



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 830<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(28 September 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 2)

**Madam Chairperson,**

One week ago on 21 September 2016 in Minsk a **Framework agreement on Disengagement of Forces and Hardware** was signed by the Trilateral Contact Group: Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE as a mediator, as well as on the establishment of three pilot areas of disengagement nearby the settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske in Donbas.

The disengagement to 4 square kilometers of personnel and their weapons (including caliber of less than 100 mm) should start after 7 days of full silence regime and last no more than 3 days. To the end of 11<sup>th</sup> day of withdrawal the sides must provide for demining of these three areas. Next two days (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>) are allocated to the OSCE SMM and JCCC to enter the area and confirm that the military moved away, withdrew military equipment and demined these territories. If disengagement in three areas is successful, the similar mechanism of disengagement of forces and hardware can be enacted in the next four points. In total, there are 50 areas along the contact line in Donbas.

It is envisaged that the SMM will observe and verify the implementation of the Framework agreement in the settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. Verification is the key measure for the Framework agreement to work. Unfortunately, so far the combined Russian-separatist forces use different pretext to obstruct the work of the SMM monitors near the contact line and in areas of disengagement.

**Madam Chairperson,**  
**Distinguished colleagues,**

In the past week we noted a significant reduction of armed provocations along the contact line by the combined Russian-separatist forces, primarily in the Donetsk and Mariupol directions. The number of armed attacks by militants halved within the week with an average intensity of **11 times per day**. Shellings from prohibited heavy weapons is most visible in Avdiivka, Donetsk oblast. Yet violation of the silence regime by militants

using 82mm and 120mm mortars, grenade launchers, small arms and light weapons took place in all directions along the contact line. As a result of the fighting over the past week **1 Ukrainian soldier was killed and 8 were wounded**. On 24 September, a 42-year-old resident of Avdiivka, while staying in the yard of his house, received a gunshot wound. The SMM continues to register the deployment of snipers near the contact line in the occupied areas of Donbas. The Armed Forces of Ukraine strictly observe requirements of the Minsk agreements and respond only in case of direct threat to life.

**Madam Chairperson,**

The volatility of the security situation is strongly influenced by Russia's continuing direct involvement in the conflict and constant military resupplies and reinforcements. According to the competent authorities of Ukraine, on 23 September a train from Russia delivered to the firing field of "Torez", Donetsk oblast 15 battle tanks: five tanks T-80 and ten tanks T-72. A convoy of 18 heavy trucks with ammunition arrived from Russia in the town of Shakhtarsk, Donetsk oblast. On 24 September to the railway station of Roven'ki received from Russia 9 cisterns with 450 tons diesel fuel, and 4 wagons with lubricants and ammunition. On 24 September Russia delivered to the railway station of Khartsyzk a train of 4 cisterns with diesel fuel and two with benzene, as well as on platforms: three battle tanks T-80, two armoured vehicles "Tigr" and two communication command vehicles.

At the last 829<sup>th</sup> FSC Meeting the EU delegation drew attention to the SMM spot report of 15 September on the uncontrolled detonation near Stanytsia Luhanska of an anti-personnel mine OZM-72 which is prohibited by the Ottawa Convention. On 24 September during demining of territories in Novoazovsk and Marinka districts of the Donetsk oblast, the Armed Forces of Ukraine once again revealed three anti-personnel mines, two of them PMN-2, also known as "Black Widow", and one POM-2. The combined Russian-terrorist forces continue to resort to planting these indiscriminate lethal devices. We condemn the use of anti-personnel mines which are prohibited by the Ottawa Convention and urge the Russian side to step up its efforts on mine action in accordance with commitments under the Minsk Memorandum and decisions of the Trilateral Contact Group.

The illegal military flows into the occupied areas of Donbas underline the critical need to restore control at the uncontrolled sections of the Ukraine-Russia border and implement without delay an agreed Minsk provision on establishment of a security zone in border areas of both Ukraine and Russia, with the OSCE permanent monitoring and verification. We underline the necessity to establish SMM Forward Patrol Bases and patrol hubs close to the border in order to ensure due monitoring of uncontrolled sections of the border and adjacent areas, including BCPs and transport routes. Deployment of an armed police mission, including in the border areas, is necessary to contribute to establishment of safe and secure environment in Donbas.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

The OSCE SMM to Ukraine continues to encounter significant limitations in the occupied areas that impede proper monitoring and distort the real situation on the ground. Access of SMM observers is denied or hindered. The SMM teams encounter direct threats, are imposed escorts on their visits, demanded patrol plans in advance. Russia and its proxies do not allow freedom of the SMM's movement and access in large part of the territory under their control, including along Ukraine-Russia state border where, as pointed out by the SMM, the monitoring is "chronically impaired". Such restrictions breach the agreed mandate of the SMM and its ability to report objectively on the situation on the ground. We call on Russia to deliver on its commitment on the SMM's full freedom of movement.

It is unacceptable that the OSCE monitors often face intimidations and threats from the Russian hybrid forces. Such incidents affect negatively the work of the Mission and must be stopped.

### **Madam Chairperson,**

It remains crucial to seek full implementation of the initial security provisions of the Minsk agreements as a basis for progress in other areas. These include: securing ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons, and full freedom of movement and access for the SMM for effective monitoring. These important steps are a reflection of immediate measures as agreed by Russia in the Minsk package and new Framework agreement. We emphasise again that the decisions taken in Moscow led to the conflict in Donbas, consequently it requires decisions in Moscow to stop the conflict and progress to resolution.

We urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

**Thank you, Madam Chairperson.**