



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the Chairpersons of the Security Committee, the Economic and
Environmental Committee, and the Human Dimension Committee**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1456th meeting of the Permanent Council,

14 December 2023

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine wishes to thank Ambassador of Romania Stelian Stoian, Ambassador of Austria Florian Raunig and Ambassador of Ireland Anne-Marie Callan for their dedicated work as chairpersons of the three Permanent Council's committees.

We appreciate your tireless efforts in professionally steering the work of the security, economic and environmental, and human dimension committees respectively.

Thanks to your steadfast position the protection of the OSCE principles and commitments in all three dimensions of security in face of russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was at the heart of activities in 2023.

In the first dimension, we appreciate the strong focus on the issues of critical infrastructure protection, related both to its physical and cyber aspects, as well as on addressing trafficking of cultural property in times of war.

Ukraine welcomes particular attention to the challenges related to cybersecurity, including countering disinformation and misinformation in the cyber space. We see the need to continue this work given the grave threats stemming from the russian aggression and its widespread detrimental implications.

We also stress on the importance to further address the devastating impact of war on women and children, as well as conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.

Ukraine counts that the high dynamic of work in the first committee will be preserved in 2024, including through prioritizing the challenges in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as supporting rehabilitation efforts in the territories liberated from the russian invaders.

Second year in a row the Economic and Environmental Committee has been demonstrating its readiness to react promptly to the new challenges stemming from russia's large-scale war against Ukraine. This year the overall work of the Committee has been effective despite all russia's attempts to derail it, particularly, by blocking the PC decision on the 31st Economic and Environmental Forum. In response to these russian actions, the successful CIO Conferences in Struga and Prague provided not only platforms for the important discussions on energy resilience and food security among 56 participating states, but also proved the resilience of the second dimension itself.

The delegation of Ukraine also strongly supports the adoption of the EEDIM PC decision on the nexus between environment and security, which we believe, was an important step in strengthening the OSCE participating States' future commitments in the field of environmental protection and disaster risk reduction. We are convinced that

focusing on increasing threats of deliberate man-made disasters will be the OSCE's contribution to future peace and security.

In this context, I would like to emphasize the importance of convening the special EEC meeting on 19 June to address the catastrophic consequences of the deliberate destruction by Russia of the Kakhovka HPP dam.

The Delegation of Ukraine will continue to pay considerable attention to the work of the second dimension and its role in advancing the comprehensive security in the OSCE region.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE Chairpersonship of the North Macedonia rightly emphasized in its programme for this year that people are unfortunately the first to feel the pains of war and aggression.

Ensuring the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law must remain at the heart of our joint efforts aimed at saving people's lives, ensuring their security and wellbeing.

We appreciate the priority attention dedicated by Ireland as Chairpersonship of the Third Committee to addressing the gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law stemming from the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Our ultimate aim must remain to immediately stop Russia's genocidal actions in Ukraine and ensure that the aggressor State and its war criminals are held accountable. In this context we reiterate the importance of the monitoring and documentation of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other atrocities perpetrated by Russia.

Among the most pressing issues today are the challenges related to the tracing and return of deported Ukrainian children, the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners from the occupied Crimea and other parts of Ukraine, as well as of all civilian hostages.

We need to make Russia abide by its obligations under IHL regarding the communication of the full lists of all POWs it detains, as well as ensure the provision of adequate medical assistance to all those political prisoners, civilian hostages and POWs in Russian captivity, and provide unhindered access to them for the ICRC and other independent international monitors.

Dear colleagues,

We welcome the fact that the point of non-return to the "business as usual" in the OSCE was crossed in all three dimensions.

It is critically important for the future chairs of the committees and the incoming OSCE Chairpersonship of Malta to strictly adhere to this practice until the Russian Federation halts its aggression against Ukraine.

It must also serve as an example to follow for the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions.

We have to continue our efforts in identifying innovative and efficient solutions in face of the unprecedented challenges of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine to defend the principles and values on which the OSCE is based.

The Delegation of Ukraine takes this opportunity to strongly encourage the incoming OSCE Chairpersonship of Malta, as a future guardian of the OSCE principles and commitments, to ensure that the gross violations stemming from the Russian aggression continue to be duly addressed by this Organization in 2024.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.