



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session II of the 2017 OSCE Annual Security Review
Conference: “Conflict and crisis situation in the OSCE area:
building security and confidence”
(Vienna, 28 June 2017)

Madam Moderator,

The Delegation of Ukraine has aligned itself with the Statement just made by the Delegation of the EU. At the same time we would like to make some additional remarks in the national capacity.

As broadly recognised, the protracted conflicts pose a very serious threat to the security of the entire OSCE area whereas the current status quo is detrimental to both regional and global security. Focused efforts to peacefully resolve conflicts, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, must be a priority for the OSCE, which has conflict prevention and resolution at the core of its mandate.

We commend the Austrian OSCE Chairman-in-office, Sebastian Kurz, for his personal engagement on these issues and the CiO Special Representatives for the Transdniestrian Settlement Process Wolf Dietrich Heim and for the South Caucasus Günther Bächler for their dedicated work and for today`s insightful presentations.

We firmly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of **Georgia** within its internationally recognised borders. Ukraine expresses its strong support for the Geneva International Discussions and the EU`s constructive role as a mediator in the conflict resolution in Georgia as well as the activities of the EU Monitoring Mission. We condemn and do not recognise the validity of any agreements between the Russian Federation and the de facto authorities in the occupied Georgia`s regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These actions are further exacerbated by the continuing Russian military presence, so-called ‘borderisation’ and closure of the crossing points in and along the Georgian breakaway regions. We strongly condemn this flagrant violation by the Russian Federation the norms of international law, the OSCE principles and commitments,

as well as Russia's international commitments under the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008.

Ukraine, as guarantor and mediator in the **Transdnistria** settlement process, continues to actively facilitate the peaceful resolution of this protracted conflict, being guided by the principles of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Moldova. We encourage the sides to proceed to comprehensive implementation of a priority package of eight initiatives agreed at the beginning of the year, which include the internationally endorsed parameters, formulated in the Berlin Protocol. We hope the next round of "5+2" negotiations at an early jointly agreed date will be marked by tangible progress across all three baskets, including the political settlement issues and the special status for Transdnistria. We reiterate the importance of implementation of earlier reached agreements and commitments, including from the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Transdnistria, and see added value in the gradual change of the existing peacekeeping format in the Transdnistrian region to a civilian police mission under the auspices of the OSCE.

We are concerned over the recent violations of the ceasefire resulting in casualties on the Line of Contact in **Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** and call upon the parties to exercise restraint and to consider measures that would reduce tensions on the ground. We express our full support to the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference for their facilitation efforts aimed at fair and lasting political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which would fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

Finally we wish to reiterate that the OSCE principles and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for New Europe and many other international documents must serve as a solid basis for resolving protracted conflicts and promoting a common agenda of peace, security and co-operation in the OSCE area through firmly upholding the agreed normative basis.

Thank you for your attention.