

to the International Organizations in Vienna

ENGLISH only

Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 835th FSC Special Meeting

(16 November 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg) (Agenda item 2)

Madam Chairperson,

Since 5 September 2014 Ukraine has consistently demonstrated its commitment to full implementation of the Minsk agreements as a basis for peaceful resolution of the conflict by political means with full respect to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Regrettably, the unwillingness of Russia to act in the same vein resulted in continuing violence of high intensity, in loss of life and destruction.

Despite the fact that the Ukrainian side consistently urges Russia to cease fire and such a signal is constantly sent to Moscow from Berlin and Paris, the Kremlin does not give the appropriate orders to the occupying forces and militants controlled and supported by Russia.

We are very concerned about situation in the disengagement area of Stanytsia Luhanska. The combined Russian-separatist forces over past month continuously shelled positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in this area of disengagement of forces and hardware. The Ukrainian side views these armed provocations by Russian hybrid forces in the agreed areas of disengagement as violation of the Framework decision (paragraphs 2 and 6), that provides full ceasefire. There is a role for the SMM to investigate the cases of these violations. Also location of a large number of prohibited heavy weapons in proximity to disengagement areas, poses a threat of seizure of new territories by Russian hybrid forces. We expect the SMM to foster effective monitoring and verification in the agreed areas on permanent basis, including the use of technical monitor devices that should be carried out on a permanent basis.

Over past two weeks the combined Russian-separatist forces have opened fire on the positions of Ukrainian military with an average intensity of **27 times per day**. Despite the provocations, the Armed Forces of Ukraine strictly observed requirements of the Minsk agreements. Violation of the silence regime by militants took place in all directions along the contact line, most of them (2/3) at night time – near the settlements of Shyrokine, Pavlopol, Avdiivka and Svitlodarsk in the Mariupol direction. The militants also continue to resort to multiple shellings, including with the use of prohibited by the Minsk agreements 122mm MRLSs BM-21 "Grad", 120mm and 82mm mortars and infantry fighting vehicles, of the Ukrainian positions near Lopaskine, Krymske, Popasna, Kadiivka, Luhanske, Zaitseve, Horlivka,

Opytne, Hnutove and Krasnohorivka. **6 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 25 wounded** during the last two weeks.

Numerous casualties among civilian population also have been registered. According to the local authorities on 5 November in Marinka at night time a man born in 1953 needed a medical attention at the hospital with shrapnel wound of the head. At the time of the shelling he was in the yard of his house. On 6 November at night time, two people were injured by shelling of militants in Krasnohorivka, Donetsk region. A young man born in 1996 with shrapnel wound to the thigh, who at the time of shelling was in the yard of his house, and a woman born in 1975 with the shrapnel wound to her forearm, were delivered to the hospital. On 11 November also at night time, a man was killed by shelling of militants near Toretsk, Donetsk region. Information on these facts was recorded in the Unified register of pre-trial investigations with prequalification on article 258 part 2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (act of terrorism).

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished colleagues,

We note the recent SMM's findings and other evidence that further contribute to the scope of evidence of the Russia's direct engagement into the conflict in Donbas. The volatility of the security situation is strongly influenced by Russia's continuing direct involvement in the conflict and constant military resupplies and reinforcements. On 6 November at a military unit of the 1st Army Corp of the occupied Donbas one more modern Russian electronic intelligence station 1RL243 "Rubicon" was observed. It is known that the "Rubicon" interacting with an artillery reconnaissance unit used to determine the coordinates of radio sources and further target designation for artillery. This is the eighth model of stations for electronic intelligence and warfare, used by the Russian occupational troops in the occupied Donbas. Previously such models of modern Russian military equipment have been identified in occupied areas of Donbas: RB-341V "Leer-3", R-378B "Borisoglebsk-2", R-934UM, R-330ZH "Zhytel", "Torn", "Rtut'-BM", RB-636AM2 "Svet-KU".

The combined Russian-separatists forces increasingly use UAVs to spy against the Ukrainian army and adjust fire in the combat zone. On 6 November near the settlement of Melekino, Donetsk oblast the Ukrainian armed forces shot down a Russia's drone "Orlan-10" (board number 10332) which conducted reconnaissance operations from the Russian territory. The analysis of the information received from the drone' flash drive shown that the "Orlan-10" in the period from 20 August to 6 November this year, at least four times have made photoreconnaissance flights from the territory of the Russian Federation over the Ukrainian Armed Forces positions in the sector "Mariupol". The flash drive has more than 500 aerial images. It was found that the launch of the drone was done from a starting position 17 km to the west of town Yeisk, Rostov oblast of Russia in the direction of Donbas through Taganrog Gulf on the following routes:

- on 20 August a photoreconnaissance flight was made over the settlements of Mariupol and Pokrovske. The flight lasted for 3 hours 15 minutes, the length of route 211km and altitude 1500m;
- on 3 October a photoreconnaissance flight was made over the settlements of Prymorske, Pionerske, Sopine, Berdyanske, Lebedynske, Talakivka, Sartana and Kalynivka. The flight lasted for 5 hours 40 minutes, the length of route 225km and altitude 1500m;
- on 10 October a photoreconnaissance flight was made over the settlements of Shyrokine, Lebedynske, Sakhanka, Kalynivka, Berdyanske, Sopine, Prymorske and Vynogradne. The flight lasted 4 hours 30 minutes, the length of route 196km and altitude 800m.

