



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
AT THE 1024<sup>th</sup> FSC PLENARY MEETING  
(28 September 2022)**

**Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue: Explosive Hazards in the OSCE Region – the  
Iron Harvest**

Mr Chairperson,

First of all, let me express our gratitude to the Belgian FSC Chairpersonship for organising the Security Dialogue on the topic of explosive remnants of war. The OSCE has always provided a useful platform to support the participating States in addressing issues of explosive remnants of war, land mines and improvised explosive devices and we appreciate that today's meeting of the FSC is dedicated to this topic.

We are also grateful to all our keynote speakers for their valuable contributions to the discussion, and we are honoured to welcome Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Ms Meri Akopyan to the Forum. We deem it of great importance that against the backdrop of the ongoing war of aggression waged by the Russian Federation against Ukraine the participating States can be first-hand informed of the current situation on the ground in Ukraine.

Since the very beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2014, the issue of explosive remnants of war has been among the most important aspects of the war because of its significant impact on lives of civilians.

The ongoing war waged by Russia has resulted in turning Ukraine into one of the most heavily mine-affected countries in the world. Only according to preliminary estimates, the territory of Ukraine that is now considered contaminated is about 180,000 square km which constitutes 30% of the entire territory of our country.

As it was rightly mentioned in the concept note for today's Security Dialogue, pollution of areas by explosive remnants of war always has a long-term effect. Even decades after the end of the two world wars, unexploded remnants continue to pose a threat in many places in Europe. Taking into account the development of weapons and military equipment since the last world war, the consequences of the Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine might be even worse.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war constitute not only a substantial threat to the civilian population but also prevent the restoration of everyday life in the affected areas. It is clear that the mine action activity is not only about removing and deactivating mines and unexploded remnants of war but also about economic and community restoration.

Comprehensive demining of the entire territory of Ukraine would be possible only after the end of this war. The sad experience of other countries multiplied by the large areas of conflict-affected territories in Ukraine tells us that this will be definitely a long process.

Nevertheless, already today there is a lot of work to be done. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine in close cooperation with the Armed Forces and National Police continue to make every effort to release the entire territory of Ukraine from explosive hazards and landmines to save human lives. We also pay special attention to educating the civilian population about the risks related to mines and explosive remnants of war.

At the same time, to respond efficiently and coherently to the new challenges, the Ukrainian agencies involved in the mine action activities, need more international assistance. Ukraine has very concrete project needs to tackle devastating consequences of the Russian war, including with regard to strengthening the capacity of relevant state agencies in the sphere of mine action and humanitarian demining.

We are grateful to all participating States who have provided their assistance to Ukraine, including by funding the respective OSCE assistance projects, and will welcome the continuation of their support.

Ukraine is looking forward to further fruitful cooperation with the OSCE, in particular within the recently updated framework of the project activities, as well as with our international partners for the sake of the safety and security of people.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I ask that this statement be attached to the Journal of the Day.