



Permanent Mission of Ukraine  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 852<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**  
(10 May 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 2)

**Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

In connection with the fatal incident of 23 April near “LPR”-controlled Pryshyb village, regrettably the SMM has suspended regular patrolling starting from 24 April and its monitoring remained restricted throughout the last two weeks. This restriction – to limit operations to patrolling on hard (asphalt or concrete) surfaces – implies: less monitoring of the ceasefire by direct observation; less verification of any withdrawal of weapons; less use of remote observation technologies that require access away from hard-surfaced roads for launch or maintenance; less communication with Ukrainians who live or work away from such roads; and less dialogue involving them. This situation fully meets the interests of hybrid Russian forces, as it limits the possibilities of full scale objective monitoring of the Russian aggression in the east of Ukraine and fixing numerous cases of violations by militants the provisions of the Minsk agreements.

We note with deep regret that the hybrid Russian forces do not observe the ceasefire arrangements as agreed within the TCG on 29 March, reaffirmed on 12 April and supported during the telephone conversation of the leaders of the Normandy format countries on 18 April.

We continue to encounter regular serious violations of ceasefire by the hybrid Russian forces, including with the use of Minsk-proscribed weapons, especially of high caliber artillery. The Ukrainian Armed Forces continue to bear losses, they adhere to the cease-fire but are occasionally compelled to fire in response to suppress shelling and to protect their own lives and the lives of local civilians. The residential areas continue to be targeted by indiscriminate shelling.

According to the last SMM Weekly Report of 3 May in areas east and north-east of Mariupol, the SMM noted a 55 per cent increase in the number of ceasefire violations as well as an increase in the use of proscribed weapons (82 explosions attributable to mortar fire and eight to artillery fire compared with 17 attributable to artillery fire the week before). Overall, ceasefire violations recorded in the area represented 30 per cent of all ceasefire violations recorded by the SMM. Some 80 per cent of armed violence in the area was recorded during night hours.

During the past week *hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire 383 times, 109 of which were carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons, mostly*

***mortars. The past week of militants' attacks in Donbas took lives of 2 Ukrainian servicemen, 30 soldiers and 3 civilians were wounded.***

The SMM observed weapons in violation of the respective withdrawal lines in 44 instances during the week. In non-government-controlled areas, the SMM observed about 30 weapons – tanks, howitzers, and MLRS – in the south-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city on a daily basis. In government controlled areas the SMM saw two weapons in violation of withdrawal lines.

The SMM during the week had managed to visit border areas currently not controlled by the Government of Ukraine on ten occasions but for only about half an hour at each border crossing point. Monitoring of these areas continued to be hindered by the persistence of those in control of these areas to deny the SMM the security guarantees, which would enable it enhance its monitoring through opening additional forward patrol bases and patrol hubs in the area.

The SMM continued to monitor electricity and water supply in the security zone. As “DPR” security guarantees for repairs to power lines in the area of Avdiivka and the Donetsk Water Filtration Station were not provided, the SMM continued to note interruptions in power supply. On 28 April a Ukrainian officer of the JCCC in Avdiivka told the SMM that Avdiivka had been connected to a new power line from the west of the country and said he believed there would be an uninterrupted supply of electrical power to the city from that moment on. Since 30 April, the SMM has noted that Avdiivka had power.

The SMM continues to report about unreasonable and ungrounded claims and blames to the address of the SMM from the so called authorities of the occupied territories of Donbas region of Ukraine. According to the SMM Weekly Report of 3 May, “LPR” members have made several public statements attempting to blame the mentioned tragic incident of April 23 on the SMM. Addressing so called “ministers” of the so-called “LPR”, in televised remarks on May 3, 2017 the leader of the armed group Plotnitskiy referred to obligations under ‘the OSCE’s charter’ and suggested his audience send the OSCE a bill for restoration of damaged infrastructure. If the OSCE would not protect civilians, he asked, ‘What is the point of their presence in our territory?’ According to the SMM, this is the last megaphone declaration in a row of misleading statements of Minsk signatories from areas not controlled by the Government. If not stopped these statements will continue to represent a considerable security risks for the Mission’s monitors in Donbas. The SMM has made this point repeatedly since the beginning of the year.

So called “DPR” members informed the SMM on 3 May that rehearsals for the ‘9 May parade’, involving 70 pieces of military hardware will take place in Donetsk city, starting from the evening 03 May onwards (between 09:00 and 13:00hrs on 05 and 07 May). In this regard the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group’s (TCG) working group on security issues scheduled for May 3 2017, was postponed as Mr.Pushilin informed the SMM that his group is unable to participate – apparently engaged in preparing for the ‘9 May parade’. The next meeting of the working group will take place on 15 May.

The SMM continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons, in implementation of the Package of Measures and its Addendum, as well as the Memorandum. On May 4 the SMM observed the following equipment in Donetsk city in violation of respective withdrawal lines: MLRS “Grad” (122mm) x 3, SAM “Strela-10” x 3, MBTs T-64 x 3 and T-72 x 3, APC BMP-1 x 3, Mortar “Sani” (120mm) x 3, Cannon “Rapira” T-12 (100mm) x 3, Howitzer D-20 (152mm) x 3, Howitzer D-30 (122mm) x 3, Self-propelled howitzer 2S1 “Gvozdika” (122mm) x 3, Cannon “ZIS-5” (76mm) x 1.

