



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

PC.DEL/907/17
30 June 2017

ENGLISH only

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session I of the 2017 OSCE Annual Security Review
Conference: “Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management,
conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation:
Lessons learned and the way ahead”
(Vienna, 28 June 2017)**

Madam Moderator,

Ukraine has aligned itself with the EU statement which we fully support. Let me add some remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to thank our distinguished keynote speakers Ms. Talvitie and Mr. Fouere for their insightful and thought-provoking presentations as well as a valuable contribution to our discussions.

Whereas the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it needs to maintain under constant review its actual ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises. We see it as important task to strengthen early warning and conflict prevention capacities, based on the OSCE principles and commitments. This task is especially relevant given the current security crisis in our region, caused by the ongoing Russian aggression against my country.

We are grateful to the international community for investing substantial efforts facilitating resolution of the conflict in and around Ukraine, including through the OSCE crisis response toolbox. Given today’s focus on lessons learned, we wish to share some conclusions with respect to Russian-Ukrainian conflict. The OSCE toolbox has many useful instruments but appeared inadequate for the situation of direct military aggression of one participating State against another participating State. The current crisis indicates how fragile the European security is under the conditions of non-functioning conventional arms control regime. Moreover, illegal occupation and attempted annexation of the Crimean peninsula have effectively created a militarised “grey zone” with no OSCE tools for human rights monitoring under such circumstances.

The developments over the past three years underscore the need to seek ways to improve the OSCE toolbox aimed at safeguarding the core international norms and principles. Recommitment to the peaceful settlement of crisis situations must be achieved by practical results of restoration of respect for the norms and principles of international law, in particular respect for sovereignty and territorial

integrity of states within their internationally recognised border, inviolability of frontiers. It means de-occupation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula as well as parts of Donbas by Russia and its forces.

We strongly encourage the update of confidence and security-building measures of the Vienna Document to bring it in line with the realities of today's security environment. Tangible and concrete progress is needed in strengthening human rights protection mechanisms to address new challenges, including human rights violations on a territory, which is under occupation by a foreign state.

Speaking about the way ahead, we suggest to discuss establishing a OSCE standing mechanism or procedure which could secure immediate reaction to emerging conflicts, based on early warning and early action approach. The issue of potential interstate conflicts should be addressed by this mechanism, including the specific approaches in all the stages of the conflict cycle as well as an adjusted framework for reconciliation.

It is necessary to strengthen the OSCE's role and instruments in preventing conflict from emerging. It means *inter alia* ensuring effective prevention and halt of aggression against an OSCE participating State; elaborating means of enforcement against a violator of the OSCE principles and commitments, mechanisms to safeguard correction of the violations of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments and restoration of respect for them.

The OSCE's executive structures and field missions should be fully equipped to make full use of their respective mandates for the purpose of the early action and crisis response. The same accounts for the Chairmanship, which can appoint Special Representatives to deal with potential conflicts and crisis situations already in their early stages. Overall, more can and should be done to make better use of the OSCE's capacities for early conflict resolution.

Thank you for your attention.