



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 777-th FSC Plenary Meeting
(28 January 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian aggression against Ukraine, which resulted in illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, as well as escalation in Ukraine's east, continues and produces a sharply growing number of casualties among civilians and servicemen in Ukraine.

On 24 January, Russian-backed terrorists committed another heinous crime. The deliberate shelling by Grad missiles of the residential areas of the city of Mariupol, followed a number of earlier terrorist attacks, among them the shellings of the civilian bus near Volnovakha, of the trolleybus stop in Donetsk, of residential areas in many towns and villages.

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission's assessment concluded that the attack had been carried out through the use of Grad and Uragan rockets fired from areas controlled by the "Donetsk People's Republic". On January 25, the Ukrainian government reported that the toll from the attack had reached 30 dead and 102 wounded.

The Ukrainian Security Service collected evidence, including telephone intercepts and the account of the accomplice of this murderous act, that the artillery attack on peaceful Mariupol was committed by the Russian artillery battery commanded by a Russian officer with a call sign "Pepel".

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

The cold-blooded murder of 30 civilians and wounding of more than a hundred people by pro-Russian terrorists in Mariupol is a crime against humanity. The Ukrainian authorities will do all in their power to make sure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime are brought to justice.

These attacks came as the militants, supplied from Russia with sophisticated weaponry including Grads, artillery systems, modern tanks and backed by an influx of Russian armed forces and mercenaries, announced the launch of a new offensive, in flagrant violation of the Minsk agreements. On January 24, the leader of the so called "Donetsk people's republic" Zakharchenko declared that "today the offensive on Mariupol started", ruling out the implementation of the Minsk agreements. His announcements were promptly disseminated by the Russian state propaganda media.

Distinguished colleagues,

Russia, which continues to materially support terrorist activities and whose troops are directly involved in hostilities against Ukraine, bears responsibility for the murders of innocent civilians in Volnovakha, Debaltseve, Donetsk, Mariupol and many other towns and villages in Ukraine in recent weeks.

It remains imperative to seek that Russia finally fulfils by practical deeds the commitment, it had undertaken, reins in its proxies and stops sending troops and weaponry into Ukraine. We urge Russia to fully implement the Minsk agreements which

it has thus far supported only in words, including the immediate withdrawal of all its armed forces, fighters and militants from the territory of Ukraine, establishment of effective control on the Ukrainian-Russian border under the OSCE monitoring and verification and the security zone in areas adjacent to the border.

Against the background of the continued deterioration of the situation with the supply of arms, military equipment and militants by the Russian Federation to the illegal armed groups in Donbas, yesterday the Parliament of Ukraine, taking into account the UN Charter and the General Assembly Resolution 3314 "Definition of aggression" of 14 December 1974, called on the Parliaments of other countries and international organizations to take a number of measures to help Ukraine defend itself against the aggression.

Distinguished colleagues,

The presence of the Armed Forces of Russia in Donbas is now at its peak since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. We are seeing and estimated at up to 9 thousand troops.

Moscow masterminds of the so-called "DPR" and "LPR", behind the cover of the subordinate militants' groups bring in Russian regular military units under the command of Russian generals on key operational areas of Donbas.

According to Ukraine's ATO staff, currently the command of the military offensive against the Ukrainian units in the vicinity of the settlement of Popasna, Luhansk region, is executed by major-general Sergei Kuzovlev, the chief of staff of the 58th Army of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

Since the last FSC meeting the security situation in Donbas remained tense and tended to further aggravation. The number and intensity of militant's attacks have significantly increased. Since the announcement of the "regime of quiet" on 9 December 2014, **1860 cases of attacks** on position the ATO forces and towns and villages have been registered. The most difficult situation is in the area of the Donetsk airport and nearby settlements Avdiivka, Horlivka, Debaltseve, Schastya, Mykolaivka, Hranitne, and the city of Mariupol. Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives.

Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian terrorist groups, which were registered from 21 till 27 of January:

-on 21 January sabotage activities of regular units of the Russian armed forces jointly with illegal armed formations in the areas of Debaltseve, Donetsk, Mykhailivka, Ozeryanivka, Novobahmutivka (Donetsk region), Slovyanoserbsk, Trohizbenka (Luhansk region) and Pervomaysk (Kharkiv region) resulted in numerous civilian casualties;

-on 21 January columns of Russian military equipment entered Ukraine, which included new light-armored vehicles KAMAZ-43269 called "Vystrel", "Dozor" and GAZ-3937 "Vodnik" and "Tiger" which are used only in the Russian Armed Forces as well as tanks and MLRSs "Grad";

-on 22 January a column of 40 pieces of Russian military equipment, which included military trucks, MLRS "Grad" and armored personnel carriers passed across the city of Krasnyi Luch on the highway from Krasnodon to Lugansk. Then one part of

the column moved towards the city of Snizhne in Donetsk region, the second part went to Znamianka;

-on 23 January terrorists of the so-called LPR actively shelled the village Stanytsya Luhanska, Luhansk region. The militants have taken up the hill from the Siverskyi Donets River, and started firing at the village Stanytsya Luhanska and the nearby village Olhove with cannons and MLRS "Grad". About 40 homes were damaged, some cannot be recovered. This senseless attack also resulted in a death of civilian population;

-on 26 January the most difficult situation in the conflict zone was on the Debaltseve direction. After several attempts to storm the positions of Ukrainian troops near the settlements Sanzharovka and Troitske the Russian-terrorist group conducted resupply of their advanced units with the personnel and equipment. In addition, terrorists continued to increase their impact on the tactical groups flanking positions of the Debaltseve springboard, in the north of Avdiivka and in the south-western suburbs Gorlivka. At the direction of the "main attack" on the left flank Debaltseve springboard an artillery group of terrorists was deployed, manned by Russian servicemen from the two artillery brigades of the Central Military District of the Russian Federation (26 units of the self-propelled artillery systems and towed artillery, and 12 units of MLRS).

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the participants of this FSC meeting a last response of the Russian Federation on 21 January (format F41) to the Ukrainian request on 20 January (format F10) under the Vienna Document. On 19 January two Russian battalion tactical groups around 700 servicemen entered the territory of Ukraine through uncontrolled part of the border in Luhansk oblast. In view of this yet another violation and the deployment in direct proximity to the Ukrainian border about 52 thousand Russian troops, Ukraine used the tool of the Vienna Document requesting explanations from the Russian Federation (format F10). We deplore that in its reply (format F41) the Russian Federation again refused to provide substantive response to the grounded concerns of the Ukrainian side.

The approach of the Russian Federation towards implementation of its commitments on confidence and security building measures runs counter to the letter and spirit of the Vienna Document. If Russia is genuinely interested in peace and full implementation of the Minsk arrangements as it declares, we urge the Russian Federation to withdraw its servicemen from the Ukrainian territory, to return the troops amassed along the border to their permanent bases of stationing, to voluntarily host OSCE military inspections in areas adjacent to the Ukrainian-Russian state border on the segment, currently not controlled by Ukrainian border guards.

Mr. Chairman,

For the Minsk Agreements and the peaceful resolution to succeed all parties must fulfill in good faith their commitments. The militants together with Russian troops, which continue to remain on our soil, must cease their offensive military actions and stop shelling of civilian areas. All foreign military personnel must leave the territory of Ukraine. And the Russian Federation must cease its illegal supplies of weapons and equipment, and halt the flow of the so called "volunteers" into our sovereign territory. Effective control of the border under OSCE monitoring is of critical importance for achieving de-escalation and peace.

We once again urge the Russian Federation to respect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

The Russian Federation must back up its declarations of interests in peaceful resolution with practical meaningful deeds of de-escalation, which has not yet happened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.