These facts once again confirm the direct support by Russia the terrorist activities of illegal armed formations in Donbas and involving the regular Armed Forces of Russia in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. In particular, only after the "Orlan-10" reconnaissance flight on 10 October with the purpose of additional exploration of the Ukrainian Armed Forces positions and correction of artillery fire the combined Russian-separatist forces 215 times sighting shelled the Ukrainian positions with mortars and artillery systems. The consequence of these attacks was losses among the Ukrainian military: 2 military were killed and 6 wounded.

There are plenty of other evidences of Russia direct involvement in the war on the east of Ukraine. On 7 November 2016 Delegation of Ukraine at the session of PACE in Strasburg informed European partners about the facts of this direct involvement of the Russian Federation. As evidence a photo presentation was used, prepared by the international investigating group (for more details see website: http://112.ua/politika/ukraina-prezentovala-pase-dokazatelstva-prichastnosti-rf-k-voennomu-konfliktu-na-donbasse-345176.html).

Despite persistent Russian denials, regular Russian troops remain in Donbas and Moscow continues to provide weapons, military equipment and training to the combined Russian-separatists forces in eastern Ukraine. New facts of replenishment with military personnel, weapons and equipment, ammunition and fuel for the combined Russian-separatist forces in the occupied territories have been registered.

On 11 November an echelon from Russia delivered: - to the railway station of Roven'ky 7 cisterns with diesel fuel, 4 wagons with lubricants and ammunition; - to the railway station of Krasnodon on platform 2 battle tanks and 2 cisterns with fuel; - to the town of Torez from Russia after repair arrived 10 tanks and 2 self-propelled artillery systems "Gvozdika".

These findings underline the critical need to restore control at the uncontrolled sections of the Ukraine-Russia border and implement without delay an agreed Minsk provision on establishment of a security zone in border areas of both Ukraine and Russia, with the OSCE permanent monitoring and verification. It is necessary to establish SMM Forward Patrol Bases and patrol hubs close to the border in order to ensure due monitoring of uncontrolled sections of the border and adjacent areas, including BCPs and transport

routes. Deployment of an armed police mission, including in the border areas, is necessary to contribute to establishment of safe and secure environment in Donbas.

At many previous FSC meetings, the Russian delegation with full responsibility has stated that there are neither any Russian regular troops in Donbas, nor their weapons and military equipment. In this context, in addition to some SMM reports and earlier photo presentations made by the Ukrainian delegation, today we would like to demonstrate to the Forum some new evidence of the presence of Russian sophisticated military equipment and modern weapons in the occupied Donbas, many of which can be operated only by highly trained military personnel from the regular Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Attachment: photo presentation, on 14 slides.

Madam Chairperson,

We would like to remind to the Forum that in August 2016, the Russian side cynically accused Ukraine by resorting to provocations, like alleged "Ukrainian subversive group" in Crimea. Ukrainian delegation then presented to the FSC convincing evidence of the absurdity and groundlessness of the Russian accusations.

This time again on 9 November 2016 the Russian security service (FSB) announced an arrest in Sevastopol City a one more «subversive and terrorist group» of three persons allegedly from the Main Intelligence Department of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine called such a statement the Russia's cynical provocation. Such accusation of terrorism made by the FSB is an attempt to justify acts of aggression and redeployment of regular military units of the Russian Federation in the occupied territory of the peninsula. We consider these actions by Russian security service as a provocation with the aim to prepare ground for a new stage of aggression against Ukraine.

Distinguished colleagues,

The OSCE SMM to Ukraine continues to register an unacceptable situation when significant limitations are imposed on the international monitors in the occupied areas to impede proper monitoring and distort the real situation on the ground. Access of SMM observers is denied or hindered. The SMM teams are imposed direct threats, escorts on their visits, demanded patrol plans in advance. Russia and its proxies do not allow freedom of the SMM's movement in large part of the territory under their control, including along Ukraine-Russia state border. Such restrictions breach the agreed mandate of the SMM and its ability to report objectively on the situation on the ground. It remains absolutely essential to seek that Russia delivers on its commitment on the SMM's full freedom of movement.

Security will remain fragile if the SMM continues to experience significant problems with its freedom of movement and access in the occupied areas of Donbas. As follows from the SMM reports, the situation in the area has not been improved and remains marked by high statistics of denials of

access. It is unacceptable that the OSCE monitors often face intimidations and threats from the Russian hybrid forces. Placing the monitors at a gunpoint, physical threats, forceful searches of vehicles and accusations of espionage affect negatively the work of the Mission and must be stopped.

Madam Chairperson,

We expect from the Russian Federation to implement the following necessary initial steps of the Minsk agreements: securing ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons, and full freedom of movement for the SMM for effective monitoring. These important steps are an exact reflection of immediate measures as agreed by Russia in the Minsk package. The decisions taken in Moscow led to the conflict in Donbas, consequently it requires decisions in Moscow to stop the conflict and progress to resolution.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



On April 30, 2016 the column of heavy military equipment of Russian origin was recorded on the Oboronna Street of Luhansk City.





