



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 776-th FSC Plenary Meeting
(20 January 2015 at 11.00, Hofburg)**

Mr. Chairman,

Ukraine warmly welcomes Mongolia as the new Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation and wishes it every success in guiding our work in the first trimester of 2015. We are grateful to H.E. Mr. Lundeg Purevsuren, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia for his opening statement outlining tasks, priorities and activities within the FSC for the first trimester of 2015.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Chairmanship of Monaco for its determination to advance the Forum's work during the last trimester of 2014 and, especially, for having steered in a proficient and dedicated manner the negotiations on the FSC draft decisions in the run up to and during the Basel Ministerial Council meeting. We commend the Monegasque FSC Chairmanship for its high professionalism and dedication shown in adverse circumstances dominated by the crisis in and around Ukraine.

We wish Montenegro every success as a new member of the FSC Troika and thank the Republic of Moldova, which is leaving the Troika, for its efforts and commitment over the past year.

We also hope that the overall FSC activities in 2015 will be ambitious and productive and will provide a tangible contribution to the politico-military dimension.

In this context Ukraine welcomes Indicative Schedule for the plenary meetings under the Mongolian Chairmanship and tentative FSC Working Program in 2015.

We look forward to active and constructive cooperation with the FSC Chairmanship, FSC Troika and Coordinators, delegations of the participating States with the view to achieving our common objectives.

Distinguished colleagues,

Despite consistent calls from Ukraine and its international partners throughout the three stages of the FSC session last year, the Russian Federation has failed to meet its commitments pursuant to a number of OSCE instruments in politico-military dimension; no substantial step was made by the Russian side to enable de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine. More and more innocent civilians are paying their lives for irresponsible politico-military adventure of the Russian Federation, aimed at destabilizing Ukraine and undermining its statehood.

Regrettably the Russian Federation has not yet underpinned the Minsk protocol and the Memorandum with concrete and meaningful steps from its side, including withdrawal of its military units from Ukraine's territory and halting reinforcement of the terrorist groups with Russian weapons and mercenaries. The approximate number of Russia backed military formations that are operating in Donbas, according to the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine Mr. O.Turchynov, are around 38 thousand fighters and 8,5 thousand Russian servicemen. Around 52 thousand Russian troops in full gear with considerable offensive potential - more than 300 tanks, 1,800 armoured combat vehicles, 750

artillery systems and multiple rocket launchers, and 360 combat aircraft and attack helicopters are located along the eastern part of the Russian-Ukrainian border.

Currently, the Russian Armed Forces interoperability battalion tactical groups, whose personnel gained experience in fighting on the territory of Ukraine, are preparing for the regular rotation in Donbas.

Let me draw your attention to yesterday's intervention - two battalion tactical groups consisting of 600-700 Russian servicemen entered the Luhansk region through the uncontrolled part of the Russian-Ukrainian border. Future movements of these groups remain unknown.

Ukraine calls on the delegation of the Russian Federation to provide explanations of such actions of the Russian military.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

The security situation in Donbas remained tense and tended to further aggravation. Recently, the number and intensity of militants attacks have increased. Since the announcement of the "regime of quiet" on 9 December 2014, **1190 cases of attacks** on position the ATO forces and towns and villages have been registered. The most difficult situation is in the area of the Donetsk airport and nearby settlements Avdiivka, Horlivka, Debaltseve, Schastya, in the region Stanytsya Luhanska, Mykolaivka and Hranitne, in the seaside near the city of Mariupol.

Let me bring to your attention some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian terrorist groups, which were registered during the last three weeks of 2015:

- the Ukrainian society was shaken by a tragedy near Volnovakha, Donetsk oblast where pro-Russian terrorists killed 13 and wounded 15 civilians, targeting a passenger bus with a GRAD missile. The shelling was carried out from Dokuchayevsk which is under control of the illegal armed groups. The facts available point out that the tragedy was not a coincidence. As there are no positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces near the checkpoint, where the bus was hit, and the terrorists fired at the civilians intentionally;

- pro-Russian militants continue to ignore the cease-fire regime and increased their fierce attacks on the Donetsk airport. The situation in the city of Donetsk remains extremely tense;

- since 1 to 20 January the militants shelled the settlements of the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of mortars, artillery systems, tanks and MLRS "GRAD". A school, several private houses and communications got under attacks;

- on 6 January in Luhansk and 12 January in Krasnodon once again an invasion of the Russian troops with heavy equipment into the Eastern Ukraine has been once again documented. There was a movement of columns of military equipment with new light-armored vehicles KAMAZ-43269 entitled "Vystrel", "Dozor" and GAZ-3937 "Vodnik" which are used only in the Russian Armed Forces;

- on 13 January pro-Russian illegal armed groups have used for the first time in the armed conflict in Donbas 220-mm heavy flamethrower systems TOS-1 "Buratino", from which fire was opened on the outskirts of the village Vesele;

- on 14 January a column with a large number of armored vehicles GAZ-2330 "Tigr" which are used only in the Russian Armed Forces went across settlement Novosvitlivka towards Luhansk;

- on 15 January a number of ceasefire violations and military movements were observed by the SMM in the Donetsk city and region. The SMM saw 3 unmarked trucks towing 3 D-30 122mm howitzers on the southern edge of Donetsk city travelling west past a

“DPR”-controlled checkpoint. 2 unmarked T-80 battle tanks were seen by the SMM travelling south-east in Makiivka (5km east of Donetsk, “DPR”-controlled). The SMM heard shelling around the “DPR”-controlled village of Styla (50km south of Donetsk). The SMM observed a convoy of 21 military-style Ural and KAMAZ trucks, also unmarked, heading south on a highway near Starobesheve (45km south of Donetsk, “DPR”-controlled). 4 of the trucks carried what appeared to be communication equipment, while the remaining trucks were covered;

-on a permanent basis the aerial reconnaissance was carried out by aircrafts, helicopters and drones of the Russian armed forces over the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives. During 19 days of 2015 **32 Ukrainian military servicemen lost their lives and 122 were wounded**. Dozens civilians lost their lives as well.

Mr. Chairman,

For the Minsk Agreements and the peaceful resolution to succeed all parties must fulfill in good faith their commitments. The militants together with Russian troops, which continue to remain on our soil, must cease their offensive military actions and stop shelling of civilian areas. All foreign military personnel must leave the territory of Ukraine. And the Russian Federation must cease its illegal supplies of weapons and equipment, and halt the flow of the so called “volunteers” into our sovereign territory through re-establishing effective control at the border under the OSCE monitoring.

Numerous attempts throughout the last year to use the FSC mandate and the existing politico-military toolbox to the full extent were undercut as the situation on the ground has been further escalating, threatening not only Ukraine and its people, but also the whole European security architecture.

At this first FSC meeting in 2015 we once again urge the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of the fundamental OSCE principles, to respect sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to reverse annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We urge the Russian Federation to back up its declarations of interests in peaceful resolution with practical meaningful deeds of de-escalation, which has not yet happened.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.