



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine  
at the 763-rd FSC Plenary Meeting  
(17 September 2014 at 10:00, Hofburg)**

**Mr.Chairman,**

Since the very first days of the crisis in and around Ukraine, stemming from military aggression of the Russian Federation and its violation of the UN Charter, fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, Ukraine has demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and genuine political will to de-escalate tensions on the ground in a multilateral confidence-building framework agreed by all OSCE participating States. We regret that the Russian Federation has not shown interest for transparency and openness, including through use of appropriate OSCE politico-military toolbox. As we meet today, the Russian Federation remains in breach of founding OSCE principles and numerous commitments, as it violated Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity through illegal occupation and annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, broad-ranging support of the illegal armed groups in the east of Ukraine and direct involvement in escalation there. The situation in the east of Ukraine has greatly aggravated following, after months of shelling from the Russian territory, the incursion of Russian regular military forces into the territory of Ukraine. This military adventure of the Russian Federation, aimed at destabilizing Ukraine and undermining its statehood, poses serious threats to Ukraine and the security of the entire European continent.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Carrying out the antiterrorist operation in the east of the country, Ukraine has exercised its legitimate right and responsibility to defend the unity and territorial integrity of the state, to protect the citizens of the country from the terrorists' threat.

At the same time, peaceful resolution of situation in the east of Ukraine has been and remains a top priority for the nation. The Peace Plan of President Poroshenko provided a sound basis for peaceful

resolution, Ukraine implemented in good faith the Geneva Statement and the Berlin Declaration.

We therefore welcomed the signing of a protocol at a Trilateral Contact Group meeting in Minsk on 5 September which established the framework for cease-fire and peaceful resolution of the situation in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Despite ongoing violations of the cease-fire regime on the part of illegal armed groups, the President of Ukraine has again shown his commitment to peace by introducing to the Parliament two draft legislative acts on a special order of self-governance in certain parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and on amnesty. These draft laws were adopted yesterday by the Ukrainian Parliament.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Although the ceasefire regime was established as of 18.00 hours of 5 September, the situation in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine remains tense and tends to further aggravation in view of ongoing violations by the Russian regular military units along with Russia-backed separatists. This situation needs constant attention and adequate reaction from this decision-making body of the OSCE.

Let me brief you on the challenges of today's military situation and violations of the cease-fire registered by the Ukrainian side. They include:

- artillery shelling of the Ukrainian military positions carried out by regular military units of the Russian Armed Forces together with the militants in the vicinity of the following settlements: Avdiivka, Bogdanivka, Vasylivka, Granitne, Debaltseve, Yenakievo, Zhdanivka, Krasnogorivka, Krynychne, Maiorsk, Mar'inka, Maloorlovka, Mius, Nyzhnia Krynka, Novobakhmutivka, Novoselivka, Novotroitske, Panteleimonivka, Petrivs'ke, Pisky, Tonen'ke, Khartsyz'k, Tsentral'nyi, Shakhtars'k, Yasinuvata in the Donetsk oblast, Donetsk airport, and Horodishche, Zolote, Komyshevakh, Popasna, Spivakivka, Chornukhine in the Luhansk oblast;

- incursion into the territory of Ukraine of convoys with heavy weaponry of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. They consist of tanks, artillery systems, radars, fuel-supply lorries, heavy trucks with personnel;

- violation of the air space of Ukraine by Russian UAV's which conduct aerial reconnaissance, in particular nearby Krasna Talivka of Luhansk oblast and Mariupol' of Donetsk oblast;

- setting up of fortification installations by Russian military units, in particular in the vicinity of Lukove, Tel'manove and along the road Olenivka-Novotroitske in the Donetsk oblast;

- an increase in the numbers of the Russian armoury, artillery weapon and military personnel near Horlivka, Dmytrivka, Dokuchaevsk, Panteleimonivka, Pavlopol', Tel'manove, Khartsyz'k in the Donetsk oblast; Vesela Gora, Krasnodon, Chervonopartixans'k in Luhansk oblast.

Since introduction of the ceasefire, it has been violated nearly 300 times by the illegal armed groups and Russian military. 16 Ukrainian military personnel and 6 civilians were killed and 98 wounded.

Ukraine has communicated to the Russian Federation through bilateral channels its protests over continuing acts of aggression.

We also protested against violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine as Russia proceeded with delivery of "humanitarian assistance" without agreement of the Ukrainian authorities, due inspection and ignoring the leading role of ICRC in accordance with international humanitarian aid procedures.

Numerous instances of violation of the ceasefire regime and an intensive military preparations undertaken by pro-Russian militants and Russian troops on the territory of Ukraine lead us to think that they may prepare the next phase of active actions against Ukrainian troops.

Our Russian colleagues continuously claim the absence of Russian regular military units on the Ukrainian territory, while there is ample convincing evidence to the contrary. Among many items of Russian military-issue equipment that have been recovered, very noticeable is the modernised Russian tank T-72 which was seized near Illovaisk by Ukrainian servicemen led by colonel Sydorenko.

Extremely worrying are the threats received by MoD of Ukraine through unofficial channels from Russia that it could use tactical nuclear weapon unless Ukrainian troops stop their resistance.

We are concerned by the media references to yesterday's statement by Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation S.Shougu on establishment of "full-scaled and self-sufficient grouping of troops

at the Crimean direction". Having already created a "grey zone" on the sovereign territory of Ukraine, the Russian Federation continues to build up its military presence in the illegally annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea and establish an offensive military grouping with ambiguous tasks. The stated grounds for such military preparations – increase of foreign military presence near the Russian borders and escalation of situation in Ukraine – are beyond reason, particularly against the backdrop of cease-fire arrangements in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. We perceive the abovementioned statement as such that destabilizes the situation in the entire Black Sea region and call on the Russian Federation to stop provocative actions which threaten sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and peace in the region.

In this context we will also note that according to the data received by means of objective control, particularly satellite photographs, there is gradual build-up of Russian troops on its territory adjacent to the Ukrainian state border. According to the letter of the Vienna Document Russia's activities there may not be the subject to verification, but in the spirit of the Document it would be an act of good will, if Russia accepts inspections under the VD to dispel concerns of the Ukrainian side and other OSCE participating States.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that Ukraine continues to urge practical steps on the part of the Russian Federation to deescalate the situation and peacefully resolve the crisis in and around Ukraine with full respect to its sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders.

**Thank you, Mr. Chairman.**