



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

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Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine
at the 832nd FSC Plenary Meeting
(12 October 2016 at 10.00, Hofburg)
(Agenda item 2)

Madam Chairperson,

Ukraine notes an important step made on 7 October in implementation of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) Framework decision on disengagement of forces and hardware in the second pilot area near the settlement of Petrivske. The OSCE SMM, as in the case of the disengagement area near the settlement of Zolote, confirmed the completion by both sides of disengagement of troops to the agreed positions near Petrivske. Today only groups of officers from the JCCC and SMM observers remain in these areas for permanent monitoring and verification. We note with concern that the Russian JCCC officers appear in the disengagement areas only on occasional basis, while Ukrainian JCCC officers stay there around the clock. It is necessary to remove all impediments to the SMM movement in the occupied areas with the provision of necessary security guarantees.

We are very concerned about situation in the disengagement area of Stanytsia Luhanska. The combined Russian-separatist forces over past 10 days continuously shelled (20 times) positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in this area of disengagement of forces and hardware. The Ukrainian side views these armed provocations by Russian hybrid forces in the agreed areas of disengagement as violation of the Framework decision (para 2 and 6), that provides full ceasefire. There is a role for the SMM to investigate the cases of these violations. Also location of a large number of prohibited heavy weapons in proximity to disengagement areas, poses a threat of seizure of new territories by Russian hybrid forces. The Ukrainian side communicated that as of 12 October, the necessary and agreed conditions for the disengagement of forces and hardware near Stanytsia Luhanska were not in place. We expect the SMM to foster effective monitoring and verification in the agreed areas on permanent basis, including the use of technical devices that should be carried out on a permanent basis.

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished colleagues,

In the past week the Ukrainian side and SMM continued to register armed provocations along the contact line by the combined Russian-separatist

forces in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Mariupol directions. Number of armed attacks by militants has increased with an average intensity of **25 times per day**. Violation of the silence regime by militants using 82mm and 120mm mortars, 122mm and 152mm artillery systems, battle tanks, grenade launchers, small arms and light weapons have taken place in all directions along the contact line in Donbas. In particular - on the Luhansk direction: in the settlements of Novoaleksandrivka, Stanytsia Luhanska, Novozvanivka, Tryohizbenka and Popasna; - on the Donetsk direction: in the settlements of Avdiivka, Novhorodske, Kam'yanka and Zaitseve; - on the Mariupol direction: in the settlements of Mar'inka, Pavlopol, Shyrokyne, Talivka, Starohnativka, Hnutove and Chermalyk. As a result of the fighting over the past week **4 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 19 wounded**. The Armed Forces of Ukraine strictly observe requirements of the Minsk agreements and respond only in case of direct threat to life.

Madam Chairperson,

The volatility of the security situation is strongly influenced by Russia's continuing direct involvement in the conflict and constant military resupplies and reinforcements. According to the competent Ukrainian authorities: - on 5 October the railway station of Roven'ki received from Russia 28 cisterns with 2000 tons of diesel fuel; - on 8 October two echelons from Russia delivered to the railway stations of Ilovaisk and Sverdlovsk on platforms: 20 battle tanks, 5 MLRSs "Grad" of calibre 122mm, 9 wagons with lubricants and ammunition. In addition, in early October a group of Russian experts from the 172nd Central Car-Repair Plant (Voronezh, Russia) arrival at the Sverdlovsk Machine-Building Plant, Luhansk oblast to equip of battle tanks possessed in the Russian hybrid forces by new dynamic armour.

As we have emphasized many times before, the continuing illegal military flows into the occupied areas of Donbas underline the critical need to restore control at the uncontrolled sections of the Ukraine-Russia state border and implement without delay an agreed Minsk provision on establishment of a security zone in border areas of both Ukraine and Russia, with the OSCE permanent (24/7) monitoring and verification. We also underline the urgent necessity to establish SMM Forward Patrol Bases and patrol hubs close to the border in order to ensure due monitoring of uncontrolled sections of the Ukraine-Russia state border and adjacent areas, including BCPs and transport routes.

The OSCE SMM to Ukraine continues to encounter significant limitations in the occupied areas that impede proper monitoring and distort the real situation on the ground. Access of SMM observers is denied or hindered. The SMM teams encounter threats, are imposed escorts on their visits. Such restrictions violate the mandate of the SMM and its ability to report objectively on the situation on the ground.

Let us just mention one recent example. On 7 October, an SMM patrol visited the so-called "DPR"-controlled mine in Donetsk city to inspect the SMM

camera located at the site. While on the first floor of the mineshaft tower where the camera is installed, the SMM heard movement in the upper levels. The SMM identified itself several times in a loud voice in the Russian language. In response, the SMM heard a man curse in Russian from the upper levels of the mineshaft tower. After identifying itself one more time, the SMM heard the sound of a rifle being cocked and the man threatening in Russian: "OSCE get out, or I will shoot!" The SMM immediately left the mineshaft tower. Later on the SMM contacted a so-called "DPR" member in Donetsk to explain the situation and ask for assistance in ensuring its secure access to the camera site, as previously agreed. After waiting for 15 minutes for a response the SMM left the area. Such unacceptable situations occur because until now Russia has not taken steps to investigate the previous incidents of intimidation to put a stop to such practice. We again urge Russia to deliver on its commitment on the SMM's full freedom of movement, which they must exercise in full safety.

Distinguished colleagues,

We draw attention of the Forum to a cynical and provocative event, which was held last weekend in the Russian Federation with a tacit consent of the Kremlin. On 8 October the so-called "Second Congress of Donbas Volunteers" took place in Rostov-on-Don and was attended by hundreds of Russian terrorist fighters, who fought against the Armed Forces of Ukraine in 2014-2016 in Donbas. Among the Russian mercenaries were: - leader of the Cossack gang Nikolai Kozitsyn; - one of founders of the so-called "DPR" Aleksandr Boroday; - as well as a war criminal from St. Petersburg Aleksey Milchakov, who is famous for the atrocities in the Luhansk oblast. The participants of this cynical "show" gathered on the Theatre Square in Rostov, where many of them received commemorative medals. According to A.Boroday, Rostov was chosen for the so-called "congress" because here for many Russian mercenaries started their way to Donbas. He said that today only this organization "Union of Donbas Volunteers" enlists about 10 thousands Russian fighters, who are ready again to fight in eastern Ukraine.

We shall add, from our side, that all of these Russian citizens, and there are thousands of them, were part of illegal armed formations in Donbas, committing crimes on the Ukrainian territory against Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. They are liable to criminal prosecution under Ukrainian laws, but also under relevant provisions of Russia's law – in particular, Article 208 of the Penal Code. However, they enjoy impunity so far because their terrorist activities on the Ukrainian territory were condoned and backed by the Russian authorities and viewed as compliant with the interests of the Russian Federation.

Madam Chairperson,

The developments continue to testify that it remains crucial to seek strict implementation of the initial security provisions of the Minsk

agreements as a basis for progress in further implementation of the document. These include: securing ceasefire, withdrawal of weapons, and full freedom of movement and access for the SMM for effective monitoring, including at the border. These important steps are a reflection of immediate measures as agreed by Russia in the Minsk package and Framework decision. We emphasise once again that the decisions taken in Moscow led to the conflict in Donbas, consequently it requires decisions in Moscow to stop the conflict and make progress to resolution.

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, Madam Chairperson.