



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement in Response to the Report of OSCE Secretary General

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1355th meeting of the Permanent Council,
17 February 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine is grateful to OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid for her report. We also welcome and strongly support her practical step to apply the OSCE's early warning tool, envisaged by the MC decision №3/11, by drawing attention of the Permanent Council to growing tensions and further escalation of situation along the state border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as in the Russia-occupied parts of Donbas and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, caused by the ongoing Russia's military build-up there.

Ukraine has always been a strong supporter of diplomacy as the main instrument for solving conflict situations. In this vein, we consider issuing of the early warning by the Secretary General to be a timely and well-grounded decision, which opens the way for further utilization of the OSCE's conflict prevention potential to encourage the Russian Federation to engage in a meaningful diplomatic dialogue. We believe that returning to such dialogue is the best way for Russia to demonstrate its readiness to adhere to its commitments to act in the spirit of indivisible security and not to strengthen its security at the expense of others.

We call on the Russian Federation not to waste this opportunity for de-escalation and come back to constructive approach in the framework of international politico-diplomatic efforts aimed at de-escalation of security situation and further solving of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Ukraine also encourages the Secretary General in consultation with the Polish OSCE Chairpersonship to keep looking at other relevant instruments, envisaged by the mentioned MC Decision, which could be timely and effectively applied with regard to evolving security situation. This may include, but not be limited to further Secretary General's suggestions to the Permanent Council on possible options for responses to escalating tensions; proposals on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and OSCE executive structures in developing a more effective response to evolving conflict; proposals on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during the ongoing tensions, aggravated by Russia's undisguised violations of its OSCE commitments, including those, envisaged by the OSCE Vienna Document.

Depending on further developments, we also expect the Chairpersonship to use its mandate fully and to convene, if necessary, the Permanent Council meeting immediately, including in special, reinforced or joint FSC-PC format, to consider already issued or potential additional early warning signals and possible response options.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.