**Human Rights Council**

**Intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*18 January 2022*

**Mr. President,**

Ukraine is committed to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which we see as a primary driver of reform of the Ukrainian society. Since SDG's adoption, Ukraine has been undertaking a comprehensive process of their adaptation to the Ukrainian context, which included setting up 86 tasks for the country’s development.

Today, the SDGs are fully integrated into state policies, synchronized with the goals of European integration of Ukraine and aimed at improving the living conditions of every citizen. The first Voluntary National Review demonstrated tangible improvements across 15 of the 17 goals. These include meaningful results in the reduction of poverty, improvements of labour standards, quality of education and other areas.

Specific attention is paid to ensure a high standard of gender equality through comprehensive reforms in this area, which include revision and adoption of new legislation, strengthening national mechanisms for ensuring equal rights and opportunities, increase in the coverage of relevant information campaigns and social services.

The war conducted against our country by the Russian Federation is a tough barrier that has significantly complicated Ukraine’s confident march along the path of development. Due to the occupation of Crimea and parts of Donbas, which will soon enter its ninth year, we have lost more than 15% of GDP and 15% of industrial production, but more importantly, the ties with millions of our citizens.

We believe that genuine sustainable development will not be possible as long as aggressive geopolitical strategies prevail and invasion of states by other states remains unpunished. As Russia gears up for another wave of aggression against Ukraine, we call upon the international community to stand up to these threats and to take action to ensure accountability for the perpetrators and justice for the victims. This will certainly contribute to establishing an enabling environment for a truly sustainable development in my country and elsewhere.

**I thank you.**

Online high-level event “Building Forward Better:

Reaffirming the Sustainable Recovery Pledge and taking stock of commitments” Intervention by Permanent Representative of Ukraine Ms. Yevheniia Filipenko 18 January 2022

“What do you consider key lessons from the multilateral response to the pandemic – particularly as regards the vaccine roll-out?”

Dear colleagues,

Allow me to begin by thanking the Permanent Mission of Denmark and other co- organizers for an opportunity to be here today as well as for initiating the SDG Pledge, of which Ukraine is one of the proud co-sponsors.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a truly turning point of our times, whose lessons will have long-lasting consequences for decades to come.

The first among them is that in today’s globalized world no country, not even the most developed or closed one, can feel safe if there are wars, hunger, or coronavirus infections. The pandemic also demonstrated how vital is public health in terms of ensuring strong economy and sustainable development.

Another lesson of the pandemic, which is worth specifically emphasizing is that in our highly technological society information can save lives, while disinformation can kill. The ability to distinguish reliable sources of information, compare and critically interpret it becomes the basis of individual and societal security, and should be treated as such.

When it comes to multilateral responses to the pandemic, this experience has clearly demonstrated that global health is our shared responsibility and that international collaboration in facing health crises is crucial. To get through the pandemic together, states must learn from one another and rapidly implement any containment, mitigation, treatment, and rapid vaccine rollout options.

During these difficult two years, the world community's efforts have focused on strengthening global and national health systems and building capacity in the health system. But, as we all understand, the pandemic continues to grow largely because there is unequal access to control tools, namely vaccines, diagnostics, testing and treatment.

For this reason, Ukraine supports equal distribution of vaccines among countries, increased funding for the COVAX Mechanism as well as efforts to elaborate comprehensive “pandemic treaty”, which we hope will establish clear principles, priorities and targets for pandemic preparedness and response through a legally binding international framework.

Ukraine believes that future treaty should focus, before everything else, on possible pandemic prevention, in particular through establishment of comprehensive and efficient global surveillance system. It should prescribe detailed algorithms how to act in case of occurrence of any outbreak of international significance. We also hope that it will create a clear guidance as to the improvement of national preparedness and response, sustained and predictable funding of the respective measures, as well as fostering global biosecurity governance and investigation mechanisms.

In the meantime, strong commitments at the highest political level are crucial to foster quick and effective response to pandemics.

Dear colleagues, the last lesson of this pandemic that I would wish to highlight is that potentially, there is no threat to humanity that we would not be able to effectively overcome if we consolidate political will, expertise and resources. It is my hope that our further work on strengthening the global health framework will prove this to be true.