



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 842<sup>nd</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(25 January 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 1)

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me also make some remarks in our national capacity. The Delegation of Ukraine joins other delegations in warmly welcoming today's speakers, and thanks them for their valuable contribution to the FSC discussion on the item "Challenges and Expectations: South East European Security".

Since the Black Sea subregion is closely related to a South-East European region, especially in political and security terms, we consider it necessary in this context to have a look at the current situation in the Black Sea subregion. The illegal occupation and attempted annexation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city Sevastopol in 2014, which, according to the international norms and principles as well as common international understanding, remain an integral part of Ukraine, constitute flagrant violation of the basic norms and principles of international law, as well as provisions of the Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea.

During the well-known hostile actions against Ukraine, the Russia's Navy and Special Forces have seized Ukraine's warships and vessels, a substantial number of other weapons and military equipment, which have not been returned to Ukraine, occupied Ukrainian naval bases, other sites and infrastructure of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of the Crimea and Sevastopol has not just violated Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also undermined all European security and continues to imperil the regional and international global peace and stability. Due to the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation, the security situation in the Black Sea region has significantly deteriorated. Russia continues to actively militarise Crimea and the Black Sea.

We consider it extremely important and relevant to draw attention of the FSC to a very dynamic and threatening process of militarization by Russia the temporary occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The Kremlin continues to build up its military presence in Crimea. Along with modernization and replacement of military equipment,

the active measures of operational combat training provide the growing of active involvement of the military infrastructure. In particular, in August 2016 Russia deployed a new anti-aircraft missile system S-400 "Triumph" in Feodosiya. Russia's military presence in the peninsula doubled over the last year. In particular it involves preparation of facilities for deployment of nuclear weapons in the occupied Crimea.

The complex security situation that has developed in and around Ukraine compels the participating States of the Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea to reconsider their relations with the aggressor state, including multilateral cooperation in formats that involve participation of Russia. In this regard, we would like to inform the OSCE participating States that the Document named «Safety and security of navigation in the North-Eastern part of the Black Sea» was submitted by Georgia and Ukraine and considered at the 97<sup>th</sup> session of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), held on 21-25 November 2016. With this Document Ukraine and Georgia informed the IMO Member States by circular letters and during sessions that due to continued illegal actions of Russia, the Ukrainian and Georgian authorities are unable to exercise their coastal state rights and to carry out their international obligations regarding provision of safety and security of navigation in the North-Eastern part of the Black Sea. As a result, the safety and security of navigation in the area have been severely compromised. The North-Eastern part of the Black Sea has turned into a «grey area» for international shipping.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

Regrettably, we have to acknowledge that mechanisms of cooperation and confidence-building in the naval field in the Black Sea provided in the Document on Naval CSBMs have proved its ineffectiveness and have not helped to prevent and to resolve the described grave development in the region.

The Ukrainian side once again calls on the Russian Federation to fully abide by its international obligations, to stop its aggression against Ukraine and to reverse the illegal occupation and attempted annexed of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as to return captured Ukrainian armaments, military equipment, vessels and infrastructure.

In conclusion, I would like to convey sincere gratitude to all our OSCE partners who support Ukraine in this very difficult for my country time and to reiterate ones again our call on Russia to renew full and good-faith implementation of its international legal obligations and political commitments, in particular, execution in a good faith of the OSCE norms and principles.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**