



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 785th FSC Plenary Meeting
(22 April 2015 at 11.00, Hofburg)
Agenda item 1**

Madam Chair,

Ukraine warmly welcomes Montenegro as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation and wishes it every success in guiding our work in the second trimester of 2015. We are grateful to H.E. Dr. Igor Luksic, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro for his opening statement outlining priorities and planned activities of the FSC Chairmanship.

We also warmly welcome and wish success to Norway as a new FSC Troika member and thank Monaco - the outgoing Troika member - for constructive cooperation with our delegation and its efforts and dedication over the past three trimesters.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Chairmanship of Mongolia for its determination to advance the Forum's work during the first trimester of 2015. In the course of the Mongolian Chairmanship the FSC was actively engaged in reviewing military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine. Our deliberations and evidence presented in this Forum have reaffirmed that the crisis stems from the Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine and flagrant violations by Russia of OSCE principles and commitments. We are grateful to the OSCE participating States for standing firm in upholding Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Madam Chair,

The ongoing crisis in and around Ukraine has strongly marked the FSC activities in the first trimester of 2015 and it still remains a challenge to be addressed in the Forum under the Chairmanship of Montenegro. In seeking progress we see an ongoing imperative of aiming at ensuring full implementation and strengthening of the OSCE

politico-military commitments with the overall objective of enhancing the Organization's capabilities. It is essential to move in practical terms towards updating and modernizing the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular the Vienna Document, in line with commitments undertaken by all participating States. With this goal in view we encourage all delegations to engage in constructive discussions aimed at enhancing the Vienna Document's capacity as a meaningful instrument of fostering military transparency, predictability and stability, including in crisis situations.

Madam Chair,

We have taken note and welcome Indicative Schedule for Plenary meetings under the Chairmanship of Montenegro in the second session of 2015 as reflected in the document FSC.INF/14/15/Corr.1 of 14 April 2015. The FSC Security dialogue planned for 6 May 2015 on the Conventional Arms Control and CSBMs is of particular interest to the Ukrainian delegation. The dialogue gains special significance for the OSCE community against the backdrop of dangerously growing military activities by one participating State, which undermine the foundation of confidence and security-building regime in the OSCE area. The recent **Russia's withdrawal from the CFE Treaty's** Joint Consultative Group on 11 March 2015 presents additional challenges **given its new practice of launching large-scale military exercises with little or no advance warning to the OSCE participating States.**

In terms of the planned activities we also attach great importance to the dialogues related to various aspects of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. We also deem as highly relevant the proposed Security dialogues' topics relating to various aspects of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, Regional Dynamics of Arms Trafficking through the Prism of Border Security and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

In conclusion let me assure you, Madam Chair, that Ukraine is ready to cooperate actively and constructively with the FSC Chairmanship, FSC Troika and Coordinators, delegations of the participating States with the view to achieving our common objectives.

Thank you, Madam Chair.