



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

FSC.DEL/103/16
25 May 2016

ENGLISH only

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 821st FSC Plenary Meeting**

(25 May 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 1)

Mr Chairman,

The security situation in eastern Ukraine continues to remain unstable and unpredictable. Over the past week the combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas have increased the attacks, shelling and armed provocations on the positions of the Ukrainian army and peaceful settlements. They carried out the strengthening of the advanced units in Donbas supplying them with ammunition and fortification equipment for their positions. In the Donetsk direction the "hottest" area was the "industrial zone" of Avdiivka. Blatantly violating the Minsk agreements militants there fired 70 artillery shells of 122mm calibre. Also in this area, terrorists used grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms.

On 21 May at 23 p.m. the militants opened provocative shelling of the ATO forces from artillery calibre 122mm in Avdiivka. As a result of direct hits by shells of the private houses a local woman was wounded. One house was completely destroyed and burned down. Immediately after the shelling of Avdiivka the militants redirected artillery and shelled in the Donetsk side to accuse the ATO forces. This is not the first time when the combined Russian-separatist forces fired on both sides of the contact line.

Last week ceasefire violations by the combined Russian-separatist forces have led to **11** Ukrainian soldiers killed and **24** wounded. The positions of Ukraine's AF were shelled with an average intensity of **18** times per day. May 23 was the bloodiest day for the last year, as 7 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 9 wounded during the day.

The Russian tactics of extensive use of UAVs has not changed. On 18 May a Russian UAV has dropped 6 cumulative ammunitions on the nearby location of one of the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. On 22 May the Russian Armed Forces have used two UAVs of tactical level for reconnaissance of the ATO forces positions in the Donetsk and Mariupol

areas. The Russian drones crossed the Russian-Ukrainian state border in the area of the settlements of Markino and Ulyanovsk respectively.

The on-going developments testify to the immediate priority of the ceasefire and security provisions of the Minsk agreements. Last week the Ukrainian side in the framework of the Trilateral contact group in Minsk shared again its specific proposals that would set ground for progress on the practical track, including creating the necessary security conditions for local elections.

Distinguished colleagues,

The SMM Weekly Report 19/2016 for the period 9-15 May 2016 stated that in areas not controlled by the Government of Ukraine, 32 per cent of weapons the SMM observed during the reporting period were verified as withdrawn to permanent storage sites and only six weapons were seen in holding areas. The SMM noted that a high number of heavy and Addendum-regulated weapons were beyond the respective withdrawal lines but outside of heavy weapons holding areas and permanent storage sites. Notably, the SMM registered 78 weapons in violation of the respective withdrawal lines, which account for 24 per cent of all weapons observed in non-government-controlled areas in the reporting week. This indicates that the combined Russian-separatist forces maintain a considerable number of weapons in the security zone or undeclared, thus impeding progress to de-escalation.

The SMM continues to report the unacceptable cases when significant limitations are imposed on the SMM in the occupied areas. Access of SMM observers is consistently denied or hindered, the SMM teams are imposed escorts on their visits, and demanded patrol plans in advance. Contrary to the SMM mandate and the Minsk agreements, Russia and its proxies do not allow freedom of the SMM's movement in large part of the territory under their control, including along the Ukraine-Russia state border.

The SMM report of 20 May stated that militants of the so-called "DPR" disconnected from electro power SMM video cameras in the Donetsk airport area and demanded to dismantle this equipment. This unacceptable and provocative action of the militants had a tragic consequence as later on May 23 became the day of heaviest casualties for the last year, as 7 Ukrainians were killed and 9 wounded. It shows that the attacks were well-planned and also aimed to be concealed from the international community.

On 22 May under the order of the 1st Army Corp Commander, Russian AF Major-general Valeriy Agapov a protest demonstration for the

purpose of provoking an artificially negative attitude towards the international observer activities and the establishment of the OSCE police mission in Donbas was orchestrated in Donetsk city. We call on Russia to stop its provocations which delay progress to peace in Donbas.

New facts of replenishment with military personnel, weapons and equipment, ammunition and fuel for the combined Russian-separatist forces in the occupied territories have been registered. Last week in the period of 19-21 May for the need of the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the combined Russian-separatist forces the following supplies arrived from Russia: - to Krasnodon 2 echelons with fuel cisterns; - to Debaltseve 3 wagons with ammunition; - to Amvrosiivka 5 diesel fuel cisterns; - to Khartsysk an echelon with ammunition for 122mm MRLS "Grad"; - to Ilovaisk 4 wagons with ammunition.

It is evident that the militants would not have been able to constantly provoke, shell and escalate the conflict unless they received permanent replenishment of ammunition and logistical support across the border from Russia. These supplies need to stop.

Mr Chairman,

In the interests of peaceful resolution in Donbas we once again urges the Russian Federation and its proxies to stop military provocations, to withdraw their heavy weapons in a verifiable manner, to stop provision of Russia's weapons, ammunition and logistical support to the militants.

We emphasise the imperative of full freedom of movement for the SMM, establishment of permanent and unhindered monitoring and creation of security zones in border areas of both Ukraine and Russia as envisaged by the Minsk agreements.

We repeatedly urge Russia to return to the tenets of the international law, to cease its aggression against Ukraine and reverse the illegal occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.