



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 822nd FSC Plenary Meeting

(8 June 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 1)

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me also make some remarks in the national capacity.

We join other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers: - Mr. Dan Neculaescu, Director General for Strategic Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania; - Mr. Gyorgy Rabai, Head of the Defence Policy Department, Ministry of Defence of Hungary, and thank them for their valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the Security Architecture in Central and Eastern Europe.

Today's security dialogue provides a good opportunity to take forward the discussion on the on-going challenges in relation to the Security Architecture in Europe, where Conventional Arms Control (CAC) and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs) are important pillars and remain the cornerstone of the OSCE politico-military commitments. Both CAC and CSBMs are crucial for mutual confidence in the OSCE region, including in Central and Eastern Europe.

Ukraine as well as overwhelming majority of countries represented in this hall holds a firm and well-justified view that Russia's illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and its military intervention in eastern Ukraine pose a serious threat to the European and global security. Russia's selective approach to the implementation of CAC and CSBMs commitments, combined with its aggressive actions, has undermined trust and confidence within the OSCE. It is necessary to restore full and comprehensive implementation of common obligations and commitments, undertaken by all participating States, and find a common ground on additional instruments for confidence building.

The current challenges compel us to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the OSCE politico-military instruments, in particular with respect to compliance with and implementation of the Vienna document. In our view, there is a need for effective and updated multilateral solutions to

manage existing complex political and security problems and for modernizing our toolbox to address them.

We consider it as highly relevant to draw attention of the FSC to a speedy and threatening process of militarization by Russia of the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. As we already informed delegations in one of our previous FSC meetings, Russia's military presence in the peninsula has doubled over the past year. Of particular concern are preparations of facilities for deployment of nuclear weapons in the occupied Crimea. The Russian occupying authorities are restoring Soviet-era nuclear storage facilities and have already deployed at the occupied territories of Ukraine the means of nuclear weapons delivery, like warships and combat aircraft. Russia is likely to install uranium enrichment facilities, organize production of dual use materials and apply technologies linked to the nuclear weapons on the peninsula.

We drew attention of the delegations to the provocative demonstration of force and power of the Air-Space Forces of Russia on 28 May - 5 June this year at the so-called "competitions" of the military pilots "Aviadarts-2016" in the occupied Crimea. In the military airfields of Kirovs'ke, Belbek and firing range of Chauda near Feodosiya up to 59 military crews of various types of aircrafts and helicopters were involved: MiG-29, Su-25, Su-27, Su-30, Su-24, Su-34, Su-35, Tu-22, Il-76 and Ka-52, Mi-8, Mi-24, Mi-28. The pilots exercised shooting unguided missiles, as well as aircraft cannons at ground targets in the firing range of Chauda. The crews also trained to overcome the defence systems, which were set up with the latest modern anti-aircraft missile and gun complex "Pantsyr-S" and anti-aircraft missile complex S-300.

Such provocative actions of the Russian Federation lead to destabilizing accumulations of the military equipment and personnel in the occupied Crimean peninsula and serve to escalate the security situation in the Black Sea region as well as in all Central and Eastern Europe.

In view of current challenges the Delegation of Ukraine would like to underline its readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs as well as other OSCE relevant instruments, which would enhance military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.