



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 855th FSC Plenary Meeting

(31 May 2017 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Colleagues,

During the past week, the overall situation in Donbas remained tense. The hybrid Russian forces keep violating ceasefire and make active use of heavy weapons banned under the Minsk agreements.

On May 24 militants were using mortars along the entire frontline. In addition to such traditional hotspots as Verkhniotoretske, Avdiivka and Pisky the situation was restless in Troitske and Nevelske. Militants again targeted several private houses in Avdiivka. Russian proxies violated ceasefire near Stanytsia Luhanska and conducted several intense attacks at Novooleksandrivka and Maryinka. Active hostilities happened in Pavlopil-Shyrokyne frontline. In addition to heavy weapons, militants used snipers and armoured vehicles, violated ceasefire in Krasnohorivka, Novotroitske and Novoselivka.

On May 25, Avdiivka again was one of the frequently targeted settlements. The town was shelled from mortars, “Grad-P”-launcher and other artillery systems. The logistic base of the UAF near Volnovakha got under artillery fire.

On May 26, hybrid Russian forces breached a cease fire with the use of Minsk proscribed weapons in the vicinity of Shyrokyne and Chermalyk. Attacks on Ukrainian troops positions from small arms, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns occurred nearby Pavlopil, Vodyane, Lebedinske, Hnutove, Mariyinka and Krasnohorivka. The bulk of militants’ fire from small arms, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and mortars was concentrated on Avdiivka suburbs. Also, Verkhniotoretske and Troitske came under the combined Russian forces mortar fire. Pisky were attacked from small arms and grenade launchers. Shelling from small arms, AFV and mortars occurred in the vicinity of Krymske (Luhansk region).

On May 27 militants shelled at Ukrainian positions from 122-mm artillery and mortars in the vicinity of Pavlopil. Vodyane, Lebedinske, Hnutove, Shyrokyne, Mariyinka and Chermalyk came under fire from small arms and grenade launchers. Ukrainian positions near Novotroitske came under fire from APC and heavy machine guns. The heaviest shelling from prohibited weapons took place in residential area of Krasnohorivka.

Ukrainian positions got under fire from 122-mm artillery near Troitske. Suburbs of Avdiivka came under fire of 82-mm and 120-mm mortars as well as

small arms. The vicinity of Zaitseve was targeted by fire from AFV. Militants used 120-mm mortars targeting Ukrainian positions near Novozvanivka and Novoalexandrivka. Attacks from small arms, grenade launchers and 82-mm mortars occurred in vicinity of Krymske, Stanytsa Luhanska and Lobacheve.

At that day terrorists committed another crime against civilians. They opened fire at residential quarters in Krasnohorivka in the morning using 82-mm and 120-mm mortars, 122-mm and 152-mm artillery, tanks and Grad-P system. The attack continued for almost 90 minutes and damaged 29 buildings, including a hospital and a school. Most buildings, infrastructure (water and sewage pipeline) were destroyed or heavily damaged. Three civilians suffered injuries.

On May 28, during the night time militants shelled from 120-mm mortars on Krasnohorivka. Hostilities took place in Pavlopil-Shyrokyne frontline, as well as in Maryinka and to the north of Volnovakha. Ukrainian positions near Avdiyivka, Zaitseve, and Pisky came under fire of small arms, 82-mm mortars as well as from AFV. The militants used mortars and tanks to attack Ukrainian positions in the vicinity of Svitlodarsk after midnight, they used 82-mm mortars and grenade launchers to target Ukrainian positions near Katerynivka. Near Krymske hybrid Russian forces shelled by mortar rounds in an intense two-hour attack, simultaneously using light weapons. Attacks from small arms, grenade launchers occurred in vicinity of Valuiske and Troitske.

On 29 May an intensive activity took place around Stanitsa Luhanska, Novyi Aidar and Popasna. Minsk proscribed weapons were used in Krymske and Troitske. Ukrainian positions along the front line Kamenka-Avdiivka-“Butovka Mine” were shelled by mortars. The settlements of Luhanske, Zaitseve, Verkhniotoretske and Pisky were targeted by mortar fire. Militants continue shelling Ukrainian positions in Krasnogorivka by 122-mm and 152-mm calibre artillery and positions in Novotroitske - by mortars. On 30 May several mortar mines hit an agriculture enterprise in Novoluhanske, as a result it caught fire.

During the last week *the hybrid Russian forces have violated ceasefire more than 300 times, more than 25 % of which was carried out by the Minsk-proscribed weapons. One Ukrainian soldier was killed and 32 were wounded.*

Distinguished colleagues,

The crimes committed by the hybrid Russian forces in Donbas continue to be enabled by the on-going flow of Russian weapons, ammunition, fighters and troops through the uncontrolled segment of the Ukraine-Russia state border. The process of weapons and troops supply from Russia is been thoroughly registered this month. On 4 May Luhansk train station received 10 carriages with ammunition and fuel. On 5 May 9 cisterns with petrol (nearly 515 tons), 8 railway carriages with military cargo (about 470 tons) were delivered to Ilovaisk train station from Russia. On 7 May Rovenki train station received 20 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 1200 tons). Two trucks with artillery ammunition (152-mm calibre) were delivered to a storage site at Dovzhansk. On 8 May Rovenki train station received 7 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 420 tons). On 10 May 20 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 1200 tons) were delivered to Rovenki. A convoy, comprising 2 trucks with cartridges and antitank missiles and mortar mines arrived

at the town of Dovzhansk on 12 May. On 12 May Rovenki train station received a cargo with tank lubricants type MT-161P (about 32.5 tons). On 14 May 1 cistern with petrol (60 tons) was delivered to Rovenki. On 15 May 6 “Kamaz” trucks with servicemen arrived in Luhansk. On 15 May 2 cisterns with lubricants (nearly 120 tonnes) were delivered to 2 military compounds (Luhansk city) of the 2nd AC. On 15 May Rovenki train station received 10 cisterns of fuel and lubricants (nearly 600 tons). The purpose of these cargos was to supply ammunition for the 1st and 2nd AC of the HRF from the territory of Russia.

The current situation in Donbas underscores that whereas Moscow claims the need to implement the Minsk agreements, it continues at full gear its activities of sustaining the conflict through the established command, control and supply chains. Moscow continues to make political declarations on peaceful resolution as a diplomatic cover for on-going aggression against Ukraine. There must be no illusion about what drives Moscow’s obstruction of transparency and permanent OSCE monitoring and verification at the uncontrolled segment of the Ukraine-Russia state border, as envisaged by Minsk agreements.

In these conditions it remains critically important to maintain international pressure to make Russia implement the undertaken commitments, in particular on establishment of a comprehensive and sustainable ceasefire, and withdrawal of its forces from Donbas.

Distinguished colleagues,

The SMM continued to follow up on reports of damage from shelling in residential areas. On 29 May, the SMM observed impact sites in government-controlled Krasnohorivka (west of Donetsk). At 4 Nakhimova str. the SMM observed a fresh crater about six meters east of a house, assessed as caused by an artillery round fired from an easterly or south-easterly direction. At 1 Nakhimova str. the SMM saw a hospital with broken windows and damage to the south-eastern side of its roof. A projectile had blown out the windows of two wings of the hospital. There was also damage to the part of the hospital garage’s roof and to the windows of another building near the garage, one more building nearby had been completely destroyed.

Weapons continued to be observed in violation of the withdrawal lines. *In non-government-controlled areas the SMM observed 16 weapons in violation* (13 MLRS, BM-21 Grad, 122mm and three self-propelled howitzers (Gvozdika, 122mm). While *in government-controlled areas the SMM observed 10 weapons in violation* (4 MLRS BM- 21 and 6 anti-tank guns Rapira, 100mm). On the night of 16 May the SMM heard multiple heavy vehicles on the move under cover of darkness in areas near the Donetsk city center.

The SMM continued to observe the presence of mines and UXO. It continues to register a newly deployed mines on the territory not controlled by the Government of Ukraine. On 17 May the SMM observed eight mines close to the “DPR”- controlled Verkhnohyrokiyske entry-exit checkpoint.

On 23 May, the SMM saw, several pieces of UXO near the “LPR”-controlled Sentianivka and in “DPR”-controlled Sakhanka (north-east of

Mariupol). The SMM monitored demining activities, near a UAF checkpoint east of government-controlled Popasna (north-west of Luhansk). It observed a UAF demining team remove seven anti-tank mines. On 26 May the SMM observed the removal of explosive devices and the presence of mine hazard signs in government-controlled Shchastia (north of Luhansk).

According to the SMM last Weekly Report, those in effective control in non-government-controlled areas have a responsibility to ensure the SMM's safety but often they themselves constitute a security threat to the SMM. On 15 May an armed man fired a shot into the air as the SMM monitored near a checkpoint in Verkhnohyrokiyske. During the last 854-th FSC meeting Ukrainian as well as other delegations informed the Forum about variety of such cases.

In addition to those security incidents the militant's side in non-government controlled areas continued to restrict SMM monitoring through denial and restriction of access. Those in effective control in non-government-controlled areas restricted or denied the SMM's movement on a total of *seven occasions*. In one case armed men denied the SMM access to "DPR"-controlled Bukova mine a day after civilians told the SMM that they had heard weapons being fired from there. In government-controlled areas the SMM was restricted only on *two occasions*.

Intimidation in areas not controlled by the Government of Ukraine continued. On 27 May, while the SMM was preparing to depart near "DPR"-controlled Yakovlivka (north of Donetsk) after a planned UAV flight, a military truck Kamaz with three "DPR" members in military-style clothes, stopped nearby. One of them began recording the SMM on his phone, and the Mission heard him making unsubstantiated allegations about the SMM, saying that the OSCE uses its equipment "to reveal our positions to the other side so they can correct their fire". Such allegations about the SMM, besides being unfounded, serve to undermine public confidence in the SMM, if not create hostilities towards it. When the SMM attempted to engage the man in conversation to explain the SMM's work and mandate, he shouted: "Do not come close to me, I am armed!". The same day while on the western edge of non-government controlled Debaltseve an SMM patrol was stopped and kept waiting for 35 minutes at the "LPR" checkpoint. Another SMM patrol was stopped at the "DPR" checkpoint in the vicinity of Kremynets and were informed they were not allowed to go further. The "DPR" members behaved aggressively using offensive language towards SMM.

On 28 May, an armed and apparently intoxicated "DPR" member delayed the SMM at a checkpoint near "DPR"-controlled Oleksandrivka (south-west of Donetsk). On the 29 May at a checkpoint near "DPR"-controlled Kremynets (south-west of Donetsk), a car approached the SMM and an armed man aggressively told the SMM that it could not proceed further and should take an alternate route. The same day at a checkpoint on the western outskirts of non-government-controlled Debaltseve, an armed "LPR" members gestured to the SMM to turn around and go back.

The *JCCC*, tasked by the Addendum to the Package of Measures with assisting in ensuring rapid response to impediments to SMM monitoring, while Russian side of the JCCC continued to be largely ineffective in this role. Russian JCCC officers told the SMM that they had sent a letter to “DPR” members in response to the incident in Verkhnohyrokiivske where an armed man fired a shot in the air when the SMM was nearby, but provided no further follow up. The SMM informed the JCCC of the eight mines at the Verkhnohyrokiivske checkpoint. In response, the Russian JCCC side said they would send a letter to those responsible, hardly the rapid response needed, and indicating the neglect of their task to assist in ensuring security for the SMM. The mines still remain in place.

The Russian side at the JCCC continued to query facts established by the SMM – such as doubting the SMM’s observation of UAV, Orlan-10 in the skies above “DPR”-controlled Makiivka – instead of ensuring that the SMM’s monitoring is free from harassment and obstruction.

In “DPR”-controlled Makiivka and in “LPR”-controlled Obozne, *hospital staff again refused to share information* regarding civilian casualties, and told the SMM that they needed written permission from “DPR” or “LPR” members to gather such information. On 26 May at Kalinina hospital in Donetsk, the SMM could not confirm a civilian casualty as the medical staff onsite refused to provide information or allow the SMM to speak to civilians and told the SMM to get permission from senior “DPR” members. At a hospital in Horlivka on 26 May, the SMM could not confirm a civilian casualty as the medical staff refused to provide information or allow the SMM to speak to civilians and told the SMM to get permission from senior “DPR” members.

Russian so-called «*humanitarian convoys*» are regularly reported crossing the border without full inspection and in violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as international norms and principles. According to the Spot Report of 25 May of the Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, at 6:48 the 65-th Russian convoys with 16 vehicles illegally entered the Ukrainian territory. The same day all vehicles had crossed back into Russia. As in the previous cases, the procedures for customs inspection of this convoy were conducted with violations of Ukrainian and international legislation. As it had been repeatedly reported, among the so-called humanitarian cargoes in some cases there were those not of a humanitarian but of a military. Such illicit continues practice by the Russian Federation is in breach of the international law and must be stopped.

As we have stated many times before Ukraine is fully committed to full and faith implementation of the Minsk agreements. In this regard we call on Russia to exercise its responsibility in implementing the Minsk agreements, in particular their security provisions on comprehensive cease-fire, withdrawal of forces and full access of the SMM for monitoring. 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.

I thank you for the attention.