



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 757-th FSC Plenary Meeting
(11 June 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,

The results of the early Presidential elections in Ukraine held on 25 May 2014 and inauguration of the President of Ukraine on 7 June are highly significant events capable to stabilize the situation in and around Ukraine.

In his inauguration speech President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko declared that his main task is to ensure lasting peace and guarantee reliable security to the country. Today, peace is the most important expectation of the Ukrainian people and President has enough authority and decisiveness to achieve this goal.

In this context let me draw your attention to the peace plan outlined by the President of Ukraine in his inauguration speech. He insistently called on those who illegally possess weapons to lay them down. The President assured that those persons, whose hands are not stained with blood of Ukrainian servicemen and peaceful people will be exempt from criminal prosecution. The same will be applied to those who are not involved in financing terrorism.

Second, the safe controlled corridor will be open for those Russian mercenaries, who wish to return home.

Third, there will be continued dialogue with peaceful citizens of Ukraine, who have different vision of Ukraine's future.

Addressing the people living in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the President acknowledged their sufferings from the rule of terrorists. Besides looting and harassment of peaceful people, the terrorists led economy of the region, which was already in crisis, to the brink of complete collapse.

The President assured of his visit in the nearest time with the project of decentralization of power, with guarantees of free use of Russian language in the region, with respect for peculiarities of the region.

To address challenges of Donbas, create new jobs, undertake far-reaching economic reconstruction and attract investments, the legitimate partner for dialogue is needed. In this context the President underscored that there will be no talks with criminals while local deputies fail to represent the people. Therefore, the President announced readiness for calling local elections in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Mr. Chairman,

During the last few months Ukrainian delegation presented extensive information concerning illegal foreign military presence and activities in and around Ukraine. In this context let me dwell upon some provisions of the Law of Ukraine regulating stationing and conditions for presence of military units of foreign armed forces on Ukraine's territory (№ 1479-III, signed on 22 February 2000). Thus, pursuant to the Article III of this Law the foreign troops may gain access to the territory of Ukraine in following cases:

- participation in joint military exercises with the Armed Forces of Ukraine;
- transit of the foreign military units across the territory of Ukraine, while duration of the transit could not exceed 10 days;
- providing military assistance to Ukraine, upon its request, in order to counteract military aggression from the third party;

- providing assistance to Ukraine, upon its request in overcoming the consequences of emergencies, caused by natural or man-made disasters;
- servicing the military units temporarily deployed on Ukraine`s territory in accordance with the international agreements of Ukraine.

According to the Article VIII of this Law decision of the President of Ukraine on stationing of foreign troops on the territory of Ukraine is subject for approval by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament of Ukraine).

In view of the above, the continuous effect of the Decree “On the use of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine”, adopted by the Federal Council of the Russian Federation on 1 March 2014 continues to represent a threat of force, thus violating international law and the OSCE principles and commitments.

Taking into consideration that the OSCE participating States have committed ”to refrain from the threat or use of force in their mutual relations as well as in their international relations in general”, which is stipulated particularly in the Vienna Document and in the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Russian Federation remains in breach with its commitments, which are fundamental for our Forum, responsible for cooperation in security issues. We call upon the Russian Federation to revoke the decree and thus contribute to deescalating the situation in its legal aspects.

Mr. Chairman,

While we pursue our deliberations, the Ukrainian internal security forces, border guards continue their fight against the armed militants and terrorists. They lose their lives, trying to spare the lives of civilians, which are taken hostage by terrorists and are used by them as the shields. On 6 June 2014 over Sloviansk the terrorists shot down the aircraft An-30B, flying at the height of above 4 kilometers. The airplane was hit by two MANPADs launches and started to fall on populated areas of Sloviansk. Due to the skillful maneuvers of pilots the airplane was guided away from the city, but pilots did not have enough time to leave the airplane. As a result 5 pilots lost their lives, saving thousands of civilians. This is a convincing example of how Ukrainian military servicemen fulfill their duty, aiming to protect peaceful people in the areas, where anti-terrorist operation is carried out.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we have with us a representative of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine colonel Oleksandr Panchenko, who will provide an overview on the registered violations of the Ukrainian border. I pass the floor to colonel Panchenko.

(After the presentation) I thank colonel Panchenko for his comprehensive presentation.

Thank you, Mr.Chairman