



## **Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 804-th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(18 November 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)  
(Agenda item 1)

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would like to start by expressing our deep condolences to the Government and people of France in connection with a series of terrorist attacks that occurred last Friday in Paris. We mourn the victims in Paris and share the grief of our French colleagues and the people of France. Expressing its sincere condolences to the French people, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko underlined: "We are together with the French nation, we stand side-by-side with them in the struggle against terrorism, we are grateful to France for its powerful support for Ukraine. Today, the whole world must make decisive efforts to prevent the recurrence of terrorist attacks. Such victims in the center of Europe in the XXI century are inadmissible. The entire world should unite against terrorism wherever it may take place - either in Paris or in the east of Ukraine".

**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished colleagues,**

Ukraine is deeply concerned about significant increase in the number of ceasefire violations committed by the combined Russian-militant forces, operating in certain areas of Ukraine's Donbas. These violations are perpetrated by the pro-Russian illegal armed groups to undermine the peace process. Over the last weeks the militants resumed shellings of the Ukrainian positions, the residential areas of Donbas' cities and villages. The geography of the attacks, their intensity and systematic nature are of particular concern.

During the period of 11-17 November **militants carried out over 226 shellings along the contact line, including with 82 mm and 120 mm mortars** which are to be withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements. They also used grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms. In particular, during last week this happened near the settlements of Opytne, Pisky, Avdiivka, Marinka, Krasnohorivka, Novohorodske, Novotoshkivske, Zaitseve, Mayorske, Schastya, Hranitne and Novozvanivka. On late evening of 16 November the militants shelled residential areas of Krasnohorivka **and Hornyak with MLRS "Grad". At least 12 missiles were launched. 10 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 15 were wounded last week.** As deadly attacks grow the Ukrainian military were allowed to respond when life is at risk.

According to the SMM reports high concentration of heavy weapons have been registered in the immediate vicinity of the contact line on the territory temporarily not controlled by Ukraine, including MLRS, tanks, deployment of new artillery units, increased subversive and reconnaissance activity, ammunition supplies etc. Hiding heavy military equipment continues in prohibited areas in violation of the Minsk agreements.

In attempt to shift responsibility for escalation and intimidate the people the militants again resort to deliberate provocations against the areas under their control, to which can be attributed reported shelling of Donetsk with a GRAD rocket. The militants already employed this tactics in the past, in particular when firing at Donetsk

by tanks on 18 July and shelling of the OSCE team near Shchastia on 26 July. The Ukrainian military, for their part, never used multiple rocket launcher systems, as well as other weapons, against the civilian population.

Ukraine considers the above mentioned actions as a deliberate attempt to disrupt not only the process of withdrawal of 100 mm caliber heavy weapons, which had been recently successfully completed by Ukraine, but also the implementation of other provisions of the Minsk agreements, including important social-economic and humanitarian projects.

Ukraine calls on the international community to step up the pressure to ensure that the Russian Federation and the militants it backs strictly adhere to a comprehensive ceasefire regime as well as unconditional implementation of the Minsk documents by the end of 2015.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We expect the OSCE SMM to immediately carry out a thorough investigation of the violations of the Minsk agreements and give them an objective assessment as provided for in paragraph 3 of OSCE Permanent Council Decision № 1117 of 21 March 2014 on Deployment of an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, as well as in agreements reached in the security domain.

Last week the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine requested the OSCE SMM to provide information regarding the implementation by militants of the relevant provisions on the withdrawal of military equipment and weapons of less than 100 mm caliber. The Ukrainian side is still waiting for information from the SMM observers that the other party of the conflict has fulfilled all its obligations on withdrawal from the contact line of the agreed weaponry.

In this connection we note that SMM monitors and UAVs continue to face significant restrictions in many parts of militant-controlled areas, in particular along the state border with Russia. Full, safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine is crucial for the SMM to fulfill its mandate. It is important to speed up deployment of all planned SMM Forward Patrol Bases in separatist-held parts of Donetsk oblast.

Ukraine is confident that implementing security provisions by the Russian Federation and the illegal armed groups it supports is the key precondition for the proper implementation of all aspects of the Minsk agreements. Apart from comprehensive ceasefire, it includes halting supplies of weapons, military equipment and mercenaries by Moscow; ensuring full and unhindered access of the OSCE SMM observers to all areas, including along Ukraine-Russia state border; withdrawal of weapons, troops and mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine; disarmament of the illegal armed groups.

The Ukrainian side welcomes resumption of the process of release of hostages and illegally detained persons on formula "2 to 2" that took place on 15 November in Mar'inka, Donetsk oblast.

At the same time we are concerned over the destiny of 142 Ukrainian citizens who are still remain captive in Donbas. We continue to urge the Russian Federation to speed up the release of hostages and illegally detained persons on the basis of "all-for-all" principle. We reiterate that the relevant provision of the Minsk Package of measures apply to all illegally detained Ukrainian citizens, including those in captivity in Russia. We underscore Russia's responsibility for the life and safety of the Ukrainian hostages it holds, including Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, Oleksander Kolchenko and others and demand their immediate and unconditional release.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ukraine remains committed to the Minsk agreements of 2014 and 2015 as the framework to peaceful settlement of the conflict in Donbas and will continue to take all necessary measures for their proper implementation.

At the same time, apart from Donbas, a number of violations of Ukraine's airspace by Russian reconnaissance drones were recorded. Moreover, unusual military activities of the Russian armed forces in the border regions of Ukraine have been regularly registered, including military exercises involving aviation, military and other special equipment in the Rostov and Kursk regions of the Russian Federation.

At the 801-st FSC Plenary Meeting, the Russian delegation has expressed its proposal on extending the SMM monitoring functions in the context of the Minsk agreements to other regions of Ukraine, in particular in Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts, to monitor the deployment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine there. In this connection we draw attention of the Russian delegation that there are mechanisms and toolbox of the Vienna Document, which are to be used for inspection of any military activity in the CSBM area.

Since the very beginning of the conflict instigated by Russia my country has consistently demonstrated openness and transparency. In total, 35 verification measures were conducted in Ukraine by the OSCE participating States. Furthermore, Ukraine voluntarily hosted 18 out of quota inspections (13 in 2014 and 5 in 2015) under Chapter X of the VD "Regional measures".

The Russian armed aggression against Ukraine in Donbas was mounted by military units from the forces deployed by Russian command in large numbers close to the border with Ukraine. This essential military force remains present at the border far from the locations of the permanent stationing. The Russian side does not allow the foreign inspection teams to carry out even the quota verification measures under the Vienna Document near the Russian-Ukrainian border from the Russian side. Russia fails to show good will on a voluntary invitation of international inspectors to observe any military activities to dispel the concern of the Ukrainian side, at least along the Russian-Ukrainian state border and, in particular, in the Rostov region.

In this respect, we continue to call on the Russian Federation to demonstrate the necessary will and to allow conduct on its territory of relevant verification activities under the Vienna Document.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ensuring sustainability of the peace process remains a crucial task, whose implementation depends upon the readiness of the Russian Federation to practically deliver on the commitments it has undertaken to resolve the conflict.

The country that resorted to armed aggression against Ukraine and claiming interest in peaceful resolution must withdraw its regular armed forces, weaponry and mercenaries from the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

We call on Russia to abide fully and in good faith by the Minsk agreements, to put an end to its aggression against Ukraine. We urge Russia to restore its respect for international law and the OSCE principles and commitments and reverse the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman**