



**PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

**STATEMENT ON UKRAINE**

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile  
to the Permanent Council,  
Vienna, 29 January 2015

Mr Chairman,

We are deeply concerned about the escalation of the armed conflict in Ukraine. Foreign Minister Brende said in a statement last Sunday that “Norway condemns the attacks on the city of Mariupol on Saturday 24 January in the strongest possible terms. This is a grave and dangerous escalation of the crisis.”

The leaders of the pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine have made it clear where the responsibility for these attacks lie, by declaring that they have launched an offensive against Mariupol. This morning’s detailed SMM-report shows beyond reasonable doubt that the separatists were responsible for the attack.

The separatists have no mandate from the population of eastern Ukraine. They are disregarding normal democratic rules, and are openly carrying out crimes against Ukraine and its people.

We call on all parties to cease hostilities and implement the Minsk agreements in full.

Mr Chairman,

Russia is continuing to provide heavy weapons and military equipment for the armed groups in the Donbass region. This is totally unacceptable and in blatant contravention of Russia’s obligations under the Minsk Protocol. Instead, Russia must use its influence over the groups in Donbass to bring an end to the bloodshed and encourage them to return to the negotiating table.

Through its policies and actions, Russia has instigated an armed conflict in neighbouring Ukraine. Russia’s actions are causing hundreds of thousands of people to suffer, and destabilising the security situation throughout the region. Russia must take responsibility by condemning the separatists’ attack on Mariupol on Saturday.

Mr Chairman,

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is deteriorating steadily. According to UN reports, the conflict has caused the deaths of over 5000 people, and 1,5 million people have been forced to flee their homes. The humanitarian needs are immense.

Norway has contributed 3,7 million Euros in humanitarian aid to Ukraine in 2014. Additional humanitarian assistance will be considered on an ongoing basis.

Mr Chairman,

Let me reiterate my country's strong support for the OSCE's efforts in Ukraine. The SMM's eyes and ears on the ground are an indispensable source of impartial information. We appreciate the increased level of detail in reports, and we thank the mission especially for its recent reports on the tragic events with civilian casualties in Volnovakha, Debaltseve, Donetsk city and Mariupol.

I would like to underline the importance we attach to the work done by the Trilateral Contact Group and ambassador Heidi Tagliavini. We call on Russia to use its influence over the separatists and convince them to meet with the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk.

Finally, Mr Chairman, our position on Crimea remains unchanged.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.