22 July marked the first anniversary of agreement on the measures to strengthen the ceasefire. The measures contributed to the longest lasting and most sustained decrease in recorded ceasefire violations since the Mission started systematically collecting data — by almost 80 per cent (240,985 ceasefire violations between 27 July 2019 and 26 July 2020 compared to 47,029 ceasefire violations during the same period from 2020 to 2021). Over the last four months, however, the ceasefire has been fraying both in terms of quantity and quality of violations.

In the last two weeks (12-25 July), the SMM noted a decrease in the number of ceasefire violations — 3,600, compared with 3,975 recorded in the previous two-week period.

The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement areas near Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, again recording ceasefire violations inside the last two areas. In total, since 27 July 2020, the SMM registered zero ceasefire violations inside the area near Stanytsia Luhanska, nine — inside the area near Zolote, and 531 inside the Petrivske disengagement area. In comparison, between 27 July 2019 and 26 July 2020, there were 13 ceasefire violations registered inside the area near Stanytsia Luhanska; 195 inside the area near Zolote, and 2,292 inside Petrivske disengagement area.

In the last two weeks, the SMM corroborated reports of two civilians injured by shrapnel, one in Donetsk region and the other in Luhansk region. Overall, since 27 July 2020, the Mission confirmed 87 civilian casualties, including 69 caused by mines, unexploded ordnance, and improvised explosive devices (133 and 49, respectively, were confirmed between 27 July 2019 and 26 July 2020).

The Mission’s freedom of movement was restricted 56 times, including 50 instances in non-government-controlled areas. SMM unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were assessed as targeted by small-arms fire five times: three times in government-controlled and twice in non-government-controlled areas. Mission UAVs experienced signal interference assessed as caused by probable jamming on 66 occasions, while flying on both sides of the contact line.

The SMM continued to facilitate and monitor adherence to localized ceasefires to enable the maintenance and operation of critical civilian infrastructure on both sides of the contact line, including maintenance of the phenol sludge reservoir near Zalizne (formerly Artemove) and repairs to water infrastructure in Krasnyi Lyman (benefitting over 100,000 civilians).

The SMM’s daily reports are available in three languages (English, Ukrainian and Russian) on the OSCE website: www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/reports.