



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Working session IV of the 2017 OSCE Annual Security Review
Conference: “Transnational threats - current and future trends”
(Vienna, 29 June 2017)

Madam Moderator,

The Delegation of Ukraine has aligned itself with the Statement delivered by the Delegation of the EU and would like to make some additional remarks in the national capacity.

I would like to thank our distinguished keynote speakers for their insightful and profound presentations as well as a valuable contribution to our discussions.

We all recognise that terrorism remains one of the most significant transnational threats to peace, security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond. The terrorist threat must be decisively tackled by the strong consolidated response of the international community that should also contain a clear-cut preventive message to those who support, encourage or condone in any way the terrorist organizations and activities.

The OSCE participating States have committed themselves to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of the motivation. This position remains highly relevant under the current security challenges in the Donbas region of our country, as Ukraine suffers from terrorist organizations with significant Russian component. Ukraine has put a case before the International Court of Justice in connection with violation by the Russian Federation of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism by sponsoring terrorist activity in Ukraine and by failing to stop and investigate the flow of money and weapons across the border. Since 2014, Russia has been supplying heavy weaponry, money and fighters to the illegal armed formations. Russian support for these illegal armed groups has fueled a string of terrorist attacks, including: the shoot-down of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, the shelling of a passenger bus near Volnovakha, the bombardment of civilian areas in Mariupol and Kramatorsk, and a bombing campaign in Kharkiv. This week Colonel Maksym Shapoval, a top Ukrainian military officer who spent the past three years participating in the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas, was killed by a

car bomb in Kyiv. Similar terrorist car bomb attacks happened in the recent months. A series of targeted terrorist attacks is widely seen by experts to be directed by Russian intelligence to destabilize the situation in the country. The available facts show that while within the OSCE the Russian Federation attempts to present itself as a champion for combating terrorism, it continues to politically condone and practically support and finance terrorist activities on the territory of Ukraine.

A matter of utmost importance in countering terrorism is compliance with the OSCE Border Security and Management Concept commitments to prevent cross-border movement of persons, weapons and funds connected with terrorist and other criminal activities. Every country in the OSCE must know for the purpose of security who and what enters its territory. As for Ukraine, the deliberate violation of the state border by Russia also takes place under a humanitarian pretext, whereas proposals to involve international mechanism and comply with border regulations are rejected. We continue to urge Russia to uphold the relevant OSCE counter-terrorism and border-related commitments that stem from the implementation of Russia's national legislation and its international obligations and commitments. There is a stronger role to be played in this respect by the OSCE and we encourage respective proposals and discussions.

Madam Moderator,

Malicious cyber activity is among the main transnational threats we face in our days. Two days ago Ukraine was again targeted by unprecedented-scale cyber-attacks that are becoming steadily more intrusive. Ukraine considers as a priority the development of capabilities to counter cyber threats, primarily to protect critical infrastructure, and we do see the OSCE as a good platform for the exchange of best practices, awareness-raising and information on capacity-building in the area of cyber security. We continue to give special attention and support to the cyber Informal Working Group aimed at operationalization of the existing CBMs. We look forward to partnering with all interested states in developing additional CBMs, in particular against the threats to critical infrastructure emanating from cyberspace.

In conclusion we wish to underscore that enhancing response to terrorism and other transnational threats requires significant increase of effectiveness of implementation of agreed principles and normative framework existing in the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.