Facts Matter

- Between 15 and 28 June, the SMM recorded about 8,700 ceasefire violations, including about 4,700 explosions, compared with approximate 6,850 and about 2,750 in the previous two-week period, respectively. The Pervomaisk-Popasna-Zolote area was one of the main hotspots (about 60 per cent of the bi-weekly total of ceasefire violations).

- The Mission continued monitoring the security situation in and around the three disengagement areas. While it observed a calm situation inside the disengagement area near Stanytsia Luhanska, it spotted the presence of people inside the disengagement areas near Zolote and Petrovskoe, as well as recent extensions of positions of the armed formations inside the disengagement area near Petrovskoe.

- On 22 June, the SMM lost the video feed from its daylight camera located 1km south-west of Shyrokyne and about 3km from the contact line (see Spot Report 33/2020). The SMM ground patrols assessed the damage as caused by a round from an undetermined weapon.

- The Mission corroborated reports of three civilian casualties, including a case of a man who died from shrapnel injuries in Oleksandrivka. This brings the total since the beginning of 2020 to 54 (7 fatalities and 47 injuries).

- The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable repairs to, and construction and maintenance of, critical civilian infrastructure. This included repairs to water infrastructure near Maiorsk, Shumy and near Zolote-S/Mykhailivka, benefitting over 3 million civilians on both sides of the contact line.

- The Mission continued to monitor the situation of civilians at entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) along the contact line as a result of measures taken amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The SMM observed instances when civilians were denied entry into government-controlled and non-government controlled areas, thus finding themselves stranded in the area between forward checkpoints. On 22 June, the corresponding checkpoint of the armed formations near non-government-controlled Olenivka opened to civilians crossing into government-controlled areas. However, on 28 June, the EECP was closed until further notice. The SMM observed Stanytsia Luhanska EECP open to civilians travelling in both directions.

- On 24 June, the SMM monitored military-style parades marking Victory Day in Donetsk and Luhanski cities, reporting 3,000 to 5,000 onlookers in both.

- Members of the armed formations continued to deny the SMM passage at checkpoints along official crossing routes in the Donetsk and the Luhansk regions (see Spot Report 32/2020 and Spot Report 34/2020). Overall, the Mission’s freedom of movement was restricted 40 times (all in non-government-controlled areas). SMM unmanned aerial vehicles were subjected to signal interference on both sides of the contact line on 27 occasions, and were targeted by small-arms fire three times (all in non-government-controlled areas).

- The SMM’s daily reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.