The Crimea Platform: strategy, consolidation, synergy
Consequences of the occupation

After the beginning of the Russian occupation of Crimea in 2014 two aspects stand out as the most visible consequences of the occupation:

✓ **Militarization** of Crimea and surrounding waters of the Black and Azov seas
   
   • threats to the security of the Black sea region and the Mediterranean basin

   • potential carriers of nuclear weapons (combat aircraft, missile systems, warships) are deployed in the occupied Crimea. For example, Kalibr cruise missile if armed with a nuclear warhead has a range up to 2,600 km

✓ Widespread gross **violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law**

   • The Russian occupation administration pursues the policy of forcible demographic change, political persecutions, criminalization of free speech, racial discrimination, curtailing religious freedoms, suppressing the Ukrainian language
The ongoing militarisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian forces in Crimea</th>
<th>Deployment of occupational forces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before the occupation (January 2014)</strong></td>
<td><strong>December 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12500</td>
<td>32500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>–</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>68*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including "Kaliber"-type cruise missile carriers in Novorossiysk

Source: Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
Russian military activities disrupt freedom of navigation

- The Kerch Strait (the only maritime route to/from the Sea of Azov) is occupied and controlled by the FSB Coast Guard.
- Under the pretext of military exercises trade routes are regularly blocked.
- Military presence at the seized oil platforms in the west of the Black Sea provide Russia with potential ability to disrupt navigation to/from Odesa.

Source: Ministry of Defense of Ukraine
Deterioration of the situation in Crimea

- **forced conscription** to the Russian military
  - (28 thousand persons conscripted since 2014)
  - (163 criminal cases for evading military service)

- **militarisation of education** and **propaganda of war among minors**
  - (200,000 children involved)

- **forcible demographic change**
  - 48,000 Ukrainian citizens had to leave Crimea
  - up to 500,000 Russian citizens moved in
Deterioration of the situation in Crimea

- **political persecution**
  100 political prisoners

- **oppression of national minorities and racial discrimination**
  Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People banned
  education in Ukrainian is available only to 0.2% of schoolchildren

- **suppression of religious freedoms**
  the Orthodox Church of Ukraine evicted from the main Cathedral in Simferopol
  demolition of an Orthodox Church of Ukraine temple in Yevpatoriia ordered

- **curtailment of freedom of expression and media**
  8 citizen journalists in detention and one under house arrest

- **torture, extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances**
Deterioration of the situation in Crimea

✓ attempts to include Crimea into the Russian legal field
  recent examples:
  • illegal referendum on amendments to the Russian Constitution
    (25 June - 1 July 2020)
  • fake “local elections” (13 September 2020)

✓ illegal expropriation and privatization of Ukrainian state-owned assets
  (the latest case – in December 2020 Ukrainian state enterprise Masandra Winery was acquired by affiliates of Yuri Kovalchuk, a friend and close ally of Vladimir Putin)
Ukrainian response

- ✔ drafting the national de-occupation strategy
- ✔ updating the legislation on sanctions
- ✔ establishing the Crimea Platform
The Crimea Platform: levels and events

- Heads of State and Government
- Ministers for Foreign Affairs
- Political / Coordination Committee
- Ad hoc working groups
- International expert network

**Crimean Platform Summit**
- Ad hoc meetings
- Parliamentary assemblies of international organizations
- Inter-factional association "Crimean Platform"
- Bilateral groups of cooperation

**Inter-parliamentary dimension**
- Annual Security Forum for Azov, Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean

**Analytical studies**
- Advocacy
- International expertise
The Crimea Platform

**Strategic goal:** de-occupation of Crimea

**Purpose:**

- provide a **strategic vision** to the process of de-occupation of Crimea
- **consolidate efforts** on the Crimean track on international level
- add **synergy** to all relevant processes at intergovernmental, inter-parliamentary and non-governmental levels
The Crimea Platform: priority areas

- **Consolidation of non-recognition policy**
  - ban on contacts with Russian occupation authorities (ROA)
  - ban on accreditation of ROA representatives for events within international organisations
  - prohibition for foreign consular officers in RU to conduct any actions in regards to Crimea
  - special ‘Crimea clause’ in new international agreements
  - ban on conclusion of agreements with representatives of ROA
  - non-recognition of application of RU law in Crimea

- **Sanctions: proper implementation and strengthening**
  - enhance implementation of sanctions
  - make the occupation of Crimea an unbearable burden for Russia
  - respond to violations of rights and freedoms, expropriation of properties, illegal plebiscites
  - elaborate additional sanctions packages should the situation so require
The Crimea Platform – priority areas

- **security**, including **freedom of navigation**
  - assess **security threats** to Eastern Europe, wider Black sea region and Mediterranean
  - elaborate common policies

- protection of **human rights and international humanitarian law**

- overcoming negative consequences on **economy and environment**
Inaugural Summit

The Crimea Platform Summit

Place: Kyiv, Ukraine
Date: 23 August 2021

Outcomes: Charter of the Summit to reconfirm the key principles of international policy on Crimea and to define common objectives
Parliamentary dimension

Inter-factional MPs association “The Crimea Platform” established in the Ukrainian Parliament

- national agenda (sanctions, IDPs, de-occupation and reintegration)
- implementation of the Crimea Platform goals through:
  - parliamentary assemblies of international organisations
  - cooperation with the European Parliament
  - existing bilateral inter-parliamentary groups
International Expert network

International expert network of the Crimea Platform

- synergy of Ukrainian and international expertise on Crimea

Participants:

- experts, scholars, think-tanks, journalists

Role:

- analytical support to the Platform activities and advocacy