



Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine at the 770th FSC plenary meeting

(12 November 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Mr. Chairman,

Since the last FSC plenary meeting the situation in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine remained tense and tended to further aggravation in spite of the cease-fire in place.

While the Armed Forces of Ukraine strictly observed the cease-fire regime and stayed at their positions, the illegal armed groups, supported by Russia, continued to willfully violate the terms of the Minsk agreements. After so called “elections” in “DPR” and “LPR” on 2 November pro-Russian militants together with the Russian regular Armed Forces renewed their undeclared war against Ukraine by carrying out incessant attacks and shelling at the Ukrainian positions in the ATO zone.

Distinguished colleagues,

In the course of last week scaled supply of heavy weaponry from the Russian territory to Donbas has been significantly increased. New columns of tanks, trucks and heavy artillery rumbled towards the city of Donetsk on 10 November.

Intensive movement of local fighters and Russian mercenaries has been registered along the line of battle. There were also numerous evidences that Russian military servicemen, disguised as local fighters and wearing uniform with “DPR” insignia, continued to arrive in the city of Donetsk.

At the same time, prior to the Asia Pacific Economic cooperation Summit in Beijing on 8 November Foreign Minister of Russia S.Lavrov assured his American counterpart the US Secretary of State J.Kerry that there is no Russian troops in Donbas and Russia bears no responsibility for the breach of the Minsk agreements. “Russia is not directly engaged in the implementation of agreements on the cease-fire. The cease-fire agreement was signed by militias and by the Government of Ukraine. They have to finish the process of disengagement of forces by themselves. And they are busy with this now”, - S.Lavrov said.

Mr. Chairman,

At the last FSC meeting our delegation drew attention to separatist’s attempt to create “the Army of Novorosia”. So called leaders of “LPR” and “DPR” started to conduct “forced mobilization” of all men and women able to carry weapon in the towns of Khartsyzk, Snizhne, Shachtars’k, Zuhres, Mospine and Ilovaisk. According to the competent Ukrainian authorities, massive departure of citizens from the territory controlled by separatists has begun to escape this mobilization.

The Security Service of Ukraine has ascertain that Russian-backed fighters try to move their field training centre from Rostov oblast (Russia) to Donetsk oblast (Ukraine) with the

aim to train local fighters directly within the territory of Ukraine. This special operation, called "Domino", is financed by the Federal budget of the Russian Federation. Professional experts of the Russian Special Services are engaged in the conduct of this operation.

According to received data, last week the so called "humanitarian convoy" from Russia delivered simulators to be used to increase fighters' professional skills in different military areas and with different types of equipment installed in the training field.

Distinguished colleagues,

In the course of the last 6 months 35 thousand people from Russia have experienced fighting for so called "Novorosia" on the side of terrorist groups in the east of Ukraine. This information was confirmed unofficially by both the Russian border guards and the separatists from "DPR" and "LPR". Human rights activists and media who investigate this information have stated that after the end of the so called exercises in Rostov oblast 13 thousand Russian servicemen got "lost" near the Russian-Ukrainian border.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian militant groups, which were registered from 5 till 11 November:

-on 5 November, there were clashes with pro-Russian fighters aiming to take under control the Donetsk airport. These actions left 3 Ukrainian servicemen killed and 9 wounded. The situation in the city of Donetsk is considered as extremely complicated. One can hear sounds of explosion and fire shots of large-caliber weapons. As a result of the explosion of artillery ammunition on a sport site by the School № 63 two children were killed and three wounded. The immediate appearance of a Russian TV team on the incident scene with detailed expert commentary concerning who and from where shelled, was not accidental. This is one more attempt of Kremlin to undermine the credibility of the Ukrainian military in the eyes of local residents in such a brutal way.

-on 6 November, several units of the 44th guard Kantemirov tank division, which have temporarily been stationing at the Luhansk military airforce institute, moved towards Schastye, Luhansk oblast. A military column consisted of 32 tanks, 16 howitzers D-30 and 30 "KAMAZ" trucks with ammunitions and military servicemen on board;

-on 7 November, terrorists shelled at the settlements of Zolote, Hirs'ke, Vil'hove and Saryi Ajdar (Luhansk oblast) by 70 rounds of mortars, artillery systems and MLRS "GRAD". A school, several private houses and communications has got under the fire. During this day 5 Ukrainian military servicemen lost their lives and 22 were wounded;

-on 8 November, fighters attacked check points in the vicinity of Kryms'ke, Debal'tseve, Nikishene, Troits'ke and Avdiivka. The attacks were successfully repelled. Clashes at the Donetsk airport were continuing. During the same day 3 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 15 wounded;

-on 9 November, fighters using tanks, artillery, grenade launchers, mortars and light weapons shelled at the zone of ATO near the cities of Donetsk, Debal'tseve, Pervomaisk and Mariupol. This action left 3 Ukrainian servicemen killed and 13 wounded;

-on 9 November, east of Donetsk city, on territory controlled by the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic", the SMM observed two convoys of 17 trucks each. They included artillery and multiple-launcher rocket systems. The convoys were moving in the western direction. This was the second day in a row that the SMM observed convoys in the eastern outskirts and territories of Donetsk city;

-on 10 November, military equipment consisting of 5 tanks and 2 armored personnel carriers came from Russia and moved through Donetsk in the western direction. We believe that this amount of heavy equipment of undetermined origin in the separatist-controlled territories of the eastern Ukraine looks like a pointless show of force;

-on 10 November, from Russia to Donetsk a new AK-74 with laser sights and modern sniper rifles were brought in and passed into the hands of terrorist groups. On the same day near Mariupol positions of Russian self-propelled anti-aircraft missile and gun systems of land-based "Panzyr" were detected, which do not belong to the military units of Ukraine;

-on 11 November, militants fired more than 30 times at the positions of the ATO forces, most actively in Debal'tseve, Luhansk and Donetsk directions. The situation in the area of ATO remains the most intense in the area of settlements Debal'tseve (6 shelling), Kryms'ke (4 shelling), Zolote, Berezove (3 shelling each) Chernukhine, airport of Donetsk (2 shelling each).

Since September 5, Ukrainian forces and civilians have been shelled over **2700** times. **121** Ukrainian servicemen have been killed. Some bodies have still to be identified and, once this procedure is over, this number will rise. Over **630** have been wounded. There are also at least **56** casualties among civilians.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like once again to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the participants of this FSC meeting a response of the Russian Federation on 8 November (format F41) to the Ukrainian request on 6 November (format F10) concerning illicit transfers from Russia to terrorists in Donbas large quantities of weapons and military equipment and deployment in direct proximity to the Ukrainian territory the operational-tactic missile complexes "Iskander". The Russian format F41 reads *and I quote*: "In accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011 the information presented by Ukraine is untrue and does not require any explanations".

In the context of seeking de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine, it is imperative that all parties to the Minsk arrangements, including the Russian Federation, implement them fully and in good faith.

We therefore again urge the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops and military equipment from Ukraine, to halt reinforcement of the terrorist groups with Russian weapons and mercenaries, to introduce effective control on the Ukrainian-Russian border under permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.