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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1352<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 January 2022

**On the deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the continued non-implementation by the  
Ukrainian authorities of the Minsk agreements**

Mr. Chairperson,

The foreign handlers of present-day Ukraine have stepped up their attempts to destabilize the situation within the country and push the Kyiv regime towards ill-judged and destructive military solutions. This is becoming abundantly clear against the backdrop of two trends.

First, they are deliberately giving the government in Kyiv no incentives whatsoever for the Ukrainian authorities to implement the key provision of the Minsk agreements, namely engaging in direct dialogue with the representatives of certain areas of Donbas on a political settlement of the internal Ukrainian crisis. Quite simply, they are encouraging them to further sabotage the implementation of the Package of Measures. The price of such sabotage is the pain of irreparable human loss, broken futures and fresh destruction in Donbas.

Secondly, some NATO countries have dramatically stepped up their efforts to “pump” Ukraine full of offensive weapons for supposedly “defensive” purposes. Over the past week, at least four aircraft carrying US military cargo, including lethal weapons and ammunition for use in Donbas, have arrived in Kyiv. Earlier, British military transport aircraft had been travelling back and forth between Kyiv and the United Kingdom.

According to data available, in January alone hundreds of US-manufactured Javelin missile systems, thousands of British-produced missile launchers, over 400,000 rounds of ammunition, including ammunition for large-calibre weapons, and much more besides arrived in Ukraine. There are reports that transfers of US-made weapons from the Baltic States, howitzers from the Czech Republic, millions of rounds of ammunition from Slovakia, over a dozen Turkish Bayraktar unmanned combat aerial vehicles and more are planned for February. Is this what support for a peaceful, political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis in Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk agreements looks like?

According to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, his country will supply even more weapons in the near future. Last year (2021), the United States of America provided Ukraine with at least 650 million

dollars' worth of military funding as "aid", much of which was used to purchase weapons that can be employed for offensive purposes. In total, since 2014, the United States has "pumped" some 2.7 billion dollars' worth of "security assistance" into Ukraine.

All these actions have been accompanied by disinformation, or to put it more bluntly fake stories, such as some plan to "install a pro-Russian regime in Ukraine" attributed to Russia, which was created and circulated by the British Foreign Office on 23 January. It would seem that the UK Government could not decide which of the two myths being cultivated in London was the more appealing – the one about an "inevitable Russian invasion of Ukraine" or the one about "installing a pro-Russian regime", which apparently does not involve any "invasion". A number of countries hastened to issue statements about the evacuation from Ukraine of the families of their embassies' diplomats. All this is evidently intended to lend credibility to the most negative scenarios and sow panic.

One thing is clear: all these insinuations are an attempt to divert attention from the Ukrainian Government's failure to implement the Minsk agreements and the *de facto* bankruptcy of the authorities in terms of their domestic and above all their socio-economic policy.

In fact, present-day Ukraine, which has first-hand knowledge of almost eight years of external management, is increasingly reminiscent of a seriously ill patient on a ventilator. Its economy is unable to survive without loans provided "manually" on ad hoc basis and labelled as "financial assistance". Thus, it was announced on 24 January that the European Union would allocate a new package worth 1.2 billion euros. Another example is Canada's decision two days earlier to provide a 120-million-dollar loan. There are many examples of emergency loans to patch up the Ukrainian economy, and we shall not mention them all.

A noteworthy aspect is that the "scare stories about an invasion", which are coming primarily from the United States, are not shared even by the Ukrainian leadership itself, which is urging against any sewing of panic. Over the past week, President Zelenskyy, Oleksii Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, Oleksii Reznikov, Minister of Defence, Oleh Nikolenko, spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Davyd Arakhamia, head of the ruling party's parliamentary faction, and others have spoken out on this matter. Back in November of last year, Mr. Danilov called such rumours "deliberate disinformation" as part of "information and psychological special operations", and just the other day he asked journalists to "tone it down" – not to mention the concern about a deterioration of the country's macroeconomic situation and investment climate as a result of the military hysteria being whipped up in the West.

Despite all this, in the United States, officials and representatives and State-controlled media continue to call the statements by representatives of the Ukrainian authorities "contradictory", assuring them that they can see "all the signs of preparations for military action" in the coming weeks. It is no coincidence that a number of Ukrainian parliamentarians recently demanded an assessment of the actions of Elena Kravtsiv, an employee of the US embassy in Ukraine, which they saw as "propaganda for war". As Ms. Kravtsiv herself had said earlier, she and other employees of the US embassy intended to explain to the Ukrainian people "the inevitability of war with Russia" and distribute some kind of manuals.

