



**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 768-th FSC plenary meeting**

(29 October 2014 at 10.00, Hofburg)

Mr. Chairman,

On 26 October, despite the difficult situation caused by the illegal occupation and annexation by the Russian Federation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Russian incursion in Donbas, the early parliamentary elections were held in Ukraine according to the international standards. According to the international observers' conclusions this event and I quote: "marked an important step in consolidating democratic elections in line with international commitments, and were characterized by many positive aspects, including an impartial and efficient Central Election Commission (CEC), competitive contests that offered voters real choice, and general respect for fundamental freedoms". The election results have once again confirmed the Ukrainian people's firm support for the European integration and the establishment of peace.

Mr. Chairman,

For Ukraine, the progress in peaceful settlement of the situation in the east of the country must rest on comprehensive implementation of the Minsk agreements, consolidating the cease-fire regime under OSCE monitoring, establishing permanent OSCE monitoring and verification on the Ukrainian-Russian border, withdrawal of Russian regular and illegal armed units, fighters and mercenaries, military equipment from the Ukrainian territory and from the state border with Ukraine. To facilitate implementation of the Minsk arrangements, the Ukrainian authorities requested the OSCE to broaden and increase the technical capabilities of its Special Monitoring Mission. In this context, we expect a positive effect from the launch on 23 October near Mariupol by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission of the first UAV «Comcopter S-100" of the Austrian company Schiebel, which will be continuously monitoring the situation, including at the Ukrainian-Russian border.

Ukraine is interested in increasing the numbers of UAVs involved in monitoring effort and welcomes offers made by some participating States to contribute their military UAVs.

We support the efforts of the OSCE Swiss Chairmanship to elaborate a framework Permanent Council decision that would allow to practically realize these offers and thus strengthen the OSCE SMM capabilities to monitor full implementation of the Minsk arrangements.

Distinguished colleagues,

At the previous FSC meetings our delegation informed this forum that the Ukrainian side strictly observed the cease-fire regime. Since the signing of the Minsk protocol on 5 September 2014, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have not undertaken offensive operations and have used their weapons only to defend themselves.

Regrettably, our goodwill has not been reciprocated. Militant leaders have openly stated their intentions to violate the terms of the ceasefire and their aim of capturing new territories,

including the cities of Mariupol and Sloviansk. Fierce fightings have been occurring around Donetsk Airport and the outskirts of the towns of Debaltseve and Schastya where the militants were trying to extend the area under their control and thus continuously engaged in attacks on Ukrainian forces and residential areas.

Let me bring to your attention only some facts of continuous violations by the pro-Russian separatist groups, which were registered from 23 till 28 of October:

-on 23 October in the eastern outskirts of the city of Mariupol an armed attack was carried out on a car of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As a result of the attack one soldier was killed and the other one was seriously wounded;

-on 24 October near the town Kuznetsi, Donetsk region, the invasion from the territory of Russia of a column of 11 "Kamaz" heavy trucks with military equipment and 2 fuel tankers was registered;

-on 25 October a redeployment of armed terrorist groups and military equipment was registered in the direction of Donetsk airport and railway junction Debaltseve. Snipers intensified, 10 Ukrainian servicemen were wounded just during one day;

-on 26 October several columns of military equipment from Russia were moving in different directions into Luhansk and Donetsk regions. 20 tanks T-72 passed on the highway M04 from Izvaryne across Uralokavkaz at 1 a.m. At 6 a.m. on the highway M50 through Antrazit in the direction of Krasnyi Luch passed 60 "Kamaz" heavy trucks with artillery systems. At 10 a.m., near the town of Torez on the road N21 a column of about 100 "Kamaz" heavy trucks, and a few cars with communication radars were recorded;

-on 27 October terrorists used MRLS "Grad" to attack the positions of Ukrainian troops near village Talakivka, Donetsk region. Several civilians were wounded;

-on 28 October terrorists supported by the Russian troops increased their attacks on cities of Donetsk, Debaltseve and Mariupol'. The total number of attacks carried out on ATO positions were around 40 with all weapons, which Russia has provided to terrorists, namely - small arms, grenade launchers, mortars, artillery systems, tanks and multiple rocket launcher systems.

Tragically, the Ukrainian citizens continue to lose their lives. Since the cease-fire started, the positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have been shelled over 2000 times. As a result of these attacks, 89 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, over 500 wounded, dozens civilians lost their lives.

Mr. Chairman,

While we continue to witness implausible denials by Russia of the involvement of its servicemen in hostilities in Donbas, a large number of deaths reveals its impact on the Russian people and the authorities, which are forced to amend the Russian legislation. The new amendment of 22 October 2014 in Article 1 of the Russian Federal Law "On the salary of military personnel and the provision of some payments to them", which was approved by the Russian State Duma on 10 October and the Federal Council on 15 October of 2014 reads: *"The specified compensation shall be also paid to family members of serviceman or citizen who was summoned to a military training, and who went missing in the course of performing his military duties and in accordance with the law, which acknowledged him as missing or dead"*.

In this connection notable is the information of Russian human rights-defender Yelena Vasilyeva, who, based on information from relatives of Russian soldiers, asserted that regular troops of the RF Armed Forces engaged in fighting in eastern Ukraine and incurred significant human losses. It is estimated that from 6 June to 29 September this year about 4500 Russian servicemen have been killed in Donbas.

There is continuous ample evidence of Russia's direct support to militants and military involvement in the east of Ukraine. For example, on 25 October at the press conference in Donetsk a member of the Committee of Defense of the Russian State Duma Kazbek Taysayev pointed out: "You know well that the military authorities in Russia do everything today in order to provide maximum support to Novorosia. There is no one who could place into doubt that the Committee of Defense of the State Duma and Defense Minister Shoygu do enough. And this assistance will only grow."

Mr. Chairman,

In connection with the information of the Human Rights Watch on the alleged use by the Ukrainian military of the banned cluster munitions I would like to stress that the Ukrainian Armed Forces have never used such munitions. Moreover, the Ukrainian military forces never shelled residential areas, which could cause casualties among peaceful population.

On the other hand, the Ukrainian competent authorities have presented for months facts of the use of cluster munitions by pro-Russian terrorist groups when shelling peaceful settlements in Donbas. Such shelling was intentionally carried out to put blame for this crime on the Ukrainian military. The Human Rights Watch has become a victim of the elementary fraud of terrorists.

The Ukrainian side attaches special importance to cooperation with the Human Rights Watch and invites this organization to undertake a broad investigation on the use of cluster munitions in Donbas. We are ready to provide all necessary assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

At the previous two FSC meetings, we drew attention to the seven-month presence of large numbers of Russian troops and military equipment on the Russian side along the state border with Ukraine. We sent our request to Russia (format F10) under the Vienna Document and later we received the Russian formal reply (format F41), which did not contain any substantial information.

We remain of the view that the amount of 17600 of the Russian servicemen participating in the military exercises in the vicinity of the Ukrainian territory is the subject of notification and invitation of international observers. We reiterate the request to the Russian side to provide explanations to delegations of the OSCE participating States on these exercises and their purpose.

In connection with the order by the Russian Minister of Defense to finish military exercises in the Southern military district and withdraw military units back to their permanent bases we call on the Russian Federation to voluntary host military inspections under the Vienna Document to dispel concerns about its unusual military activities near the Ukrainian-Russian border.

Distinguished colleagues,

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.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.