



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 787-th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation  
(6 May 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
Agenda item 1**

**Madam Chair,**

Ukraine warmly welcomes H.E. Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General, Mr. William Alberque, Head of the Arms Control and Coordination Section, NATO and Dr. Vladislav Chernov, Principal Counsellor, Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control, MFA of the Russian Federation, to the Forum for Security Co-operation and thanks them for their comprehensive and insightful presentations relating to Conventional Arms Control (CAC) and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). We also welcome the presentation made by the Helsinki+40 coordinator on CAC and CSBMs, Ambassador Rüdiger Lüdeking.

Arms control and CSBMs remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency as key pillars for a reliable, indivisible, co-operative security community. A proper and effective functioning of these instruments is in the interest of all OSCE participating States. Revitalizing arms control and CSBMs are to play a key role in strengthening European security.

The current security landscape in the OSCE region has undergone drastic changes as the OSCE fundamental principles and commitments have been undermined and put into question by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine. Ukraine has been attacked by a state that earlier committed itself to guarantee its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. These actions have been decisively rejected by the international community, including through adoption of the UN GA resolution "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" on 27 March 2014.

Just as under false pretexts Crimea was illegally occupied and annexed, now under false pretexts Russia's support is provided to the illegal armed groups in Ukraine's east. What we witness now in two eastern regions of my country, notably Donetsk and Luhansk, is the second stage of aggression against Ukraine. Such actions not only violate Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity but undermine the very foundations of peace and stability across the OSCE space. They have global ramifications, making the security environment uncertain for all.

**Madam Chair,**

The aggression against Ukraine has challenged the very essence of trust and confidence and thus also the CSBMs at our disposal. This challenge

also compels us to assess the relevance as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the OSCE politico-military instruments, in particular with respect to compliance with and implementation of the Vienna Document 2011.

Today more than ever, we emphasize the importance of strengthening and modernizing the obligations and commitments in the field of conventional arms control and CSBMs. These instruments should be brought into conformity with the current military and security conditions. We consider therefore that a modern, functional conventional arms control regime that provides stability and predictability would bolster the security of the whole OSCE area. In this connection, we regret the decision by the Russian Federation to suspend their participation in the Joint Consultative Group of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe per 11 March 2015. This is seen as yet another step by the Russian Federation that undermines the viability and validity of the existing conventional arms control and CSBMs regimes in the OSCE area.

**Madam Chair,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

The evolution of the crisis in and around Ukraine, in particular continued escalation in two eastern oblasts sponsored by one participating State, testify to the ongoing validity of the fundamental OSCE principles and of their implementation in good faith as means for guaranteeing peace and security. Restoring peace and order is the ultimate expectation of all Ukrainian people - east to west, north to south.

Ukraine reiterates its strong support to the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements adopted on 12 February 2015 in Minsk. Full and comprehensive implementation of all agreed Minsk documents by all signatories, including the Russian Federation, offers a way forward to a sustainable political solution of the crisis based on respect for Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In connection with the current crisis we continue to rely on verification mechanisms stipulated by the Vienna Document and the Open Skies Treaty. They ought to be effective documents in the politico-military dimension for diligent and good faith implementation.

We are determined to use all options offered by the OSCE political-military toolbox to seek de-escalation and peaceful resolution. From 5 March 2014, we have been actively using provisions of Chapters III, IX and X of the Vienna Document to make full use of the evaluation visits to eastern Ukraine by multinational teams of inspectors and on the territory of Russia. We are grateful to all our partners and to all inspectors who participated in these missions. We continue to view it as critically important that international observers continue to verify the situation on the ground.

Also, we actively used the potential of paragraph 16 of the VD's Chapter III, requesting Russia's explanations concerning unusual activities of

its military forces and initiating joint FSC-PC meetings in this regard, in which, regrettably, the Russian Federation decided not to participate despite legitimacy of Ukraine's concerns.

It is our strong belief that the Vienna Document should be modernized and recalibrated to take account of the security needs of the 21st century in order to ensure its continued relevance. In particular, the provisions of Chapter III of the Vienna Document should be updated in the context of present realities and based on the experience of the past year. In this connection we welcome the food-for-thought paper circulated by the Delegation of Greece on 19 March 2015 aimed at reinvigorating the dialogue on Vienna Document Chapter III Risk reduction mechanism and consider it timely and very important. We also support the Greek proposal for the establishment of an Informal Group of Experts "Friends of VD Chapter III" with the task to discuss, analyze and elaborate concrete proposals to update and modernize the Mechanism of Chapter III Risk Reduction.

We also think that the current situation shows the urgent need for the soonest recovery of the CFE regime.

We welcome the OSCE efforts aimed at supporting Ukraine in de-escalation and stabilization of situation on the ground, in particular through the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, established in March 2014. Ukraine has implemented in good faith the provisions of the Minsk agreements. For these agreements to work it remains imperative that the undertaken commitments be fully implemented by all parties, including the Russian Federation.

**Madam Chair,**

The crises in and around Ukraine has put on the agenda a number of urgent tasks before all of us in areas such as lowering the thresholds for notification, increasing opportunities for verification activities, expanding the range of military activities subject to notification, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening the risk reduction mechanisms, considering possibilities to enlarge the scope of CSBMs. Those are the tasks requiring immediate response, which should be done in a cost effective manner with the further aim of improving our overall level of implementation.

We would like to underline our readiness to pursue both a pragmatic and forward looking approach in the process of modernizing the Vienna Document on CSBMs as well as other OSCE instruments, aiming at enhancing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States.

**Thank you, Madam Chair.**