At the same time, it is no less remarkable that while arguing that there is no supposed threat of an "invasion" from abroad, the Ukrainian politico-military leadership continues to build up a military grouping not just anywhere but along the line of contact in Donbas. Some 150,000 military personnel are already stationed near it. The Ukrainian Defence Minister, Mr. Reznikov, recently announced an increase in the Ukrainian armed forces by another 11,000 troops. Members of paramilitary nationalist formations are also arriving in Donbas. They include Right Sector, which has still not been disarmed in accordance with

paragraph 10 of the Minsk Package of Measures. All this shows that the Ukrainian Government is actively working on plans for the preparation of armed provocations in Donbas.

We are concerned about the presence near the line of contact of foreigners – professional soldiers in the guise of “instructors”, along with employees of private military companies, mercenaries and others. We have taken note of the 25 January report by Sky News, which showed footage from near the settlement of Pavlopil in the Donetsk region of armed mercenaries Johnny Wood and Sean Pinner, who had come to Ukraine from the United Kingdom.

In these circumstances, a special role rests with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) and its ability to provide early warning of a dangerous escalation. There is a need to carefully monitor the deliveries and movements of military equipment and weapons, identify their deployment in violation of the withdrawal lines, monitor their use and record in a timely manner the destruction of civilian objects as a result of shelling. Strenuous efforts need to be made, above all for humanitarian purposes, to restore communication between the representatives of the parties to the conflict and to relaunch the mechanism for providing security guarantees, which was disrupted as a result of the offensive operations by the Ukrainian military last autumn. All this, of course, should not be at the expense of the SMM’s monitoring of the rest of the country within the framework of its mandated tasks.

A video meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) took place on 26 January. On the same day, the foreign policy advisers to the leaders of the Normandy Four countries met in Paris. The diplomatic efforts were aimed at giving impetus to the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We regret that no practical results were once again achieved with either approach. The Ukrainian Government continues its undisguised sabotage of the Minsk settlement process – above all by failing to provide any responses to the numerous proposals by the Donetsk and Luhansk authorities for the implementation of the Package of Measures of 12 February 2015, which was endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. Furthermore, Ukraine’s policy of marginalizing the TCG and its attempts to pass on issues that fall within its competence to the Normandy format is evident.

As has already been mentioned many times, the Ukrainian Government’s key obligation under the Minsk Package of Measures is direct dialogue with the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk on all aspects of a settlement, including a special status for Donbas. Nevertheless, on his way to the “Normandy format” meeting, the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Andrii Yermak, said defiantly that the Ukrainian Government had no intention of implementing specific provisions of the Minsk agreements and specific Normandy agreements. Describing the events of the past few days, he assessed them as “raising the stakes in order to push Ukraine towards an amnesty and the ‘Steinmeier formula’”. He immediately added: “That’s not going to happen.” Need I remind you that an amnesty is provided for in paragraph 5 of the Package of Measures, and the “Steinmeier formula” is meant to be incorporated into Ukrainian legislation in accordance with the outcome documents of the summit of the Normandy Four leaders of 9 December 2019. The aforementioned actions by Ukraine’s representatives tend to escalate the situation, sending it into a very dangerous spiral that might lead to a new flare-up of the armed conflict.

Now for a few words about the work of the Normandy format. There is no doubt that it can and should play a constructive role in facilitating a settlement. However, this format will be effective only if there is an agreed understanding and interpretation of the Minsk agreements among its participants. Without eliminating the current differences in interpretation regarding the perception of the Minsk agreements, the Normandy format will not be able to send constructive signals to the TCG, where the main work on the implementation of the Minsk Package of Measures is taking place.

Under these circumstances, we call on the external handlers of the authorities in Kyiv to put a stop to the destabilizing militarization of Ukraine and provide all possible assistance for a political and diplomatic way out of the crisis in that country. Lasting and sustainable peace is possible only on the basis of comprehensive implementation in good faith by the parties to the conflict – the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk – of all the provisions of the Package of Measures in their entirety, in the correct sequence and in a co-ordinated manner.

Thank you for your attention.