



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to 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 1402nd meeting of the Permanent Council,

15 December 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine wishes to thank Ambassador of Canada Jocelyn Kinnear, Ambassador of Austria Florian Raunig and Ambassador of Norway Anne-Kirsti Karlsen for their dedicated work as chairpersons of the security, economic and environmental, and human dimension committees respectively.

Dear ambassadors, please accept the words of our sincere gratitude for the activities your committees conducted in 2022 in face of the greatest threats in the OSCE region after the World War II, stemming from russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

We appreciate your tireless efforts in duly steering the work of the committees throughout this difficult year, including the thematic focus of the meetings and the decision not to table the draft MC texts in order to avoid the illusion of building confidence and trust, when there is clearly no prospects for such, because of actions of one OSCE participating State.

Distinguished colleagues,

russia's war of choice further provokes turbulence, instability, and enormous security challenges in all three OSCE dimensions. Consequently, the protection of the OSCE basics must remain at the heart of the committees' efforts in 2023.

We encourage the Permanent Council's committees to further pursue their important activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions of security.

In the first dimension, we would welcome close attention to the critical infrastructure protection, demining, post conflict rehabilitation and other processes which are so important, especially in the territories that were liberated from the russian invaders. It is also important to focus on the issues of cyber and border security, as well as addressing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict.

As we all know, the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe and NATO, the EU Parliament and other international actors declared the current russian regime as a terrorist one. Accordingly, the threats posed by the criminal actions of the terrorist state, which is still a member of the OSCE, deserve priority attention of the First Committee.

In the economic and environmental dimension, such issues as energy security and environmental protection have acquired a new concrete meaning in terms of our common security. Thousands of missiles launched by Russia have polluted the soil, water and air and led to environmental degradation. Weaponizing of supplies of energy resources emphasizes the urgency of improving the resilience of our economies. At the same time, Russia's seizure of the ZNPP and impediments undermining the global food security clearly demonstrate how Russia's threat goes beyond the OSCE area. This underlines our responsibility before our partners in other regions to cope effectively with this spill-over.

In the human dimension, as a matter of priority, we view the promotion of the OSCE activities which will contribute to prevent impunity, ensure justice and hold to account all masterminds and perpetrators of Russia's crimes in Ukraine.

The terror against the civilian population, summary executions, mass atrocities, cases of torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence, abductions, enforced disappearances, political prisoners, filtration camps, forcible deportation of Ukrainian citizens, including many children, to Russia, violent Russification of invaded territories and attempts to erase Ukrainian culture and identity - all crimes testify to the premeditated actions of the aggressor State aimed at the genocidal extermination of Ukrainians.

We underline the need to prioritize the monitoring and documentation of Russia's gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including in Crimea and other temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Dear colleagues,

The main focus in 2023 should be on how to stop the aggressor and how to prevent such brutal violations of our shared principles and values in the future.

Russia ruined transparency, predictability and stability in the OSCE and challenged the foundations of the European security order. This should be the bottom line for our understanding of how to address the three dimensions of the OSCE's comprehensive security concept.

We can no longer pretend that the existing OSCE instruments are operational. Instead, we have to find innovative and efficient solutions in face of the unprecedented challenges of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

It will require hard work, leadership and determination to defend the principles and values on which the OSCE is based.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.