



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement in response to the Report by Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä,
Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre**

As for delivery by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk,
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna,
to the 1396th meeting of the Permanent Council,
27 October 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

The Delegation of Ukraine welcomes Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä to the Permanent Council and thanks her for the presented report on the activities of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

The report covers the 13-month period, which was, inter alia, marked by the beginning of full-fledged russian military invasion of Ukraine. The russian delegation to our Organization blocked mandates of the three OSCE field operations and has been undermining OSCE's regular activities by its destructive approach here.

In fact, OSCE suffered from the russian aggression itself, as russia has been keeping three representatives of the OSCE SMM personnel in Ukraine in illegal detention for seven months already. There are also reports about cases of intimidation and harassment of other members of the OSCE SMM. This unacceptable situation unfortunately is not reflected in the report at all.

The report touches upon commemoration of the tenth anniversary of MC Decision N 3/11 on "Elements of Conflict Cycle" and relevant conflict cycle seminars last year. But one can pose a legitimate question: what kind of "important work carried out over the last decade in strengthening OSCE capacities to address the different phases of the conflict cycle" we are talking about, in the situation of the full-fledged war of aggression in the XXI century?

Looking back at 2021 only, we can see that it was marked by the evolving situation on the contact line in the area of the russian-driven conflict as well as russia's military build-ups along the state border of Ukraine and inside occupied Crimea.

russian occupation forces were detaining dozens of people on the occupied peninsula, mainly Crimean Tatars, under false reasons.

russia has never stopped activities on militarization of the Black Sea – Azov region, again and again creating illegal impediments to the freedom of international navigation.

By organizing illegal elections to the russian state дума in the russia-occupied Crimea as well as involving people from the temporarily occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine to participate in it the russian federation has openly demonstrated its negligence to the norms and principles of international law as well as its commitments undertaken as the OSCE participating State.

These facts were serving as irrefutable evidence of russia's destructive position aimed at further undermining political-diplomatic efforts to solve the russian-staged conflict.

Each of these unacceptable developments was a separate reason to have a look

at how the OSCE's conflict cycle tools could have been used with regard to particular situation.

According to the Vilnius MC Decision 3/11 on the elements of conflict cycle it is the CPC which assumed the role and functions as the focal point for the Organization-wide systematic collection, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating and co-ordinating closely with other OSCE executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly.

In view of this, we expected that elaborations on issues mentioned above would be properly reflected in the Conflict Prevention Centre's report.

During mentioned in the report invocations of OSCE Vienna Document moscow regime showed a total disregard to this risk-reduction mechanism, downgrading it as such in this way. All of us here were witnesses of pure lies, spread by the russian delegation with regard to "absence of both reasons for VD invocation and intentions in moscow to invade Ukraine". But the reality appeared to be absolutely different. We must raise a question on how to move forward in situation, when we sit by the same table with representatives of a war criminal regime of moscow, who continue ruining the OSCE's credibility day by day.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to CPC for operational support it has been providing to both SMM and OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine in terms of evacuation of personnel and both mission's closure procedures.

We also thank CPC and all involved in arranging OSCE's post-PCU activities in Ukraine.

However, it should be stressed again that OSCE's activities aimed at preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts must comprise the very substance of our Organization. And without objective analyses of all achievements and failures, our Organization will not be able to find real responses to all threats and challenges of current geopolitical reality, stemming from russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

In closing let me reiterate that Ukraine as always stands ready to provide all necessary support to the CPC on the way to reach mentioned goals.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.