



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

FSC.DEL/22/16
3 February 2016

ENGLISH only

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 810th FSC Plenary Meeting

(3 February 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 2)

Madam Chairperson,

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko stated two days ago, arriving in Berlin for a meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel that «Ukraine cannot continue to carry out the Minsk agreements unilaterally. The very first point of the Package of measures on implementation of the Minsk agreements - the ceasefire - has not been fulfilled by the militants. It is obvious that the sanctions against Russia should remain as long as it does not fulfil completely the Minsk agreements and goes away from Donbas. People of Ukraine and I, as President of Ukraine, do not see any alternative to the Minsk agreements, we fully and in good faith fulfil our commitments and demand the same from the Russian side».

As the conflict in Donbas, fuelled by Russia, persists there is an urgent need to reinvigorate efforts at resolving it based on full implementation of the Minsk agreement. According to official information 2269 Ukrainian servicemen were killed in the course of the war in Donbas defending Ukraine from the Russian aggression and military intervention. As reported by the UN, more than 9 thousand people lost their lives as a result of military hostilities in Donbas. Over 20 thousand people suffered injuries. According to the Red Cross, more than 1000 people are considered missing in Donbas.

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

The Russia's approach appears to remain unchanged as now we observe new attempts to escalate the situation on the ground. Only over the last week Ukrainian positions and the nearby residential areas were shelled **348** times along the contact line with the use of infantry fighting vehicles, 120mm and 82mm mortars, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms. During last week **3 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 7 were wounded**. These escalating attacks and provocations, also registered by the SMM, indicate that the combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas have

not withdrawn all heavy weapons from the contact line to the appropriate distances.

Let me bring to your attention some more details relating to the period of 27 January - 2 February 2016:

-on 27 January the Russia-backed terrorists up to 40 times violated the ceasefire regime in the ATO zone. Ukrainian strongpoints were subjected to fire from small arms, heavy machine guns and grenade launchers of various systems in Opytne, Pisky, Avdiivka, Trokhizbenka, Mayorsk, Troitske and nearby Butivka mine. Militants attacked the Ukrainian positions nearby Marinka using an anti-aircraft system. Ukrainian forces did not open fire in response;

-on 28 January in the Luhansk direction, militants violated the regime of ceasefire 54 times in the south of Trokhizbenka, using the small arms. In the Donetsk direction, combat actions of low-intensity are provoked by the militants along the entire line of contact. Mostly, militants used small arms and grenade launchers. They also used the 82mm mortar in Troitske and infantry combat vehicles in Pisky. The militants shelled the ATO positions in several locations in Mariupol direction. They used anti-tank systems in Hranitne and 82mm mortar in Talakivka. Militants used infantry combat vehicle and grenade launcher to fire at the State Border Guard Service checkpoint "Marinka". In attempting to provoke Ukrainian soldiers to open fire in response, the terrorists shell civil districts;

-on 29 January illegal armed formations 71 times opened fire over the day. Two soldiers were wounded. Ukrainian positions in Zaitseve were shelled with 82mm mortars. Grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and IFVs were used to attack positions of the Ukrainian forces near Novhorodske, Mayorsk, Opytne, Pisky, Avdiivka and Butivka mine. The situation was especially tense near Marinka. Ukrainian soldiers were forced to open fire in response. Tanks and artillery systems are still present near Zaitseve and Sokilnyki. One missile was launched from antitank missile system in the Luhansk direction. In the Donetsk direction, terrorists fired along the whole length of the contact line. Several targeted shellings were recorded near Horlivka. In the Mariupol direction, terrorists were active near Krasnohorivka and Marinka. 3 mines were launched from 82mm mortars and two – from 120mm mortars. Militant snipers operated in the area;

-on 30 January over the day the militants 38 times opened fire on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Near Donetsk the pro-Russian forces fired at the Ukrainian positions with small arms and grenade launchers in Avdiivka, Pisky and Opytne. The Ukrainian fortifications near Zaitseve were shelled with mortars caliber 82mm and 120mm. Near Mayorske and Hnutove the militants used grenade launchers and mortars. Meanwhile, in the Donetsk direction most violations of the ceasefire regime were registered near Horlivka. The militants violated the ceasefire by shooting with small arms and heavy machine guns at Shyrokyne and Starohnativka while near

