



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to the presentations by the Chairpersons of the Security Committee,
the Economic and Environmental Committee, and the Human Dimension Committee**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1354th meeting of the Permanent Council,

10 February 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me start by thanking Ambassador Neil Bush and his able team for the skillful stewardship at the Security Committee for the last two years. We congratulate Ambassador of Canada Jocelyn Kinnear on assuming Chairpersonship of the Security Committee and wish her all the best in steering important discussions within the Committee.

We also congratulate with the reappointment the Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee Ambassador Florian Raunig and Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen.

Dear ambassadors, please rely on Ukraine's support and active involvement in the committees' work throughout the year.

Dear Ambassador Kinnear,

We find the Security Committee work program to be quite balanced, and commend the Committee Chair's efforts to accommodate the interests of different participating States in this document.

We fully support the Polish Chairpersonship's focus on the issue of cyber security and are interested in fruitful discussions and topical presentations within the Committee in this regard, especially in the context of protection of critical infrastructure.

We welcome the reflection of the topic of border security and management in the working program. It has been quite a long period of time already since the evolving security developments in the area of our Organization's responsibility should have motivated all of us to pay more attention to this issue. It is obvious that the OSCE faces unprecedented disrespect by some participating States with regard to the relevant commitments enshrined in the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept. Therefore, we should not hide from the "uncomfortable" for some participating States discussions and pay due attention to this problem.

We would also suggest paying specific attention of the First Committee to such issues as countering illegal migration and dissemination of disinformation, as they represent clear security threats in our region.

Dear Ambassador Raunig,

Your leadership played an important role in achieving consensus on the Ministerial Council decision regarding climate change, and we are sure that your contribution to the Second Dimension this year will be fruitful as well.

Ukraine strongly supports the Polish Chairmanship and the EEC Chair in their intention to elaborate on a range of important topics in the Second Dimension, including by paying due attention to the economic and environmental challenges that impede our common security and stability.

As this year the 30th Economic and Environmental Forum is dedicated to the post-pandemic recovery and the Implementation Meeting – to the women's economic empowerment, we strongly encourage that the Second Committee would pay additional attention to the environmental issues.

The environmental protection should remain in the focus of our Committee's work as it represents an unalienable part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security. We believe that there is no need to avoid a word "security" when it comes to the Second dimension, and in particular, to the environmental protection.

The OSCE region, which suffers from the ongoing and protracted conflicts, needs to explore its available mechanisms how to deal with their environmental implications and long-lasting negative impact.

We see as main priority here to launch activities that would help overcoming the environmental consequences of conflicts by applying the available OSCE tools, which may include environmental monitoring and assistance aimed at rehabilitation of affected ecosystems.

Dear Ambassador Karlsen,

Our Organization places respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the core of its comprehensive approach to security. We welcome the Polish Chairmanship intention to devote priority attention to the implementation of the Human Dimension commitments, as well as to the human-centred approach and protection of the most vulnerable.

Indeed, ensuring democratic security in Europe requires an adequate and effective response to the violations of international human rights obligations and OSCE commitments. We therefore underline the importance of providing every support to the OSCE Institutions in monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in the occupied territories.

The Human Dimension Committee work plan incorporates a number of central issues. In the same time, some important topics, enshrined in the OSCE commitments, remain unaddressed. For instance, my delegation sees a merit in discussing such issues as international humanitarian law, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, and treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.

In view of the upcoming Third Dimension events, conferences and informal meetings in 2022 we encourage the Polish Chairmanship and the Chair of the Human Dimension Committee to place high on the agenda such issues, in particular, as: ensuring respect for the human rights law and international humanitarian law and protecting people living in the occupied territories and conflict zones; addressing the issue of political prisoners in the OSCE region; prohibition of militarization of school education and combat training of children; ensuring freedom from state propaganda and disinformation; preventing and combating torture and enforced disappearances.

In conclusion, let me wish the Chairs of the three committees every success in their challenging endeavours in 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.