



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 996th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(15 December 2021)**

Agenda item 1, Closing of the Austrian FSC Chairpersonship

Mr Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU Statement. In addition, let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

We join previous speakers in thanking H.E. Mr Dieter Kandlhofer, Secretary General of the Austrian MOD, and H.E. Ms Helga Schmid, OSCE Secretary General, for their comprehensive and thoughtful remarks on the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me express our sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr Florian Raunig and Austrian able team for the successful leadership of the Forum in these challenging times. We appreciate the efforts by the Austrian Chairpersonship in organising the discussions of our Forum during this trimester, in particular in the run-up to the 28th OSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm.

We would like to commend the Austrian FSC Chair for presenting substantive draft decisions for the Ministerial Council. All documents were carefully drafted and well-balanced. They reflected topics that are of particular importance for many Participating States, including Ukraine. We regret that no consensus has been reached within the Forum on these drafts. Nevertheless, we believe that these documents could lay a good basis for the further work during the next year.

The topics chosen for the security dialogues during this trimester were relevant and important for the work of the Forum. In particular, we welcome discussions on the

core business of the Forum, the conventional arms control and CSBMs, SALW and SCA, the Code of Conduct and military doctrines.

We praise the efforts of the entire team of the Austrian Chairpersonship in preparation and professional conduct of the Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition on 5-6 October 2021. It was a very useful event and an excellent opportunity to share experience and assess the current state of play in this area.

Looking back on the third trimester and the entire year, we have to acknowledge that the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine remained in the spotlight of the FSC considerations. Russian military build-up along the state border with Ukraine, tense security situation in the temporarily occupied territories in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and the parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as well as the ongoing militarisation of the Azov-Black Sea region underpin the necessity of such a dialogue within the OSCE.

In conclusion, we would like to welcome the incoming FSC Chairpersonship of Azerbaijan and to wish our colleagues every success. The Ukrainian delegation stands ready for constructive and fruitful cooperation the FSC Troika in 2022.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.