



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 859th FSC Plenary Meeting
(19 July 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item: General Statements)

Mr. Chairperson,

Two days ago the World marked the Third Anniversary of the Tragedy with the Malaysian Airlines flight MH17. In connection with this tragic event, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin made a statement, some excerpts of which I would like to bring to the attention of the Forum:

“3 years ago a World ... was shocked ... when 298 passengers and crew members of the flight MH17 were blasted out of the skies over Ukraine.... We are determined to do everything in our power to unveil the truth and bring those responsible ... to justice...

Two investigations have been carried out into this case. The first was a technical investigation led by the Dutch Security Board. The second was a criminal investigation conducted by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT), made up from prosecutors from Ukraine, the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium and Malaysia. According to both investigations the aircraft was downed by a BUK missile... which was launched from territory controlled by Russia-backed terrorists, ... brought from Russia and after the attack its launcher was delivered back to Russia. ... We want to know who pushed the button, who gave the order and what was the ... chain of command. The world needs to know, and the families of the 298 who were slain need to know, who was... responsible. ... The trial must be objective and the verdict internationally recognized....”

Distinguished colleagues,

According to the results of research made by the Jane`s Terrorism & Insurgency Centre, which provides a knowledge of a global threat environment, published recently in the Jane`s International Defense Review, the most active non-state armed groups in the world in 2016 were as follows: **first** – the “Islamic State” with 4236 attacks, the **second** – “Donetsk People`s Republic” – 3417 attacks, **third** – “Luhansk People`s Republic” – 734 attacks, **forth** – Jabhat Fath Al-Sham – 687 attacks. As you can see, according to very respectful international source the so called “DPR” and “LPR” are among four the most active terrorist groups globally.

While four weeks have passed since the so called “harvest ceasefire” was agreed by the TCG, to our deep regret, the ceasefire has been constantly flouted by the hybrid Russian forces just as the ceasefires announced before.

At the same time, we have to admit that according to the SMM last Weekly Report of 12 July, it observed a reduction in the number of ceasefire violations recorded in the security zone. The number decreased by about 15% in comparison with the previous week. While the SMM observed the use of MLRS, there was an overall decrease in the use of weapons that should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements. The Mission established that such weapons were fired on 127 occasions compared with 365 the week before.

Judging from daily reports by both the SMM and competent Ukrainian bodies, we see that the situation along the contact line doesn't suggest that the process of de-escalation in Donbas has gained a positive momentum. The Russian side insistently continue to reject its military engagement in Donbas. However, we have clear evidence which speak eloquently on Russia's military presence in the east of Ukraine.

Authorities of the Southern military district (Rostov-on-Don, Russia) of the RF AF continue inspecting units of the 1st and 2nd AC of the Russian occupational troops on the non-government controlled territory of Donbas. Military inspectors conduct specific interviews and briefings with Russian career military servicemen and mercenaries. During these meetings inspectors demand that while participating in combat actions servicemen and mercenaries must leave at unit's Headquarters their identification documents which confirm their Russian citizenship. If mercenaries refuse to follow the above requirements and hide their passports, Russian staff officers threaten them to send to Russia where they would be detained and become a subject for criminal investigation. Moreover, Russian military superiors demand that sergeants and privates who had signed contracts to serve on the territory of Russia should write requests for early termination of the employment contract without mentioning the date of the written request.

The SMM continued to face freedom of movement restrictions when crossing checkpoints, attempting to visit heavy weapons holding areas, as well as when attempting to establish facts predominantly in the areas not under government control. Apart from those encountered regularly in disengagement areas and due to mines, during the previous week **restrictions occurred once in government-controlled areas and 10 times in non-government-controlled areas**. Such restrictions and impediments significantly reduce the SMM's ability to establish and report facts in accordance with its mandate.

The SMM was prevented from crossing a "DPR"-controlled checkpoint north of Novoazovsk and proceeding east towards the border with Russia. This denial of access has occurred 5 times since 28 June. On 6 July the SMM took an alternative route north of Novoazovsk via "DPR"-controlled Markyne to monitor the border crossing point. The SMM was also stopped twice at a checkpoint at "DPR"-controlled Kremynets, where on 7 July an armed man pointed a rifle at the SMM. After attempting to cross at a different checkpoint near Kremynets, where it was also denied access, the SMM proceeded to checkpoint Olenivka, where it was allowed to pass only after the trailer of its vehicle was searched.

The SMM continued to **observe heavy weapons in violation** on both sides of the contact line, noting **7 in violation in government-controlled and 13 in non-**

government controlled areas during the past week, including 10 MLRS near “LPR”-controlled Khrustalnyi.

According to the Report of 12 July, an armed man at a checkpoint in “DPR”-controlled Mineralne stopped the SMM and said he needed to call superiors. After a phone call he told SMM it would need to take a different route.

On 12 July, near “DPR”-controlled Siedove, armed “DPR” members stopped the SMM and denied it proceeding further citing orders from superiors. At the same day, at a checkpoint north of Novoazovsk, armed “DPR” members asked to see the patrol route and other documents, including personal IDs and asked SMM members to exit their vehicles.

On 12 July, while in “DPR”-controlled Holmivskyi, the SMM heard 5 shots of small-arms fire 100m of its position, where it was flying a mini UAV. The SMM assessed the shots as aimed at the UAV.

SMM mid-range UAV spotted again the ***presence of two rows of six and eight anti-tank mines*** each about 100m west of a “DPR” checkpoint at the edge of Pikuzy, 80m from the closest house, as well as 8 anti-tank mines on a road northwest of Pikuzy.

On 13 July at a checkpoint Siedove, armed “DPR” members again stopped an SMM patrol and denied it to proceed further, citing orders from superiors. Later at the same checkpoint, a “DPR” member stopped another SMM patrol and claimed that a prior consent from a “DPR” structure was required for it to enter the town as it was “a border area with a special entry-exit status”. 3 armed men in military attire approached the SMM and, while refusing to identify themselves, demanded in an aggressive manner that the SMM leave the area. Earlier in the day the SMM had requested the Russian side of the JCCC accompany its visit to Siedove but it had declined. The SMM was unable to access some buildings of a permanent storage site in “DPR”- controlled areas as an armed “DPR” member said he had no keys to open them.

Distinguished colleagues,

During the last week the number of ceasefire violations committed by Russia-backed militants ranged between 16 on July 16 and 35 on July 14. The hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire around 150 times, 25% of which was carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons. 3 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 11 were wounded. A total of 11 private homes were damaged by militants` fire in the frontline area. They are located in Zolote, Luhansk sector, Avdiivka, Donetsk sector, and Maryinka, Mariupol sector. Also, Russian proxies damaged a local power line near Novobakhmutivka village in the Donetsk sector, which was immediately repaired by Ukrainian emergency services.

In conclusion, we urge Russia to stop its aggression against Ukraine, to implement in good faith its commitments under the Minsk agreements, and to reverse the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, which remains an integral part of Ukraine.

I thank you for the attention.