



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 759-th FSC Plenary Meeting
(2 July 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)**

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

On 24 June 2014 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin presented in this hall the Peace plan of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, aimed at restoring peace and stability in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine. The Peace plan provides, in particular, for safety guarantees for all participants of consultations; decentralization of power; restoration of infrastructure destroyed and damaged during the hostilities, amnesty to the members of illegal armed units, who laid down weapons and did not commit serious crimes; liberation of hostages. The indispensable prerequisite for the implementation of the Peace plan was cessation of use of force, which from 20 June 2014 was unilaterally declared by the President of Ukraine and on 27 June was prolonged until June 30, 22:00.

By this meaningful practical step to seek peaceful solution, the President of Ukraine expected the armed militants and terrorists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to respect the ceasefire, thus showing their readiness to de-escalate the situation and allow for adequate functioning of the regions. Regrettably, this has not proven to be the case. Since 20 June 2014 there were 108 cases, when cease-fire was broken. At this period total number of killed military and internal security servicemen of Ukraine amounted to 28 with more than 70 wounded. The terrorists continued attacks, including on infrastructure, hostage taking and intimidation of civilians.

The terrorists showed that they are not interested in peace and recovery for the population of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. On the contrary their choice was to continue inflicting sufferings on the peaceful citizens, accompanied by the loss of property, threat to the lives and destruction of any prospects for economic and social development in Donbas.

The unilateral cease-fire and its extension did not result in cessation of violence by illegal armed groups. No progress was achieved on reinstating border control and releasing of all hostages. Terrorists used cease-fire for regrouping and reinforcement. The number of casualties among Ukrainian military men was growing.

Under these challenging circumstances on 30 June, following the National Security and Defense Council meeting, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko made a decision not to prolongate the unilateral ceasefire regime in Donbas.

In his address to the people of Ukraine the President stated in particular: "Termination of ceasefire is our response to terrorists, insurgents, marauders, everyone who tortures civilians, paralyzes the economy of the region, disrupts payments of salaries, pensions, scholarships, blows up the railroad, destroys the water pipes and deprives people of normal peaceful life".

President Poroshenko informed international partners, with whom he was engaged in constant dialogue, of the serious reasons for non-prolongation of the ceasefire regime. The Head of State emphasized, in particular, that the Ukrainian party has been fully observing its commitments and unilaterally complying with the ceasefire regime for 10 days and paid dozens of lives for that.

At the same time, the Ukrainian President noted that in case of the implementation of basic provisions of the peace plan upon which the position was agreed both in the decision of

the European Council on June 27 and in the course of the quadripartite conference call, particularly: respect for ceasefire, establishment of a reliable control on the Ukrainian-Russian border with monitoring and verification of the OSCE and release of all hostages, Ukraine will be ready to begin political consultations without any additional conditions for the implementation of the peace plan in the Donbas.

Mr. Chairman,

During the ASRC-2014 an extensive debate took place concerning the applicability and relevance of the Vienna Document to the military situation around Ukraine throughout past months. The Ukrainian side is fully aware that the VD provides no recipes for crisis management and crisis resolution. The VD is about enhancing trust and confidence based upon military transparency and predictability. Risk reduction mechanism, envisaged in Chapter III of the Vienna Document, is a tool to dispel security concerns in order to avoid miscalculation which might lead to eventual use of force by the participating State, which has a security concern. And in the spirit of cooperative security such security concerns should be addressed, clarifications should be provided by the requested participating State. Since Ukrainian territories – Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol – were subject to the illegal annexation by the Russian Federation, which was coupled with continuous threat of use of force against the naval, military and border control units of Ukraine, such clarifications are necessary not only to Ukraine, but for the international community. Flagrant violation by Russia of international law, Helsinki Final Act and OSCE commitments prompted Ukraine to closely follow unusual military activities of the Russian Federation and activate the mechanism, enshrined in the Chapter III of the VD as appropriate. In doing so, we always followed the paragraph 16 of the VD, which determines that “Participating States will ... consult and cooperate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled activities of their military forces outside their normal peacetime locations which are militarily significant, within the zone of application for CSBMs and about which a participating State expresses its security concerns”. In accordance with this provision any participating State has the right to assess from its own perspective what constitutes militarily significant activity and seek clarifications notwithstanding the existing threshold for prior notifications.

In this context let me inform you that in the third decade of June 2014 Ukraine issued notification format F10 (CBM/UA/14/0075/F10/O), which addressed concentration of the Russian armed forces in the areas, adjacent to the Ukrainian territory. Significant increase of their activities, including intensive flights of aircraft has been observed. Increased military presence in the border areas with Ukraine was confirmed on 19 June by the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation at the plenary meeting of the Russian State Duma. From Ukraine`s perspective, continuous concentration of Russian military units close to the border with Ukraine are the source of concern. Such concerns are also based on confirmed cases of weapon and military equipment transfers, including battle tanks, multi-launch rocket systems, MANPADs and mine-launchers to the terrorists in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts from the Russian territory. In this connection Ukraine pursuant to paragraph 16.1 of the VD requested detailed clarifications from the Russian side concerning purposes and areas of military activities, dates of their termination, as well as names, subordination, number and types of participating military units.

In its response (CBM/RU/14/0085/F41/O) the Russian Federation informed that increase of its military presence alongside the border of Ukraine is related only to the strengthening of the border control units in order to prevent the violation of the border by the Ukrainian military equipment. Some other irrelevant to the VD and completely false information concerning the situation in two eastern regions of Ukraine was presented. No

concrete answers on the questions raised by the Ukrainian side were provided by relevant Russian authorities.

In view of the above Ukrainian side issued notification format F10 (CBM/UA/14/0076/F10/O). The attention was drawn to the fact that contrary to the CBM/RU/14/0085/F41/O according to the Russian media Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation explained the increase in numbers of the Russian troops in Rostov and Belgorod oblasts by the military exercises in response to the NATO exercises on the Baltic. Russian side did not dispel concerns related to the concentration of the Russian troops near the Ukrainian borders.

Ukraine reiterates, in letter and spirit of the VD, its request to provide information concerning purposes and areas of military activities, dates of their termination, as well as names, subordination, number and types of participating military units at the areas adjacent to the state border with Ukraine.

The Ukrainian side also rejected provocative and false claims and demands of the Russian side concerning the issues unrelated to the VD and which have nothing in common with the reality.

Demonstrating full transparency with regard to the developments which took place in the AR of Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, Ukraine, starting from March 2014, initiated on its territory 9 extra quota inspections under the VD and expresses its interest to continue this practice. The Ukrainian side calls on the Russian Federation to follow this example, to show transparency, to make full use of the options available in the framework of the VD and to invite international inspection teams to the areas adjacent to Ukraine.

Calling on the Russian Federation to take measures for effective control on the Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian border, to halt inflow of militants and weapons from Russia to Ukraine, to publicly condemn criminal acts, committed by the terrorists groups in the eastern regions of Ukraine, I will conclude by demonstrating some photo materials (attached to this statement), which provide evidence of Russian continuous military, logistical and other support of terrorist organizations DNR and LNR, operating in the eastern oblasts of Ukraine, as exemplified by the battle tank and MANPADs, which were seized by Ukrainian military servicemen from terrorists.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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