



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the address by Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental
Activities Ambassador Igli Hasani**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1398th meeting of the Permanent Council,

10 November 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by warmly welcoming Ambassador Igli Hassani back to the Permanent Council and by thanking him for the report on the activities of his Office.

The Ukrainian delegation supports the OCEEA's practical approach aimed at addressing current needs and achieving tangible results in the interested participating States. Under such unprecedented tough times, we stand for the even more increased role of the OCEEA in tackling economic and environmental challenges, notably those stemming from russia's war against Ukraine and with direct consequences for the entire region.

Indeed, unfortunately, the environmental consequences of this war are appalling: since the beginning of russia's full-fledged invasion, the damage to the environment has already exceeded 33 billion euro. The ongoing hostilities, which are taking place on the ground, in the sky and on the water, have already led to a number of emissions of 67 million tonnes, compared to 2.2 million tonnes in 2021 and 2020.

Furthermore, Ukraine's ecosystems and wildlife have been significantly affected. Let me just share with you one particular example. According to estimations of the Ukrainian scientists, one-fifth of dolphins of the Black Sea, about 50 thousand, has died due to an unseen level of military presence in the sea. The tomography of dead dolphins showed that more than 50% of them had affected inner ear bones that probably had been caused by sonars and explosions.

And as the war is still going on, and russia's ecocide continues to grow, detrimental environmental effects for the entire region will be only further accumulated.

In this context, we have to believe that nuclear blackmailing at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and blackmailing at the mined dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant will not be realized by the russian occupiers, because in other case the scale of aftermaths, including environmental, will be even difficult to estimate approximately. But for sure, such consequences would be catastrophic.

Dear colleagues,

These days Ukraine is taking part in the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), started on November 6. Our country remains committed to its international obligations.

In his address to the Conference President Volodymyr Zelenskyy clearly indicated how russia was undermining the common international efforts towards combatting climate change. In particular, the russian war has brought an energy crisis and forced many countries to resume their coal-fired power generation in order to lower energy prices that are shockingly raising due to deliberate russian actions. This war has also brought an acute food crisis to the world, which hit worst those countries, suffering from the existing manifestations of climate change – catastrophic droughts and large-scale floods. In this regard, President Zelenskyy stressed that there can be no effective climate policy without peace in the world and called on all participants to support Ukraine’s initiative on creation of the global platform to assess the impact of military actions on climate and environment.

Here I would like to express our full support to the OCEEA project “Assessing the environmental impacts of the war against Ukraine and options for remediation”, which is as timely as needed.

Dear Ambassador,

We commend your readiness to make full use of your Office toolbox to address Ukraine’s needs on the ground by implementing the already developed set of new projects.

I have already mentioned the importance of the project on the environmental assessment, but let me assure you that we consider as important engagement of the OCEEA in other areas of its mandate, in particular in the area of protecting critical energy infrastructure.

In this context, we are interested in getting more information about the first course on the Protection of Critical Energy Infrastructure.

Your work on environmental cooperation, good economic governance, women’s economic empowerment and climate change deserves our full support.

We all are observing how russia’s war against Ukraine revealed the fragility of the existing security order, in particular of the OSCE concept of comprehensive security, where this security has been step by step undermined by russia.

Accordingly, in our view, this war leads us to make lessons learnt and pay due attention to the consequences stemming from the invasion, including in environmental and economic areas, in order to have more effective prevention toolbox in the future for such challenges.

I wish you, dear Ambassador Hasani, and your able team all the success in your efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.