



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1090th FSC Plenary Meeting

(09 October 2024)

Agenda Item 1, Security Dialogue on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security "Common Commitments on Accountability"

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.

Let me begin by expressing the Ukrainian Delegation's gratitude to the Danish FSC Chairpersonship for organizing this Security Dialogue on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, with regard to the issue of accountability of military personnel. In the context of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, this topic is of great importance to my country and we value this opportunity to address it within the FSC.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the distinguished panellists, Col Hirsh from the Austrian Armed Forces and Mr Lysenko from the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, for their valuable contributions to our discussion today.

30 years ago, the Code of Conduct was adopted to encourage more responsible and cooperative behaviour among participating States in the politico-military sphere. It is no coincidence that a significant part of the document is devoted to ensuring compliance with the norms and principles of international law.

Paragraph 34 of the Code of Conduct clearly states that "each participating State will ensure that its armed forces are, in peace and in war, commanded, manned, trained, and equipped in ways that are consistent with the provisions of international law and its respective obligations and commitments related to the use of armed forces in armed conflict."

This paragraph, as well as the entire chapter and the document as a whole, has been completely disregarded by an aggressor state – the Russian Federation. Despite its persistent attempts to convince the international community that Russian forces act in strict accordance

with international standards, numerous reports from reputable international governmental and non-governmental organizations clearly reveal that these claims are nothing more than outright lies.

Hundreds of such reports have been published since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine in 2014. Let me highlight a few of the most recent examples:

In particular, the report presented by the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine at the UN Human Rights Council in September this year clearly states: "The Commission has documented new cases of torture committed by Russian authorities against civilians and prisoners of war in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation."

Another example is the 40th Periodic Report on the Human Rights Situation in Ukraine published on 01 October 2024, which confirms that "Russian authorities have subjected Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) to widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment. Detailed and consistent accounts of torture or ill-treatment in Russian Federation custody were provided by 169 out of 174 Ukrainian POWs interviewed by OHCHR."

Or we can, for example, recall the latest report by the UN Secretary-General titled "Situation of human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol," which documents numerous cases of torture, conflict-related sexual violence, unlawful arrests, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and restrictions on freedom of religion, expression, and peaceful assembly, all perpetrated by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and other bodies of the Russian occupying authorities.

Mr Chairperson,

We gather in this room to discuss the critical issue of accountability in the politico-military sphere. Regrettably, it is hardly possible to expect that a state that has deliberately violated every conceivable norm of international law – a state where the highest levels of its politico-military leadership, including the supreme commander-in-chief, the former minister of defence and the chief of the general staff, are wanted by the International Criminal Court — that this state will ensure the proper implementation of international law and its own commitments.

In such circumstances, the international community has no choice but to compel this state to comply and to ensure that justice prevails, because without justice there can be no comprehensive and lasting peace.

As a staunch supporter of this principle, Ukraine is determined to ensure that all individuals responsible for war crimes committed in Ukraine are brought to justice — both those who issue illegal orders and those who carry them out.

We firmly believe that the countless victims of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine deserve justice. The Kremlin and individual members of the Russian armed forces who violated international humanitarian law and committed war crimes must be held accountable. Ukraine is working hard with its international partners to pursue accountability for the crimes committed.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.