



**Delegation of Ukraine
to the OSCE**

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Statement
in response to the address by the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE,
President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Swiss Federal
Department of Foreign Affairs

As for delivery by Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk
to the 980th meeting of the Permanent Council,
16 January 2014

Dear Mr. Chair,

The Delegation of Ukraine congratulates President of the Swiss Confederation and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs H.E. Didier Burkhalter on the assumption of the functions of the Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE and joins other delegations in warmly welcoming the Chairperson to the Permanent Council in this new capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your words of appreciation of the work done by my country as the OSCE Chairmanship in 2013. Last year proved to be fruitful for the OSCE as 57 participating States succeeded in reaching agreement in a number of important areas across all three OSCE dimensions, thus strengthening mutual understanding and our capacity to bring the OSCE closer to the vision of a security community.

We share the Swiss approach aimed at developing the security community for the benefit of everyone living in the OSCE region. Ukraine welcomes the Swiss Chairmanship's priorities as they appear to be balanced and focused on issues pertinent to the security of the entire OSCE region.

The delegation of Ukraine notes with satisfaction that the priorities of the Chairmanship also provide consistency and continuity with the work done by previous Chairmanships.

We welcome the intention of the Chairmanship to vigorously pursue the **Helsinki +40 process** on the basis of the Dublin MC Decision and the Kyiv Ministerial Declaration. By the end of 2014 participating States should reach agreement on identifying final outcomes and concrete deliverables of the process in 2015 thus ensuring its result-oriented nature.

We welcome the Chairmanship's intention to address **protracted conflicts** as a matter of priority, and commend the arrangement to appoint Special representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office for the Transdniestrian conflict and for the conflicts in the South Caucasus for the two-year period.

As a permanent member of the 5+2 negotiations format, Ukraine looks forward to working together with the Chairmanship-in-Office on promoting progress in the Transdniestrian settlement. It is encouraging in this regard that the participating States reconfirmed in Kyiv their strong determination to achieve a comprehensive, just and viable resolution of the Transdniestrian conflict.

We are convinced that the Geneva International Discussions remain an indispensable platform to address issues of enhancing security and stability in the areas affected by the conflict in Georgia. We will also continue to follow closely the work of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Chairmanship-in-Office in advancing negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh.

We support plans to continue the updating and modernizing of the **Vienna Document** to enhance military stability, predictability and transparency in Europe. The VD Plus Process cannot be successful without having a vision of the future of the **conventional arms control**. Therefore, the Chairmanship's intention to take forward this meaningful dialogue, which was initiated in 2013, has our full backing.

Views, expressed during last year's discussion on the role conventional arms control and CSBMs can play in the contemporary and future European security architecture were collected in the compendium of proposals and distributed at the request of the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship during the Kyiv Ministerial Council. We hope that this document will serve as a good reference for further discussions on conventional arms control and ensure their relevance and continuity.

We welcome the Chairmanship's determination to continue strengthening coordination and coherence of OSCE's action on **countering transnational threats**. We deem it important to operationalize the recently adopted PC decision on the initial set of CBMs in the area of cyber/ICT security.

In the **Economic and Environmental Dimension** we support the focus of the Chair on environmental challenges in promoting security cooperation. We believe that priorities identified by the Chairmanship as well as relevant activities over the year will strengthen effectiveness of the Second Dimension and allow to sharpen our focus on subjects that are of particular common interest and where the OSCE can provide added value.

Ukraine welcomes the intention of the Chairmanship to engage on a wide range of **Human Dimension** issues with a particular emphasis on strengthening implementation of the relevant commitments and their further updating.

We are confident that the adoption of the decisions in the Human Dimension by the Ministerial Council in Kyiv has made a tangible contribution to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Third Dimension.

Ukraine fully supports the Swiss Chairmanship's plans to keep the issue of combating trafficking in human beings on the Organization's agenda and to further strengthen policies to fight this heinous crime. In this regard we would like to underline the particular importance of ensuring implementation of the "Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later" adopted last December at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Kyiv.

Recalling the last year's OSCE Youth Summit in Crimea, we welcome the Chairmanship's initiative to continue OSCE's engagement with youth by organizing the Model OSCE program that started yesterday.

In close co-operation with the Swiss Chairmanship, Ukraine as a Chair of the **OSCE Asian Contact Group**, will further explore ways for enhancing a mutually beneficial co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian partners. We will promote an open and constructive dialogue with the OSCE Asian Partners.

We highly appreciate the constant support of Switzerland to the Ukrainian Chairmanship last year within the OSCE Troika. Please be assured, Mr. Chairman, that Ukraine as a current Troika member stands ready to provide necessary support and contribute to the activities of Switzerland at the helm of the OSCE.

I would like to wish the Chairman-in-Office every success in leading and directing our Organization throughout the year. We also extend these wishes to the Swiss delegation here in Vienna, so ably led by our distinguished colleague and friend Ambassador Thomas Greminger.

Thank you, Mr. Chair