Summary

- During the evening of 27-28 February and from early morning hours on 28 February, the SMM continued to hear multiple explosions, including multiple launch rocket system and heavy artillery fire in and around the cities of Kharkiv and Kherson.

- The Mission completed the evacuation activities of most international mission members following the 25 February decision. The SMM Monitoring Teams in Kharkiv and Kherson remain sheltered in place, while its Monitoring Teams in Luhansk and Donetsk Patrol Hubs remain on standby for evacuation. The Chief Monitor and senior management will remain in Ukraine until the evacuation process is complete.

Kherson region

During the evening of 27 February, the SMM heard explosions south-east of Mykolaiv city as well as in the north and north-east of Kherson city.

On 27 February at 12:20, the SMM heard shots in the area near Antonivka Bridge.

At 14:00 and 14:47, the Mission heard two undetermined explosions north of the office building.

During the late afternoon on 28 February, the Mission noted that the situation in Kherson city and Mykolaiv city remained relatively calm.

Kharkiv region

During the evening of 27 February, the Mission heard heavy artillery fire at various distances north, north-east, and south-east from its location.

During the night of 27-28 February, the SMM heard explosions and heavy shelling, including fire from multiple launch rocket systems, at a distance of 3-5km, in areas north and north-east of Kharkiv city. Later in the morning, the Mission noted ongoing kinetic activity and heard multiple shots of small-arms fire and heavy artillery rounds.

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1 Based on information from the Monitoring Teams as of 17:00, 28 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, Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Luhansk and Kyiv – as per Permanent Council Decision 1117 of 21 March 2014.
Donetsk region

Throughout the evening of 27 February and the day of 28 February, the Mission noted that the situation in Donetsk city was calm.

Luhansk region

Throughout the evening of 27 February and the day of 28 February, the SMM 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 continue to shelter in place. The Teams are conducting dynamic 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. (SMM Spot Report of 26 February 2022.)

The Chief Monitor and senior management will remain in Ukraine until the evacuation process is complete.