



Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
of Ukraine

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

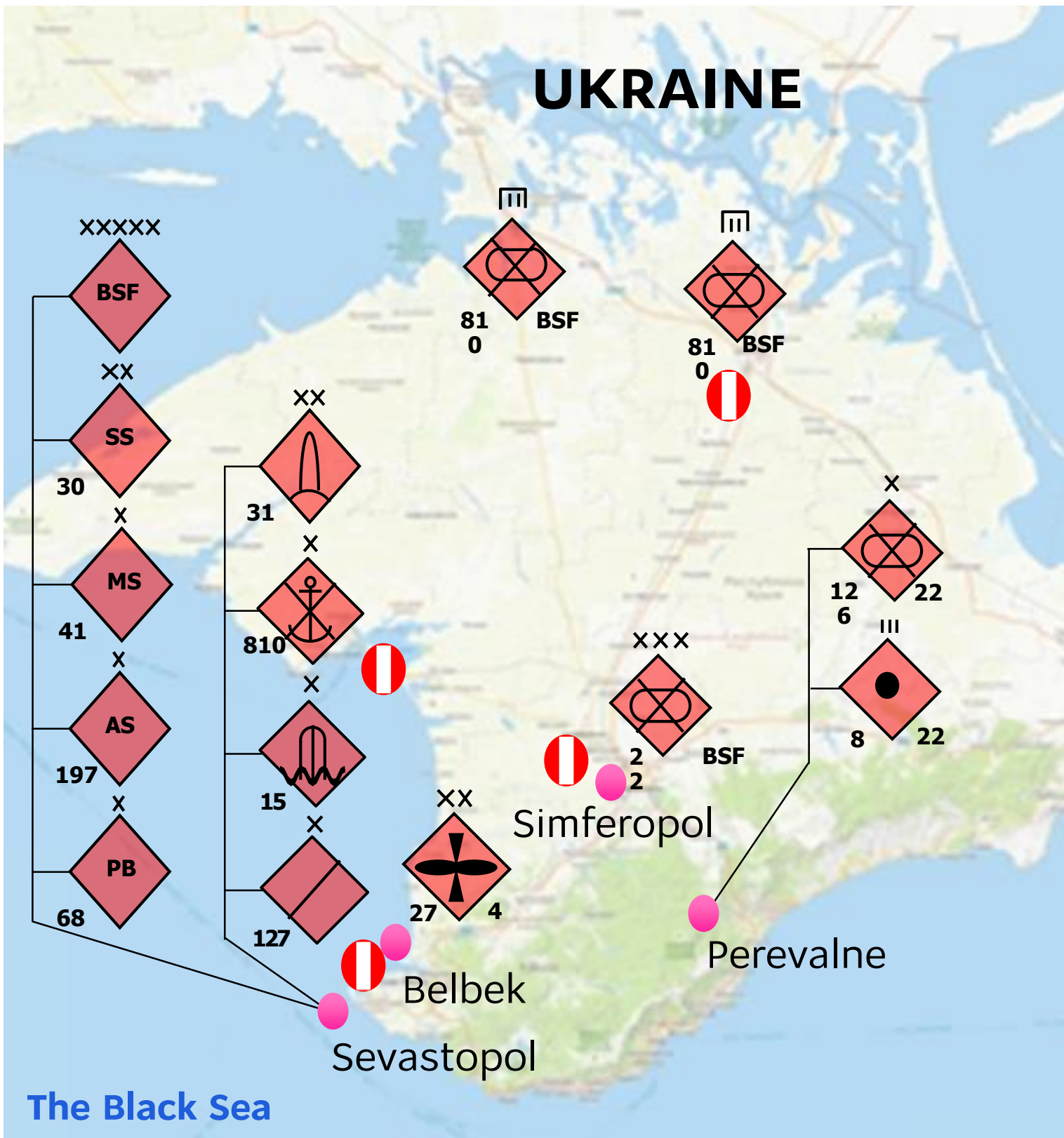
The ongoing militarisation

Russian forces in Crimea

Before the occupation (January 2014)	December 2020	2025 projection
 12500	32500	43000
 –	195	255
 92	410	800
 24	283	340
 22	100	150
 37	50	90
 –	12	16
 26	68*	76*
 2	7*	8*

* Including “Kaliber”-type cruise missile carriers in Novorossiysk

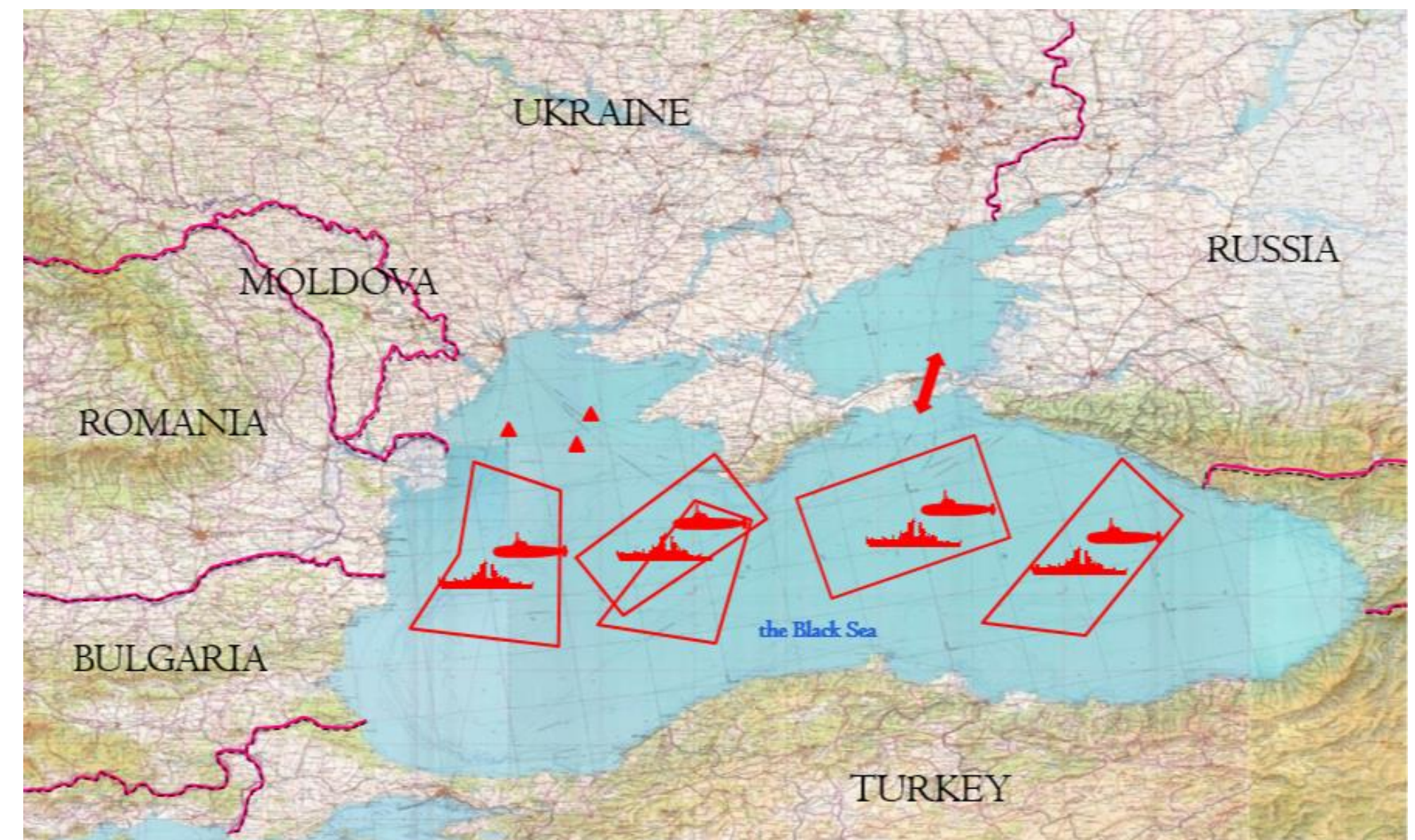
Deployment of occupational forces



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



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



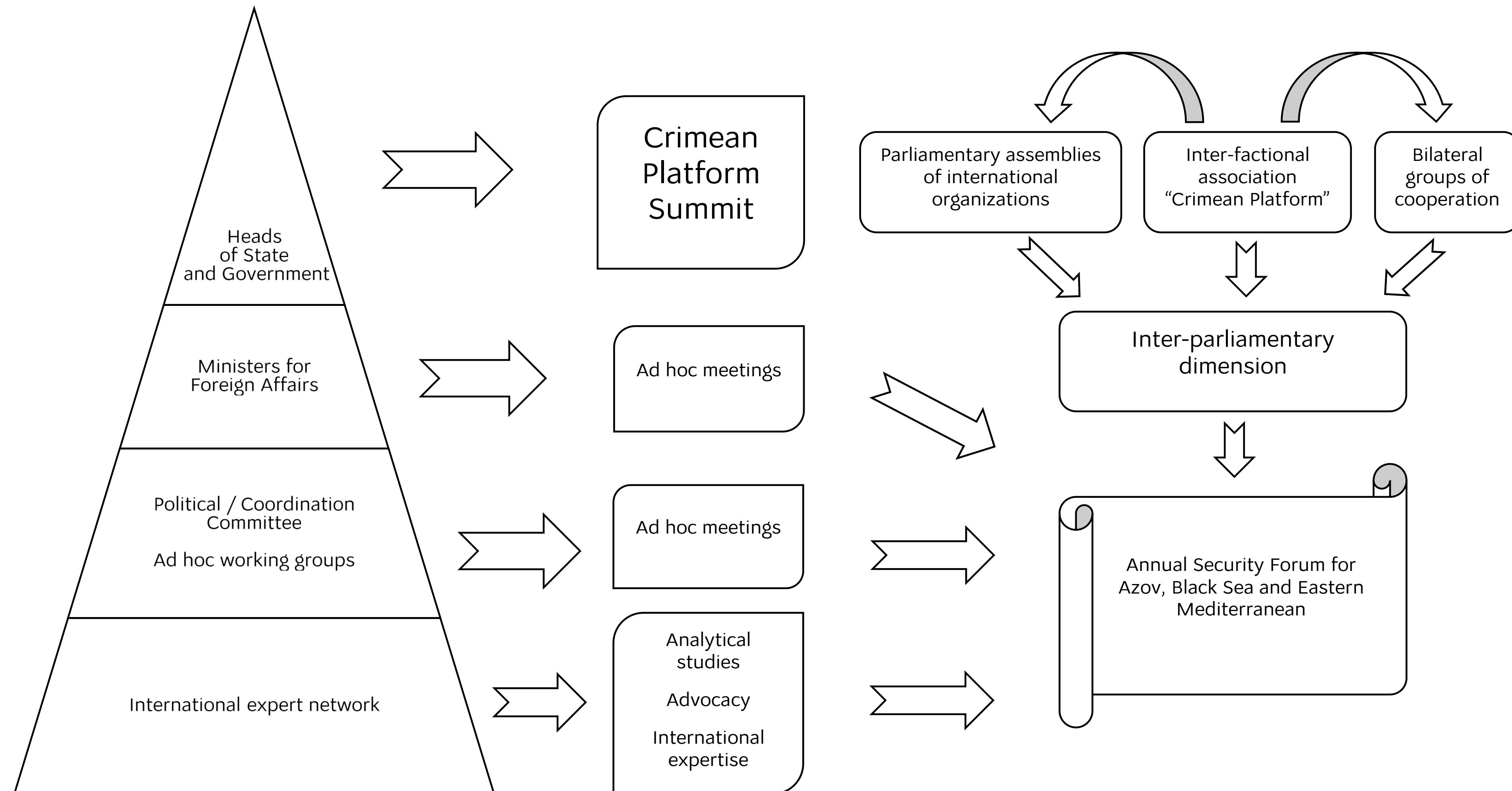
- ✓ **attempts to include Crimea into the Russian legal field**
recent examples:
 - illegal referendum on amendments to the Russian Constitution (25 June - 1 July 2020)
 - fake “local elections” (13 September 2020)
- ✓ **illegal expropriation** and privatization of Ukrainian state-owned assets
(the latest 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



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