



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 825th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(13 July 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.

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, H.E. David Dondua and Head of the EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia, Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas to the FSC and thanks them for their comprehensive and insightful presentations as well as valuable contribution to our discussions.

Ukraine highly values its long-established relations of friendship, partnership and close and fruitful cooperation with Georgia, based on the principles of mutual respect. The people of Ukraine and Georgia share the aspirations of building democratic, stable and economically prosperous states through profound comprehensive reforms and fully implementing the tasks of European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

We firmly support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. Ukraine condemns and does not recognize 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, including the recent so-called "agreement on the state border" between Russia and the de facto authorities in South Ossetia. Such actions by the Russian Federation violate the norms of international law, the OSCE principles and commitments, including on Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers as well as Russia's international commitments under the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement and its subsequent implementing measures of 8 September 2008. 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.

The OSCE principles and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act, the Paris Charter for New Europe and many other documents serve as a solid foundation for promoting a common agenda of peace, security and cooperation in the OSCE space through firmly upholding our fundamental principles. Restoration of Russia's respect to these principles is a necessary requirement for progress on rebuilding trust and confidence which have been undermined by Russia's flagrant violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of its neighbors. We call on Russia to return to the tenets of the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and to fulfill its obligations under international law.

In conclusion, the Delegation of Ukraine once again thanks our guests for their interesting presentations to the FSC and wishes them every success in their future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.