



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement on 45th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1277th meeting of the Permanent Council,
30 July 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Albanian Chairmanship for introducing this agenda item into today's meeting of the Permanent Council. It provides a valuable opportunity for the participating States to recall the very foundations of our Organization, which are often overshadowed by the current serious security challenges, like we are facing now with COVID-19.

45 years ago, our predecessors elaborated the Principles guiding relations between participating States and agreed to respect them. We sincerely believe that the best way to pay tribute to the Helsinki Final Act is not to celebrate its anniversary as yet another memorable date, but to undertake real efforts to uphold its core principles.

In the recent years, we have been witnessing numerous attempts to turn a blind eye to these principles, to undermine their validity or reconsider them, as one participating State decided that they do not accommodate its needs anymore. It has violated rights inherent in sovereignty, used its force against other participating States, attempted to change frontiers, undermined territorial integrity, refused to engage into peaceful settlement as a party to the disputes it had created, intervened in internal affairs, demonstrated utmost disregard for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the territories it had occupied, misused the principle of self-determination of peoples by conducting illegal so-called "referendum" at gunpoint, broke good-neighbourly co-operation between States and denied its obligations under international law.

These violations of the OSCE core principles by the Russian Federation are well known. We condemn Russia's failure to respect them, and we remain convinced that the strong reaffirmation of the commitment to those principles and of their importance is what we need to facilitate resolution of existing armed conflicts in the OSCE area. This would contribute to European peace and security, and strengthen the OSCE role as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

We call on the Russian Federation to stop violating the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, including by withdrawing its forces from the territory of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.