



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 1417th meeting of the Permanent Council,

30 March 2023

Mr. Chairperson,

We warmly welcome Ambassador Igli Hasani and thank him for the comprehensive presentation.

Ukraine supports the activities of the Office and the way it responds to newly emerged challenges, including through current projects in our country.

There is positive feedback from the relevant state bodies with regard to the number of important projects implemented in Ukraine with the support of the OCEEA. For example, the ongoing trainings on money laundering of virtual assets are assessed as useful and productive by all the participants.

We welcome the OCEEA activities in the spheres of environmental cooperation and climate change in relation to security.

The Russian war against Ukraine has severely affected the energy security in Ukraine and triggered the worst global energy crisis in several decades. In addition, massive missile attacks on the energy facilities, shelling and occupation of the nuclear power plants together with Russia's high-level officials' nuclear blackmailing have created a completely new dimension of energy security and proved that resilience of the energy sector to man-made disasters cannot be taken for granted.

After Russia deliberately opened fire on the Zaporizhzhia NPP and launched its missiles over the Khmelnytskyi and Pivdennoукраїнська NPPs, our world turned out to be much more fragile than we used to think.

We are convinced that all OSCE projects to be implemented in Ukraine should be aimed at overcoming severe consequences of the Russian invasion. The OCEEA presents a good example to follow for other OSCE structures.

The Office's efforts to assist participating States in making energy safer and more sustainable as well as in protecting energy networks from natural and man-made disasters are very important. We also encourage the Office to concentrate on providing expertise and exchange of good practices in the area of diversification of energy transition and energy supply.

Unfortunately, today the decision on the theme, agenda and modalities of the 31st EEF has not been agreed despite all the efforts of the Chairpersonship and strong support from the majority of the OSCE participating states. This failure proves once again that Russia's

presence in the OSCE undermines the effective work of this Organization. We strongly condemn russia's attempts to blackmail the Chairpersonship by imposing their distorted vision of the second dimension.

It is important to hold a meaningful event in the second dimension that will reflect the current challenges in the OSCE region.

This decision would be essential for maintaining the unifying potential of the second dimension. I can agree on that. However, it is necessary to clarify that the most important topic, which is of interest practically for all of us, in the second dimension will be reinforcing common efforts on mitigating the economic and environmental damages of the russian aggression against Ukraine for the entire OSCE region. Ensuring russia's responsibility for all its crimes, including environmental ones, remains equally important.

While the representatives of the aggressor-state call for the "unifying agenda", their occupying administrations in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, russian military forces, continue to brutally destroy Ukraine's nature.

Ukraine systematically informs on the scale of the environmental damages caused by the russian hostilities in Ukraine, which constitute a common threat for the whole OSCE region. We strongly believe that this aspect of the war should be duly reported to the international community as russia impedes our common international obligations on the environment and climate.

As of now, ten national parks, eight nature reserves and two biosphere reserves are under russian occupation with 600 species of fauna and 750 species of flora under threat of extinction. The famous reserve of Askania Nova in Kherson region is among them. The reserve has the UNESCO certificate as the part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and remains under permanent threat, while being under control of the russian forces.

Moreover, in February, according to local sources, in the area of the national reserve "Dzharylgach", also in Kherson region, the russian occupying administrations created the area for hunting and wildlife trapping and shooting. russia's aim is to create in this reserve the so-called "recreation area" for the entertainment of the russian hunters and poachers. The similar actions are undertaken with regard to other occupied Ukrainian reserves.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OSCE's second dimension is a proper place to address the economic and environmental aspects of security, in particular, in the context of the current challenges and threats. The OCEEA plays an important role in the work of the second dimension, and has our full support in this.

Dear Ambassador Hasani, we wish you and your professional team all the success in your activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.