

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

First of all, we would like to thank the Chair and the Secretariat for preparation and presentation of the document on Financial and Budgetary Matters. In general, Ukraine supports most of the proposals outlined therein.

Regarding the contributions from Ukraine for 2022 to the Trust fund we would like to draw your attention that Ukraine always tried to make its payment on time. This time we'll also try to do our best to make our contribution. But as you are all aware this year due to military aggression started by Russia with support of the Republic of Belarus against Ukraine we have a lot of new challenges on our agenda.

For more than 6 months Russian military troops continue horrific missile attacks on residential areas, destroying Ukrainian cities and villages. Already dozens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have lost their lives in this war. Quarter of Ukraine's population left their homes to escape constant shelling.

Russia's ongoing attack on Ukraine causing extensive environmental damage, as water supply, sewage systems and communications are targeted, port infrastructure along the coasts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov is attacked, nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered significant losses, air is polluted.

The Russian Federation is a country that acts in a brutal violation of basic norms and principles of international law, as well as the purposes and principles of environmental conventions to which Russia is a party to. Let me give you just one example of violation by Russia of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution: In 2012 on the basis of the working station for the background monitoring the international EMEP background monitoring station was established in Karadag Nature Reserve of Ukraine's Academy of Science (Feodosia, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine). As a result of the military occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014, the collection of data from the abovementioned monitoring station is no longer carried out under the national jurisdiction of Ukraine. By this act Russia violated the provisions of the Article 9 of the Convention, which stipulates that "The establishment of monitoring stations and the collection of data shall be carried out under the national jurisdiction of the country in which the monitoring stations are located".

The military aggression started by Russia puts the environmental system of Ukraine and far beyond its borders in an unprecedented situation that doesn't allow us to conduct 'business as usual'.

Having said that Ukraine is not in a position to support the allocation of funds to the EMEP centers as it is outlined now in the document under discussion. We strongly oppose the financing of the MSC-East, situated on the territory of the aggressor state. We call on other Parties to take into account our concerns and to stand with Ukraine in its fight for freedom and universally recognized democratic values.