



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 844th FSC Plenary Meeting**
(8 February 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 1)

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes today's speakers and thanks them for their highly professional, informative and thought provoking contributions to our discussion on the topic of «*Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the implementation of the UNSCR 1540*». Let me offer some observations based on Ukraine's national experience.

During 2013 Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship we had been very active in promoting update of the common position of the OSCE participating States in the area of non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The updated OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, adopted at the Ministerial council meeting in Kyiv in December 2013, demonstrated our intention not only to comply with, but also to strengthen the existing non-proliferation regime.

Ukraine's firm and consistent position in this area stems from the fact that it made a historic step by voluntarily renouncing its inherited nuclear arsenal – the world's third largest at the time. In 1994 Ukraine joined the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state, receiving at the same time guarantees of its security, political independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders under Budapest Memorandum of 1994, with Russia, the USA and the UK signing the document as states-guarantors. Two other nuclear states and UN Security Council permanent members – China and France also confirmed these guarantees.

The historical decision of Ukraine to renounce nuclear weapon capabilities resulted in significant enhancement of the regional and global security. However, from February 2014 Ukraine has faced the aggression of the Russian Federation, occupation and attempted annexation of the part of its territory – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which was followed by the military aggression and destabilization of the situation in the east of Ukraine, initiated, fueled and supported by Moscow. Such actions of the Russian Federation flagrantly breached of the imperative norms and fundamental principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and a numerous bilateral and

multilateral agreements, which, in particular, safeguarded the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and inviolability of its frontiers and non-interference in the domestic affairs.

Russia also blatantly breached the Budapest Memorandum. As these violations have been committed by the state-guarantor of the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum, they have broader international repercussions in terms of undermining global disarmament and, especially, non-proliferation regimes.

The question is how to restore credibility of security assurances/guarantees to countries that renounce nuclear weapons. Our response is by maintaining political and diplomatic pressure on Russia to restore full respect to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, there is no alternative.

Mr. Chairman.
Distinguished colleagues,

Ukraine is fully committed to the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), which is one of the key elements of the international regime of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). We attach great importance to the activity of the respective Committee 1540. Ukraine is one of 35 states who have become members of «Group of Friends of Resolution 1540» since its establishment.

Ensuring full implementation of UNSCR 1540 underpins my country's position in the field of non-proliferation, particularly in the context of its non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council in 2016-2017. Given the objective need for continuous improvement of the process of practical implementation of the provisions of the Resolution, Ukraine on the national level maintains an active discussion with participation of representatives of all profile state bodies, as well as authoritative non-governmental organizations and community experts on the matter. Interagency meetings have been held involving representatives from relevant central executive bodies and non-governmental sector, which were intended to strengthen coordination of all national institutions involved in this process.

Implementation of the Resolution 1540 will be enhanced by the development of the "Road map", addressing, in particular, the following areas:

- ***Development of the National Action Plan*** (NAP) for the implementation of the Resolution. In this connection we recall that according to Clause 8 of UNSCR 1977 (2011), UN member states on a voluntary basis are to develop NAPs which define the priorities in this direction. As of 2016 the NAPs were introduced in 22 countries.

- ***Appointment of the contact person*** in Ukraine on the implementation of resolution 1540 and the establishment of an interagency working group on the implementation of the Resolution.

- ***Interaction between government agencies and non-governmental organizations.*** Given the growing challenges and threats in the field of non-

proliferation, the development of cooperation between the public and private sectors, including industrial and specialized research institutions, is of particular relevance.

In conclusion, Ukrainian delegation would like to assure all participating states in Ukraine`s steadfast commitment to implementation of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 and in its readiness to continue active efforts to cooperate in this direction with all our partners.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.