



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
at the 1035th FSC Plenary Meeting
(8 February 2023)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue:

“The OSCE Code of Conduct and the Security Sector: a Norm Setting Document for Parliamentary-Democratic Oversight of the Security Sector and its Implementation in the OSCE Region in Times of Conflicts And War”

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some points in my national capacity.

Ukraine considers the Code of Conduct as one of the core pillars of the OSCE politico-military dimension. It is closely linked to the basic norms and principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and the Helsinki Document of 1992 and therefore constitutes one of the most important elements of the security architecture in the OSCE area both in times of peace and in time of war.

The success of the Code of Conduct requires the commitment of all participating States to adhere to its principles not only in words, but also in deeds.

We deeply regret that today’s reality is very different from agreed and established inter-state norms of politico-military conduct.

After 8 years of latent violations of core elements of the Code of Conduct in relation to Ukraine, in February 2022, the Russian Federation finally openly demonstrated to the entire OSCE community its brazen disrespect both for the principles guiding relations between participating States and for the obligations it assumed.

It is hardly possible to mark at least one paragraph of the Code of Conduct that has not been violated by the Russian Federation in the war of aggression it wages against Ukraine. Respect for the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, norms and principles of

International Humanitarian Law – all this was deliberately neglected by the Kremlin in its desire to conquer Ukraine and establish new global order.

First and foremost, such principles as sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of frontiers – enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and reaffirmed in the Code of Conduct – have been unhesitatingly crossed out by the Russian Federation. The obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force and non-intervention into internal affairs remained empty promises.

The ongoing Russia's war against Ukraine remains the biggest security challenge in the OSCE region. We have to recognise that sometimes the power of law is not enough to prevent a war, especially if one state decided to wage it, whatever it might cost. Russian aggression against Ukraine has clearly demonstrated that when there is no political will to comply, mere appeals and shaming are not able to make things work.

We, the OSCE participating States, who value peace and stability, who respect the principles of international law and strive to restore justice, must be united and strong in the face of the challenges posed by Russia, which endangers the very existence of the world.

The only possible way to restore the rule of law is to force the aggressor to abide by defeating it on the battlefield and imposing severe sanctions and other restrictive measures. From our perspective, it is the only way to restore the rules-based order, an integral part of which is the Code of Conduct.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.