



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

**Statement in response to the Chairpersons of the Security Committee,  
the Economic and Environmental Committee,  
and the Human Dimension Committee**

As delivered by the delegation of Ukraine  
to the 1296<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council  
17 December 2020

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We express gratitude to our distinguished colleagues, Chairperson of the Security Committee Ambassador Neil Bush, Chairperson of the Economic and Environmental Committee Ambassador Florian Raunig, and Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee Ambassador Ivo Sramek for their presentations.

The delegation of Ukraine appreciates your tireless efforts in duly steering the work of the committees throughout this difficult year, which added several new and unprecedented challenges to the already existing and critical ones.

In the first dimension, we welcome the adoption of the Ministerial Council Declaration “On strengthening co-operation in countering transnational organized crime”. This document has become the first MC deliverable in the Security Committee since 2016. Having in mind the spirit of consensus, mutual constructive engagement and approach demonstrated by many delegations, we believe that the progress on other issues related to the first dimension could be further reached in the future.

For Ukraine, the topic of border security remains highly relevant, as the neighboring country keeps sending illegal supplies of weapons, ammunition and military manpower to the occupied parts of Donbas through the uncontrolled segment of the Ukrainian-Russian state border. Given the extensive expertise of our Organization on border security and management, as well as the close link between the border security and the problems of terrorism and organized crime activities in the conflict zones, we believe that it can bring real added value to the work of the First Committee and, thus, must be placed high on its agenda.

Turning to the economic and environmental dimension, we wish to express our satisfaction with the consensus achieved on the Ministerial Council Decision “On preventing and combating corruption through digitalization and increased transparency”. We find it important that the OSCE is able to go hand in hand with the challenges of the time and address the problem of corruption under the new perspective of digitalization, transparency and innovative technologies.

By contrast, we deplore the failure to adopt the Ministerial Council Decision “On protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources”. We believe there is a space for strengthening the OSCE’s work on environmental issues. Appropriate attention must be dedicated to our Organization’s engagement to protect environment in the context of the ongoing armed conflicts

in the OSCE area. The OSCE should have, in line with its comprehensive security concept, the effective mechanisms to monitor and protect the environment under challenging circumstances, including by preventing and addressing the negative implications of armed conflicts. We believe that transparency, inclusiveness and genuine efforts to accommodate the concerns of all participating States, including during the drafting process, are essential for our fruitful cooperation in the Second Committee.

In the third dimension, the Ministerial Council Decision “On prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment” is an important step forward and a timely contribution to strengthening the OSCE commitments on human rights and fundamental freedoms. For my country, this MC decision is of particular significance as Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine continue to face this heinous crime. Therefore, we find it essential that the anti-torture decision dedicated necessary attention to the applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, including the role of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and the cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, underlining the need for the OSCE to address torture and ill-treatment in the situations of occupation and international armed conflicts. As the most serious violations of human dignity, human rights, fundamental freedoms and cases of persecution and discrimination continue to take place in the situations of occupation, we strongly encourage the Third Committee to prioritize its future work on this track.

Let me conclude by encouraging 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.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**