



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1066th FSC Plenary Meeting
(17 January 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Opening Session

Mr Chairperson,

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

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to the Delegation of Canada for its dedicated work during the previous trimester and extending a warm welcome to the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus as the new Chairpersonship of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

We are grateful to His Excellency Dr Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, for his statement outlining key priorities of Cyprus in the FSC. The Delegation of Ukraine wishes our Cypriot colleagues every success in guiding the work of our Forum in the coming months. Please be assured of our full support and readiness for constructive cooperation.

Cyprus takes over responsibility of the FSC Chairpersonship during an extremely challenging period for the OSCE and the entire European security architecture, marked by the continuation of Russia's war against Ukraine. Demonstrating a complete disregard for the very foundations of international law and even basic principles of humanism, the Russian Federation persists in its efforts to destroy Ukraine as an independent state.

According to the UN, the most recent missile terror campaign launched by the Russian Federation on 29 December 2023 alone killed 120 civilians and injured about 480 people.

Amid these despicable violations of the international order, it is more important than ever to ensure that our Forum stays the course of holding Russia accountable for its war of aggression against Ukraine and the numerous war crimes that Russian forces have committed against civilians.

It is crucial that the vast majority of the OSCE participating States share a common approach to the work of the Organisation. Until the Kremlin stops its military aggression, the work of the FSC and the entire Organisation in its usual mode will be hardly achievable.

We express our sincere appreciation to Cyprus for the decision to reflect the impact of the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine in the FSC Chairpersonship programme, as demonstrated by the Security dialogues agenda for this trimester. We find it very relevant to the current security situation in the OSCE region.

We welcome Cyprus's decision to prioritise Humanitarian Mine Action at the centre of the discussion in our first Security Dialogue this trimester. Considering that more than 30% of the territory of Ukraine, which is home to 6 million people, is affected by the landmine threat, this is an exceptionally important topic to us.

No less urgent is the issue of the interconnection between security and the environment, which was suggested for discussion at the joint FSC-PC meeting. This topic is especially important for Ukraine in light of the ongoing ravages of war, and we look forward to sharing our experiences in this area.

We also welcome the fact that in the current agenda, two Security Dialogues will be dedicated to gender issues. We are looking forward to fruitful discussions of the issues of protection against gender-based violence and the integration of gender perspectives when fulfilling the OSCE politico-military commitments.

Distinguished colleagues,

Security tensions in the OSCE area are only increasing. And this trimester will most likely be no less challenging than the previous one. However, we believe that our Forum will continue to be at the forefront of international peace efforts. We call on all OSCE participating States to remain steadfast in pressuring the aggressor state to end the brutal, unprovoked and unjustified war.

In conclusion, allow me once again to express our best wishes and support to the Delegation of Cyprus, extend our gratitude to Bulgaria as it leaves the Troika and warmly welcome Croatia as a new Troika member.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.