



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 984th FSC Plenary Meeting under
the Chairpersonship of Austria**

(8 September 2021)

(Agenda item 1, Opening Session)

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement, which we fully support. In addition, let me make some remarks in my national capacity.

We welcome his Excellency Mr. Peter Launsky, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, to the Opening Session under the Chairpersonship of Austria. We learned with interest the priorities of the Chairpersonship for the third trimester of this year outlined in his Excellency's address.

I would like to congratulate the FSC Chair, Ambassador Florian Raunig, and his able team with assuming important and responsible task of chairing this vital politico-military body of our organization. I wish you the best of luck on this path! You will especially need it in the run-up to the Ministerial Council in Stockholm. We rely on your professionalism and devotion in advancing the deliverables of politico-military dimension during the Ministerial. We assure you of our full support and cooperation during your chairpersonship.

We welcome the strong focus of the program of work on the core business of the Forum, the conventional arms control and CSBMs, SALW and SCA, the Code of Conduct and military doctrines. We look forward to a frank and constructive exchange of views on these topics with a view to furthering full and faithful implementation and modernization of our politico-military instruments. We are also looking forward to the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE SALW and SCA Assistance Projects in the beginning of October.

Mr. Chairperson,

Esteemed Colleagues,

We are rolling into the 8th year of my country's struggle to regain its sovereignty and territorial integrity infringed upon by the Russian Federation. Ongoing armed aggression in Donbas and temporary occupation and militarization of Crimea by Russia remain the most pressing challenges to the international rules-based order.

These temporary occupation and militarization have been carried out and continue to take place with the employment of all available means of Russia's regular army, Black Sea Fleet, private armed formations, Federal Security Service and other special services. Few days ago, the Federal Security Service of Russia committed yet another illegal act by detaining five Crimean Tatars Eldar Odamanov, Aziz Akhmetov, Asan Akhmetov, Shevket Useinov and First Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Nariman Dzhelyal. Just tonight the house of a former member of Simferopol Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people Eldar Menseitov was raided in the temporarily occupied Molodizhne village. Members of the security forces of the Russian occupation administration took him to an unknown destination.

We strongly protest against such illegal actions of Russia's occupation military structures. The Russian Federation, as an occupying power, is obliged under international law to immediately end political repressions against the local population of the Crimean Peninsula which it has temporarily occupied.

Until Russia rectifies its gross violations of the OSCE principles and commitments and imperative norms of international law the politico-military aspects of the Russian-Ukrainian international conflict will stay in the spotlight of the Forum's considerations.

For its part, Ukraine is fully committed to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and calls upon Russia to, finally, act likewise. The OSCE and its participating States should stay firm in urging Russia to stop its aggression and proceed with the de-militarization and de-occupation of the sovereign territories of Ukraine. We are grateful for the steadfast commitment of our partners to this goal.

In conclusion, allow me to take a moment to thank the outgoing Chairpersonship of Armenia for its work during the previous trimester. We express our gratitude to the U.S.

leaving the Troika. It was an honor working with you. We also welcome Azerbaijan as the new Troika member.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.