



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 817th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(27 April 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 3)

Mr Chairman,

As the Delegation of Ukraine informed in the previous FSC meetings, the security situation in Donbas along the contact line has been deteriorating and remains extremely tense. Continuous ceasefire violations by the combined Russian-separatist forces maintain a high intensity of fire, particularly at night time. These actions aim at provoking the Ukrainian armed forces to respond and further escalation, undermining the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

We reiterate that Ukraine remains committed to a political solution to the conflict in Donbas and full and good-faith implementation of the Minsk agreements as the framework for peaceful resolution. Ukraine's commitment to peaceful political resolution must be reciprocated by another signatory of the Minsk agreements and member of the Trilateral Contact Group – the Russian Federation, which pursued military aggression against Ukraine and sent its military units, weapons and fighters into the Ukrainian territory. Russia has not yet done so.

Unfortunately, the immediate first steps, stipulated by the Minsk package of measures, notably the comprehensive ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weapons, ensuring unrestricted OSCE monitoring and verification, release of hostages remain unimplemented by Russia and its proxies. All of these steps, together with the permanent monitoring at the Ukrainian-Russian border, are crucial for placing the de-escalation process on a sustainable basis.

Russia continues to maintain military command and control of the illegal armed formations in Donbas, to plan and coordinate their joint military operations with Russian units, to support and train pro-Russian militants. The combined Russian-separatist forces continue to be fully procured with weapons, ammunition and fuel from Russia.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Kremlin's stance on fuelling the conflict remains unchanged as now we observe new attempts to escalate the security situation. Despite undertaken commitments on the synchronized withdrawal of weapons from

the contact line, the combined Russian-separatist forces have moved weaponry to conceal it or to put it beyond the scope of the Addendum and therefore beyond the verification process, while at the same time amassing weaponry that can be quickly brought to the front line in an offensive. Indicative in this respect are last SMM reports on monitoring the withdrawal of heavy weapons foreseen in the Minsk package of measures. On 21 April in Luhansk city, in violation of the withdrawal lines, the SMM registered 7 MLRSs BM-21 Grad, 122mm, 7 self-propelled howitzers 2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm, and 10 towed howitzers (five 2A65 Msta-B, 152mm, and five D-30 Lyagushka, 122mm). Also the Ukrainian part of the JCCC informed the representatives of the SMM about the presence: - on 20 April of 122-mm MLRS Grad and artillery systems of over 100-mm calibre in the areas of Lozovskiyi, Yasynivka, Makiivka and Sakhanka; - on 23 April of battle tanks, 122-mm MLRS Grad and self-propelled artillery in the areas of Donetsk, Spartak, Artemivsk and Telmanove; - on 24 April of battle tanks and self-propelled artillery systems in the areas of Holubivske, Debaltseve, Yasynivka and Telmanove.

Over the last week Ukrainian positions and the nearby residential areas were shelled **162** 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 **4** Ukrainian servicemen were killed and **17** were wounded. These escalating attacks and provocations, also registered by the SMM, consistently prove that the combined Russian-separatist forces have not withdrawn heavy weapons from the contact line to the appropriate distances, having in mind to deceive and have the necessary means to carry on hostilities.

The situation remained particularly tense in areas between government-controlled Avdiivka and the so-called "DPR"-controlled Yasynuvata, where the SMM counted more than half of the ceasefire violations recorded in the entire region. The Armed Forces of Ukraine fought off the attacks and made the militants return to their former positions. We regret that the area of increased hostilities stretches along the contact line. The combined Russian-separatist forces resorted to multiple shellings, including with the use of battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, 120-mm and 82-mm mortars of the Ukrainian positions near Mar'inika, Luhans'ke, Zaitheve, Mayors'k, Pisky, Opytne and Shyrokyne with an average intensity of **32** times per day. These attacks add up to the toll of casualties.

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. Last week for the need of the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the combined Russian-separatist forces the following supplies arrived from Russia: - to the Illovaisk railway station an echelon with five heavy trucks with ammunition (122-mm artillery shells, 120-mm mines and grenades), three fuel cisterns; - to Roven'ky 19 fuel cisterns.

