



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

### **95<sup>th</sup> Joint FSC-PC Meeting**

(09 July 2025)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue: Protection of Children in Armed Conflicts

#### **Distinguished Chairs,**

Ukraine aligns itself with the EU Statement. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

First of all, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to the Estonian FSC Chairpersonship and the Finnish Chairpersonship-in-Office for organising today's joint FSC-PC meeting on the extremely important issue of the protection of children in armed conflicts.

I would also like to thank our distinguished panellists, Ms Daria Zarivna and Dr Katre Luhamaa, for their comprehensive and informative presentations.

It is particularly important that the topic of today's Security Dialogue is being looked into jointly by both of our decision-making bodies. While the protection of children is often viewed as a matter solely within the human dimension, Ukraine's bitter experience in countering Russia's war of aggression has clearly demonstrated that this issue is, in fact, inherently cross-dimensional.

The persistent disregard shown by the Russian armed forces for international humanitarian law and politico-military commitments has resulted in devastating consequences, as well as clearly demonstrated the necessity of addressing this issue also from a politico-military perspective.

Nothing illustrates this better than the inclusion of the Russian Federation in the list of violators of children's rights by the UN Secretary-General in his report on

CAAC – for the third consecutive year. This is an unprecedented situation in history: the regular army of a permanent member of the UN Security Council has been listed among the actors committing grave violations affecting children in situations of armed conflict.

**Dear Colleagues,**

As the largest regional organisation in the world, the OSCE can and should be actively engaged in addressing the issue at hand.

Our Organisation has at its disposal a comprehensive toolbox, which includes a range of instruments such as project activities as well as mechanisms for monitoring and documenting violations. By strengthening its capacity to record abuses, support national frameworks, and promote accountability, the OSCE can be instrumental in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children in conflict zones.

The OSCE's Moscow Mechanism, one of which was specifically dedicated to the deportation of children by the Russian Federation, provides a clear example of how the Organisation's tools can be used to enhance child protection and respond to serious violations of international law.

All atrocities committed against the people of Ukraine, especially those targeting children, must be thoroughly documented and investigated, to ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable.

Equally important is the OSCE project activity. Currently, the Organisation is implementing in Ukraine three extra-budgetary projects focused on the protection and support of children. These include efforts to secure the return of illegally deported children, to provide psychosocial assistance, and to promote the role of youth. Each of these projects affirms the OSCE's vital role in upholding children's rights, and demonstrates its continued relevance in the region.

We strongly support the continuation of this important work, and express our gratitude to all partners for their contributions and continued support – both within multilateral forums and at the bilateral level. In close cooperation with our international partners, Ukraine will continue to take all possible steps to overcome the devastating consequences of Russia's aggression and to protect children from the horrors of this war.

**Thank you, Chairs.**