure, raze entire cities to the ground and spread false narratives in an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. Recent barbaric attacks on residential buildings in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson prove that the Russian Federation and its leadership don't want to stop the war whatever they say.

Ukraine has a clear vision of how this war must end. The implementation of the 10-point Peace Formula presented by President Zelenskyy on 15 November 2022 is designed to bring an end to Russia's bloody war.

The Russian Federation must be deprived of its tools to commit the crime of aggression against Ukraine and the world. The Peace Formula is based on commonly agreed principles and we call on all states to join the process of its implementation to bring Ukraine and the entire OSCE area closer to long-awaited peace.

In conclusion, let me once again express our gratitude to the outgoing Belgian Chairpersonship, congratulate Bosnia and Herzegovina on the beginning of its Chairpersonship and welcome Bulgaria as a new FSC Troika member.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.