According to the SMM Daily Report of May 8, in violation of the respective withdrawal lines the SMM continued to observe (on 6 and 7 May) seven multiple launch rocket systems (BM-21 Grad, 122mm), seven self-propelled howitzers (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm), ten towed howitzers (five D-30 Lyagushka, 122mm; and five 2A65 Msta-B, 152mm), and seven tanks (T-72) at an aerodrome on the south-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city. On 6 May a Russian officer of the JCCC told the SMM that a letter had been sent to “LPR” and “DPR” members with regard to these and similar violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, but did not outline any concrete steps taken to remedy them. In Donetsk city a senior “DPR” member repeatedly refused to meet with the SMM and in Luhansk city a senior “LPR” member met the SMM, but did not provide steps to remedy the violations reported by the SMM.

Beyond withdrawal lines, but outside storage sites, the SMM saw on 7 May 40 stationary tanks (unidentified type) near “DPR”-controlled Manuilivka. On 6 and 7 May, at the aerodrome on the south-eastern outskirts of Luhansk city, the SMM saw 17 armored personnel carriers (APCs) (ten MTLB and seven BTR-80) and seven IFVs (BMP-2). On 7 May, the SMM saw one APC (BTR) and one military truck towing a covered anti-aircraft gun, moving south-west along Oboronna Street in Luhansk city center.

### **Distinguished colleagues,**

The security and safety of the SMM monitors as well as respective attitude to them have long been in the focus of the FSC meetings. Regrettably, as we have noticed before, the situation has considerably deteriorated after a number of unilateral steps undertaken by the Russian Federation since the beginning of this year, which had emboldened the illegal armed formations in Donbas in persistent violation of the security provisions of the Minsk agreements with further negative consequences for the SMM activities, safety and security of the monitors.

On 6 May, the Mission Spot Report informed on a case of intimidation and sexual harassment by militants against SMM patrol members. On 5 May an SMM patrol was monitoring the area near “DPR”-controlled Petrivske planning to retrieve data from an SMM camera. At 10:42 an unidentified man armed with a machine gun (PKM) and dressed in military-type camouflage clothing at a checkpoint stopped the patrol and insisted that another unidentified armed man escort the patrol to the camera site. In a threatening gesture, he placed his machine gun on the ground with the barrel pointing at the SMM. A second man, armed with an assault rifle (AK-47) and smelling of alcohol approached the patrol and escorted it to the camera by following after the vehicles on foot. As the patrol was retrieving

data from the camera, the militant approached a female patrol member and began harassing her by making comments of a sexual nature that created an intimidating environment, exacerbated by his possession of a weapon. Another patrol member told him to stop harassing his fellow patrol member, but he continued. As the patrol was leaving the area, at the same non-government-controlled checkpoint, the first man armed with the machine gun prevented the patrol from proceeding east on the road. The second man approached the SMM vehicle with the female patrol member inside and continued to sexually harass her with increasingly aggressive conduct, and threatened the patrol that they could not leave until his demands were met. He told the man with the assault rifle, "In no way let them pass!" Only in an hour the SMM reversed and left the area the same way it had arrived.

Such disgusting behavior of representatives of hybrid Russian forces in the Donbas is absolutely impermissible and should be carefully investigated, and those responsible are severely punished.

Ukrainian delegation together with the Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM, Ambassador E. Apakan, condemns the sexual harassment of an SMM patrol member by an armed militant. This incident demands a swift and unequivocal response by the so-called "DPR", which must include identification of the individual responsible, and full application of appropriate measures to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

On 7 May, armed DPR members denied the SMM access to the "DPR"-controlled Sosnivske (north-east of Mariupol) at a checkpoint on the eastern side of the village. As the SMM was waiting for the local commander, it saw the armed "DPR" member, who has initially denied it access, fire one shot of his assault rifle (AK-47) in the air and motion with his hands towards the SMM to move further away from the checkpoint.

Since the 2014 Ukrainian delegation has made a number of presentations with credible evidences of illicit presence of Russia's modern sophisticated weapons and military equipment in the east of Ukraine. Unfortunately, nothing has changed so far. Despite the numerous calls from the vast majority of the Participating States to stop doing so, the RF still continues to illicitly transfer its conventional arms and related equipment to the territory of Ukraine with the aim of destabilizing political and security situation there.

In order to continue to keep delegations up-to-date we would like to present now some new evidence of continuing illicit transfers of Russia's weapons and military equipment including the most sophisticated ones from the territory of the RF to the territories of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine which are presently not controlled by the Ukrainian Government. These slides allow to clearly identify those arms and equipment as Russia-originated ones that have never been transferred to Ukraine legally and have never been on the inventory of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

There is still a continuing inflow of Russian conventional arms and related equipment illicitly transferred to the territory of Ukraine with the aim of destabilizing security situation. While the Russian representatives, participating in the hearings of the International Court of Justice in the Hague two months ago,

clung to Russian myths of heavy artillery and other weapons excavated from the mines in the east of Ukraine, the OSCE SMM continues to report about Russian weaponry and equipment that has never been on the inventory of the Ukrainian military. Regrettably Russia intends to further ignore the numerous calls of the Ukrainian side to provide reasonable explanation of whereby the Russian-originated weapons continue to flow into Ukraine's territory through the Russia-controlled part of the state border, what the Russian side has been doing to prevent such illicit transfers.

As we have stated many times before Ukraine for its part is fully committed to full and faithful implementation of the Minsk agreements. In this respect we call on the Russian Federation to exercise its responsibility in its implementing, in particular their security provisions on comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal of forces and full access of the SMM for objective and unhindered monitoring. We urge Russia to pull out its troops from Ukrainian territory, halt its support and illicit military supply to the IAFs in Donbas region of Ukraine as well as its military build-up along Ukraine's south-eastern borders.

The conflict instigated and fuelled by the RF will not be resolved until the hybrid Russian forces get out of the territory of my country. The Delegation of Ukraine urges the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law, to stop its aggression against Ukraine and to reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which is a part of Ukraine.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**