



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

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 812<sup>th</sup> Special Plenary Meeting of the FSC**

(23 February 2016 at 11.00, Hofburg)

**Madam Chairperson,**

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 warmly welcomes today's speaker, H.E. Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli, Minister of Defence of Georgia and thanks her for the comprehensive presentation on various aspects of military and political cooperation.

Ukraine and Georgia enjoy long-established close relationship of friendship, mutual respect and fruitful cooperation between our peoples. The feelings of mutual sincere sympathy and solidarity and readiness to provide the necessary assistance in difficult times are deeply rooted in our two nations. We highly value this relationship.

Today, in the difficult period of history of our countries, when we confront continuous aggression and partial occupation of our territories by the aggressive and unpredictable neighbour - the Russian Federation, our bilateral bonds gain even more significance.

Ukraine has always strongly supported full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, as well as the exclusive right of its people to choose the path of its future development.

We attach particular importance to the recognition by all OSCE participating states, including in the Helsinki Final Act, of the freedom of countries to choose their security arrangements, including treaties of alliance as they evolve.

We follow with great attention and support Georgia's efforts aimed at the European and Euro-Atlantic integration, intensification of cooperation with the EU and NATO, as the most reliable and effective

system of collective security. The recent manifestation of existing security threats decisively proves that countries will not be in a position to duly discourage the aggressor from its aggressive actions unless they have support and solidarity of partners.

In terms of conflict resolution we deem it particularly important that the relevant international organizations are able to use their mandate to the full to facilitate settlement of the conflicts based on the fundamental norms and principles of international law. We support strengthening of the role of the OSCE in assisting restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity, including through deployment of the OSCE mission, which would operate on the entire territory of Georgia.

In conclusion, I would like to express once again our unwavering support for the friendly state of Georgia as it advances on its path of freedom and democracy, and wish peace and prosperity to the people of Georgia. I wish to our dear guest, Minister Tinatin Khidasheli, success in her important public activities and all her endeavours.

**Thank you, Madam Chairperson.**