Sabotage and subversive activities of the militants continue in Donbas. On 25 April in the town of Kostyantynivka, which is under control of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, an UAV of the combined Russian-separatist forces threw an incendiary substance on the military object. As a result of the incident one Ukrainian soldier was wounded. This is yet another example of UAV attack capability, used by Russian military.

The SMM continues to report the unacceptable cases when significant limitations are imposed on the SMM in the occupied areas to impede due monitoring and reporting. Access of SMM observers is consistently denied or hindered, the SMM teams are imposed escorts on their visits, and demanded patrol plans in advance. Contrary to the SMM mandate and the Minsk agreements, 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.

Addressing the current worrying security situation is directly linked to the initial provisions of the Minsk agreements. Comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire has not been secured, the SMM cannot freely move to effectively monitor and verify. These must be accomplished as a priority and a basic requirement for the progress on other aspects of the Minsk agreements.

Mr Chairman,

In the view of the increasing number of Russian servicemen who refuse to participate in war crimes initiated and executed by the Russia's authorities in Ukraine, the command of the Russian Armed Forces continue active involvement of units, which comprise personnel mainly from the population of the Northern Caucasus. On 19 April a Russian unit, manned mainly by the natives of Dagestan and Chechnya, arrived to the 9th separate assault motorized rifle regiment (Novoazovs'k) of the 1st AC of the combined Russian-separatist forces. Also, considering the danger of active participation in hostilities and the gradual realisation of the inevitability of punishment for committing war crimes in the temporarily occupied territories of eastern Ukraine, numerous facts of dismissals are observed in the military units and formations of the 1st and 2nd AC. According to available information, on 19 April 19 servicemen of the 6th separate motorized rifle regiment (Stakhanov) of the 2nd AC wrote reports for dismissal from military service with further return to Russia.

The Ukrainian competent authorities regularly communicate information on Russian servicemen suspected of committing war crimes in the territory of Ukraine. This also includes information concerning participation of Specific Russian armed forces officers in committing war crimes in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas to be further transferred to the International Criminal Court, according to the established procedure. We will now indicate new information on names and positions of the Russian officers who are now, involved in hostilities in Donbas:

- Commander of the separate reconnaissance battalion of the 1st AC (Donetsk), lieutenant colonel of the Russian Armed Forces **Kanaplianik Konstantin**;

- Commander of the anti-aircraft division of the separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC, lieutenant colonel of the Russian Armed Forces **Bolychev Andrei** (cover surname – Rybakov). Before being seconded to Ukraine, he served in the town of Gudauta (Abkhazia, Georgia);

- Chief of the automotive service of the 2nd AC (Luhansk), major of the Russian Armed Forces **Kunakkuzhyn Ilyas**. Before being seconded to Ukraine, he served in the town of Chebarkul (Chelyabinsk oblast, Russia);

- Chief of the rocket and artillery armament service of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade (Debaltseve) of the 2nd AC, major of the Russian Armed Forces **Tikhonov Sergei**. Before being seconded to Ukraine, he served in the town of Kungur (Perm oblast, Russia);

- Deputy Commander of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC, major of the Russian Armed Forces **Greblyev Anatolii** (cover surname – Ivanenko). Before being seconded to Ukraine, he served in the town of Gudauta (Abkhazia, Georgia);

- Deputy Commander of the 1st motorized rifle battalion of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC, major of the Russian Armed Forces **Iskuzhenov Ruslan**.

Mr Chairman,

The Russian military bear full responsibility for the armed aggression and war crimes committed by their troops in Donbas.

As Russia's decisions and criminal actions led to the conflict in Donbas, it also requires Moscow's decisions and faithful steps to put an end to this bloody conflict and peacefully resolve it based on the provisions of Minsk agreements.

We urge the Russian Federation and its proxies to stop military provocations, to withdraw their heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, to stop provision of weapons, ammunition and logistical support to the militants.

We emphasise the imperative of full freedom of movement for the SMM, establishment of permanent and unhindered monitoring and creation of security zones in border areas of Ukraine and Russia as envisaged by the Minsk agreements.

We repeatedly 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, Mr Chairman.