



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

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE  
AT THE 998<sup>th</sup> FSC PLENARY MEETING  
(26 January 2022)**

**Agenda item 2, General Statements, on the subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”**

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea.

Despite the persistent joint efforts and constant calls by international community, the security situation along the state border between Ukraine and Russia remains tense since the Russian Federation continues its unprovoked military build-up, combined with categorical demands addressed to Ukraine and Western countries. We should not forget as well that Russian troops are already deployed, illegally, on the territory of Ukraine, in the occupied parts of Crimea and Donbas, posing serious military threat.

Today about 122,000 troops are amassed in the occupied Crimea and around Ukraine’s border at a distance of 200 km, while at a distance of 400 km the number of forces reaches more than 143,000 troops. The deployment is accompanied by numerous military exercises. These manoeuvres include the use of artillery, anti-tank weapons, reconnaissance and engineering units. In total, last year the Russian Federation conducted more than 2,500 military exercises near the border with Ukraine, strengthening the readiness of its forces to be involved in a new military operation against Ukraine. We condemn in strongest terms these actions as well as Russian refusal to explain its military movements. Ukraine reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to take all appropriate measures to de-escalate existing tensions.

It is a matter of our particular concern that the Russian Federation uses the territory of the neighbouring states to increase its pressure on Ukraine. In this connection, we would welcome voluntary briefings within the FSC with regard to the Allied Resolve 2022 Exercise as well as other large-scale exercises or massive movements of troops in the vicinity of the Ukrainian state border, including with the participation of the armed forces of third countries.

We are certain that such briefings will contribute substantially to dispelling concerns over the unusual military activity, help rebuild transparency, predictability and confidence and ensure politico-military stability in the OSCE region.

Mr Chairperson,

The situation in the conflict zone in Donbas continues to be marked by regular shelling and armed provocations by the Russian occupation forces. In total, from 27 July 2021 until 24 January 2022, the Russian side violated the ceasefire regime 3,074 times, including 834 times using weapons prohibited by the Minsk Agreements.

In violation of the Minsk Agreements, the occupation troops continue to use UAVs in the conflict zone. Since the beginning of the recent attempt to introduce full and comprehensive ceasefire, we have already registered 173 of such cases. In January, the occupation forces used UAVs three times. The most recent case occurred yesterday, on 25 January, in Donetsk region, when the occupation forces used a UAV to drop 2 VOG-17 grenades on the Ukrainian Army positions. As result, 2 Ukrainian soldiers were wounded.

As a result of Russian occupation forces activities, in the period from 27 July 2021 until 24 January 2022, 74 Ukrainian soldiers were killed in action and 303 were wounded.

Despite all agreements reached within the N4 and the TCG, the Russian Federation continues to reinforce its 1st and 2nd Army Corps, deployed in Donetsk and Luhansk regions respectively, with new troops, weapons, ammunition and other military equipment, illegally transferring them through the temporarily uncontrolled by the Government of Ukraine section of the state border.

On 10 January 2022, 10 tank wagons with fuel were delivered from the Russian Federation to the Luhansk region though the Chervona Mohyla railway station. On 11 January 2022, 4 trucks with trailers loaded with PMN-2 and POM-2 landmines were observed crossing the state border of Ukraine trough Diakove checkpoint in the direction of Luhansk. In total, since the beginning of January 2022, the Russian side has sent to the occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions more than 7,000 tons of fuel, a number of tanks, self-propelled artillery systems and additional ammunition for artillery and mortars. The Russian Federation continues to engage new people into the military service in the occupied territories of Donbas by using the network of ~~its~~ recruitment offices.

Despite all calls on the Russian Federation as an occupying power, the situation with regard to the freedom of movement of the OSCE SMM in Donbas continues to be alarming, as is reflected in Mission's numerous reports. In fact, every single report of the OSCE SMM issued last week contains information on the restrictions by the occupation forces. It is clear, that being not interested in comprehensive and unbiased monitoring on the border and areas adjacent to it, Russia is trying to push the SMM out of the occupied territories. It is important for the

participating States to stay united in preventing this potential development from being translated into reality by Russia.

Against this backdrop, we are particularly concerned with the increased aggressive rhetoric of the Russian occupation administration. The narratives on Ukraine spread by the Russian side, in particular within the OSCE, indicate that the Russian leadership has not yet taken a decision to end the conflict with Ukraine it initiated 8 years ago.

We regret that Russian side continues to deny its real role as a party to the conflict and avoid constructive engagement in negotiations on the peaceful settlement. Last week, at the FSC meeting, the Russian Delegation once again demonstrated its very strange way to interpret the Minsk Agreements by proclaiming itself as the so-called “guarantor of the Minsk Agreements”. Although this passage was later not included in the written version of the Statement, we are still wondering which part of the Minsk Agreements exactly imposes the responsibility of a “guarantor” on the Russian Federation. Such false and misleading statements of the Russian side are nothing but an attempt to avoid responsibility. In this regard, we would like to remind that the Minsk Agreements were signed by Ukraine and Russia as parties to the conflict and the OSCE as a mediator.

Mr Chairperson,

International law clearly stipulates that the States should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. The Russian Federation is not an exception and it should act accordingly.

Recent developments have clearly demonstrated that it is virtually impossible to build confidence and security without respecting international law and agreements. Russia’s unwillingness to de-escalate existing tensions clearly demonstrates that it is ready to use its troops and equipment amassed along the Ukrainian border and in the occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas, and that the Russian leadership is considering various possibilities, including a potential full-scale military invasion into Ukraine.

We are grateful to all our international partners for their support and practical assistance aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s defence capabilities. Our unity and solidarity remain key to resilience of the entire Europe that is facing one of the biggest security crises today.

In conclusion, we reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to de-escalate current security situation, end its aggression against Ukraine, de-occupy the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, stop the ongoing militarisation of the Azov-Black Sea region and restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Russia must fully implement its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including the withdrawal of its armed forces, mercenaries, armed formations and weapons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson!