



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

1137th FSC Plenary Meeting

(20th May 2026)

Agenda Item 1, Security dialogue: “Strengthening Compliance with the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.”

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine thanks the Chairpersonship of Georgia for convening today’s Security Dialogue on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

Distinguished colleagues,

We also express our sincere appreciation to the distinguished panellists — **Dr. Shalva Kvinikhidze, Colonel Howard T. Matthews, Jr., and Lieutenant Colonel of Justice Oleksii Malovatskyi** — for their substantive contributions to this timely discussion. Thirty years after the adoption of the Code of Conduct, this exchange is both necessary and highly relevant. The Code remains one of the central normative instruments of the OSCE politico-military dimension, grounded in democratic control of armed forces, accountability, transparency, and compliance with national and international law.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Armed forces that operate under democratic oversight, within the rule of law, and in line with international humanitarian law are stronger, more disciplined, and more resilient institutions. This is precisely why the Code of Conduct remains so important

today. In an environment shaped by complex threats, new operational domains, and rapidly evolving military technologies, compliance cannot be treated as a formality. It requires functioning institutions, clear doctrine, proper legal guidance, consistent training, and credible accountability mechanisms.

For Ukraine, the relevance of the Code is not theoretical. Russia's war of aggression has tested every dimension of defence governance, from strategic decision-making to operational conduct. Under these conditions, respect for the principles reflected in the Code becomes even more important, not less. When a state is forced to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, it must also ensure that its armed forces remain anchored in law, discipline, and accountability. This is not only a legal obligation. It is a strategic necessity, a condition of operational effectiveness, and a matter of trust between the armed forces, the state, and society. The armed force that defends democratic order must itself remain subject to democratic principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to conclude with one strategic point. The OSCE Code of Conduct was adopted to ensure that military power remains subordinate to law, democratic governance, and responsible state behaviour. These principles are not abstract. They are essential to the security order we seek to preserve.

Today, when that order having been violated by one of the OSCE member states our collective task is not merely to reaffirm the Code rhetorically, but to strengthen its practical implementation.

Ukraine remains committed to these principles. We stand ready to continue sharing our experience, including lessons learned under conditions of war, on how to strengthen legal compliance, institutional resilience, and democratic accountability in the security and defence sector. In doing so, we also reaffirm a broader truth: security in the OSCE area cannot rest on force alone. It must rest on responsibility, restraint, and respect for the law.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.