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Statement of Sweden delivered at the OSCE Special (986th) Permanent Council on the situation in Ukraine, 3 March 2014

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden of course fully subscribes to EU statement but would like to make a few remarks from a national perspective.

We thank the CiO for convening this meeting, which is timely and necessary. We appreciate the presentations by the CiO Special Envoy, the Secretary General and Institutions.

Sweden joins others in underlining the gravity and seriousness of the situation. This is a serious challenge to European peace and security.

Sweden underlines the inviolability of Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and borders.

We join others in condemning the Russian military actions taken on Ukrainian territory of Crimea. These actions have clearly violated international law, including most of the fundamental principles in the OSCE Decalogue and subsequent OSCE basic documents, and constitute an act of aggression.

We also condemn the explicit threat of use of Russian armed forces throughout the territory of Ukraine as expressed in the decision of the Federation Council of Russia. This is a threat clearly inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

No state has the right to unilaterally intervene in the local or regional affairs of another state. Russia's actions are a clear violation of this fundamental

principle of international law, as well as Russia's own obligations, and will have consequences.

Sweden urges Russia to immediately withdraw any forces from Ukraine acting outside the geographical or functional scope of the base agreement, and to work with Ukrainian authorities to deescalate the situation. Sweden hails the restraint and sense of responsibility shown by Ukraine's government in the face of unacceptable military and political provocations. We take good note of the Ukrainian government's and parliament's pledge to guarantee the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of all citizens living in the territory of Ukraine, including the right to free use of language, freedoms of religion and belief. We also note the repeated attempts by the Ukrainian government to establish contact and dialogue with their Russian counterparts.

Sweden expresses the strongest possible support for the government and people of Ukraine at this difficult time in history and extreme concern with regard to developments in Crimea and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Sweden stands ready, and calls upon its partners, to offer Ukraine its broadest possible support politically and financially. We encourage Ukraine's government to continue to seek a political solution to the ongoing crisis through dialogue and inclusive measures, including the full use of the principles and mechanisms of this organization. It is important that OSCE can establish relevant monitoring presence in Ukraine, not only in Crimea but also the Eastern parts of the country. A full-fledged monitoring mission should be put in place as soon as possible. Meanwhile there are many measures that the CiO and the Institutions can undertake. We welcome the coming trip of the CiO special representative and the RFoM, as well as the ongoing visit of the HCNM, who has an important role to play in the current crisis. In the longer term the OSCE can offer important support to the government and people of Ukraine in preparing elections, fostering democracy, rule of law and a transparent and inclusive form of governance, addressing issues pertaining to and concerns of national minorities, in combatting corruption and so forth.

As a last point, I would like to inform partners that Sweden is considering the possibility to support various OSCE activities in Ukraine.

Thank you.