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**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 971<sup>st</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting under the Chairpersonship of the United**  
**States of America**

(24 March 2021, via video teleconferencing)  
(Agenda item 2, Closing Session)

**Madam Chairperson,**

Ukraine has aligned itself with the European's Union statement, which we fully support. In addition, allow me to make some remarks in my national capacity.

We join other delegations in warmly welcoming our today's guest speaker Ms. Laura Cooper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, and thank her for insightful closing statement.

As this is the last regular FSC meeting of the first trimester 2021 I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairpersonship of the United States of America for the excellent job done at the helm of this main politico-military body of our Organization. We praise the skilful guidance of the U.S. of our work amid the ongoing restrictions caused by the pandemic. Despite the virtual format of the meeting, the continuity of business and its effectiveness were fully preserved.

I congratulate you, Madam Chair, and your able team on your successful Chairpersonship!

The topics allocated by the U.S. Chairpersonship for the security dialogues were salient to the politico-military situation in the OSCE region and fall well within the scope of the FSC mandate. We welcome discussions held within the dialogues on SALW and SCA with a focus on MANPADS and constructive exchange of views on UNSCR 1325 with a view to achieving further progress on these tracks in the framework of the Forum's activities.

Discussions on the Enhanced Forward Presence which kicked off the security dialogues was insightful and contributed to raising awareness among the participating States. It enhanced the understanding of defensive nature of this policy aimed at strengthening the European security and prevent conflicts against the background of ongoing violations of international law and OSCE

principles and commitments. The absence of any correlation between the Vienna Document modernization and the eFP was made clear during the dialogue.

We were particularly interested to participate in the Vienna Document 2011 modernization discussions at the dedicated FSC meeting followed by in-depth examination of the functioning of the Confidence and Security Building Measures at the Annual Assessment Implementation Meeting, also chaired by Mongolia and Montenegro. Considerations during these events illustrated the urgency of achieving progress in adapting the Vienna Document to realities of the present day. We remain committed to advance on this path leading towards rebuilding transparency, predictability and trust in the OSCE region. In this connection, we commend the efforts made within the FSC Working Group A under the U.S. guidance.

Ukraine was honored to join the panel of speakers at the High-Level Military Doctrine seminar. It was an ample opportunity to share national experience of political and military cooperation with international partners and NATO aimed at transforming the defense sector of Ukraine in line with modern standards. We believe that the agenda of the seminar was well balanced and conducive to inclusive and mutually beneficial interaction between the delegations.

The security dialogue on the complex issue of application of our CSBMs amid strategic ambiguity was, indeed, a very timely topic for the FSC. The innovative approach of the U.S. side in conducting this dialogue gave an overview of positions of the overwhelming majority of participating States on the applicability of the CSBMs during competition between states below the threshold of armed conflict. It was conducted in a very neutral and inclusive manner.

Russia's ongoing aggression and occupation of the territories of Ukraine and Georgia continue to undermine international security rules-based order and constitute a gross violation of the OSCE principles and commitments and imperative norms of international law.

Therefore, politico-military aspects of international conflict between Russia and Ukraine remained in the spotlight of the FSC considerations during the first trimester. We are grateful for the unwavering support of the participating States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders including Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Reluctance of the Russian Federation to proceed with peaceful resolution of the conflict, it has started and continues to sustain, necessitates our further utmost attention to achieve peaceful resolution based on the core OSCE principles and commitments, and international law.

Finally, we would like to welcome the upcoming FSC Chairpersonship of Armenia and wish the Armenian side success in fulfilling this important task. We also express our gratitude to the delegation of Germany, the outgoing FSC Troika member, for its dedicated work and welcome Austria as the new Troika member. We are open for constructive and fruitful cooperation.

**Thank you!**