Novhorodske militant IFV attacked the Ukrainian military. The Ukrainian soldiers opened fire in response;

-on 31 January militants 36 times opened fire in the ATO zone. In the Luhansk direction, positions of Ukrainian soldiers near Stanytsya Luhanska were shelled with 120mm mortar. Besides, the militants fired with automatic grenade launcher near Triohizbenka. In the Donetsk sector, the militants fired with 82mm and 120mm mortars near Luhanske, Zaitseve and Mayorsk. A series of armed provocations was recorded near the Donetsk airport. Situation in northern outskirts of the occupied Horlivka was especially tense. Shellings in this area continued over 6 hours. Several armed provocations were recorded in the Mariupol direction. Two sniper shots were recorded in Krasnohorivka. The Ukrainian positions were attacked near Marinka, Novotroitske and Shyrokyne. Ukrainian soldiers opened fire in response;

-on 1 February pro-Russian illegal armed formations continued violating the ceasefire. Militants 53 times opened fire in the ATO zone over the day with the use of heavy weapons banned by the Minsk agreements. In particular, positions of the Ukrainian army near Krasnohorivka and Zaitseve were shelled with 82mm and 120mm mortars and small arms. Near Mayorsk, the militants opened fire with mortars and heavy machine guns. The situation remains tense in the outskirts of the Donetsk city. Militants opened fire with grenade launchers of different systems and small arms in Avdiivka, Pisky, Opytne, Marinka and Butivka mine. In the Mariupol direction, positions of the Ukrainian forces near Starohnativka were shelled with mortars as well;

-on 2 February militants opened fire 56 times over the day. Again, the outskirts of Horlivka and Donetsk were the epicentre of provocations. Militants fired with small arms, grenade launchers and heavy machine guns. Mortar shelling was recorded near Pisky. Overall, the frequency of mortar shellings tends to increase. In particular, militants six times fired with 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian positions near Zaitseve and Mayorsk.

Distinguished colleagues,

The SMM is restrained in fulfilling its monitoring functions by restrictions imposed by Russia-backed illegal armed formations. So-called "LPR" militants continue to prevent the SMM from monitoring many areas alongside the border in parts of Luhansk region not controlled by the Ukrainian Government.

Combined Russian-separatists forces denied the SMM access to a site in Luhansk city where heavy weapons are alleged to be located. This was the 5-th time in as many attempts since 20 January 2015 that the so-called "LPR" has denied the SMM access to this site.

"DPR" members stopped the SMM at a checkpoint in Debaltseve (58km north-east of Donetsk) and requested passports. After presenting these, the SMM was allowed to continue. A "DPR" member and a Russia's Armed Forces

officer from the JCCC told the SMM that they could not guarantee the safety of the SMM's UAV if it was launched in an area near Horlivka. Consequently, the UAV was not launched. This incident simply highlights the Russian role in restrictions, which goes far beyond the specific case.

The recent developments prove that Russia and its proxies are still very far from fulfilling the three initial provisions of the Minsk agreements, which are crucial for progress on implementation of other aspects of the document. Until the comprehensive and long lasting ceasefire is established, all heavy weapons are withdrawn and the OSCE SMM is granted free and unfettered access throughout the militant-controlled area, the prospects for implementing other steps, agreed in Minsk, will remain vague.

We again call on Russia to take the necessary steps and to exert its influence on the militants it backs to make sure that the Mission is able to operate and perform its mandate enjoying full freedom of movement, safety and security.

Madam Chairperson,

We wish to emphasise the undiminished imperative for the OSCE community to continue to focus on seeking practical ways to address the ongoing violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to resolve the conflict by peaceful means with full respect to the OSCE core principles and commitments.

We continue to urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

In conclusion I would like to recall that last week at the Forum the delegation of Ukraine stressed that Russia reads Budapest Memorandum of 1994 as selectively, as it treats Minsk agreements. At least twice before Moscow ignored Ukraine's proposal to hold consultations of the signatories of the Budapest Memorandum as envisaged by paragraph 6 of the document. On 30 January 2016 Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin proposed once again to hold consultations with the participation of all the signatory states of the Budapest Memorandum. We will see if Russia responds positively to the appeal of Kyiv, based on specific provision of the Memorandum.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.