



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 992nd FSC PLENARY MEETING
(10 November 2021)**

Agenda item 1, General Statements, on the subject of “Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea”

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me deliver a statement on the subject of Russia’s ongoing aggression against Ukraine and illegal occupation of Crimea.

Peaceful resolution of the conflict in Donbas with following reintegration of the temporarily occupied territories is a top priority for the Government of Ukraine. In this regard, we would like to underline once again that Ukraine remains fully committed to all its obligations and continues to take all possible steps to de-escalate the situation on the ground. It is a matter of regret that the Russian side has not yet reciprocated our positive approach and all arrangements of the Normandy Four format and the Trilateral Contact Group aimed at improving security situation still remain blocked by it.

Instead of that we witness Russia ramping up hostile rhetoric and provoking tension along the contact line.

At the previous meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation two weeks ago, we heard from the Russian Delegation whatever allegations in order to accuse Ukraine of violating the Minsk agreements.

However, we did not hear the explanation why the Hranitne settlement was targeted with the 122mm calibre D-30 howitzers. This munition should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk Memorandum and Package of measures.

This battery of 122mm calibre D-30 howitzers prohibited by the Minsk Agreements, left civilian objects, including kindergarten, damaged, as further corroborated by the SMM, as well as two Ukrainian servicemen wounded during the shelling, one of them died.

After the requests for immediate ceasefire sent through established communication channels were left without any reaction, the employment of a drone by the Ukrainian Armed Forces was a logical step and a natural response to the armed provocation, given that their lives

and lives of civilian population were endangered. Precision munition was used in response to the attack and by order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in line with our commitments under the Measures to strengthen the ceasefire of 22 July 2020.

Furthermore, the comment by the Russian Foreign Ministry that followed was revealing in many aspects.

It is important to note that the inhabitants of the village are citizens of Ukraine forced to obtain Russian passports in order to survive under Russian occupation. Now, the villagers find themselves in terrible humanitarian conditions - they do not have enough heat, water, or food. That is, the Russian occupation administrations were able to distribute Russian passports and bring the newly minted citizens to the elections in Russia, but they cannot provide them with water and food.

We find this situation an illustrative example of how the Russian Federation uses the ongoing "passportisation" to aggravate tensions in the conflict zone. Demonstrating its total disregard for the humanitarian situation on the ground, the Russian Federation seems to be trying to intimidate Ukraine by building up its military power near the borders and strengthening the rhetoric about protecting "Russian citizens", to whom it has recently issued Russian passports.

Mr Chairperson,

As we informed participating states on multiple occasions before, the Russian Federation periodically resorts to the practice of transferring and accumulating military units in order to maintain tensions in the region and to exert political pressure on neighbouring states.

The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine is closely monitoring the situation near the state border of Ukraine with the Russian Federation and in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The facts provided by the intelligence agencies of Ukraine are confirmed during the exchange of information on the security situation around Ukraine with our partners.

According to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, as at the beginning of November, the Russian Federation has over 91,000 troops deployed near the Russian-Ukrainian state border and in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. It has long been of our particular concern that the Russian Federation uses military exercises to cover movements of its troops. Recent large exercises ZAPAD-2021 conducted without due verification and inspection under the Vienna Document 2011 demonstrated it quite clear. Despite the fact that the active phase of the exercises ended in September some formations from the Central Military District remained in the European part of Russia.

Mr Chairperson,

Unfortunately, the current situation in the conflict zone remains tense due to the regular violations of the additional measures to strengthen ceasefire of 22 July 2020. During the period from 27 July 2020 (the date of entry into effect of the additional measures) to 7 November 2021,

the Armed Forces of Ukraine registered 2,732 violations of the ceasefire regime. In 709 cases, the occupation forces used weapons prohibited by the Minsk agreements.

During this period, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have also registered:

1 case of position changing;

29 cases of additional equipment and improvement of the positions of the occupying forces;

56 cases of remote mining (including with the use of landmines POM-2, MON-50, PFM-1 and PMN that are forbidden by international law);

162 cases of the use of UAVs (in October alone, enemy UAVs were used on 13 occasions).

The number of cases when UAVs were used against the Ukrainian position is quite telling. We find it extremely cynical that talking about restrictions on the use of UAVs, the Russian occupation forces keep employing drones to deliver landmines and drop grenade shells on the Ukrainian positions. The recent SMM Spot Report of 06 November 2021 is just one evidence of what is going on a continuing basis.

Ukraine`s combat loses clearly demonstrate the results of these blatant violations of the Minsk agreements: since 27 July 2020, 63 Ukrainian soldiers were killed in action, 263 were wounded.

All this would be impossible without permanent logistic support of the occupation forces. We continue to record new facts of illegal movement of Russian personnel, weapons, military equipment, fuel, lubricants as well as other material and technical means across a segment of the Russian-Ukrainian state border temporarily uncontrolled by the Ukrainian government.

From 26 September 2021 to 20 October alone, the Russian Federation transferred 9 tank wagons with fuel and lubricants; 6 wagons with 122 mm calibre rockets for MLRS «Grad» and 152 mm calibre ammunition for artillery systems; 2 radar systems «Kasta-2E1». 7 trucks, 4 of which loaded with anti-tank guided missiles and ammunition for 12.7 mm calibre sniper rifles, entered Ukraine through the uncontrolled section of the Russian-Ukrainian state border.

On 27 September, a group of 43 Russian militaries were observed entering Ukraine from Russia through Dovzhanskyi checkpoint heading towards Luhansk city. They were sent on a rotational basis to the Russian occupation forces operating in the temporarily occupied territory of the Luhansk region.

We consider such facts as evidence of gross violation by the Russian Federation of the fundamental principles of the OSCE enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, in particular respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the OSCE participating States.

We urge the Russian Federation to end its aggression against Ukraine, reverse its illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, de-occupy parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, through the Kerch Strait and in the Sea of Azov. Russia must fully implement its commitments under the Minsk agreements, including the withdrawal of its armed forces, mercenaries, armed formations and weapons from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.