



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement in response to Henrik Villadsen,
the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1290th meeting of the Permanent Council
19 November 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Ambassador Henrik Villadsen for his detailed and comprehensive report on the project activities during the reported period in Ukraine. All presented information once again clearly demonstrates the efficiency of the PCU's work. It is really appreciated in relation to the ongoing reform process in my country.

We also fully recognize all the obstacles that you, Ambassador Villadsen, and your team have been facing in the light of COVID-19 pandemic that continues to set impediments for all of us. In this regard, let me thank you for doing your job at the high professional level and in line with all planned activities.

Realizing that efficiency of the due implementation of the PCU's projects largely depends on the level of cooperation with respective state institutions determined as the PCU's partners on behalf the Government of Ukraine, we welcome your interaction with all relevant state authorities during the reported period. We believe that this mutual responsibility is a core element of the successful implementation of the PCU's projects.

In this regard, we wish to reiterate our full support to the PCU's mandate established by the Memorandum on the Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999. As the PCU's mandate covers the entire territory of Ukraine we do regret that for now the PCU cannot conduct his activities in the temporarily occupied areas where is an obvious need for his projects.

The Ukrainian authorities consistently support the PCU activities in all three dimensions of the OSCE comprehensive security. We take the view that all projects should meet the needs of the Ukrainian implementing partners in line with the Government priorities aimed at advancing reforms and European integration, fostering the implementation of international standards and OSCE commitments and take into account security threats faced by Ukraine due to the ongoing Russian aggression.

Let me emphasize that assistance of the PCU in preparation of local elections was as timely as useful. Providing online training resources for the election commissioners as well as raising awareness of the local population of the election process by launching an online chat-bot played an important role in successful conducting of these elections.

We do appreciate the PCU's prompt assistance to our Government in the conditions of the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly, we note the cooperation with the Ministry of Healthcare aimed at elaborating of Concept of eHealth Development.

We also very welcome the focus the Coordinator puts on active engagement of women in all his projects that is fully in line with a general national policy of gender equality that Ukraine actively implements.

Once again let me underline that we support all PCU's agreed activities, including developing media standards, civil society development, promotion of judicial reform, law school and human right education and criminal justice reform. We perceive these activities as crucial part of our reform process and we do appreciate the work done in this regard.

At the same time, I need to stress that in the context of the ongoing Russian armed aggression against my country, we pay special attention to the projects being implemented in the framework of "Human security program" and "Economic, environmental, political military program".

In view of this, providing assistance (medical, social, psychological) to the military personnel as well as population from the conflict-affected areas, demining, chemical safety are on the top of the agenda. And, further work by the PCU is very much appreciated.

Another essential area of the PCU's activities is contribution to protection of the environment. We believe that the further PCU's activities on this track need to be continued on a large scale, including on the temporarily occupied areas.

We support PCU's projects in the area of combating domestic violence. Projects like the training "102" hotline police call-center personnel to communicate effectively with victims of domestic violence play an important role in overall policy of preventing and combating domestic violence.

Finally, I would like to thank the PCU for the timely preparation of the budget proposal for 2021 which we support in general.

Mr. Chairperson,

Taking into account the statement just delivered by the Russian delegation, let me stress that we do not agree with its presented assessments of the situation in Ukraine. With regard to further PCU activities, let me also once again recall the PCU's mandate, established by the Memorandum on the Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE of 13 July 1999.

On behalf of my country I avail myself of this opportunity to thank Ambassador Villadsen and his professional team for their significant work and day-to-day assistance in our internal reform process and to wish him every success in the future activities.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.