



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 783-rd FSC Plenary Meeting
(18 March 2015 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,

As the Delegation of Ukraine repeatedly reiterated, the Minsk agreements is the biggest chance to solve the conflict in Donbas peacefully as they are aimed at placing de-escalation and peaceful political resolution on a solid and sustainable basis. The Minsk package of measures contains agreed provisions on the strict compliance with the cease-fire regime as of 15 February and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the line of contact as its critical security arrangements.

In line with the Minsk package of measures, the Ukrainian side immediately started implementing fully and in good faith these arrangements. The Ukrainian armed forces ceased fire at agreed date and time, have strictly abided by the ceasefire since then and have not used arms except for cases of self-defense. The Ukrainian side commenced withdrawal of heavy weapons on February 26 and on 9 March 2015 completed its withdrawal to new positions which had been earlier prepared. Over that period Ukraine withdrew 100 mm caliber cannons MT-12 "Rapira" and MT-12R "Ruta", 152 mm caliber artillery systems "Akatsiya", MRLS "Grad" and "Uragan" to the sites of final destination. Numerous convoys of the Ukrainian military hardware, observed by the OSCE monitors over these days when moving away from the line of contact, served as a solid proof of Ukraine's commitment to de-escalation and implementation of reached agreements. The OSCE monitors reported on their regular visits to Ukrainian storages of heavy weapons. Individual instances of restrictions to freedom of movement of the monitors are dealt with by the Ukrainian authorities and they are mostly caused by the security situation on the ground, undermined by continuing provocations of the illegal armed groups.

However, as President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko underlined in his interview with the German newspaper "Bild" on 15 March 2015, the agreements signed in Minsk have become "hope rather than reality for us. The truth is that the agreements do not work."

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the agreement on ceasefire, pro-Russian militants, supported by the Russian regular armed forces, seized the town of Debaltseve and continue attacking Ukrainian military and civilian locations. More than 1100 episodes of shelling were registered, 73 Ukrainian military were killed and 370 wounded since the cease-fire regime started of 15 February.

The militants pull back weapons either partially or to distances not consistent with the Minsk agreements, or to relocate and strengthen their assault capabilities in other crucial areas. In many cases, they bring weapons back to the same positions in the night-time and wash them. The Russian side replaces damaged and broken down military equipment with new or repaired weaponry and maintains the inflow of weaponry as well as manpower into Donbas.

Militants use the ceasefire to regroup, get reinforcements and relocate to other positions to conduct offensives in the direction of the settlements of Mariupol, Donetsk, Avdiyivka, Horlivka, Novoazovsk, Bezimenne, Bryanka and Schastya. Moreover, leaders

of terrorists repeatedly declare their intention to capture other areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Russia and the militants it backs have not yet provided security guarantees to SMM monitors, deny to the Mission the freedom of movement which impedes performance of verification tasks assigned to the SMM.

Continuous use of heavy weaponry and attempts by the Russia-backed militants to gain control of additional territory constitute a clear breach of the Minsk agreements and seriously undermine all efforts promoting a sustainable political solution. The Russian Federation has not yet practically delivered on its obligations under the Minsk agreements, thus impeding the peace process and further eroding the credibility of its statements and declarations.

Mr. Chairman,

We express deep concern that Russia continues to undertake steps that destabilize the security situation around Ukraine and in Europe. On 16 March 2015 President of the Russian Federation ordered to put on combat alert the Northern Fleet units, the Western Military District formations and Airborne Troops for a stunt inspection. Russian Defense Minister stated that 38 thousand servicemen, 3360 vehicles, 41 combat ships, 15 submarines, 110 aircrafts and helicopters are effected by the inspection.

Ukraine's last years' experience clearly demonstrates that military exercises of such unprecedented scale conducted by the Russian Federation can precede a Russian military aggression, subsequent violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a neighboring state, illegal occupation and annexation of part of another country.

