



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 991st FSC PLENARY MEETING**
(27 October 2021)

**Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue: Ongoing initiatives in the field of
SALW and SCA**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ukrainian delegation warmly welcomes today's speakers and thank them for their informative presentations and valuable contribution to our discussion on this important topic. Our special appreciation I would like to extend to Yevhen Avramenko, National Project Officer for Humanitarian Mine Action, Office of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, for being with us today and for his very interesting presentation.

Ukraine welcomes the continued support that the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and his team provide in building Ukrainian humanitarian mine action capacity.

We consider this project a very meaningful instrument for developing Ukraine's national mine action standards and standard operating procedures. We support gender mainstreaming in the SALW and SCA domain and consider that it is indispensable to further promote gender equality in respective decision-making, planning and implementation processes. In this context, we commend the impressive scale of gender-sensitive issues effectively integrated in virtually all activities under the Mine Action Project in Ukraine, including those pertaining to raising awareness of mine threats.

Today, Ukraine is part of a sad group of countries for which the mine problem remains relevant even in the XXI century. Since 2014, owing to the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine, around 16,000 square kilometres in Luhansk and Donetsk

regions of Ukraine have been contaminated with explosive devices. This type of inhumane devices is used by the occupation forces in large areas, causing numerous deaths and injuries among the civil population, including children.

Units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine as well as of the State Special Transport Service risk their lives every day, carrying out demining activities. Since the beginning of the Joint Forces Operation, over 10,000 hectares of land area and over 30 hectares of water area have been inspected, with almost 89,000 explosive objects seized and disposed of.

One day of war gives five to six days of mine clearance. Given the density of explosives, mine clearance in Donbas might take 25 to 30 years. Therefore, the issue of demining and, accordingly, strengthening national mine action capacity, is today more relevant than ever to our country.

We appreciate that Ukraine has not been left alone with this challenge and are most grateful to the OSCE and the donor nations for their contribution to the OSCE assistance project on building Ukrainian humanitarian mine action capacity.

We recognise the OSCE's valuable expertise and potential in this area, and look forward to continuing our cooperation under this assistance project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.