



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 843rd Special FSC Plenary Meeting**

(1 February 2017 at 09.30, Hofburg)

Working session II: Considering how to improve the effectiveness of the VD

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes today's speakers and thanks them for their highly professional, valuable and thought provoking contributions to our discussion on the Vienna Document (VD) on Confidence and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). Let me offer you some of our thoughts and observations on this important topic based on our experience in connection with the security situation in and around Ukraine.

The Vienna Document remains one of the most important tools in the OSCE political-military toolkit, while CSBMs is a major instrument for ensuring military stability, transparency and predictability. A proper and effective functioning of this instrument is in the interest of all OSCE participating States. Therefore revitalizing CSBMs is to play a key role in strengthening European security and stability.

The current security landscape in the OSCE region has undergone drastic changes as the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments have been undermined and put into question by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine has been attacked by a state that earlier committed itself to guarantee its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity under the 1994 Budapest «Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons». These aggressive actions have been decisively rejected by the international community, including through adoption of the UN GA Resolutions "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" of 27 March 2014 and «Situation with human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and in the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)» of 19 December 2016.

Over the last three years, to dispel security concerns over the unusual military activity of the Russian Federation, Ukraine sought to make full use of existing mechanisms of the OSCE politico-military toolbox, in particular, those instruments, envisaged in the VD. The CSBMs have been used in Ukraine widely and extensively. In particular it refers to the voluntary visits to dispel concerns and above-quota inspections that Ukraine has hosted on her territory throughout the crisis.

Unfortunately, we have not seen such a determination on the part of the Russian federation. In contrast, Russia has refused to provide substantive answers to requests for clarification under the VD's Risk Reduction provisions and has evaded from demonstration of transparency in the build-up of Russian forces on the Ukraine's border. At the same time, we witnessed the Russian military occupation in Crimea, amassing of the Russian troops along the border with Ukraine, flows of Russian weapons, ammunition and mercenaries to reinforce the combined Russian-separatist forces in eastern Ukraine and, eventually, direct military aggression and incursion on the Ukraine's territory in Donbas.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

Russia's aggression against Ukraine and efforts to use the VD provisions to resolve or at least to alleviate consequences of the aggression has not given desired results. The efficiency of the VD in this case appears to be very low. Based on the experiences of the past years it is our strong belief that in order to increase the effectiveness of the VD in crisis situations provisions of Chapter III «Risk Redaction» should be analysed and adapted to present politico-military realities. Discussions in the framework of paragraph 16 and 17 of the Chapter III, aiming at reducing risk, decrease odds of miscalculation and diminish actions that could give rise to tension. We share assessments of leading experts in this area that the security situation in and around Ukraine has put on the agenda a number of urgent tasks before all of us such as lowering the thresholds for notification of certain military activities (Chapter V) as well as for inviting observers of OSCE participating States (Chapter VI), increasing opportunities for verification activities, if such activities take place in the political context and geographical contiguity to the crisis, expanding the range of military activities subject to notification, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening the risk reduction mechanisms, considering possibilities to enlarge the scope of CSBMs. Therefore, Ukraine welcomes the on-going discussions at the FSC aimed at upgrading the Document.

We deem it necessary to discuss possible addition of new provisions to Chapter V and VI of the VD which require special notifications and invitations to multinational observations once additional substantial armed units are to be stationed in areas within a certain geographical distance from borders.

Ukraine welcomes initiatives of the OSCE participating States aimed at reinvigorating the dialogue on Chapter III «Risk Reduction» mechanism and consider it timely, very important and relevant. We underline our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the VD on CSBMs as well as other OSCE instruments, aiming at enhancing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

We highly value the OSCE efforts aimed at supporting Ukraine in de-escalation and stabilization of situation on the ground in Donbas region, in particular through activity of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Ukraine has consistently implemented in good faith the provisions of the Minsk agreements. For these agreements to work it remains imperative that the undertaken commitments be fully implemented by all parties, including Russia. Under these circumstances it is up to Russia to restore in deeds its respect to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to contribute to promoting CSBMs, military transparency and predictability.

Ukraine has repeatedly called on Russia and calls again to contribute as soon as possible to the modernization and reissuing process of the Vienna Document 2011.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.