



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
in response to Ambassador Henrik Villadsen,
the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine**

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1272nd meeting of the Permanent Council,
18 June 2020

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine warmly welcomes the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine Ambassador Henrik Villadsen back to the Permanent Council and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation of the project work in my country.

We highly value the established fruitful and constructive cooperation with the PCU in line with its mandate and based on the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE. We are satisfied with the good working relations between the relevant government agencies and the PCU, as well as coordination of the PCU activities with other international organizations operating in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian authorities consistently support the PCU activities in all three dimensions of the OSCE comprehensive security. We take the view that all projects should meet the needs of the Ukrainian implementing partners in line with the Government priorities aimed at advancing reforms and European integration, fostering the implementation of international standards and OSCE commitments and take into account security threats faced by Ukraine due to the ongoing external aggression.

The high priority today, amid the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, remains the implementation of projects aimed at medical, social and psychological rehabilitation of conflict-affected population as well as military

personnel; restoring damaged infrastructure and environment; humanitarian demining and chemical safety in the Government non-controlled areas.

Among the ongoing projects in 2020, we would like to mention those on democratic control of the Ukrainian Armed Forces; independent regional media; anti-corruption; addressing domestic violence; co-operation between Government and civil society organizations; cybersecurity and transparency of election processes; promoting the rule of law and human-rights-based approaches in the higher education system.

In view of the unprecedented COVID-19 challenges, new areas requiring assistance in overcoming the impact of the pandemic could potentially emerge.

In this connection we appreciate the PCU's efforts in providing medical masks to regional social service workers and posters to raise public's awareness.

We also express gratitude to the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Republic of Poland, and the European Union for their readiness to provide financial support for implementation of projects aimed at countering illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine jointly with Ukrainian implementing partners finalizes their thorough consideration to ensure that they take into account Ukraine's priority needs in view of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

We reiterate that the mandate of the PCU covers the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the temporarily occupied parts of Donbas, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and we strongly encourage to support projects that could help alleviate the plight of the people residing under the temporary occupation in Crimea and Donbas.

We wish Ambassador Villadsen every success in continuing his important activities in Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.