100-мм antitank gun «Rapira» carried by Russian vehicle «Ural»

122мм self-propelled artillery «Gvozdika»

Unexploded element of the main part cluster of the pocket-powered explosive item for Multiple Rocket Launcher "Smerch" of Russian origin was detected on May 15, 2016 in the forest near Komsomolsk town, Donetsk oblast.



3<u>N</u> – rocket launcher index; 34 – serial number; 90 – year of manufacture (1990); <u>K-991-12</u> – item number.

"Tavolga" RPG-27 anti-tank rocket

After the fire on August 12, 2016 a PG-27 anti-tank grenade tail assembly used in RPG-27 anti-tank rocket launcher was revealed. RPG-27 is in operational service only with the Russian Armed Forces. RPG-27 is manufactured by "Bazalt" Research and Manufacturing Association (Moscow).



Markings

<u>56</u> – rocket launcher index; <u>4</u> – serial number;

13 – year of manufacture (2013)

Russian RPO-A «Shmel» thermo-baric rocket launcher
On 20 August, 2016 loaded MPO-A portable rocket-propelled antipersonnel flame thrower (with markings: MPO-A MO.1.10.00;
MO.1.10.01 КЛ 4684 30-08; MO.1.10.01 1-6 4200-2008; serial number
was cleaned out) was detected in Donetsk oblast recaptured sites.
The mentioned weapon is used exceptionally by the Russian Armed Forces.



Russian RPO-A «Shmel» thermo-baric rocket launcher
On 26 August, 2016 the used Rocket Flamethrower Shmel-M (produced in 2005) was found near Popasna, Luhansk oblast.



Round for OG-7B grenade launcher
RPG-7 round of Russian manufacture (with "OG-7B 56-2-05 A-IX-I"
markings) with the other items were seized during arrest of the «DPR»
illegal armed group members on 27 June, 2016 near Shyrokine.



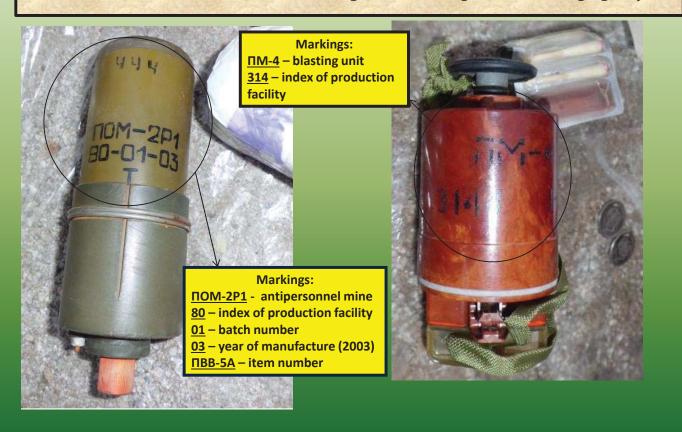
Markings

<u>OΓ-7B</u> – rocket launcher index; <u>56-2</u> – serial number;

<u>05</u> – year of manufacture (2005);

A-IX-I – item number.

The sabotage and reconnaissance group consisting of 3 persons was noticed on 27 May, 2016 near Novohnativka, Donetsk oblast. The antipersonnel mine POM-2P1 and portable blasting unit PM-4 of Russian origin were detected near the place of the combat attack in result of the organized tracing of the sabotage group.



82-mm caliber mortar round

Undamaged and without detonator 82-mm caliber mortar round was detected on 23 June, 2016 in Shyrokine of Donetsk oblast in the place of the "DPR" paramilitary units former mortar detachment. The mentioned round was manufactured in Russia.



Markings

3Π – rocket launcher index;

11 – serial number;

96 - year of manufacture (1996);

82 - item number

September 23, 2016, antipersonnel mines PMN-2 and POM-2 produced in the Russian Federation were found in the ATO zone on the territory of Donetsk oblast. The use of such weapons is prohibited by the international law.





PMN-2 mines

POM-2 mines

On 23 July, 2016 the terrorists were killed in result of military clashes with the ATO forces near the village of Novozvanivka, Luhansk oblast. The terrorists wore armor vests "Pioner 23M" (produced by the Russian company "Splav"), 3 RGN grenades with fuses of Russian origin, which are exceptionally in the inventory of the Russian Army, MON-50 directional fragmentation anti-personal mine of the Russian origin.



Russian 5.45 rounds - 7N39BS and 7N24
On August 26, 2016 Russian 5.45 (7N39BS and 7N24) rounds were confiscated in Popasna town of Luhansk oblast.
5.45 rounds were manufactured at Amursk (photo №1) and Barnaul (photo №2) ammunition factories in 1994 and 1999.



7N39BS 7N24



Photo № 1

Markings

17 – index of the Federal Public
Enterprise «Amursk ammunition factory
«Vympel», the Russian Federation;
94 – year of manufacture (1994)

