



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 827th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(27 July 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to start by expressing our appreciation to the outgoing FSC Chairmanship of Poland for the work done in the second trimester as well as for its professionalism and dedication shown in the challenging circumstances dominated by continued Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

In the course of the Polish Chairmanship the Forum has been actively engaged in reviewing military aspects of the crisis in and around Ukraine. This crisis stems from Russia's military aggression and flagrant violations of OSCE principles and commitments. We are grateful to the OSCE participating States for solidarity and firmness in supporting Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Ukrainian delegation warmly welcomes the next FSC Chairmanship of Portugal and wishes them every success in guiding our work in the third trimester of 2016. We express gratitude for the skillful work of the Netherlands, the outgoing FSC Troika member, and greet Romania as a new member of the FSC Troika.

Distinguished colleagues,

Unfortunately, the security situation in Donbas is marked by sharp escalation. Over the past week the combined Russian-separatist forces were active along the whole contact line, defying the Minsk agreements. The weapons used included battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, 122mm self-propelled guns, 120mm and 82mm mortars. The positions of Ukraine's army were shelled with an average intensity of 58 times per day. **During July, 35 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 143 wounded.**

The combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas continue to resort to shellings of not only Ukrainian positions and residential areas, but also territories under their control in the attempt to discredit the Armed Forces of Ukraine. On 24 July, in the Mariupol' direction the militants used mortars of 82mm and 120mm caliber to shell from the temporarily occupied Kominternove the village of Talakivka and simultaneously the northern and

southern outskirts of Kominternove, setting two houses on fire. These cynical attacks by the Russian hybrid forces aim to convince the civilian population against the Ukrainian military.

The Russian hybrid forces continue to terrorize the people on the temporarily occupied territory in Donbas. For example, on 20 July three militants deserted their post in the military depots in Artemivsk, Luhansk oblast. Being in a drunken state with guns in their hands the terrorists attacked a woman, killed and robbed her in Komsomolsk, Luhansk oblast. This crime was committed by three Russian servicemen of the flamethrower company, 7-th separate motorized rifle brigade, 2nd AC: Taras Tretyakov (born in 1973), Aleksandr Kulagin (born in 1984) and Sergei Chirkin (born in 1980). The Command of the 7th Brigade traditionally formalized dismissal of these war criminals by pre-dating the papers.

We take note that according to data of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, in 2016 the Russian Armed Forces registered 40% growth of crimes, compared to the same period of 2015, committed by servicemen in a drunken state and 50% growth - in the state of narcotic intoxication. These figures can be hardly surprising in view of psychological and nervous disorders that Russian servicemen receive in hostilities in Donbas.

Mr. Chairman,

The Russian hybrid forces in eastern Ukraine increased not only number and intensity of attacks using heavy weapons prohibited by the Minsk agreements, but also carry out systematic tests of new models of the sophisticated weapons and military equipment in Donbas.

In July the use of new Russian mortar system KM-8 "Gran" with controlled 120mm mines and portable means of the automated fire control "Malahit" was registered. The complex KM-8 "Gran" is intended for destruction of individual and group goals, armored targets and fortifications. This complex uses a 120mm controlled mine (120sm length, 27kg weight), which is equipped with a laser seeker.

The combat tests of the following military equipment are also conducted: - a new UAV "Inspector-601" for performing attacks, reconnaissance and special missions; - a complex electronic warfare "Shypovnik-Aero"; - a multifunctional complex "Rtut'-BM"; - as well as laser ranging devices and laser devices of the optical-electronic warfare of last generation.

In this regard, we draw attention of the FSC that on 22 July three Ukrainian border guards suffered burns of the retinas of eyes during performance of their observation duties at the checkpoint of Marinka. The character of burns and preliminary medical diagnosis leads to the conclusion on the likely use by the Russian side of high-power light emitter, leading to such injures.

Over July 2016 through uncontrolled area of the Ukrainian-Russian state border in Donbas from Russia arrived 19 railway trains with weapons and military equipment. In violation of international law and commitments on the export control of arms and military goods Russia illegally transferred 19 battle tanks T-72; 3 MLRSs "Grad"; 2 self-propelled guns; 11 armoured combat vehicles; 14 wagons with ammunition; 130 cisterns with fuel, 77 military transport vehicles; 44 heavy trucks with ammunition and 34 bowsers with diesel.

According to available information, only last week for the need of the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps of the combined Russian-separatist forces the following supplies arrived from Russia:

- on 21 July to Krasnodon, Luhansk oblast 23 heavy trucks with personnel and ammunition;

- on 23 July to Sverdlovsk 3 wagons with ammunition and buses with 200 mercenaries;

- on 25 July to Makiivka, Donetsk oblast 6 self-propelled guns calibre 122mm "Gvozdika" for 11-th separate motorized rifle brigade, 1st AC.

As we have repeatedly stated during many FSC plenary meetings it is absolutely clear that Russia's constant resupplies fuel and escalate the conflict. Russia does not show any signs of interest in meaningful stabilisation, which requires also establishment of the permanent OSCE monitoring at the Ukrainian-Russian state border.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,**

As we have previously informed during the 818th meeting of the Forum of 4 May 2016, the Kremlin continues to build up its military presence in the temporarily occupied Crimea. Along with modernization and replacement of military equipment, the active measures of operational combat training provide the growing of active involvement of the military infrastructure. In particular, in August 2016 Russia plans to deploy a new anti-aircraft missile system S-400 "Triumph" in Feodosiya.

Ukraine expresses its deep concern that Russia continues to undertake steps that destabilize the security situation in and around Ukraine. The Russian army continues to conduct a number of inspections on combat readiness of military units and districts as well as large-scale military exercises in the vicinity of the Russian-Ukrainian state border, in illegally annexed Crimea and in the Black Sea. According to the recent notification of the Russian side CBM/RU/16/0078/F25/O on 22 July 2016 in the period 5-10 September 2016 the strategic command-staff exercise "Kavkaz-2016" is to be held. During this training, participants will assess the readiness of the Russian armed forces to localize an extremist/terrorist illegal formation in the South-West region. About 12.600 troops, up to 90 battle tanks, 310 armoured

combat vehicles, 20 aircrafts and 15 warships will be involved in the military exercise.

Ukraine's last years' experience clearly demonstrates that military exercises of such unprecedented scale conducted by the Russian Federation can precede a Russian military aggression, violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity of a neighbouring state, illegal occupation and attempted annexation. In our opinion, the planned Russian military exercise "Kavkaz-2016" is of anti-Ukrainian nature and will have a negative impact on the security of Ukraine and the regional security.

Mr. Chairman,

The persistent impediments to the SMM monitoring and verification activities by the combined Russian-separatist forces have not been stopped and seriously undermine the efficiency of the SMM monitoring and de-escalation efforts. The SMM is effectively deprived of the possibility to objectively report about situation on the ground, as mandated by all participating States, including Russia. During the past week the Mission again reported on numerous cases of freedom-of-movement restrictions in the occupied areas, most of them denial of access.

We are deeply concerned over the loss of yet another SMM long-range UAV, which further complicates the monitoring and blinds the SMM in critical areas. This and other incidents must be fully investigated.

We urge Russia to deliver on its commitment on the SMM's full freedom of movement and stop attacks on and intimidation of monitors.

Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful resolution in eastern Ukraine demands immediate implementation of security provisions of the Minsk agreements as the basic requirement for progress in other areas. We urge 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 illegal armed formations.

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. Re-establishing control on the Ukrainian-Russian state border remains critical.

We 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.