



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

Statement

As for delivery by H.E. Emine Dzhaparova, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, to the reinforced meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE,
26 September 2023

Mister Chairperson, Excellencies,

We are grateful to OSCE Chair Minister Bujar Osmani and his able team for their dedication to addressing the russia's war of aggression against Ukraine within the OSCE.

In particular, we highly appreciate the OSCE Chairpersonship for the firm position on defending the OSCE principles against russia's ruthless attacks.

What unites all delegations, but one, is our genuine interest in having an efficient and functioning OSCE.

What the russian delegation wants is to paralyze and inactivate the OSCE through procedures while attacking the foundation of peace in Europe.

Keeping in mind continued russia's crimes in Ukraine, I believe, that all our further efforts should be guided by at least a few points.

What future can we build with envoys whose president is under an ICC arrest warrant for robbing the Ukrainian future – our children?

What decision can be negotiated with the russian diplomats whose main instruction is to whitewash war criminals?

What security do we want to leave for future generations, if the aggressor state, who conducts a genocidal war against another OSCE participating State and is solely responsible for the OSCE existential crisis, is, anyway, expected to have a say in this very Organization?

What message are we going to send to the rest of the world, particularly to would-be aggressors?

And what impact our actions would have on people on the ground, especially on the victims expecting justice to be delivered?

Dear colleagues,

Thousands of killed, millions of displaced and many more of broken dreams speak volumes that all attempts to talk with russia, engage moscow and understand it were taken by the kremlin as weaknesses and a green light for new aggressive steps.

When we appeal to norms, principles and the rule of law, russia relies on ultimatums, blackmailing and the use of force.

And as we have learned from the ongoing war, Ukrainian experience clearly shows that russia backs down only when we talk from the position of strength not appeasement.

As Minister Kuleba rightly stated at the Ministerial in Lodz, and I quote – “OSCE has to learn to live without russia or OSCE will die together with russia”.

Killing civilians, shelling of critical infrastructure, terrorizing Ukrainians with missiles and drones, taking civilian hostages, erasing the identity of Ukrainians as well as of Crimean Tatars, deportation of children, illegal detention of three OSCE officials by russia are among the issues the OSCE has to keep a reinforced focus on.

On the other hand we cannot ignore russia’s efforts to absolutely discredit democracy and essence of basic democratic maxims of election through conducting illegitimate elections in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by force of arms.

Since our Organization is the world’s largest regional security organization with mandate to work for stability, peace and democracy I believe the implementation of President Zelenskyy’s Peace Formula is yet another area where the OSCE has to play an important role.

Over the last year the Formula has become the basis to update the existing security architecture and guarantee the full power of the rules-based world order. Its points offer solutions that will stop all forms of weaponization, which russia used against Ukraine and other countries and may be used by other aggressors.

Excellencies,

russia alone has brought the OSCE to the crossroad. moscow continues to undermine the OSCE activities by paying not a penny and blocking the budget on political grounds.

At the same time, the current OSCE leadership has the full support of participating States to lead our Organization through these dark times.

Likewise, Estonia has all the needed qualifications to be at the helm of the OSCE in 2024.

That’s why, all our endeavours to reach an agreement on these issues should be done in a principled and dedicated manner within a limited timeframe.

The OSCE future and its leadership could not depend on the aggressor’s will but on our readiness to finally end the abuse of a consensus rule by the aggressor.

We can and have to act decisively to ensure that an upcoming OSCE Ministerial in Skopje is not trapped by the aggressor’s tricks.

This meeting should not be misused for threats, as it was done by the russian minister in Stockholm, but should be an opportunity for us to translate a political commitment to international rules-based order into concrete actions.

In conclusion, I would like to reassure Minister Osmani and the OSCE Chairpersonship of North Macedonia of Ukraine’s full support for all your efforts in restoring respect for the OSCE principles and commitments.

Because, in Ukraine, we know too well what a price is paid for the Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE to be still relevant for the people on the ground.

Personally I, as a Crimean Tatar who was forced by russia to leave my native home in Crimea almost ten years ago, can tell you frankly that people expect from us not the adaptation to existing aggressive reality, russia wants us to live in, but a fight for the principles without any compromises. Fight for the secured world, where aggressors like russia would be brought to accountability.

For them, it is a matter of life and death.

And for the OSCE, it is a matter of credibility.

The responsibility is on us.

I thank you.