



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International  
Organizations in Vienna

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

**93<sup>rd</sup> Joint FSC-PC Meeting**  
(27 November 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue:  
“Helsinki Decalogue”

Chairs,

Ukraine aligns itself with the EU Statement. Let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

We are grateful to the Danish FSC Chairpersonship and the Maltese OSCE Chairpersonship for convening this joint FSC-PC meeting and the organisation of the Security Dialogue dedicated to the fundamental document of our Organisation – the Helsinki Final Act. Let me also extend our sincere appreciation to the distinguished panellists for their valuable contributions to our discussion today.

Since the Helsinki Final Act was adopted, our commitment to its principles has served as a cornerstone of this Organisation and our work here. Regrettably, after almost 50 years since the adoption we see that these principles are not regarded by all as universal values.

All ten paragraphs of the Helsinki Decalogue were violated by the Russian Federation and it continues to violate them every day by waging its war of aggression against Ukraine, occupying sovereign territories of another states and conducting malign activities across the world. It is staggering but when we say that each and every point was violated we indeed mean each and every point. Let me recall these facts.

The Decalogue`s very first provisions call on participating States to respect each other`s sovereign equality and the rights inherent in sovereignty. They demands that states refrain from

the use of force as well as respect the territorial integrity of others and the inviolability of their frontiers. All these provisions were blatantly violated by the Russian Federation when it started its aggression.

The Decalogue also stipulates the peaceful settlement of disputes. For its part, Ukraine has always been committed to this principle. After the Russian Federation started its aggression against Ukraine in 2014, we held almost 200 rounds of negotiations with the Russian side to find a peaceful solution. In total, there were 20 attempts to establish a ceasefire. What was the response from the Russian side? It simply denied all agreements and launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

The Russian Federation has also violated its commitment under the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We all have seen since 2014 overwhelming evidence of Russia's human rights abuses in the territories it occupies that include murders, tortures, persecutions and deportations. This is nothing but a continuation of Stalin-era practices of targeting all people who disagree with the imperialistic course of action of the Kremlin.

Moreover, what kind of respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples can we talk about when the Russian Federation denies the very existence of Ukraine as an independent state and does everything possible to eliminate the Ukrainians as a separate nation?

The Russian Federation even refuses the principle that stipulates cooperation between the states. The Kremlin's selective approach to the rules and its unwillingness to cooperate is particularly visible here, in the OSCE, where the Russian Federation openly weaponize the consensus principle in an attempt to dictate its will and blackmail other states.

Finally, Russia's refusal to fulfil in good faith its obligations under international law, the Decalogue's tenth principle, has been demonstrated on numerous occasions. And the Helsinki Final Act is not the only document Moscow violated by launching its aggression.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andrii Sybiha underlined last week at the UN Security Council meeting, that since the very beginning of the aggression in 2014, Russia has violated about four hundred international treaties. Such documents include the UN Charter, numerous bilateral and multilateral treaties, and even the most basic documents such as Geneva Conventions that form the basis of International Humanitarian Law. Such facts are well-known

and properly documented, in particular in the OSCE within the framework of the Moscow mechanism.

There are no doubts that Russia`s disregard for international law is strategy of the Kremlin aimed at destroying the world order based on rules and replace it with the own vision of how international relations should function.

Chairs,

Being only a theoretical concept that remains on the pages of archive document Helsinki Decalogue principles cannot guarantee for all participating States their security. Exactly that is why it is so important not to stay aside of its violations.

In 1946 in Zurich Sir Winston Churchill said: “The League [*of Nations*] did not fail because of its principles or conceptions. It failed because those principles were deserted by those states which brought it into being, because the governments of those states feared to face the facts and act while time remained. This disaster must not be repeated.”

Although his speech was delivered almost 80 years ago in another geopolitical reality and was about another Organisation, these words are even more relevant today, when we are facing much more severe challenges. In 1946 the world had already entered the new era after the horrors of the Second World War. Today, the situation only keeps deteriorating.

The failure to act decisively against violations of commonly agreed principles can result in their inability to contribute to the international peace and stability. This is precisely the danger that the OSCE faces today since the failure to stand by the principles of the Organisation`s founding principles in times of crisis leads to their downfall.

Therefore, to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, the OSCE participating States should demonstrate unwavering commitment and resolve to address and rectify the violations.

We wish that the forthcoming anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act next year could be discussed within the framework of celebrations. Regrettably, we have to recognise that there is nothing to celebrate. Thus, it is crucial to redouble our efforts aimed at forcing the aggressor state to abide. Only by fully implementing our OSCE commitments can we ensure true peace and stability that all of our people deserve.

Thank you, Chairs.