Summary

- Until the late hours of the night of 26-27 February and from the early morning hours on 27 February, the SMM continued to hear multiple explosions, including multiple launch rocket system and heavy artillery fire in and around the cities of Kharkiv, Kherson, and Odessa.

- The Mission completed the evacuation of most International Mission members following the 25 February decision. The SMM Monitoring Teams in Kharkiv and Kherson remain sheltered in place, owing to ongoing fighting, and its Monitoring Teams in Luhansk and Donetsk Patrol Hubs await withdrawal through the Russian Federation. The Chief Monitor along with the Kyiv Head Office senior management remain in place in Ukraine to oversee remaining Mission withdrawal.

Kherson region

During the evening of 26 February, the SMM heard explosions and shots of small-arms fire in the central part of Mykolaiv city as well as in north-western and north-eastern directions.

During the night of 26-27 February, the Mission noted that the situation in Kherson city was calm.

On 27 February at 09:30, the SMM heard sounds assessed as made by armoured combat vehicles in areas south-east of Kherson city. From early in the morning and into the afternoon, the SMM heard explosions, some assessed as air strikes, as well as small-arms and heavy-machine-gun fire in areas north of the city.

Kharkiv region

During the evening of 26 February, the Mission heard explosions assessed as fire from multiple launch rocket systems and heavy artillery at various distances and directions from its location.

During the night of 26-27 February and from early morning hours on 27 February, the SMM heard heavy shelling in areas north and north-east of Kharkiv city. Later in the morning, the Mission heard multiple undetermined explosions in areas north and north-east of the city and

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1 Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 17:00, 27 February 2022. All times are in Eastern European Time. The SMM is deployed to ten locations throughout Ukraine – Kherson, Odessa, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014.
small-arms and heavy machine-gun fire near the city centre. In the afternoon, it also heard an undetermined number of explosions at various distances, including also from the south-east of the city.

**Donetsk region**

Throughout the day of 27 February, the Mission noted that the situation in Donetsk city was calm.

**Luhansk region**

Throughout the day of 27 February, the Mission noted that the situation in Luhansk city was calm.

**SMM evacuation**

The Mission continued evacuation activities as per the 25 February decision to temporarily evacuate all international mission members. The evacuation of the Monitoring Teams located in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Dnipro, Odessa, Kyiv and Kyiv Head Office as well as the Monitoring Teams from the Sievierodonetsk, Mariupol and Kramatorsk Patrol Hubs is complete.

Due to ongoing kinetic activity, including continued shelling and reports of fighting as well as the dynamic movement of front lines, the Monitoring Teams located in the cities of Kharkiv and Kherson remain sheltered in place. The Teams are conducting security risk assessments to establish a window to allow them to move safely.

In non-government controlled areas, the Monitoring Teams in Luhansk and Donetsk Patrol Hubs remain on standby for evacuation. (See also SMM Spot Report of 26 February 2022.)