



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 2017 Annual Security Review Conference**

(29 June 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Working session 3: CAC and CSBMs: Challenges and Prospects

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers and thanks them for their valuable contributions to the 2017 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) discussion on the Conventional Arms Control (CAC) and Confidence and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). Let me offer some of our thoughts and observations on this important topic based on our experience in connection with the crisis in and around Ukraine.

CAC and CSBMs remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency. A proper and effective functioning of these instruments is in the interest of all OSCE participating States. OSCE Hamburg Ministerial Declaration of 2016 underlines «the importance of CAC and CSBMs for advancing comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security». Strong commitment of the OSCE participating States to full implementation and further development of arms control agreements is essential for enhancing military and political stability within the OSCE area. Therefore revitalizing CAC and CSBMs are to play a key role in strengthening European security.

The current security landscape in the OSCE region has undergone drastic changes as the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments have been undermined and put into question by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine has been attacked by a state that earlier committed itself to guarantee its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. These actions have been decisively rejected by the international community, including through adoption of the UN GA resolution "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" on 27 March 2014.

Distinguished colleagues,

Based on the experiences of the past three years it is our strong belief that in order to increase the effectiveness of the Vienna Document in crisis situations provisions of Chapter III should be analysed and adapted to present realities. Discussions in the framework of both para 16 and 17 of Chapter III, aiming at reducing risk, decrease odds of miscalculation and diminish actions

that could give rise to tension. We share assessments of leading experts in this area that the crises in and around Ukraine has put on the agenda a number of urgent tasks before all of us such as lowering the thresholds for notification of certain military activities (Chapter V) as well as for inviting observers of OSCE participating States (Chapter VI), increasing opportunities for verification activities, if such activities take place in the political context and geographical contiguity to the crisis, expanding the range of military activities subject to notification, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening the risk reduction mechanisms, considering possibilities to enlarge the scope of CSBMs.

We deem it necessary to discuss possible addition of new provisions to Chapter V and VI of the VD which require special notifications and invitations to multinational observations once additional substantial armed units are to be stationed in areas within a certain geographical distance from international borders.

Ukraine welcomes initiatives of the OSCE participating States aimed at reinvigorating the dialogue on Chapter III VD Risk reduction mechanism and consider it timely and very important. We underline our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the VD on CSBMs as well as other OSCE instruments, aiming at enhancing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

We highly value the OSCE efforts aimed at supporting Ukraine in de-escalation and stabilization of situation on the ground, in particular through the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. Ukraine has consistently implemented in good faith the provisions of the Minsk agreements. For these agreements to work it remains imperative that the undertaken commitments be fully implemented by all parties, including the Russian Federation.

The magnitude of the current crisis in and around Ukraine is determined by the fact that Russia re-emerged as a threat to its neighbours. Under these circumstances it is up to Russia to restore in deeds its respect to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to contribute to promoting CAC, CSBM's, military transparency and predictability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.