Ukraine calls on the participating States to duly reflect upon and react to Russia's continuous steps at destabilizing of the already fragile security situation in Europe.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Delegation of Ukraine already referred to the ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the pro-Russian militants. Let me bring to your attention some facts from the period of 12-17 March:

-on 12 March militants carried out 49 attacks with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms against the ATO forces in Donbas. The hostilities in the settlement of Shyrokyne have been lasting from 4 February 2015 without ceasing;

-on 13 March the movement of small battle groups with weapon in a total amount of 35 tanks, 44 armored combat vehicles and 30 other heavy vehicles was registered in the areas Amvrosiivka-Komsomolsk and Snizhne-Shakhtarsk. The concentration of Russian and militants' forces, as well as the deployment of special units such as mobile command posts, stations of electronic warfare and air defense systems were observed near the settlements of Yasynovata and Avdiivka;

-on 15 March pro-Russian militants violated the ceasefire 23 times. In particular, the militants fired from 120mm mortars and tanks at the settlements of Avdiivka, Pisky, Chermalyk and Shyrokyne, Donetsk oblast. As a result of clashes one Ukrainian serviceman was killed;

-on 16 March the ATO forces repelled an attack by pro-Russian fighters near settlement of Mayorsk, Donetsk region. Militant groups attacked the position of Ukrainian troops from several directions. The Ukrainian forces managed to stop the militant's attacks, and forced them to withdraw to the contact line. The militants

repeatedly fired at the positions of the Ukrainian forces in Donetsk, Lugansk and Mariupol directions, and their highest activity was recorded in the area of Avdiivka, Starohnativka, Pisky and Shyrokyne;

-on 17 March pro-Russian militants 30 times violated the ceasefire in the ATO zone. The terrorists fired with 120mm artillery on the town of Avdiivka. In addition, the militants fired at this locality three times from tanks, twice - from mortars. Also in the Donetsk area the settlements of Pisky and Opytne, and Shyrokyne near the Mariupol - were again under the intensive fire of militant forces.

According to the SMM report of 12 March while flying over "DPR" controlled Ilovaisk the UAV Team obtained imagery of what appeared to be a cargo being off-loaded from a train onto 14 military trucks.

To date, two army corps of the pro-Russian forces, only 15-20% of which are Ukrainians and the rest are the Russian mercenaries, are deployed under a single centralized command of the so-called "DPR" and "LPR" in the east of Ukraine. According to the ATO Headquarters, there is 42 thousand strong military force in occupied part of Donbas, including 9000 soldiers of the Russian regular army. There are over 780 tanks, 1030 armored vehicles, 500 artillery systems, 420 multiple rocket launchers, 7 propelled flame throwers "Buratino" and 130 air defense systems in their possession.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Delegation of Ukraine also notes that the Russian special services have significantly intensified their illegal cyber activities since the beginning of the military aggression against Ukraine. The Security Service of Ukraine has strong evidence that these special operations are coordinated by the 16th (former Federal Agency of Government Communications and Information) and 18th Center of the Russian FSB.

In particular, the Security Service of Ukraine detected and disrupted attempted purposeful distribution of malicious software by the Russian special services aimed at destruction of the government and law enforcement network equipment, especially those directly used in the ATO area.

It was established that emails were sent at the addresses of public officials and law enforcers using the telecommunication equipment outside of Ukraine, in particular from the Russian Federation. Mass mailing involved service addresses of the central authorities and private accounts of certain officials. Emails with the malicious software were primarily sent to the government agencies actively engaged in the counterterrorism operations. File opening results in hidden loading of a spy program that gives remote access to a mailbox and information kept on a hard disk of an infected personal computer. The program is suitable for covert distant running of operating system. Officers of the SSU timely detected and blocked channels of mailing spy programs and prevented possible leakage of confidential information.

Mr. Chairman,

Full and comprehensive implementation of the Minsk agreements by all sides, including the Russian Federation and the militants it supports, offers a way forward to a peaceful sustainable political solution of the crisis based on the respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

We urge Russia to start implementing the Minsk agreements as it committed to do in September 2014 and on 12 February 2015. We call, in particular, for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign armed formations, military equipment and

mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine under monitoring of the OSCE as well as disarmament of all illegal groups.

We urge Russia to exert its influence on the illegal armed groups to fulfill their commitments under the Minsk agreements, to provide the safe and unimpeded performance of SMM functions in the occupied territories of Donbas in line with the agreed mandate and the Minsk arrangements, including substantial and effective OSCE monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian state border.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.