



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 819th FSC Plenary Meeting

(11 May 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 2)

Mr Chairman,

Ukraine continues to seek a political solution of the current crisis and remains committed to the Minsk agreements, signed in September 2014 and 12 February 2015. These agreements are seen by my country as an agreed roadmap for peaceful solution in Donbas which must be implemented fully and in good faith by all parties. Establishment of sustainable de-escalation and security as the mutual provisions of the Minsk agreements will again be discussed today in the Normandy Ministerial meeting in Berlin.

Unfortunately, while Ukraine has acted faithfully on all provisions of the Minsk agreements, the continuous failure by Russia and the illegal armed groups it supports to practically deliver on undertaken commitments has again led to escalation of violence, increased loss of life among Ukrainian military and civilians, destruction and suffering.

On 9 May, when the civilized world marked the 71st anniversary of the Victory over Nazism, the illegal armed formations carried out a demonstration of Russia-supplied heavy military equipment and weapons in the Ukrainian cities of Donetsk and Luhansk. Despite the clear warnings from the OSCE Special monitoring mission to Ukraine to refrain on this day from holding the so-called "Military parades" in Donetsk and Luhansk with the demonstration of military equipment, in violation of the Minsk agreements, these provocative actions have taken place.

Ukraine considers the preparation and holding of these so-called "Military parades" with demonstration of 155-mm howitzer "Msta-B", 122-mm howitzers "Akatsia", multiple rocket launchers BM-21 "Grad", anti-aircraft missile systems "Strela-10", battle tanks T-72, heavy armoured vehicles BTR-80, BMP-1, as well as other military equipment, as a gross violation of paragraph 2 of the Minsk Package of measures of 12 February 2015. We condemn this deliberate violation of the Minsk agreements.

The demonstration served once again to confirm an illegal large-scale international delivery by the Russian Federation of different types of weapons and equipment to the illegal armed groups in Donbas.

Ukraine calls on the international community to maintain decisive measures in support of the Minsk agreements. We also urge the Russian Federation to condemn the irresponsible actions of its proxies aimed at derailing the peaceful resolution efforts.

Distinguished colleagues,

Last week ceasefire violations by the combined Russian-separatist forces have been maintained, particularly at night time. **Three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and seven wounded.** The positions of Ukraine's army were **shelled with an average intensity of 23 times per day.**

The SMM continues to report the unacceptable cases when significant limitations are imposed on the monitors 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.

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. Without these replenishments they would not have been able to sustain the intensity of armed provocations and shellings that they resort to. Last week on 6 May the following supplies arrived from Russia for the need of the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the combined Russian-separatist forces: - to the Luhansk railway station an echelon with 12 fuel cisterns; - to the Debaltseve railway station an echelon with battle tanks, 122mm MRLS "Grad" and 4 fuel cisterns; - to the Khartsyzk railway station an echelon with 3 wagons with ammunition, one wagon with uniforms, six trucks with up to 100 servicemen and 3 diesel fuel cisterns; - to Dokuchaevsk one tank company of T-80 from the 6th Separate tank brigade, the 1st Tank Army of the Western Military District of the Russian Armed Forces (from the village of Mulino, Nizhniy Novgorod oblast, Russia).

In the ATO area, ten flights of UAVs have been spotted, including six Russian "Orlan-10" and "Forpost" drones which had taken off and landed on the Russian territory. The drones are increasingly used by sabotage and reconnaissance groups to drop high-explosive ammunitions as well as anti-infantry landmines at the Ukrainian positions behind the contact line.

The competent authorities of Ukraine continue to collect and disclose facts on the participation of the Russian Armed Forces career servicemen, who concealing their personal data and using forged documents, took part in the combat actions in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas. Among them:

Major BAIDIKOV Ivan, born in 1982, holds the position of “the chief of the engineer service of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st Army Corp (Donetsk). He graduated from Tyumen’ branch of the Military Engineer University in 2004. In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine uses the undercover name – YAZOV and in daily phone and radio exchanges has the codename – “ISHYM”. To perform criminal orders of the military-political leadership of Russia, Major I.BAIDIKOV was seconded in March, 2015 from the position of the deputy commander of the engineer combat battalion of the 20th separate motorized rifle brigade (Volgograd, Russia) of the 49th Army of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces. In 2015, a battalion tactical group of the 20th separate motorized rifle brigade was involved in combat actions in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk oblast near Horlivka. Nowadays, the battalion tactical group is located near Snizhne.

Captain of the Russian Armed Forces CHEPKASOV Aleksei holds the position of “the deputy commander for armament of the 1st motorized rifle battalion of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC. He was born in 1986 in Amur oblast; he graduated from Far Eastern Higher Combined Arms Command School in 2007. He took part in combat actions in Georgia’s region of South Ossetia in 2008. In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine uses the undercover name IVANOV. To perform criminal orders of the military-political leadership of Russia, Captain A.CHEPKASOV was seconded in March 2015 from the position of the commander of the 3rd motorized rifle company of the 8th motorized rifle battalion of the 136th separate motorized rifle brigade (military unit 63334, Buinaksk, Dagestan) of the 58th Army (Vladikavkaz) of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces. In 2014, the 136th separate motorized rifle brigade was involved in combat actions in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk oblast and was located near the settlement of Novyi Svit. It was established that in March, 2010, criminal proceedings were launched concerning A.CHEPKASOV on charges of a crime defined by article 159 part 3 of the Penal Code of the Russian Federation (fraud committed by a person with the use of a duty status). Participation of captain A.CHEPKASOV in combat actions in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine allows him to expect acquittal and continuation of military career.

Lieutenant Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces ILIINSKYI Igor holds the position of “the deputy commander for logistics of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st AC. He uses the undercover name SERGEEV. Lieutenant Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces I.ILIINSKYI was seconded in March, 2015 from the position of the logistics deputy commander of the 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58th Army of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces.

It is known that Lieutenant Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces I.ILIINSKYI along with Captain A.CHEPKASOV and the chief of the logistics service of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st AC Major of the Russian Armed Forces KARPOV Mikhail established a criminal group on black market sale of fuel. By the order of the commander of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade Major-general of the Russian Armed Forces I.TIMOFEEV, above mentioned officers sell fuel at the black market that is written off for the needs of combat training, and receive funds for personal enrichment.

The Ukrainian authorities will exert every effort to ensure the inevitability of punishment for war crimes that have no time limits and the responsibility for which is provided for by the international and national criminal justice.

Mr Chairman,

In the interests of peaceful resolution in Donbas Ukraine again urges the Russian Federation and its proxies to stop military provocations, to withdraw their heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, to stop provision of Russia’s 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 both Ukraine and Russia as envisaged by the provisions of Minsk agreements.

We once again call on 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.