



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

FSC.DEL/146/16
13 July 2016

ENGLISH only

**Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 825th FSC Plenary Meeting**

(13 July 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)

(Agenda item 3)

Mr. Chairman,

The ongoing discussions at the FSC Plenary meetings and 2016 Annual Security Review Conference have underscored the tremendous challenge the crisis in and around Ukraine poses to all OSCE participating states and also for the European Security as a whole. A stable and sustainable ceasefire is to be a critical first step and we must continue to focus our efforts on achieving this initial goal as a first priority.

The security situation in the conflict-affected areas of Donbas remains of great concern. The armed provocations by the combined Russian-separatist forces are registered along the entire contact line. Although the intensive shellings alternate with certain decrease of hostilities, the regular nature of these provocations maintains the escalation trend as dominating. Regular ceasefire violations by the Russian hybrid forces, often with the use of heavy weapons, remain the daily reality. The Russian exclusive modern weaponry continues to be registered in use in the occupied part of Donbas. On 5 July in Mayors'k the Ukrainian positions were shelled by "Grad-P" portable rocket launcher system.

Over the past week the Russian hybrid forces were very active in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Mariupol' areas, persistently defied the Minsk agreements. The combined Russian-separatist forces are trying to expand their control of the territory especially in the Donetsk direction. The Armed Forces of Ukraine fought off the attacks and made the militants return to their former positions. One of such attacks was at night on July 11 near the settlement of Troits'ke, Donetsk oblast, where a subversive group of 23 militants tried to enter the rear of the Ukrainian military. As a result of the intense battle the saboteurs retreated, leaving behind three of the wounded militants. One of them, a citizen of the Russian Federation **Natan Tsakirov**, born in the city of Omsk, Russia, died from severe wounds. Two other captured militants were evacuated by the Ukrainian army doctors; after first aid they were sent to a military hospital. The captured militants are a commander of company and commander of platoon of the combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas. One of them is from Arkhangelsk oblast of Russia.

The Russian hybrid forces continue to resort to different strategies of deception to escape responsibility for non-implementation of Minsk agreements and shift blame on the Ukrainian forces. We draw attention of the Forum that from 9 to 10 July the militants through pro-Russian media accused the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the shelling of residential buildings and school №7 in Rtutna Street, 10 of Horlivka. On 11 July the Ukrainian part of JCCC announced the results of own investigation. Unfortunately, the OSCE monitors were prevented from examining the consequences of the night shelling and forced to leave the area. The Ukrainian part of JCCC asked for help of the local residents. With their active support it was established that among the buildings that came under fire there was also a school №84, located at the Fadeyeva Street, 51 in Horlivka. Analysing the available information the Ukrainian part of JCCC established the following: the provocative shelling was carried out by militants using mortars mounted on vehicles; shooting was conducted from a position in the occupied territory of Donbas with coordinates 48°22'49.8"N and 38°00'23.6"E, at a distance up to 3400m from the school. The militants knew where they were shooting and what provocative effect they would achieve - frustration, biased negative attitude of the local population to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the SMM OSCE. In the morning of 11 July the terrorists shelled residential area in the village of Stanytsya Luhans'ka from various types of grenade launchers and small arms with the same intent.

Distinguished colleagues,

The Russian hybrid forces continue to resort to multiple shellings, including with the use of infantry fighting vehicles, 120mm mortars (which is 2/3 of the total shellings) and 82mm mortars of the Ukrainian positions near Stanytsya Luhans'ka, Trohizbenka, Svitlodars'k, Horlivka, Yasynuvata, Avdiivka, Pisky, Mar'inka, Novotroitske, Hranitne, Mayors'k, Zaitheve, Chermalyk and Shyrokyne. On 10 July they used their position in the Astrakhans'ka street in the city of Horlivka and 122mm self-propelled guns 2S1 "Gvozdika" to shell the forefront of Ukrainian troops northwest of Zaitseve, as well as facilities in the tactical rear of the ATO forces in the area of Bahmutka, Mykolaivka and Vodyane. The positions of Ukraine's army were shelled with an average intensity of 62 times per day. 8 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 35 were wounded during the week.

The SMM's freedom of movement and access remains significantly restricted in the occupied areas of Donbas. On 7 July at the so-called "LPR" checkpoint immediately south of the bridge of Stanytsya Luhans'ka, an armed "LPR" member denied the SMM access to the bridge. This is the areas where the Russian hybrid forces blatantly violated the Minsk agreements by advancing recently their position across the contact line. On 8 July an armed men at the so-called "DPR" checkpoint at the western entrance of Kominternove (north-east of Mariupol') allowed the SMM to travel through the village, but insisted that they cannot stop there. Later at the same

checkpoint, armed so-called “DPR” members allowed the SMM to stop in the village, but without deviating from the main road. Those are many other incidents of the same nature reported by the SMM.

We emphasize that impediments and obstruction of the SMM activities are unacceptable. We call on Russia to facilitate full freedom of movement the SMM monitors as a matter of immediate priority.

Mr. Chairman,

We witness the escalation as the combined Russian-separatist forces continue to receive on the permanent basis military equipment, ammunition and fuel materials from Russia. We deeply regret that the Russian Federation objects to the expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian checkpoints “Gukovo” and “Donetsk” to all sections of the border that is temporarily not under control of the Ukrainian authorities, which would allow to move to implementation of the commitment to establish security zones in border areas of Ukraine and Russia. Such persistent reluctance on the part of Russia can only be attributed to its unchanged intention to continue intervention in Ukraine’s Donbas, including by sending heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, fighters and mercenaries, sponsoring the terrorist activities in the territory of Ukraine. That is yet another example of how Russia’s political declarations differ from real actions, hampering the peaceful process 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 are continuously registered. According to available information, 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: - to Horlivka across Yenakiyev and Makiivka 15 heavy trucks “Ural” with personnel and ammunition for large-calibre sniper rifles; - convoy of armoured combat vehicles BMP-2, MT-LB, BTR-80 and BRDM-2; - two trains delivered in Khartsyzsk and Ilovaisk 15 battle tanks, three 152mm self-propelled guns, 7 fuel cisterns, and 4 wagons with lubricants and ammunition.

The combined Russian-separatists forces increasingly use UAVs to spy on the Ukrainian army and adjust fire in the combat zone. According to competent authorities, 23 flights of drones were spotted over the past week, with 10 of them conducted reconnaissance operations from the Russian territory.

The issue of permanent OSCE monitoring at the border and establishing security zones in border areas of both Ukraine and Russia, as agreed in Minsk, has critical importance for progress on peaceful resolution of the conflict.

As we have repeatedly stated 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 Russia's military supplies must be stopped.

Mr. Chairman,

In the interests of advancing peaceful resolution in eastern Ukraine 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 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.