**Statement by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
H.E. Mr Volodymyr KHANDOGIY
at the OSCE Informal Ministerial Meeting**

**Second Session A "Restoring Trust and Confidence – Reassessment of
Threats and Challenges: How Best to Address Them through Existing
Mechanisms and Cooperation with Other International Players"**
(Corfu, 28 June 2009)

Thank you, Dora,

First of all let me associate myself with all those speakers who commended the efforts of the Greek Chairmanship that have already made this informal forum a success.

We would like to make a proper use of this opportunity and eventually turn this discussion into a meaningful process which would bring us closer to a safer Europe.

Ukraine appreciates recent intensification of the security dialogue triggered by the Russian proposals to update European security architecture.

We share one of the conclusions of Helsinki reiterated yesterday that the present European security system based on OSCE, NATO and EU reflects current realities and does not require a fundamental transformation. Probably this system does require partial reconstruction. And while we agree that it is not broken yet, nevertheless we still have to fix it or rather do some fixing. Because if we don't do it right away, later on it's going to be too late.

We also have to ensure a better implementation of the agreed principles, as well as an unconditional compliance with the agreed obligations legal and political alike.

This task is achievable under two conditions: presence of a strong political will and the availability of effective practical mechanisms.

Recent developments in the Euro-Atlantic area prove that we have problems with both. However, we do not need to start from the scratch.

The OSCE as the only pan-European and pan-Euro-Atlantic organization is the best platform to proceed. That is why Ukraine supports the idea of "Helsinki+» rather than "Helsinki-2".

Our first priority should be an unconditional respect for and compliance with the basic principles of European security which are the basis of existing security mechanisms.

The key principles are: sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-use of force or threat of use of force.

What we need now is to uphold those principles in a legally-binding instrument. Otherwise, the lack of political determination will undermine any future agreements.

Secondly, it is of fundamental importance to rebuild mutual trust and confidence. In order to ensure this, we need a strengthened security dialogue where the OSCE should play a central role. Any separate arrangements will not be a success story. This endeavour should internally open for all OSCE participating states and organizations.

Any sort of selectiveness will immediately raise suspicions about the real goal of this discussion. That is why suggestions to hold a meeting of the heads of some international organizations, namely OSCE, NATO, EU, CSTO and CIS "to review the strategies and to coordinate approaches to form a common security area" raises some questions, at least in Ukraine, which is apparently not a full-fledged member of four out of five of those organizations.

This is not in line with the principle of indivisibility of security. This principle should be based on ensuring the openness of the main European and Euro-Atlantic organizations and their cooperation with non-members.

The principle of non-strengthening one's security at the expense of others goes hand in hand with the sovereign right of each state to join security alliances. This is particularly important given the different military capabilities of various countries in the region.

And finally, we cannot leave it to ourselves discussing only hard security.

We share the view that due tones should be given to all existing dimensions of security.

Thank you.