

Closing Statement by Ukraine
at the 21st Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE
(Basel, 5 December 2014)

Mr.Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Delegation of Ukraine would like to start with expressing gratitude to our Swiss hosts for the warm hospitality that all of us have enjoyed during our stay in Basel. The Swiss Chairmanship and Chairperson-in-Office have invested significant efforts in preparing this event, as well as in pursuing the OSCE activities across all three dimensions, and we are grateful for them.

Our today's session takes place on the day of 20th anniversary since signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which guaranteed Ukraine's security, political independence and territorial integrity. Ukraine's territorial integrity has been violated by a supposed guarantor - the Russian Federation. It resorted to illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to escalation in Ukraine's Donbas, violating international law, Helsinki Final Act and numerous OSCE commitments.

We are grateful for the overwhelming and firm **support** offered to Ukraine by the Ministers and Heads of delegations at this Ministerial Council. We witnessed **clear condemnation** of Russian aggression against Ukraine in Crimea and Donbas. We witnessed broad recognition that this aggression has not only affected my country, it **endangers the European and international peace** and security. We registered strong **calls on the Russian Federation** to halt its aggressive actions and to fully abide by its obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other norms and principles of international law.

There is an urgent need to correct serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Russia's occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. The Russian Federation as an occupying power must stop all human rights violations and allow access of international observers to monitor the situation on the ground.

The Russian military aggression has strongly eroded mutual trust and confidence, which prevented us from adopting more substantive decisions at this Ministerial meeting. It will be important to underpin our activities and

deliberations by 3C formula “Commitments cannot be Compromised for Consensus”. There is urgency in elaborating practical tools to make this formula instrumental in safeguarding the OSCE principles and commitments, as well as correcting violations of the core principles and restoring respect to them.

The OSCE toolbox should be strengthened to prevent and halt aggression against an OSCE participating State.

Mr.Chairman,

As Russian aggression and violations continue, there will be another challenging year ahead of us. We count that the issues of safeguarding strict adherence to the OSCE principles and commitments and correcting their violations will be kept by the incoming Serbian Chairmanship at the top of the OSCE agenda as we will approach the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2015.

We encourage strong and practical support to the Serbian Chairmanship by the OSCE Troika.

In conclusion, I would like to thank again to Chairperson-in-Office, President Burkhalter and able Swiss Chairmanship team for leadership in the course of the year and to wish the Serbian colleagues success in their endeavors at the helm of the OSCE.

I request that this statement be included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman.