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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY KELIN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1022nd (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 November 2014

**On the Russian contribution to the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring
Mission to Ukraine and on the situation in Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are pleased to welcome Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan to today's Permanent Council meeting and thank him for his informative report. We commend the work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine under your leadership. In addition to the SMM's broad mandate, the tasks set in the Minsk Protocol of 5 September and Minsk Memorandum of 19 September now also rest on the shoulders of the OSCE monitors.

We support the plans to increase the number of monitors to 500 by the end of December. We understand that the Mission needs additional resources. Russia is making its contribution. We have already allocated a voluntary financial contribution of 600,000 euros. Russian monitors have been working as part of the SMM since the beginning. There are currently 18 Russian monitors and a further five have already been selected and will soon report for work in Ukraine. We continue to select new people for the Mission.

We share the view that the monitors' security is a priority. In this respect, Russia is ready to make available to the SMM 24 Tigr specialized armoured vehicles, which have already been painted white and are ready for shipment. Forty-eight qualified drivers, who will operate these specialized vehicles, will arrive with the shipment.

During the Milan Summit, it was announced that Russia, together with a number of partners, is ready to send unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to Ukraine to monitor the security zone. A draft Permanent Council decision on the modalities for the use of these UAVs in support of the SMM is currently being agreed. This will be a useful tool for the SMM monitors.

There is a need for maximum transparency in the use of Schiebel UAVs in the security zone, first and foremost in co-ordinating the safe passage of these flights with both parties to the conflict. Yesterday's incident involving a Schiebel UAV shows what the absence of preliminary agreements with the conflicting parties can lead to.

We note with satisfaction that the SMM has been actively involved in monitoring the observance of the ceasefire regime. We welcome the rapid deployment of OSCE monitoring teams to the ceasefire zone in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Minsk Memorandum and paragraph 2 of the Minsk Protocol.

We carefully analyse the information included in the reports. The SMM's data regarding more than 90 confirmed instances of the use of weapons in eastern Ukraine, including the shelling of militia-controlled towns and villages, is alarming. We share Ambassador Apakan's concern that political decisions regarding the ceasefire are not always implemented on the ground. The figures given in the SMM reports are horrifying: more than 100 houses have been destroyed on the outskirts of Donetsk alone, as have 70 per cent of the buildings in Grabs'koe, and there is no functioning water, electricity or gas supply in many towns and villages in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

We are surprised that there is no mention in the SMM reports of the use of prohibited munitions by the Ukrainian security forces in violation of the norms of international humanitarian law, which has been reported by Human Rights Watch (HRW). Specifically, the HRW report documented 12 incidents involving the use of cluster munitions by the Ukrainian military in densely populated districts of Donbas between August and October 2014, including during the ceasefire, which resulted in countless victims among the civilian population, including women and children. The report confirms that a Swiss citizen and member of the International Committee of the Red Cross humanitarian mission was indeed killed as a result of a cluster munition explosion during the shelling of central Donetsk using multiple-launch rocket systems. These and other incidents in which civilians were killed need to be investigated thoroughly.

An important practical step towards putting an end to the bloodshed must be the withdrawal of the parties' heavy armaments and armed units to a safe distance, as stipulated in the Minsk Memorandum. We are working actively to facilitate a solution to this difficult problem. At the invitation of the General Staff of Ukraine, we have sent a team of Russian military personnel, who, together with their Ukrainian colleagues, are now working at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC). We hope that a line of separation will soon be finally agreed upon, after which there will be guarantees regarding the non-resumption of shelling.

We trust that despite the minor problems during the initial stage the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission will soon begin to work closely with the JCCC so as to ensure close monitoring of the buffer zone separating the parties. The SMM's assistance is needed today more than ever before.

In accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Mission should not slacken the attention paid by it to the situation in other regions of Ukraine, human rights violations and the harassment of national minorities. We have seen that recent reports by the Mission contained an analysis of the domestic political situation in Ukraine. We trust that the SMM will continue to warn about potentially dangerous radical sentiments and trends. It is essential to closely monitor manifestations of racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, violent extremism and other forms of ethnic and religious intolerance.

Information, including in the SMM's reports, regarding the discovery of unmarked mass graves near Donetsk was cause for serious concern, as is the fact that during the conflict

around 1,500 bodies of people killed in the conflict in south-eastern Ukraine have been brought to the Donetsk mortuary. It has still not been possible to identify more than 300 of these bodies.

We call for an impartial and open international investigation of war crimes in Ukraine. We welcome the SMM's assistance in the work of the international experts at the Malaysia Airlines crash site.

OSCE monitors should be provided with the necessary documents confirming the privileges and immunities granted to them by the host authorities. We were surprised to learn that many, if not all, of the monitors have not had their accreditation cards extended since the end of September. This means that they do not have the security guarantees that should be provided by the host country in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the OSCE. Monitors are already encountering practical problems, for example, when they go on home leave. This matter needs to be resolved urgently.

Mr. Chairperson,

Following the elections on 26 October, there are high expectations of the new Ukrainian Parliament and the future Government. This has to do, in the first place, with the formation of national consensus and the implementation of long overdue reforms.

The elections on 2 November in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions proceeded for the most part in organized manner and enjoyed a high voter turnout. We respect the expression of will of the inhabitants of south-eastern Ukraine. The elected representatives received a mandate for resolving the practical issues involved in restoring normal life in the regions. In the light of these elections, it is extremely important to take active steps to establish a sustainable dialogue between the central Ukrainian authorities and the representatives of Donbas in line with the Minsk agreements. We are ready, together with our international partners, to continue to constructively assist in the resolution of the crisis situation in Ukraine.

It is essential to do everything possible to bring Kyiv and these regions closer together and to establish economic co-operation. Meanwhile, the situation in Donbas is verging on a humanitarian disaster, and somehow the functioning of the local authorities, which would honour the social obligations to the population and take care of the everyday needs of civilians, needs to be ensured.

We trust that these elections will be a serious step on the path towards the launch of a genuinely inclusive national dialogue and the start of south-eastern Ukraine's economic recovery.

In conclusion, we must remember that the geographical area of deployment and activity by the SMM is strictly defined by the parameters of its mandate of 21 March 2014. It reflects the existing political and legal situation and the fact that the Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol are an integral part of the Russian Federation. Accordingly, the activities of the Mission, including the information it provides, should not extend to the Crimean peninsula.

Thank you for your attention.