



**Permanent Mission of Ukraine**  
to the International Organizations in Vienna

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine**  
**at the 814<sup>th</sup> FSC Plenary Meeting**

(16 March 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 1)

**Madam Chairperson,**

As this is the last regular plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation before the spring recess let me first of all express sincere appreciation to Chairmanship of the Netherlands for the work done in the first trimester of 2016 as well as for its professionalism and dedication shown in the challenging circumstances dominated by continued Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

In the course of the Dutch Chairmanship the Forum has been actively engaged in reviewing military aspects of the current deep crisis. Our deliberations and evidence presented in the FSC reaffirm that the crisis stems from the Russia's military aggression and flagrant violations of OSCE principles and commitments. We are grateful to the OSCE participating States for solidarity and firmness in upholding Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

We warmly welcome the next FSC Chairmanship of Poland and wish them every success in guiding our work in the second trimester of 2016. We express gratitude for the skilful work of Norway, the outgoing FSC Troika member, and greet Portugal as a new member of the FSC Troika.

**Madam Chairperson,**  
**Distinguished colleagues,**

As Ukraine's steps on implementing the Minsk agreements have not been reciprocated by Russia, the absence of concrete steps on the part of Moscow has not allowed to place de-escalation and peaceful political resolution on a solid and sustainable basis. Instead of practical implementation we have been offered hollow statements and declarations. The Russian military personnel and hardware remain on the territory of Ukraine in the occupied areas of Donbas without signs of their withdrawal

to Russia. Their movement across the border is part of rotation of the units. The attacks and armed provocations by the combined Russian-separatist forces persist as Russia continues to supply them with weapons and ammunition.

Significant limitations have been imposed on the SMM in the occupied areas to distort monitoring statistics and real situation on the ground. Access of SMM observers is denied or hindered. The SMM teams are imposed escorts on their visits, are demanded patrol plans in advance. Russia-backed militants do not allow freedom of the SMM's movement in large part of the territory under their control, including along the state border between Ukraine and Russia.

As reported in the previous meetings, the situation in Donbas along the contact line has been deteriorating and remains extremely tense. Continuous cease-fire violations by the Russia-backed militants have an upward trend. They aim at provoking the Ukrainian Armed Forces to respond and at undermining progress in implementing the Minsk agreements.

New facts of replenishment with military personnel, weapons and equipment, ammunition and fuel supplies for the Russian military units in the occupied territories have been constantly registered. Russia continues to deliver sophisticated weapons to Donbas: artillery systems (including new MLRS "Grad-K"), surveillance and secure communication devices, drones and detection systems, air defence systems, battle tanks, armoured personnel carriers and others. Some of these weapons are in use only of the Russian military forces. According to available information, on 10 March 15 battle tanks T-72 arrived from Russia to a tank battalion of the so-called 5th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corp. On 11 March an echelon with military equipment: eight BMP-2, two 122-mm MLRS "Grad", two 120-mm howitzer 2S9 "Nona", 14 automobile vehicles, four fuel cisterns and four railway carriages with ammunition arrived to the railway station of Makiivka.

Unfortunately, the current security situation shows that a lot still needs to be done to accomplish the initial security provisions of the Minsk agreements. Sustainable cease-fire has largely not yet been secured, the SMM cannot freely move to effectively monitor and verify. These are the tasks that must be accomplished as a priority and a basic requirement for progress on other aspects of the Minsk agreements.

**Madam Chairperson,**

Over the past two weeks 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 Luhans'ke, Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Opytne, Mar'inika, Chermalyk, Pisky, Zaitseve, Novhorods'ke and Shyrokyne with an **average intensity of 47 times per day**. As results **7 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 21 wounded**.

The Russian-separatist forces in Donbas continue to have up to 28 thousand fighters (**of which only 35% are local Ukrainian citizens**), and 8 thousand soldiers of the Russia's regular armed forces. Russia supplied militants with up to **470 battle tanks, 1000 combat armoured vehicles, 205 MLRSs, 600 artillery systems of various calibres**. Deliveries of heavy weapons, SALW, ammunition and fuel from Russia to the militants in Donbas do not stop.

In past week, in the area of Avdiivka and Yasynuvata the security situation has considerably worsened. The Russian-separatist forces are trying to expand their control on the territory in the Donetsk direction. The Armed Forces of Ukraine fought off the attacks and made the militants return to their former positions. The attacks by Russian-separatist forces including on crossing points, further worsen the humanitarian situation. They significantly delayed the response to Ukrainian proposals to immediately establish cease-fire around Donetsk filtration station and provide the necessary security guarantees to the SMM. Militants continue armed provocations in the area.

We refer to the attacks by combined Russian-separatist forces as Russian officers have been placed in command positions of the irregular armed formations. There are some names and positions of the Russian generals and officers which are now, involved in hostilities in Donbas:

- Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Corp (Donetsk) major-general Valeriy Asapov,
- Deputy Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> AC (Donetsk) colonel Yevgeniy Chirkov,
- Chief Engineering Service officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> AC (Donetsk) colonel Zalibek Usmanov,
- Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> AC (Horlivka) major-general Igor Timofeyev,
- Commander of the 9<sup>th</sup> special motorized marine's regiment of the 1<sup>st</sup> AC (Novoazovs'k) colonel Dmitriy Bondaryev,
- Commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> AC (Debaltseve) colonel Aleksandr Bushuyev,
- Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> separate motorized rifle brigade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AC (Luhansk) colonel Andrey Ruzinskiy.

**Madam Chairperson,**

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

We urge to halt military provocations, to withdraw heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, to stop provision of ammunition and logistical support to the militants.

We urge full freedom of movement of the SMM and establishment of permanent monitoring and security zones in border areas of Ukraine and Russia.

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.**