



**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 Bakyt Dzhusupov**

As for delivery by Viktoriia Kuvshynnykova, Chargée D'affaires a.i.  
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,  
to the 1466<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council

21 March 2024

**Madam Chairperson,**

The delegation of Ukraine welcomes Ambassador Dzhusupov to the meeting of the Permanent Council in his capacity as a new Coordinator of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Our delegation appreciates close work with the OCEEA. Furthermore, from the very beginning of Russia's aggression, the OCEEA has been demonstrating a proactive approach and its readiness to contribute to the mitigation of the devastating consequences of the war including through the implementation of relevant projects.

The OCEEA project on the assessment of the environmental impacts of the Russian war, mentioned also by Ambassador Dzhusupov, is an excellent example of how the OSCE can be relevant.

This assessment demonstrates the large scale of devastations stemming from the Russian invasion and their far-reaching and long-lasting nature. Furthermore, the report and its recommendations can be already used in the work of the relevant governmental structures and can be applied for the future post-war environmental rehabilitation. Indeed, this is the project that the OSCE should be proud of. We are grateful to all donor delegations that support this project and to the OCEEA team who is working on it.

The relevant work should be continued and we are glad to know that Ambassador Dzhusupov shares our position to this end.

There are other important projects that the OCEEA is implementing in Ukraine, including in the area of energy security, water management, digitalization and virtual assets, that so far have been implemented in an effective and efficient manner. We count on the Ambassador's leadership in their successful continuation.

**Dear colleagues,**

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion in 2014, we have been witnessing the unalienable nexus between environment and security. The Russian presence in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine resulted in huge biodiversity loss and ruination of unique natural reserves.

In particular, since 2014 Crimea has been transformed from a peaceful touristic resort to one huge military base, the current springboard for russian attacks on Ukraine. The unique flora and fauna and marine biodiversity of the peninsula have been destroyed by the russian permanent drills, trainings and testing of different kinds of weapons as well as large-scale construction projects such as the Kerch bridge.

Now russia has brought on the global agenda completely new challenges such as energy and food insecurity, and deliberate man-made disasters, like the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, or increasing risks of nuclear incident due to the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. We count on the OSCE's readiness to use its second dimension platform in order to address these threats to the maximum extent possible.

Furthermore, russia's war of aggression has already led to the general backsliding on international climate change obligations.

The Organization's leadership in ensuring the OSCE's proper engagement in addressing the current unprecedented challenges is crucial. In this regard, we commend the unwavering stance of all CiOs who have been at the helm of the OSCE since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

**Dear Ambassador,**

You were speaking about the importance of unifying potential of the second dimension. Ukraine is convinced that the most unifying agenda of the second dimension will be the common response of the OSCE community to the economic and environmental consequences of the russian war.

The second dimension itself and the OCEEA have the necessary tools that can be used to this end, and our delegation strongly supports their active invocation.

We share your vision on the importance of the mandated events. We also believe that safeguarding the OSCE core principles is our primary responsibility.

Last year when russia blocked the PC decision on the EEF for the first time in 30 years, the OSCE participating states under the leadership of North Macedonia and with the help of the OCEEA managed to organise highly productive and useful events in Struga and Prague. The active participation of 56 delegations in these events proved that the OSCE community is looking for relevant topics for discussions and is ready to concentrate on the most topical challenges for our stability and security through the perspective of the mandate of the second dimension.

Dear Ambassador, you will have our full support to this end.

In conclusion, I wish you and your able team all the success in your present and future activities.

**Thank you, Madam Chairperson.**