



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 807-th FSC Plenary Meeting on the results
of the Thirteenth Annual Consultations on the Review of Implementation
of the Document on CSBMs in the Naval Field in the Black Sea
(16 December 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg, agenda item 4)**

ENGLISH only

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, we would like to thank the Delegation of Romania for sharing in today's FSC meeting its summary on the Thirteenth Annual Consultations on the Review of Implementation of the Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea that were held on 11 December 2015 in Vienna.

By adopting the Document in Kyiv on 25 April 2002, all six Black Sea Coastal States reaffirmed their determination to strictly abide in their relations by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter regarding, inter alia, the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of State borders. According to paragraph 11 of its preamble, the Document «is politically binding, and can be further enriched with measures aimed at contributing to enhancing regional security and stability and fostering good neighborhood relations and co-operation».

We deem as particularly important the presence in the Document of reiteration by all participating States of their commitment to fully implement the Document in good faith thus contributing to mutual confidence and cooperation in order to strengthen security and stability in the Black Sea region.

Distinguished colleagues,

Illegal occupation and annexation by the Russian Federation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol constitute a flagrant violation of the basic norms and principles of international law, as well as of the provisions of the Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea. When committing an armed intervention against Ukraine in February-March 2014, the Russian Navy and Special Forces have prevented Ukraine's warships and vessels from exiting into the sea, they seized the vessels and a substantial number of other weapons and military equipment, occupied naval bases and other sites of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Regrettably, the mechanisms of cooperation and confidence-building in the naval field in the Black Sea have proved its ineffective in the joint attempts as it had not prevented Russia's flagrant violations of the Document on Naval CSBMs. This leads to conclude that the Document must be adapted to new realities in light of the deteriorated security situation in the Black Sea region stemming from Russia's unlawful actions in Crimea and its ongoing aggression in Donbas. We urge the Russian Federation to fully abide by its international obligations, to stop its aggression against my country, to reverse the illegal occupation of Ukraine's territories, and to return to full and faithful implementation of the Document on the naval CSBMs.

Before concluding, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Participating States of the Document who expressed their unwavering support to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders as well as to our position at the consultations. For its part, Ukraine reaffirms its adherence to the CSBMs in the naval field in the Black Sea and will continue to fulfill obligations under the Document within its current capabilities and available resources.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.